

# **Fatigue Simulation Using Phase-Field Modeling to Predict the Crack Propagation Direction for Tooth Root Failure of Helical Gears**

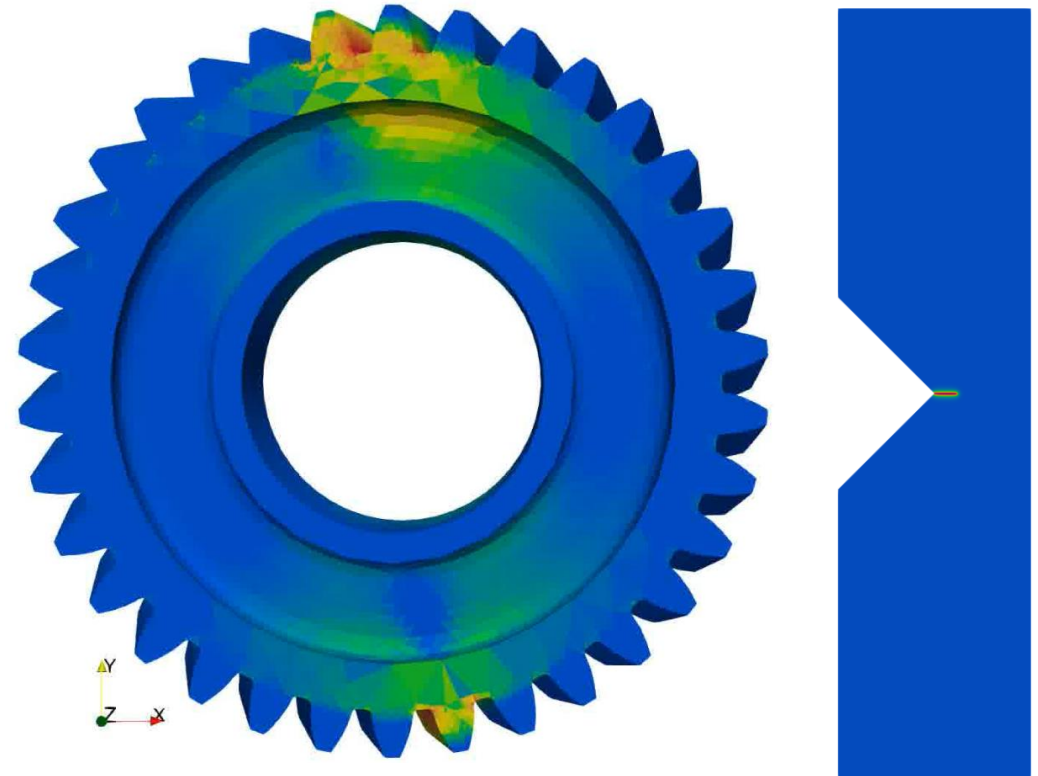
**FEniCS 2024 - 2024-06-13**

**German Aerospace Center (DLR)  
DLR-Institute of Test and Simulation for Gas Turbines  
Daniel Martini, Lisa Reischmann**



# Agenda

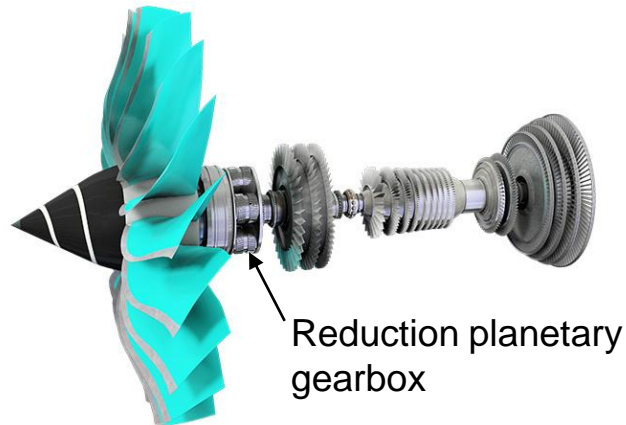
- Propagation direction of gear tooth root cracks
- Governing equations
- Cycle Jump technique
- Submodeling technique
- Model setup
- Crack propagation study
- Outlook



