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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

EURCYL A COMPUTER PROGRAM TO GENERATE FINITE ELEMENT MESHES FOR CYLINDER-CYLINDER INTERSECTIONS

by

P. DE WINDT and J. REYNEN

1973



Joint Nuclear Research Centre Ispra Establishment - Italy Technology Division

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August 1973

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Commission of the European Communities Joint Nuclear Research Centre - Ispra Establishment (Italy) Luxembourg, August 1973 - 22 Pages - 8 Figures - B.Fr. 40.—

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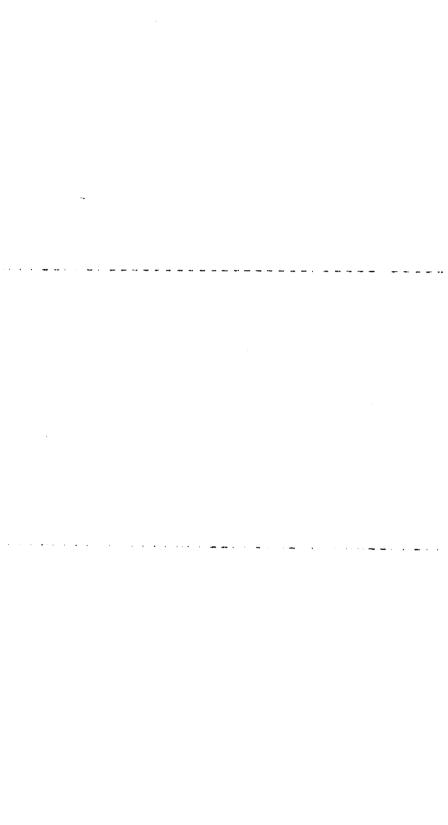
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ABSTRACT

EURCYL is a computer program dealing with the automatic mesh generation of cylinder-cylinder intersections, with special attention to the thick-walled vessel-nozzle junctions with curved transitions. Linear, parabolic and cubic isoparametric elements can be applied. The output consists of punched cards for topology and geometry.

KEYWORDS

E-CODES
FINITE ELEMENT METHOD
NOZZLES

PRESSURE VESSELS JOINTS GEOMETRY

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1. INTRODUCTION

The finite element method for structural and thermal analysis requires the subdivision of the structure into a large number of regions, called the mesh. This report deals with the automatic generation of three-dimensional meshes for general perpendicular cylinder-cylinder intersections. A computer program (EURCYL) has been written which, as output, produces punched cards for finite element programs. The program is particularly suited to generate a mesh for thick-walled vessel-nozzle junctions, including local reinforcement and transition radii at the intersection.

EURCYL is similar to the program described in ¹⁾, the difference lies in the more general geometry and the use of various types of isoparametric elements with a view to using the programs BERSAFE²⁾ and FLHE³⁾.

2. TOPOLOGY

The general geometry of 1/4 of the cylinder-cylinder intersection as dealt with by EURCYL is represented in fig. 1 and 2, including the necessary dimensions, a cartesian (x,y,z) and a cylindrical (r, θ, z) coordinate system.

Three regions are recognized:

nozzle zone
 transition zone
 vessel zone
 A - D
 D - B - C - E
 E - F

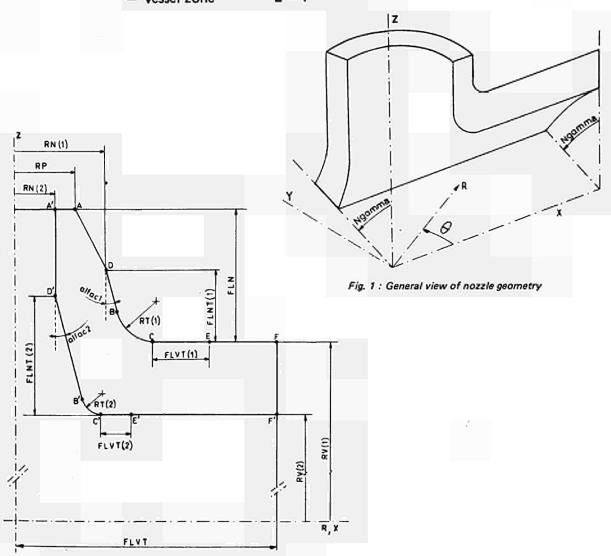


Fig. 2: Two dimensional view of nozzle geometry

The topology of the elements corresponds to the topology of a wall (fig. 3) with the three directions and corresponding number of elements as indicated in Table 1 and fig. 4.

