



Large Area Instant Crack Detection And Identification Using Magnetic Carpet Probe

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Motivations (1)

1. FAA forecasts that commercial aircraft operations will continue to increase by 3 to 5 percent per year over the next decade.
2. Government and industry have agreed to use enhanced inspections for certain high-energy rotating engine components.
3. A number new NDT methods and R&D projects are currently going on towards an optimal solution of this problem.



Motivations (2)

Current NDT techniques do not meet the requirements for wide area inspection of engine disc:

- **EC Pencil probe – very low inspection speed and significant noise;**
- **Penetration method – low speed and low sensitivity;**
- **Magnetic particle – does not work for non-ferromagnetic materials.**



Objectives and Requirements

Development of Magnetic Carpet Probe (MCP) Technology For Rapid Large Area Engine Inspections.

- 1. Capable of detection of fine surface cracks, as small as 0.020", on titanium engine disc;**
- 2. Ten times faster than any of the traditional inspection method;**
- 3. Flexible to conform to curved surfaces;**
- 4. Robust and reliable;**
- 5. Simple to use and low cost.**



Why Magnetic Carpet Probe?

1. **Absolute static inspection:**
 - a. **No mechanical noise – ensuring high sensitivity;**
 - b. **Electronic and magnetic scan – ensuring high speed, or instant, inspection of large area;**
 - c. **No mechanic parts/components, a pure electronic device – ensuring**
 - **Simplicity, robustness, light weight and reliability;**
 - **Easy in use an low cost.**
2. **Thin and flexible 2-Dimensional sensor array – providing capabilities in**
 - **Conforming to curved surface;**
 - **Being attached to inaccessible or difficult accessible areas for heath monitoring;**
 - **Possibility for future remote control of NDI and heath monitoring through networking and/or wireless techniques.**
3. **Software controlled call/reject action. Minimum human factor involved.**



Foundations for MCP

- 1. Advances of Flexible Printed Circuit (Flex Circuits) technique allow building very thin, copper traces and spacing in very thin material layer. This enables building a large number of electromagnetic coils, or coil array, in a thin layer structure with reasonable coil size, impedance value and inspection resolution.**
- 2. Advances in digital electronic devices have enabled complex and high speed electronic and electromagnetic scan over a coil array with a large of elements, or coils, using a very limited number of miniature chips.**

Achievement of these two techniques has established the foundation of the MCP technique.

