

Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0142-1123(16)30439-X

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ijfatigue.2016.12.032>

Reference: JIJF 4183

To appear in: *International Journal of Fatigue*

Received Date: 23 October 2016

Revised Date: 19 December 2016

Accepted Date: 20 December 2016

Please cite this article as: D' Angelo, L., Nussbaumer, A., Estimation of fatigue S-N curves of welded joints using advanced probabilistic approach, *International Journal of Fatigue* (2016), doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ijfatigue.2016.12.032>

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Estimation of fatigue S-N curves of welded joints using advanced probabilistic approach

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Abstract

This paper provides a new advanced probabilistic approach for reliable estimation of the fatigue characteristic S-N curves of welded joints both for constant amplitude (CA) and variable amplitude (VA) loading conditions. The presented approach, which is referred to as the ML-MCS approach, combines Maximum Likelihood method (ML) and Monte-Carlo Simulations (MCS) method to estimate true p -quantiles of CA and VA S-N curves by using complete experimental data-sets. The ML-MCS approach includes a linearization method for use of S-N curves in combination with linear damage accumulation rule as well as for direct comparison with current standards. Application of the ML-MCS approach on two study cases and comparison with current standards shows that the use of the ML-MCS approach may have a significant impact in re-definition of CA and VA S-N curves of current standards and in particular of the CAFL, of the S-N curve second slope and of the critical value of accumulated damage at failure. The last section of the paper provides accurate guidelines for future experimental tests needed for re-definition of current standards.

Keywords: Fatigue life, S-N curves, Maximum Likelihood, Monte-Carlo Simulations

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