Table 1

Direction	Number of elements
Length	NELL
Angular	NELA
Thickness	NELTH

The number of elements in angular direction corresponds to 1/4 of the structure i.e. $0 \le \theta \le 90^\circ$ (first quadrant). The number of elements in length direction is subdivided into the three zones mentioned before, as indicated in Table 2.

Table 2

Zone	Number of elements
Nozzle Transition Vessel	N ELN NELT NELV
Total lenth	NELL = NELN + NELT + NELV

The numbering of elements is as indicated in fig. 3, in thickness, angular and length direction respectively. Since for most applications NELTH < NELA < NELL, this numbering gives the smallest bandwidth for a front solution ⁴⁾.

The option NELEM is introduced in order to be able to continue a mesh with NELEM-1 elements already generated.

Three types of elements can be used corresponding to the isoparametric elements used in BERSAFE 2) and FLHE 3). They are given in Table 3 and fig. 5.

Table 3

EURCYL el. type	BERSAFE el.type	Number of nodes	description			
1	EZ24	8	linear			
2	EZ60	20	parabolic			
3	EZ96	32	cubic			

The node numbering is straightforward and proceeds in the angular, thickness and length direction respectively (fig. 6). The option NPOIN is introduced in order to be able to continue a mesh with NPOIN-1 nodes already generated.

EURCYL defines the bandwidth of the generated topology and the job is abandoned if the bandwidth exceeds a preset value defined by input (NBTOT).

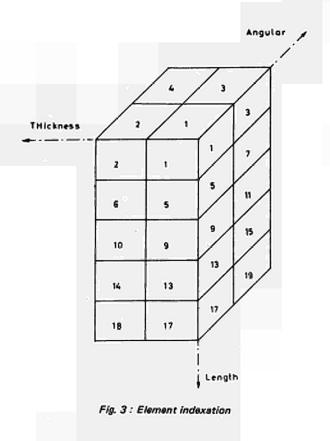
EURCYL has options to generate 1/4, 1/2 or the complete intersection to be specified by input data NTHETA (Table 4). The node numbering starts at the angular plane θ -start. For option NTHETA = 4 the nodes of the first angular plane (θ -start) coincide with those of the last angular plane (θ -end). In the topology definition the former are retained. A similar situation occurs for NGAMMA = 180° (fig. 1) and NTHETA = 2 or 4, and also here the lower node numbers are retained.

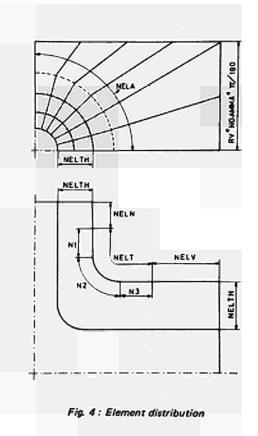
Table

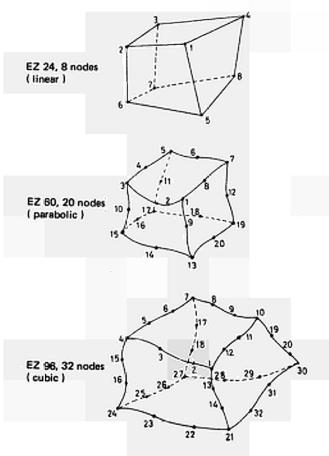
NTHETA	quadrants	heta-start	heta-end
1	1	0°	90°
2	1,4	90°	90°
3	1,2	0°	180°
4	1,2,3,4	–180°	180°

The output of the topology consists of the list of elements defined by nodes, in a right hand screw sequence (fig. 5).