# Propagation direction of gear tooth root cracks

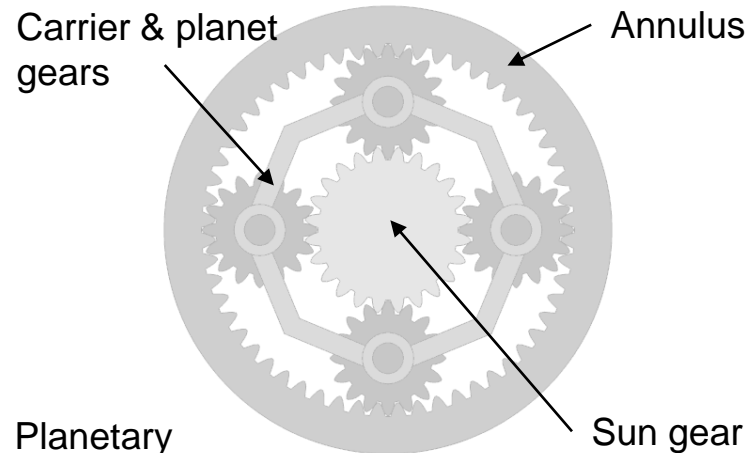
## Failure of planet gears

Reduction gearbox between fan and low pressure turbine



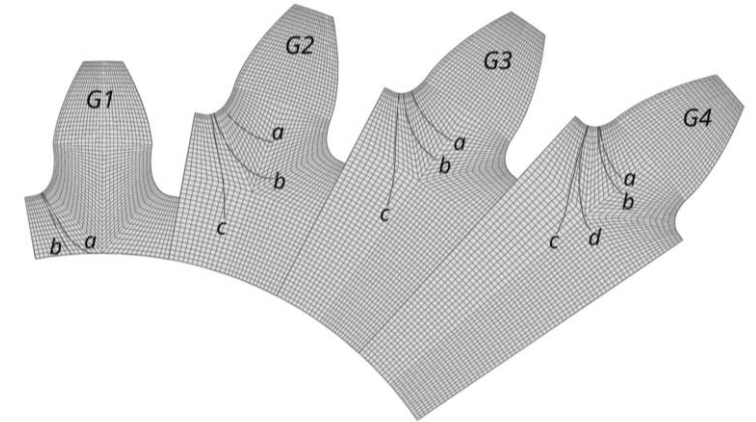
UltraFan Concept [Source: Rolls-Royce plc, © All Rights Reserved]

Planetary gearbox with fixed annulus



Planetary gearbox [Source: wikimedia.org, CC0]

Crack directions dependent on rim thickness and shaft fits



Crack directions [Source: Güven 2022]

- Reduction gear box allows higher bypass ratio of the aeroengine.
- Containment to be ensured to show airworthiness of the gear box.
- Rim cracks in planet gears may cause uncontained bursting.



# Governing Equations (following Seleš 2021)

## Quasistatic balance of momentum

$$\operatorname{div} \boldsymbol{\sigma} + \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{0}$$

$$\mathbf{u} - \bar{\mathbf{u}} = \mathbf{0}$$

$$\mathbf{t} - \bar{\mathbf{t}} = \mathbf{0}$$

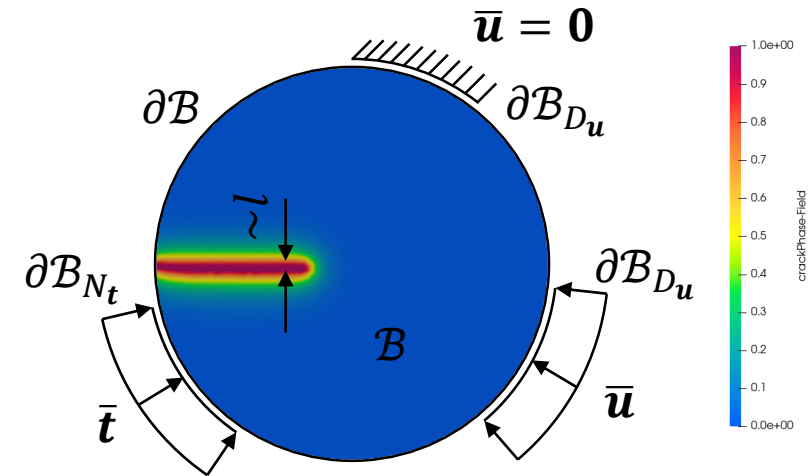
## Phase-field model of fatigue

$$(1 - \varphi)\mathcal{H} - (\varphi - l^2 \Delta \varphi) = 0 \quad \forall x \in \mathcal{B}$$

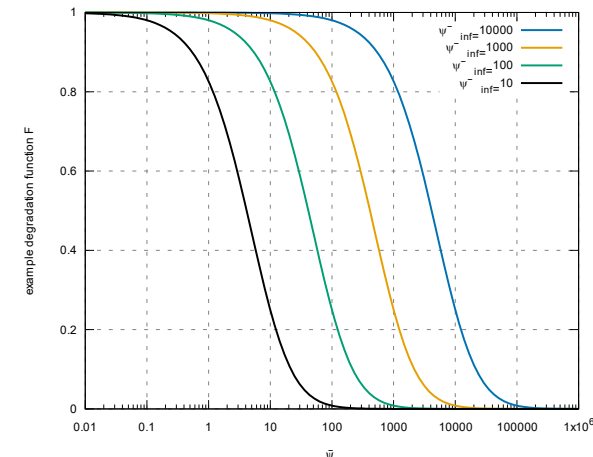
$$\operatorname{grad} \varphi \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0 \quad \forall x \in \partial \mathcal{B}$$

$$\mathcal{H} = \max_n \left\langle \frac{\psi^+}{F(\bar{\psi})\psi_c} - 1 \right\rangle_+ \quad \text{Crack driving force (with threshold)}$$

$$F(\bar{\psi}) = \left( 1 - \frac{\bar{\psi}}{\bar{\psi} + \bar{\psi}_\infty} \right)^2 \quad \text{Example fatigue degradation function}$$