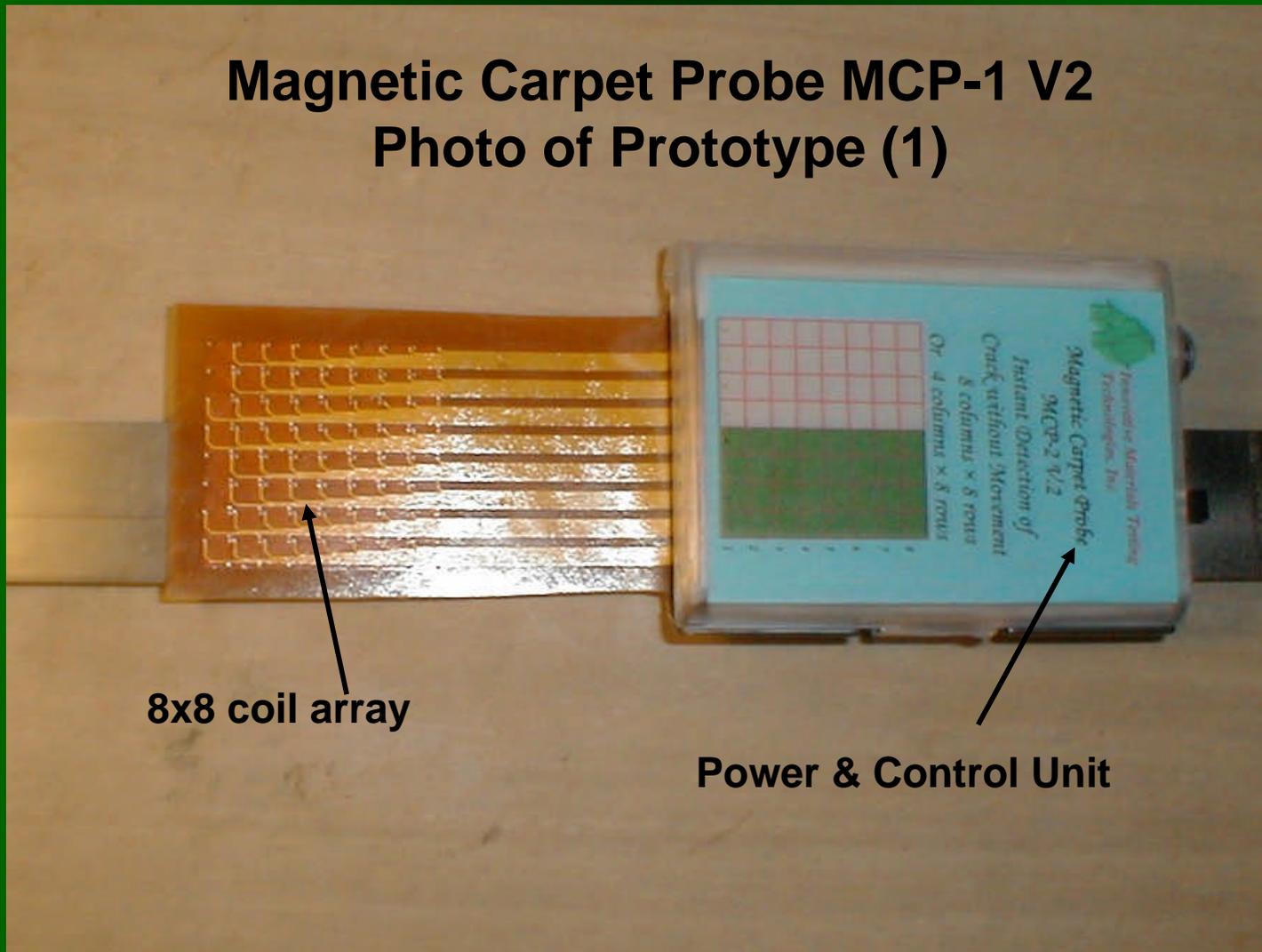


Working Principles of MCP

- 1. Densely populated 2-D coil elements, coil array, built in flex circuit and covering a wide area of inspection;**
- 2. Connection of each coil element of coil array to an eddy current instrument through multiplexers;**
- 3. Electronic control of high speed electromagnetic scan over the entire area of inspection.**
- 4. Automatic image, crack/corrosion identification, and display.**



Magnetic Carpet Probe MCP-1 V2 Photo of Prototype (1)