Punched cards compatible with BERSAFE and FLHE are produced.







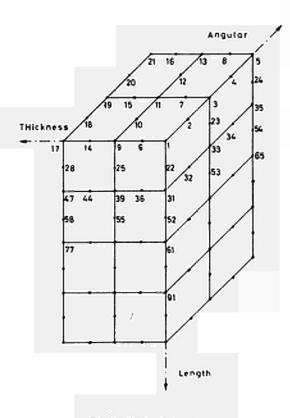


Fig. 6: Nodes indexation

Fig. 5 : Element types

3. GEOMETRY

The coordinates of the nodal points depend on the distribution and on the type of the elements. The distribution and the type of elements depend on their turn on the structure and the expected stress distribution. For the nozzle structure the type of element should preferably be the parabolic or cubic isoparametric ones, in order to represent accurately the geometry of the curved surfaces (the linear element EZ24 with straight edges has only been included for completeness). The distribution of elements should be fine in regions of steep stress gradients and can be coarser elsewhere.

In EURCYL the distribution of elements is controlled by input. As far as the angular direction is concerned, the distribution is homogeneous for the nozzle zone (A - D) and transition zone (D-B-C-E) and nearly homogeneous for the vessel zone (E-F), see fig. 4.

In the thickness direction the distribution is governed by a crowding factor CROWTH, according to a geometrical series with the smaller elements at the inside for CROWTH > 1 (see appendix 1).

In the length direction the distribution is defined by NELN, NELT, NELV (see chapter 1) with corresponding crowding factors CROWN, CROWTR, CROWV according to geometrical series with increasing elements in the direction away from the intersection.

For the determination of the coordinates of the nodal points, first the coordinates of the points A,D,B,C,E and F (fig. 2) for inside and outside surfaces and for the various angular planes have to be defined. For A and D the procedure is straight forward because they are on a cylindrical surface with axis z. The coordinates of B and C follow from a transcendental equation, which is solved by iteration (appendix 3). Points C,E and F lie on a cylindrical surface with axis x. This surface is developped in a z-x plane in which the coordinates are defined. Once the points A,D,B,C,E and F are defined, the summit nodes are found by geometrical interpolation using the crowding factors. Next the midside nodes are defined.

For the structural options NTHETA \neq 1 the additional coordinates are found by symmetry.

The output of the geometry consists of a list of cartesian (x-y-z) or cylindrical (r,θ,z) coordinates depending on the option NCOORD. Punched cards are produced to be used in subsequent runs with finite element programs.

4. HOW TO USE

Card No. 1: job title card

ccs 1- 4 ccs 5-80	AJOB TITLE	A4 19A4	job name for BERSAFE program title of the job
	dimension card (see fig.		•
ccs 1- 6	RV(1)	F6.2	external vessel radius
ccs 7-12	RV(2)	F6.2	internal vessel radius
ccs 13-18	FLV	F6.2	vessel length
ccs 19-24	RN(1)	F6.2	external nozzle radius
ccs 25-30	RN(2)	F6.2	internal nozzle radius
ccs 31-36	FLN	F6.2	nozzle length
ccs 37-42	RT(1)		outside transition radius = 0 if transition not curved
ccs 43-48	RT(2)	F6.2	inside transition radius = if transition not curved
ccs 49-54	FLVT(1)	F6.2	length of transition zone, outside vessel
ccs 55-60	FLVT(2)	F6.2	length of transition zone, inside vessel
ccs 61-66	FLNT(1)	F6.2	length of transition zone, outside nozzle
ccs 67-72	FLNT(2)	F6.2	length of transition zone, inside nozzle
ccs 73-78	RP	F6.2	external radius of nozzle entry, in case of conical form

if = 0,RP=RN(1) (cylindrical form)