Crack phase-field  $\varphi$  of a half-cracked unit square



Example fatigue degradation function  $F(\bar{\psi})$

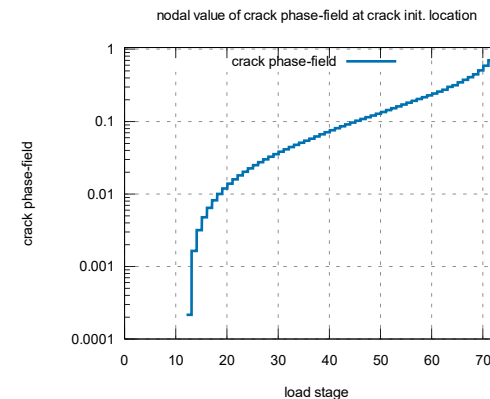
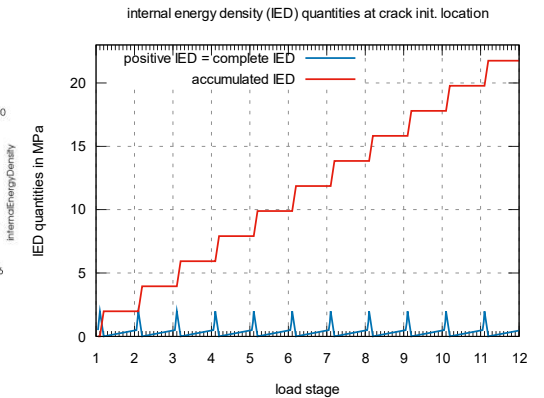
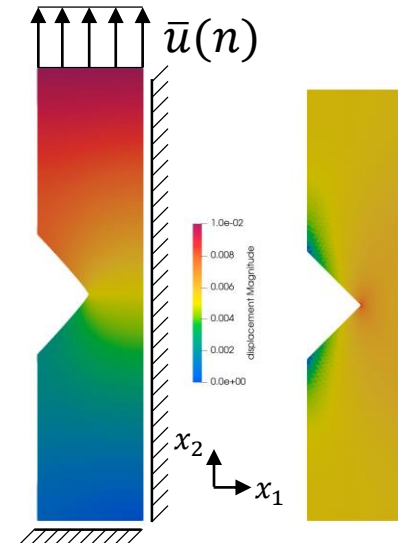
# Cycle jump up to the onset of $\mathcal{H}$ (following Seleš 2021)

## Preliminary remarks

- Same  $k$  cycle steps  $j$  for all cycles  $i$
- Load stage  $n = i \cdot j$

$$\bar{\psi}_n = \bar{\psi}_{n-1} - \langle \psi_n - \psi_{n-1} \rangle_- \quad \text{accumulation of internal energy density after stage } n$$

- Reversible / elastic behavior assumed.
- Crack driving state function must exceed threshold value (SCT-model).

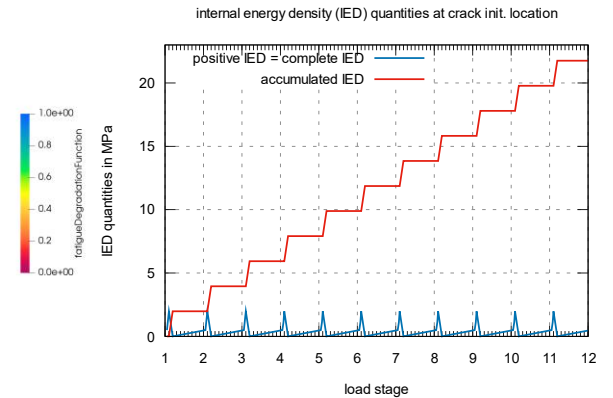
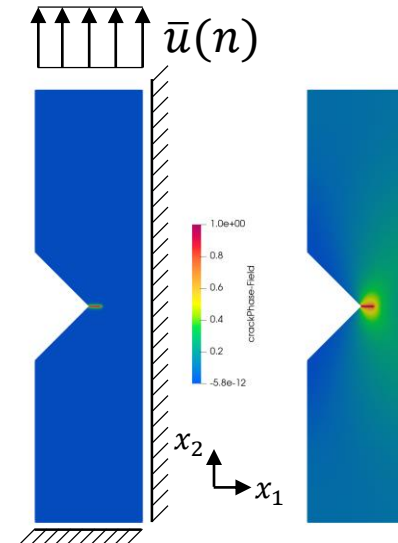


Example fatigue calculation with cycle jump to onset of  $\mathcal{H}$

# Cycle jump up to the onset of $\mathcal{H}$ (following Seleš 2021)

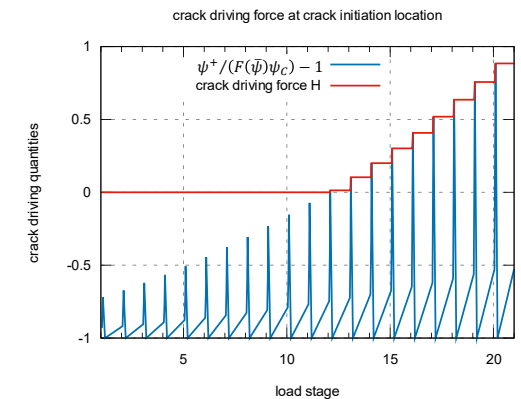
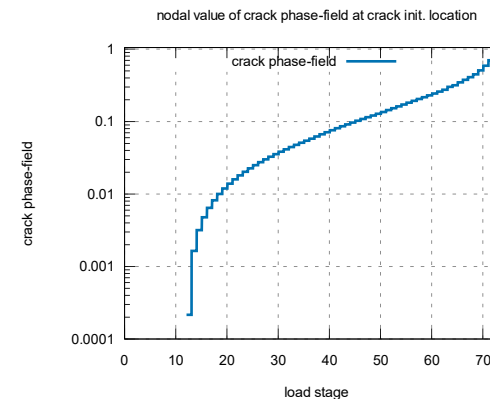
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## In which cycle $N$ is $\mathcal{H} > 0$ ?