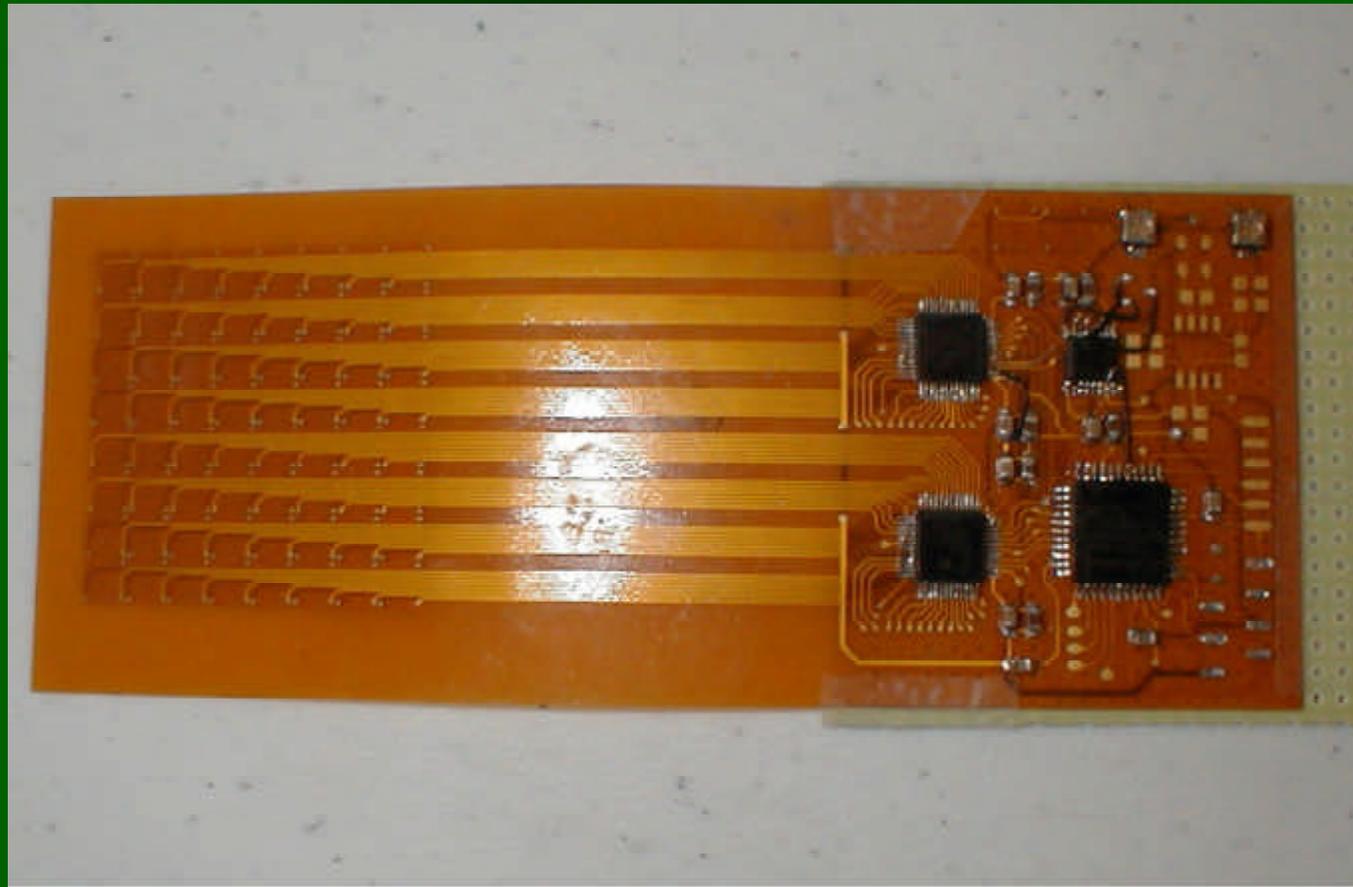


8x8 coil array

Power & Control Unit



Magnetic Carpet Probe MCP-1 V2 Photo of Prototype (2)





Magnetic Carpet Probe MCP-1 V2 Photo of Prototype (3)