Card No. 3			
ccs 1- 6	ALFAC1	F6.2	angle in degrees of transition nozzle part, if conical = 0 cylindrical
ccs 7-12	ALFAC2	F6.2	angle in degrees of transition nozzle part, if conical = 0 if cylindrical
Card No. 4: ele	ment and structure	option	card
ccs 1- 6 ccs 7-12 ccs 13-18 ccs 19-24 ccs 25-30 ccs 31-36	NELN NELT NELV NELA NELTH NELTYP	16 r 16 r 16 r 16 e	number of elements in nozzle length number of elements in transition length number of elements in vessel length number of elements in angular direction number of elements in the thickness element option: = 1 type EZ24 = 2 type EZ60 = 3 type EZ96
ccs 37-42	NTHETA	:	structure option: = 1 quadrant 1 = 2 quadrant 1 + 4 = 3 quadrant 1 + 2 = 4 quadrant 1 + 2 + 3 + 4
ccs 43-48	NGAMMA		angle in degrees of vessel sector (up to maximum 180°)
ccs 49-54	NCOORD	=	coordinates option = 0 x-y-z = 1 r-θ-z
Card No. 5: cro	owding factor card		
ccs 1- 6	CROWN	F6.2	crowding factor along the nozzle if > 1 elements increasing away from the transition
ccs 7-12	CROWV	F6.2	crowding factor along the vessel if > 1 elements increasing away from the transition
ccs 13-18	CROWTH	F6.2	crowding factor along the thickness if > 1 elements increasing away from the inside surface
ccs 19-24	CROWTR	F6.2	crowding factor along the transition nozzle and vessel zones if > 1 elements increasing away from the junction
Card No. 6			
ccs 1- 6 ccs 7-12 ccs 13-18	NPOIN NELEM NBTOT	16 i	ndex of first nodal point ndex of first element naximum number of nodes allowed in the bandwidth if = 0, NBTOT=99

5. RESULTS

The following results are printed:

- the input data
- the total number of nodes (1)
- the total number of elements (1)
- the maximum bandwidth (1)
- the topology
- the geometry
- (1) the job is immediately abandoned if these parameters do not agree with the BERSAFE and FLHE limitations.

The topology and the geometry are punched on cards with the required formats for BERSAFE 2) or FLHE 3) use:

Topology cards

ccs 1- 4	AJOB	A4	job name
ccs 5-6	11	12	card type number (BERSAFE)
ccs 7-12			blank
ccs 13-16	NOEL	14	element number
ccs 17-18	NNODES	12	number of nodes
ccs 19-22			
	NODES	1514	nodes series
ccs 75-78			·

N.B. if NNODES > 15,a continuation card is used with I4 formats (ccs 19-22, etc.) and NNODES = NNODES + 1

Geometry cards

ccs 1- 4	AJOB	A4	job name
ccs 5-6	21	12	card type number (BERSAFE)
ccs 7-10	NODE	14	node number
ccs 11-18	GNODE	F8.3	X or R coordinate
ccs 19-26	GNODE	F8.3	Y or θ coordinate (θ in degrees)
ccs 27-34	GNODE	F8.3	Z coordinate