- $\mathcal{H} = \max_n \left\langle \frac{\psi^+}{F(\bar{\psi})\psi_C} - 1 \right\rangle_+$
- From  $\frac{\psi^+}{F(\bar{\psi})\psi_C} - 1 > 0$  follows an estimate for the number of cycles  $N$ , when  $\mathcal{H} > 0$



Example fatigue calculation with cycle jump to onset of  $\mathcal{H}$

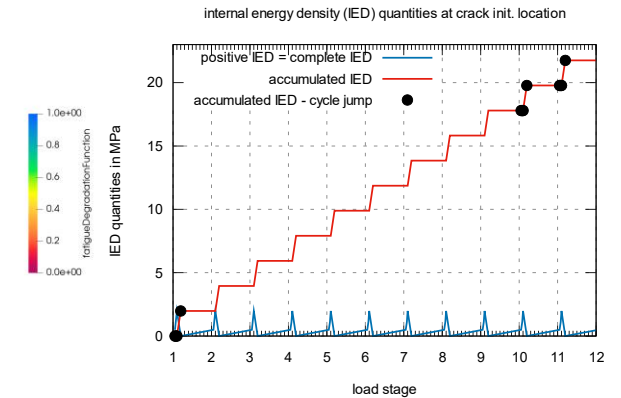
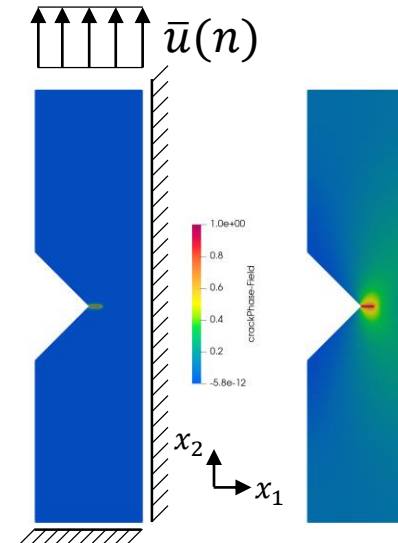
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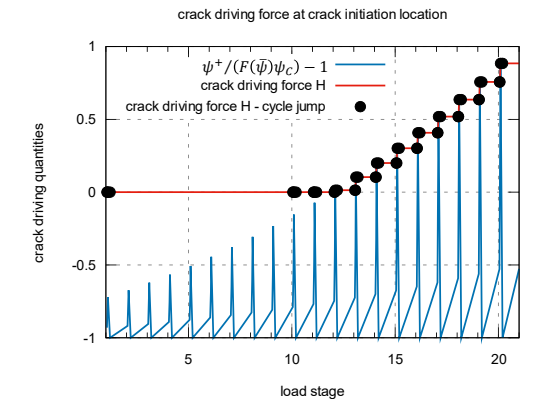
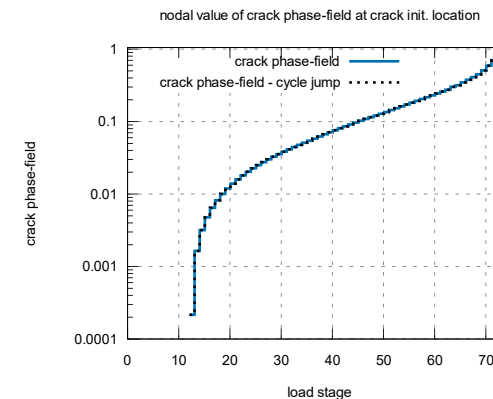
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Example fatigue calculation with cycle jump to onset of  $\mathcal{H}$