**8x8 coil array covering
1.375" x 1.375" area of
Inspection**

**Six layers Flexible PCB
with total thickness of
0.012"**

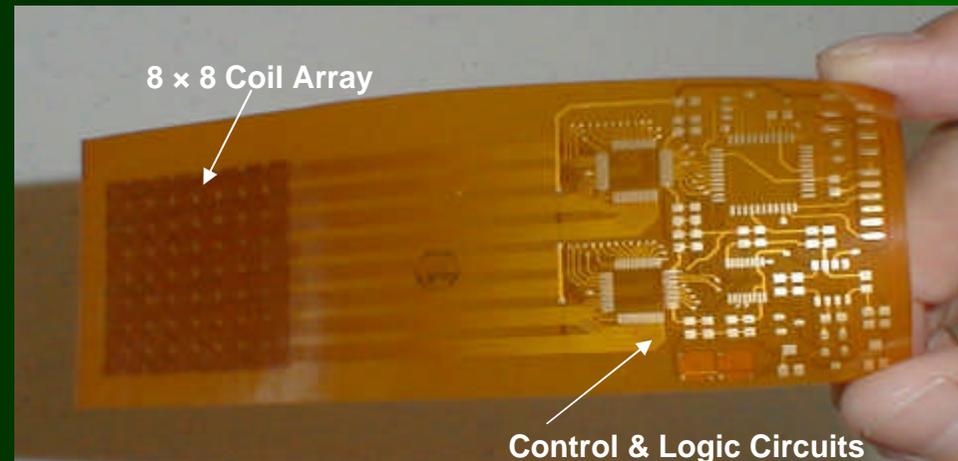
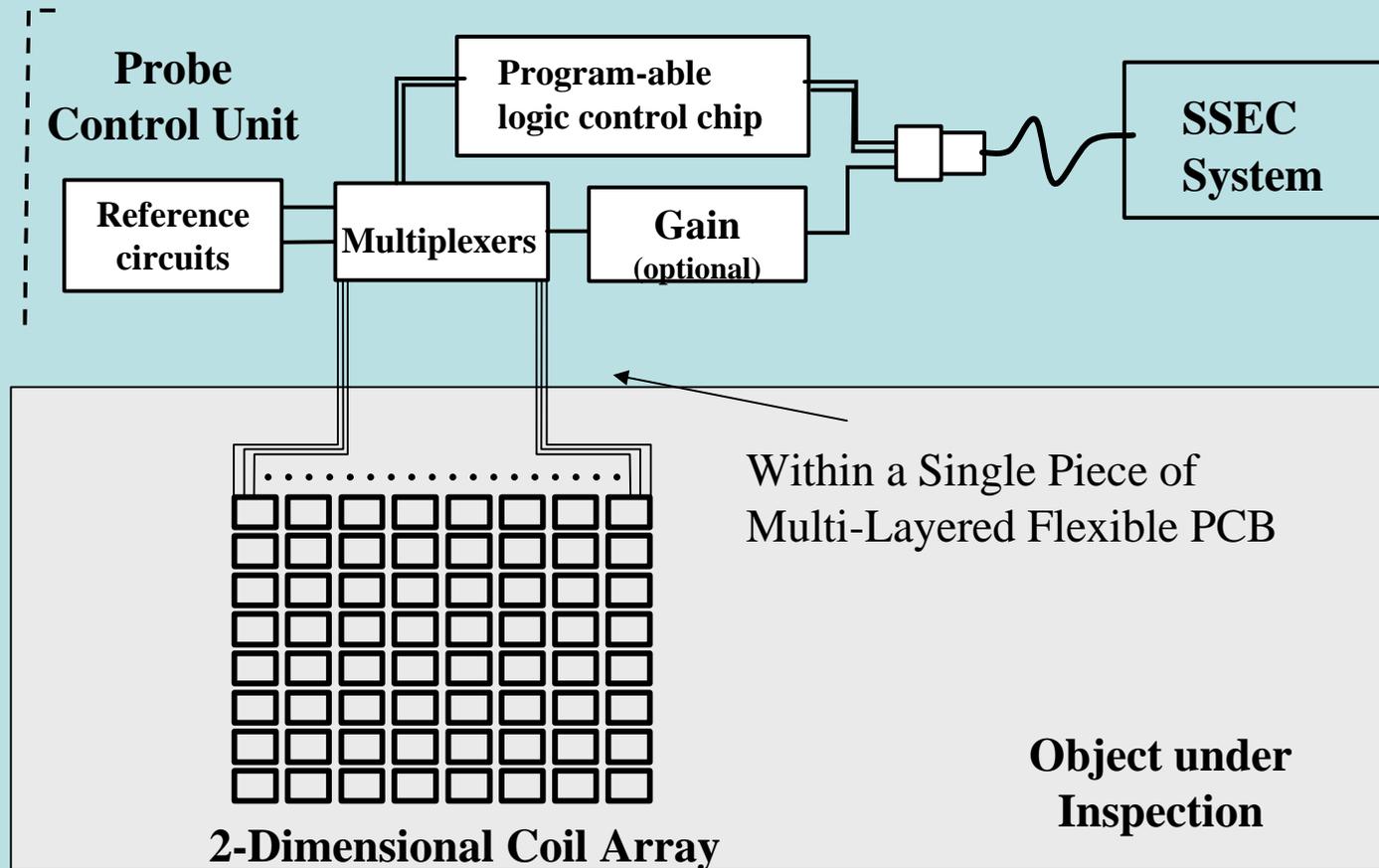




Diagram for Magnetic Carpet Probe, MCP-1 V.2 Working in Differential Mode





Program-able Logic Control Unit

FPGA or CPLD are typical program-able chips.