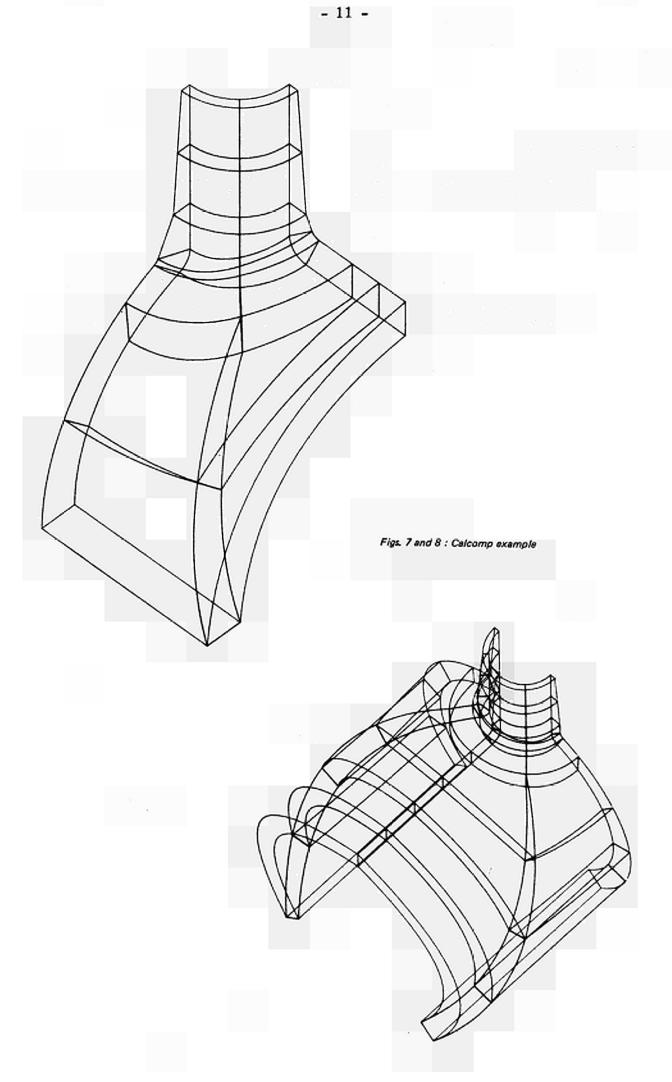
Appendix 4 gives an example of the printed results of a structure represented by the Calcomp plot of fig. 7. In fig. 8 another example of a Calcomp plot is given.

6. CONCLUSION

A computer program has been presented dealing with the automatic mesh generation for finite element analysis of cylinder-cylinder intersections. EURCYL is in particular suited for BWR pressure vessel nozzles.

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- Krishnamurthy N. "Three-dimensional finite element analysis of thick walled vessel-nozzle junctions with curved transitions" — ORNL-TM-3315.
- Hellen T.K. "BERSAFE (Phase 1) a computer system for stress analysis Part 1: user's guide" October 1970, CEGB Report RD/B/NI761.
- 3) Fullard K. "FLHE, a finite element program for the calculation of temperatures in arbitrary structures. Part 1: user's guide" CEGB Report RD/B/N1849.
- 4) Hellen T.K. "A front solution for finite element techniques" CEGB Report RD/B/N1459 October 1969.



Crowding Factors

If N is the number of nodes to be generated on a straight or curved line defined by the parameters x_1 and x_N with crowding factor R, the coordinates of the intermediate nodes are defined from:

$$x_j = x_1 + (x_N - x_1) CN$$
 $CN = (R^{j-1} - 1) / (R^{N-1} - 1)$
 $CN = (j - 1) / (N - 1)$ for $R = 1$.

These formulae are used to define the coordinates of the summit nodes in the thickness direction, and for the nozzle zone A-D and the vessel zone E-F in length direction (fig. 1).

The distribution of the elements in the transition zone is defined by the number of elements NELT and the crowding factor R.

The program has to define the number of elements to be attributed to the distances DB,BC and CE, respectively N1, N2 and N3 (fig. 4). An iterative procedure is applied.

As initial guess for the length of the elements in distance BC is taken.

$$A = (DB + BC + CE) / NELT$$
 (1)

The number of elements in DB, BC and CE become respectively

$$N1 = log (1+(R-1) DB/A) / logR$$
 (2)

$$N2 = BC / A \tag{3}$$

$$N3 = \log(1 + (R-1) CE/A) / \log R$$
 (4)

These equations express that for BC the distribution is homogeneous (3) and for DB and CE the distribution is according to a geometrical series with first term A and ratio R.