# Submodeling technique

## Implementation in FEniCSx

FEniCSx-code

```
# meshes for globalM and sub model
globalModel = ...
subModel = ...

# function spaces
globalU = dolfinx.fem.VectorFunctionSpace(globalModel, ("CG", 1))
subU = dolfinx.fem.VectorFunctionSpace(subModel, ("CG", 1))

# degrees of freedom of sub model on interface
interfaceOfSubModel = ...
dofsOfSubModel = dolfinx.fem.locate_dofs_topological(subU, localDomain.topology.dim-1, interfaceOfSubModel)
dofCoordinatesOfSubModel = subU.tabulate_dof_coordinates()[dofsOfSubModel]

# bounding box tree and colliding cells of global model
boundBoxTreeOfGlobalModel = dolfinx.geometry.BoundingBoxTree(globalModel, globalModel.topology.dim)

cellsOfGlobalModel = []
pointsOnProcOfSubModel = []

# 1st filtering: find cells whose bounding-box collide with the points
cellCandidatesOfGlobalModel = dolfinx.geometry.compute_collisions(boundBoxTreeOfGlobalModel,
    dofCoordinatesOfSubModel)

collCellsOfGlobalModel = dolfinx.geometry.compute_colliding_cells(globalModel,
    cellCandidatesOfGlobalModel, dofCoordinatesOfSubModel)
for i, point in enumerate(dofCoordinatesOfSubModel):
    if len(collCellsOfGlobalModel.links(i))>0:
        pointsOnProcOfSubModel.append(point)
        cellsOfGlobalModel.append(collCellsOfGlobalModel.links(i)[0])

pointsOnProcOfSubModel = np.array(pointsOnProcOfSubModel, dtype=np.float64)

# Interpolation from
uGlobal = dolfinx.fem.Function(globalU)

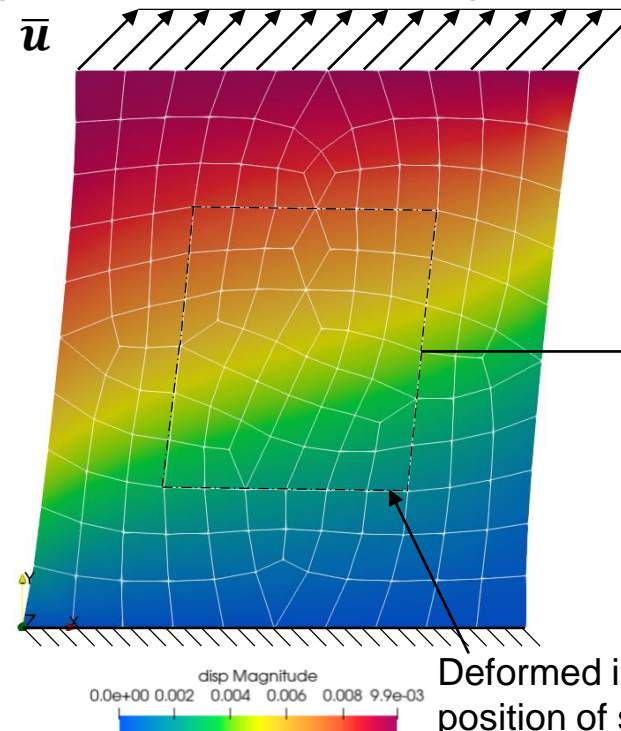
to interface points:
uInterpolatedToSubModelPoints = []
uInterpolatedToSubModelPoints = uGlobal.eval(pointsOnProcOfSubModel, cellsOfGlobalModel)

# write interpolated DOF values to uSub = dolfinx.fem.Function(subU) via uSub.x.array[j]
```

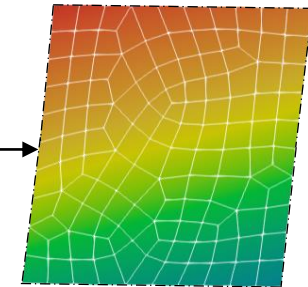
Global model

Sub model

Magnified displacement field of global model

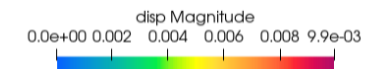


displacement field of sub model



Deformed boundary of global model

Deformed interface to and position of sub model



Adapted code based on [Dokken 2022]

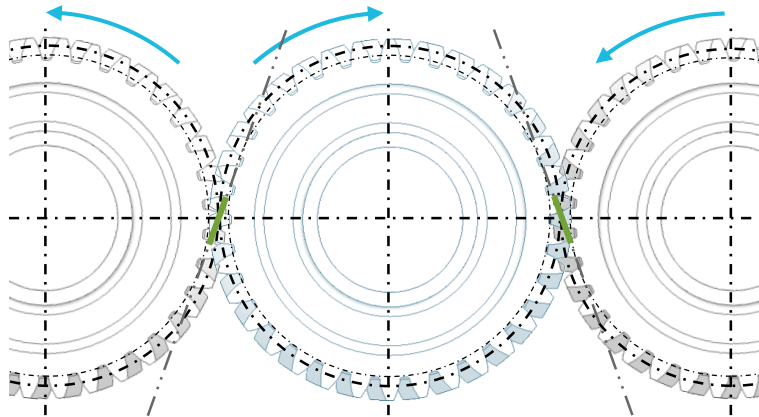


# Model setup and overview

## FE-model configuration

Test rig configuration

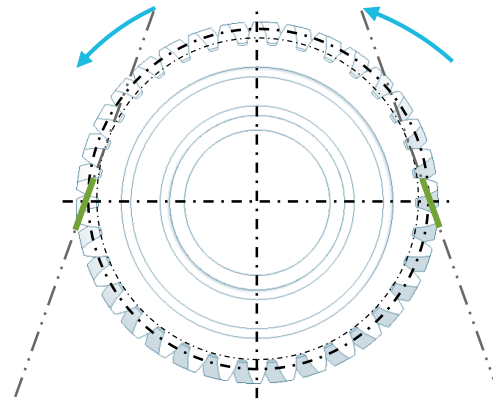
Fixed planes of action und  
zones of action



Rotating double helical gears

Change of observer for  
global FE-model

Rotating planes of action and  
zones of action



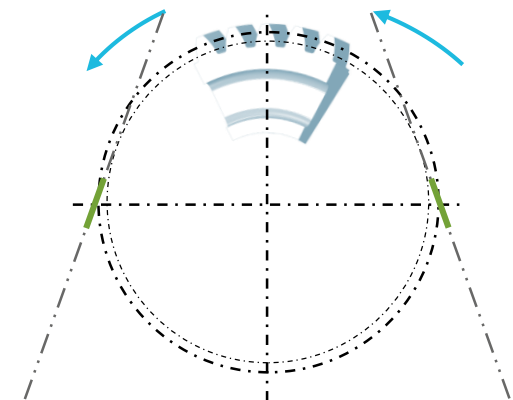
Fixed planet gear

Solution via FEM in FEniCSx:

- Balance of momentum (quasi-static)

Sector model

Rotating planes of action and  
zones of action



Fixed planet gear sector

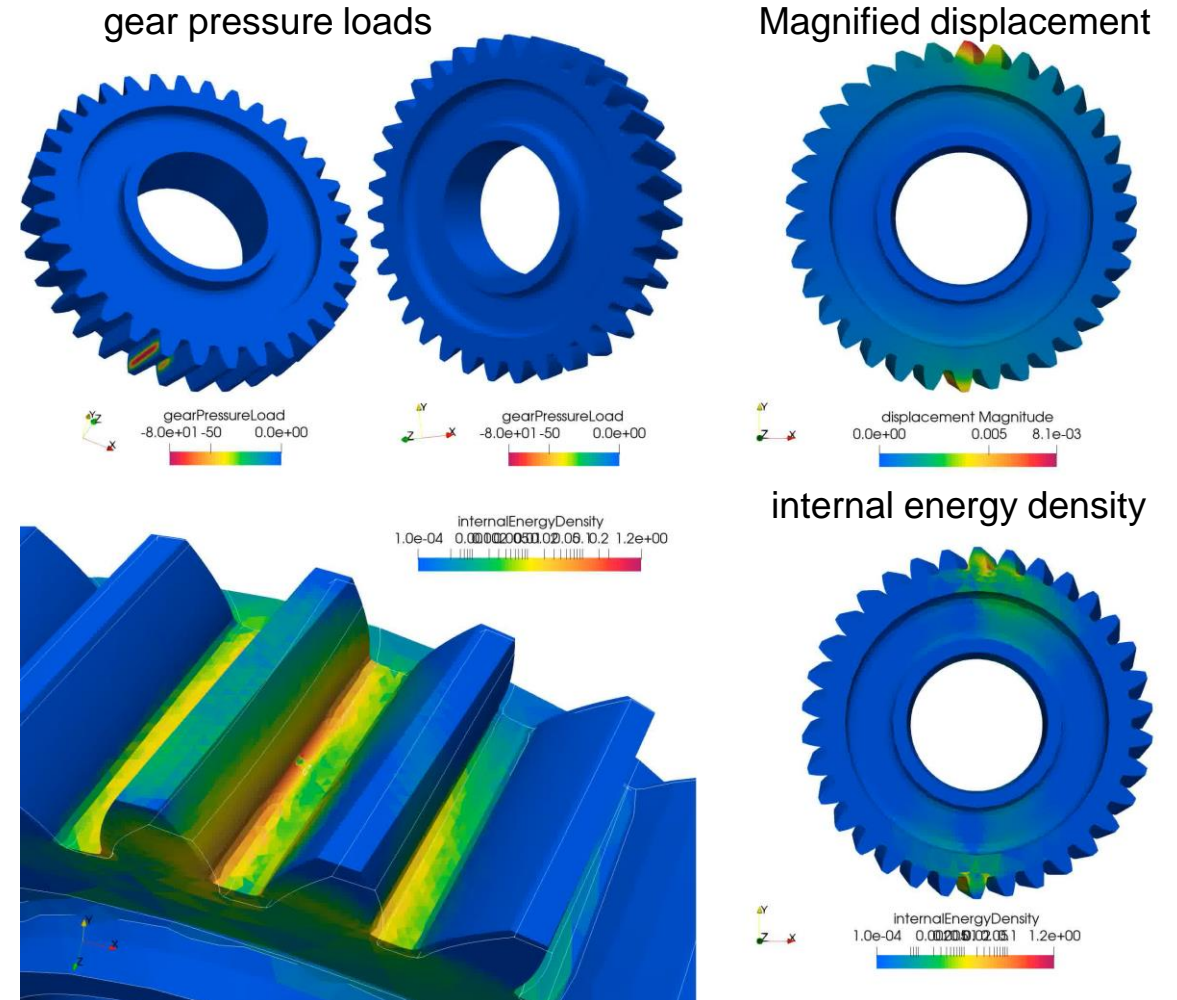
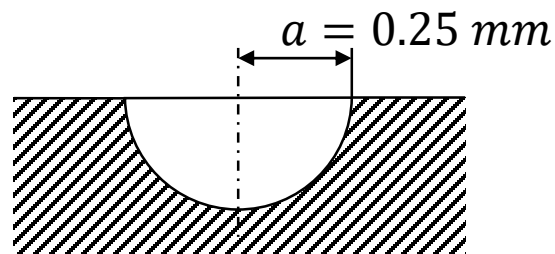
Solution via FEM in FEniCSx:

- Balance of momentum (quasi-static)
- Phase-field model of fatigue

# Crack propagation study: balance of momentum of global model

## Example geometry based on Wu 2022

- Number of teeth  $z = 34$
- Modulus  $m = 2$
- Pressure angle  $\alpha = 20^\circ$
- Helix angle  $\beta = 15^\circ$
- Pitch circle radius  $r = 35,2 \text{ mm}$
- Assumed gear line loads
- Semi-circular surface crack as initial crack at tooth root