The sum of the calculated elements is compared to the prescribed number NELT.

$$N1 + N2 + N3 = SUM \stackrel{?}{=} NELT$$
 (5)

A correction is applied to A according to

$$A = A (SUM/NELT)^{1/2}$$
 (6)

and the iteration loop returns to eq. (1) until (5) is satisfied.

Equations (2) and (4) follow from the sum S of a geometrical series with N terms:

$$S = A (R^{N} - 1) / (R - 1)$$
 (7)

Once N1, N2 and N3 are known, the summit nodes in BC are distributed homogeneously, and the summit nodes in DB and CE according to a geometrical series with ratio R (Appendix 1).

The coordinates of points B and C in an angular plane θ are defined by transcendental equations which are solved by iteration.

The intersection of an angular plane θ with the vessel (radius RV) is an ellipse with half axis.

$$RV/\sin\theta$$
 and RV (fig. 9)

The iteration starts with a first guess for the radius RC of point C in the plane of intersection. The vertical position of C is then defined by:

$$ZC = (RV^2 - RC^2 \sin^2 \theta)^{1/2}$$
 (1)

The angle β is defined by:

$$\beta = \arctan(RC^2 \sin^2 \theta / ZC)$$
 (2)

The angle α and the coordinates of points B become:

$$\alpha = \pi/2 - \alpha_1 - \beta \tag{3}$$

$$RB = RC + RT \sin\beta - RT \cos\alpha_1 \tag{4}$$

$$ZB = ZC + RT \cos\beta - RT \sin\alpha_1$$
 (5)

The radius of point D becomes:

$$RD = RB - (ZD-ZB) tg\alpha_1$$
 (6)

The value of RD is compared to the nozzle radius RN. The difference is subtracted from RC and the iteration continues with equation (1).

Equation (3) gives the value of α and the intermediate nodes between BC are defined by linear interpolation of the variable α .

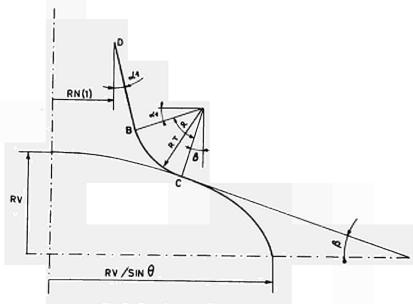
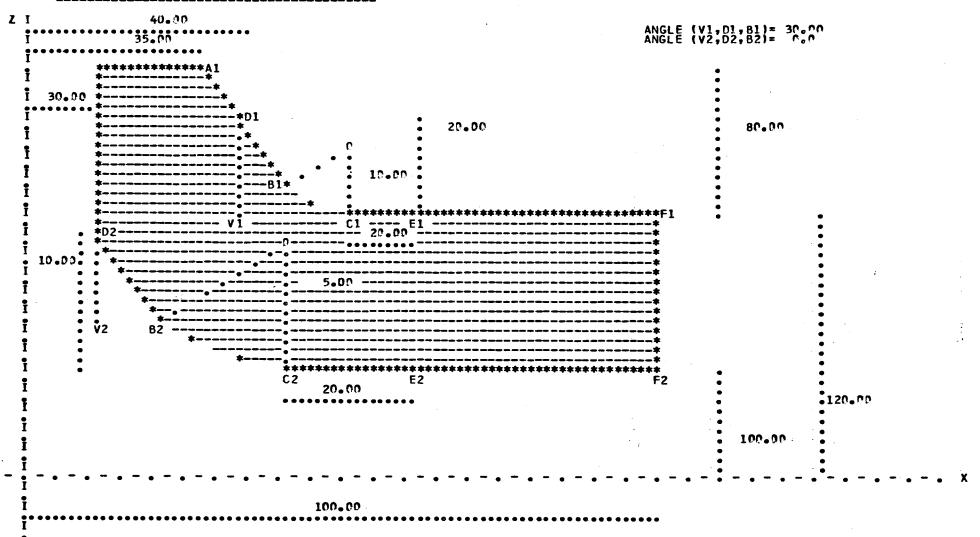