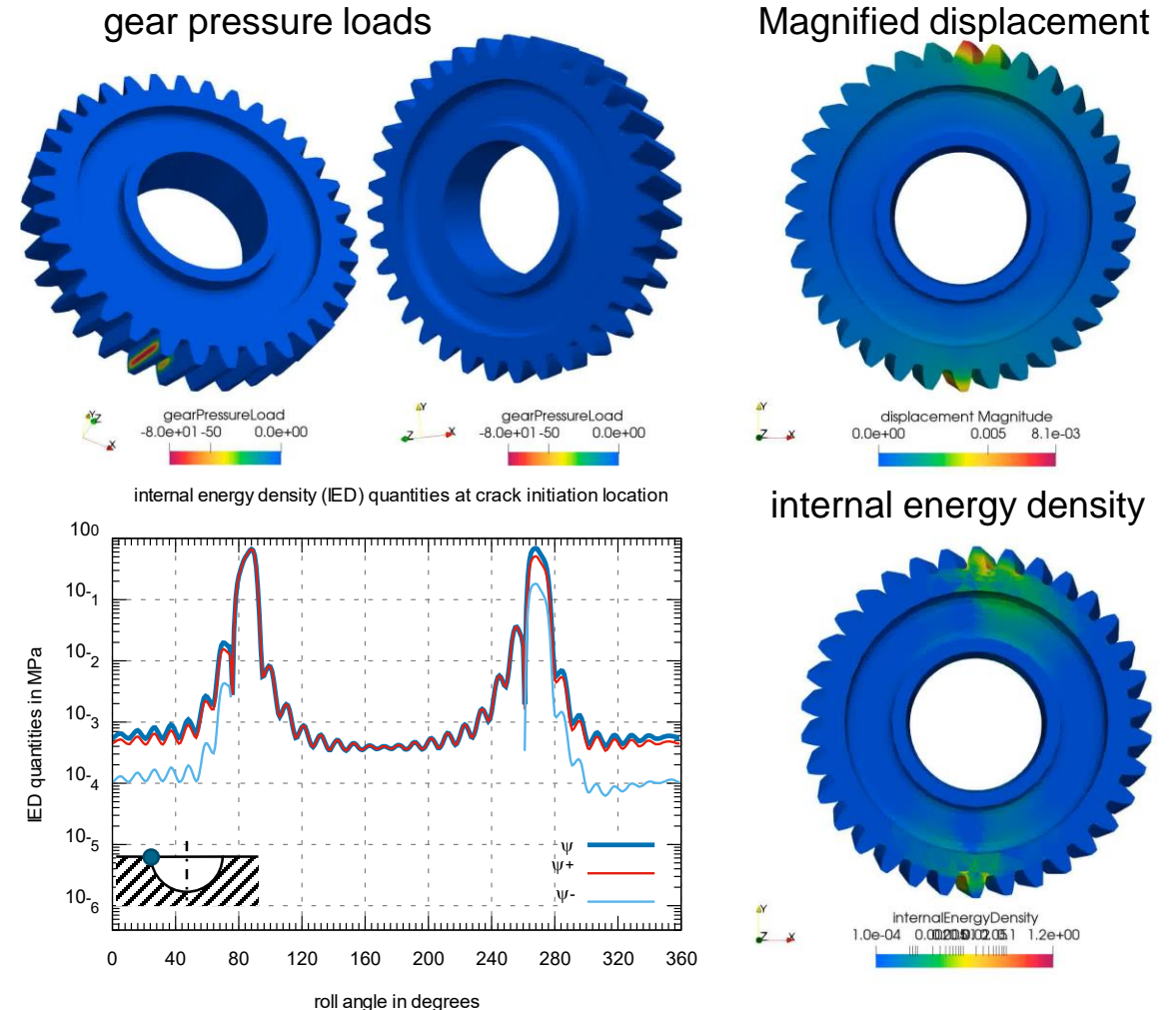
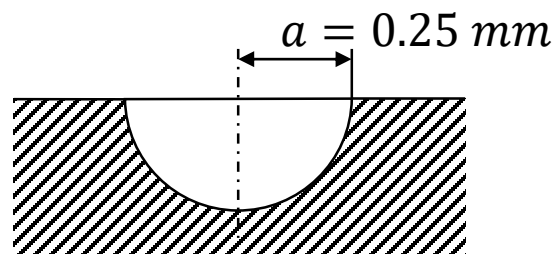


Balance of momentum of global model with initial crack

# Crack propagation study: balance of momentum of global model

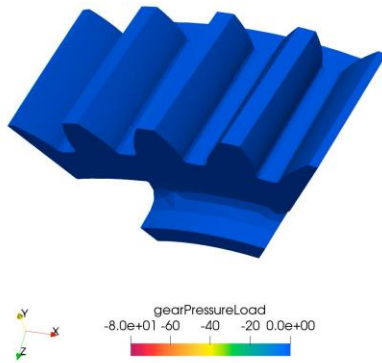
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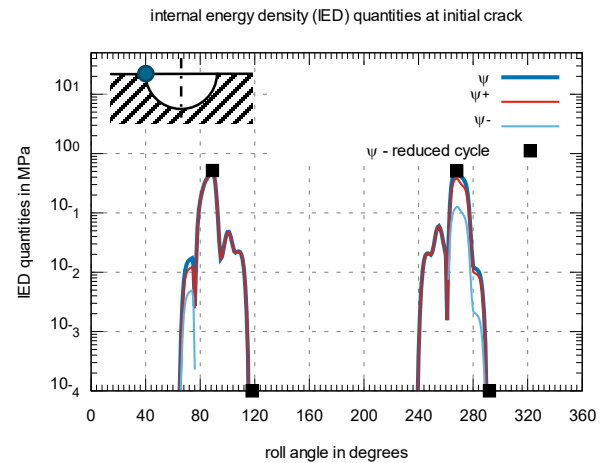
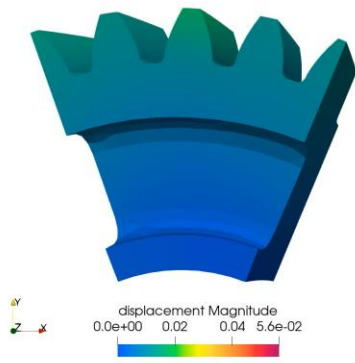


# Crack propagation study: phase-field model of fatigue of sector model

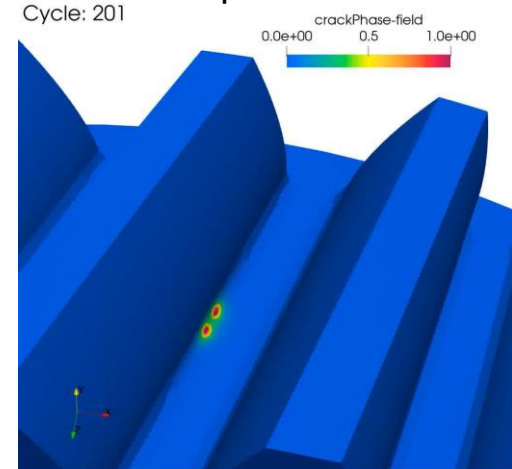
gear pressure loads



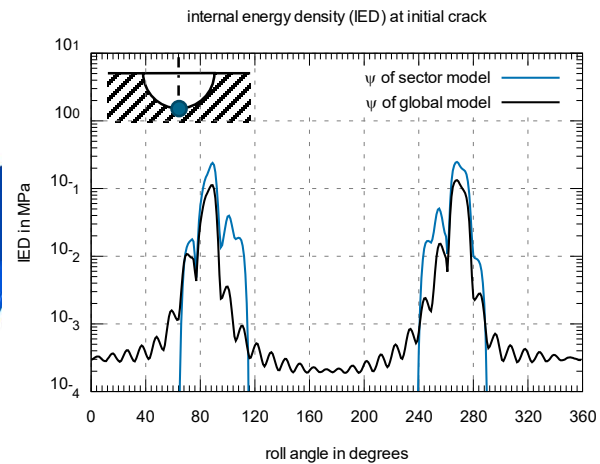
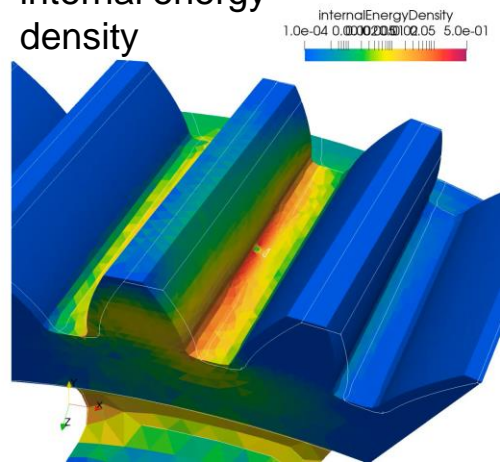
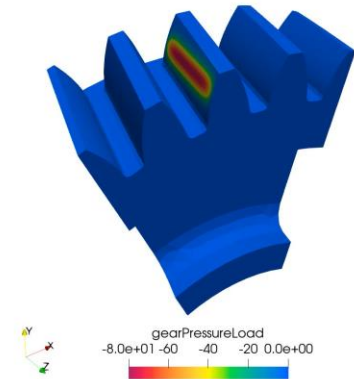
Magnified displacement



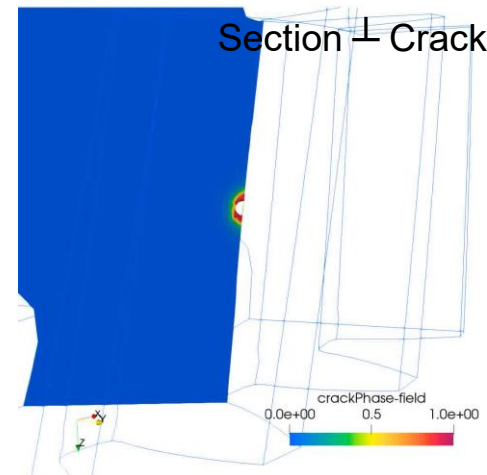
Crack phase-field



internal energy density



Section  $\perp$  Crack



Fatigue simulation for the gear sector model based on gear characteristics from Wu 2022

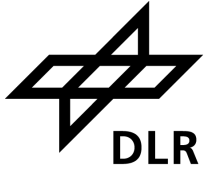
# Outlook



- Sector model as sub model
- Robustness of load-driven calculations
- Extension of the cycle jump to the crack propagation regime  
(in accordance e.g. to Seleš 2021)
- Investigation of observed stress ratios
- Residual stresses from manufacturing steps
- Validation of crack path with the help of tests



# Acknowledgements



- This work is supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) through the project FLUEGGE embedded in the aviation research programme LuFo VI-2 2014-2017 (code 20T2101B)
- The project is in cooperation with Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co KG (RRD).



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Affairs  
and Climate Action





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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**

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A detailed architectural rendering of a modern, multi-story building with a facade of vertical panels and windows. The building is set in a landscaped area with trees and a paved walkway. A semi-transparent dark teal banner is overlaid at the bottom of the image, containing the text "BACK-UP".

# BACK-UP

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