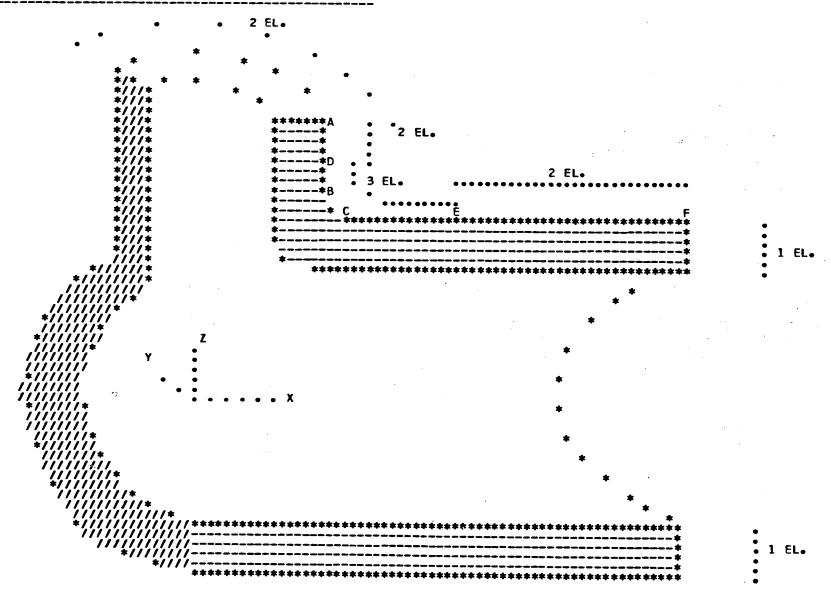
Fig. 9: Transition profile in a angular plane 8

PROGRAM EURCYL THREE DIMENSIONAL MESH GENERATION

TEST STRUCTURE

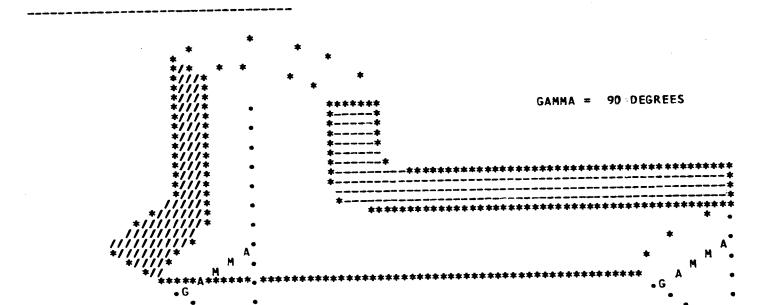


16



17

STRUCTURE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION



THE STRUCTURE IS DEFINED AROUND THE X-AXIS BY A SECTOR OF 90 DEGREES

QUARTER A STRUCTURE IS CONSIDERED AROUND THE Z-AXIS WITH POSITIVE X- AND Y-COORDINATES

EZ60 IS THE ELEMENT TYPE

2 ELEMENTS ALONG THE NOZZLE (FROM A TO D) THERE ARE

ELEMENTS ALONG THE TRANSITION (FROM D TO E) THERE ARE

2 ELEMENTS IN THE 90 DEGREES NOZZLE SECTOR (BEWARE THE STRUCTURE CHOICE) THERE ARE

2 ELEMENTS ALONG THE VESSEL (FROM E TO F) THERE ARE

THERE ARE 1 ELEMENTS ALONG THE THICKNESS

THE OUTER PART OF THE NOZZLE IS CONICAL OR CYLINDRICAL, ANGLE = 30.000 DEGREES

THE INNER PART OF THE NOZZLE IS CONICAL OR CYLINDRICAL, ANGLE = **DEGREES** 0.0

THERE ARE O POINTS AND Q ELEMENTS BEFORE THIS MESH

FOR THIS PROBLEM 14 ELEMENTS AND 146 NODES ARE EXPECTED

NUMBER OF ELEMENTS ALONG THE TRANSITION FROM NOZZLE TO VESSEL

> 1 FROM D TO B EXTERNAL PART

> INTERNAL PART

1 FROM D TO B 1 FROM B TO C 1 FROM C TO E

CROWDING FACTOR ALONG THE NOZZLE(CROWN)

THE VESSEL(CROWY)
THE SECTOR(CROWTH) THE TRANSITION (CROWTR)

1	1	6	9	15	11	7	3	2	14	17	18	15	20	25	28	29	30	26	22	21
2	3	7	11	12	13	8	5	4	15	18	19	1.6	22	26	30	31	32	27	24	23
3	20	25	28	29	30	26	22	21	33	36	37	34	39	44	47	48	49	45	41	40
4	22	26	30	31	32	27	24	23	34	37	38	35	41	45	49	50	51	46	43	42
5	39	44	47	48	49	45	41	40	52	55	56	53	58	63	66	67	68	64	60	59 ·
6	41	45	49	50	51	46	43	42	53	56	57	54	60	64	68	69	70	65	62	61
7	58	63	66	67	68	64	60	59	71	74	75	72	77	82	85	86	87	83	79	78
8	60	64	68	69	70	65	62	61	72	7 5	76	73	79	83	87	88	89	84	81	80
9	77	82	85	86	87	83	79	78	ðù	93	94	91	96	101	104	105	106	102	98	97
10	79	83	87	88	89	84	81	89	91	94	95	92	98	102	106	107	108	103	100	99
11	96	101	104	105	106	102	98	97	109	112	113	110	115	120	123	124	125	121	117	116
12	98	102	106	107	108	103	Tộn	99	112	113	11.4	111	117	121	125	126	127	122	119	118
13	115	120	123	124	125	121	117	116	128	131	132	129	134	139	142	143	144	140	136	135
14	117	121	125	126	127	122	119	118	129	132	133	130	136	140	144	1.45	146	141	138	137

COORD. SYSTEM X - Y - Z

LIST OF N.P. WITH COORD. (PUNCH ON CARDS WITH BERSAFE FORMAT)

123456789612345678961234567896123456789612	969440010063100300030005050063100000505005470990007211000000020056150050007110000005870058700058700058700058700058700058700058700000000	4960 10 0360 30 30 1650 50 0360 00 1235 10 0550 10 0550 10 085	Control Cont	5555556666666666777777777777888888888899999999	0.05056190.840.05720.520.450.55720.840.070.30580.850.0450.050.5860.8650.071480.9520.4420.0920.30580.850.470.0570.120.586420.05711100.701120510.20520.52420.570.590.32 4432 32 3221 53 32 5542 43 3321 64 53	8 52 9195 40 D794 24 52 7798 43 5067 45 25 40 13450 32 13450 32 24 1223 35 23 2455 34 1233 46 0 35	20067036293028062930334770015940272066806722006778850662930334770015940272066806712111111093540893752401111099754004110997540041111111111111111111111111111111111	
36 37 38 39	0.000 30.000 21.213 0.000 40.000 36.955	38.750 0.0 21.213 30.000 0.0 15.307	155.000 155.000 155.000 155.000 140.000	88 89 90 91 92 93	12.843 0.000 65.895 47.358 0.000 55.448	31.006 33.337 0.0 46.874 67.615	95.072 94.279 120.000 110.466 99.138 100.000	

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32	88.607	96.776	25.189
33	0.000	98.236	18.702
34	100.000	0.0	120.000
35	100.000	84.853	84.853
36	100.000	120 000	0.000
35	150.000	120.000 120.000 120.000	0.000
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38	0.0	120.000	ი•იტი
39	100.000	0.0	110.000
40	100.000	110.000	999.0
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43	100.000	70.711	70.711
44	100.000	100.000	0.000
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Alfred Nobel

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