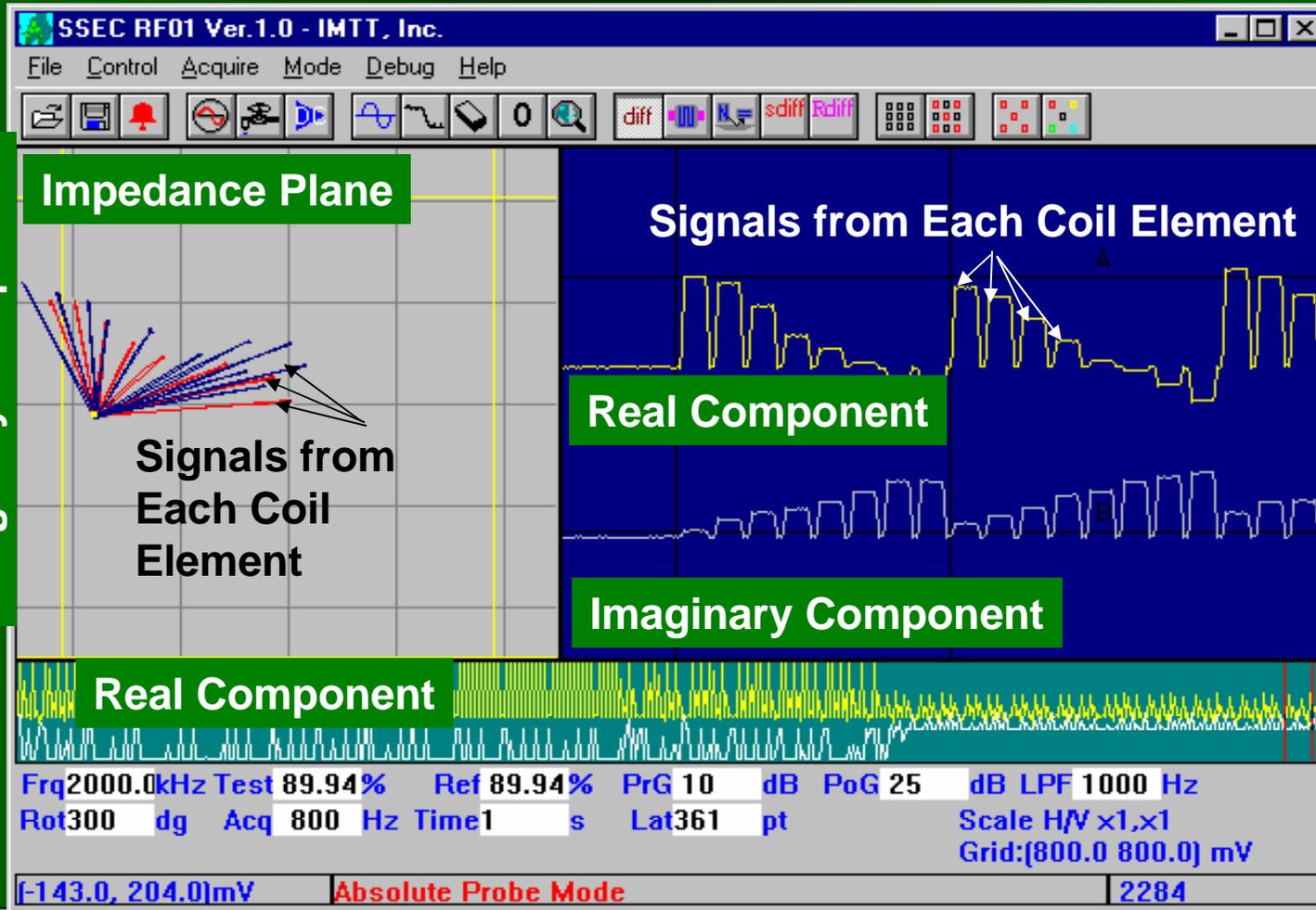
They can be programmed to generate logic control signals we need. These signals include:

1. Multiplexer timing signals for scanning sequence of coils in coil array ;
2. Signals for working in differential mode;
3. Signals for working in nulling mode and selection of null position that appears on the screen;
4. Signals for working in zoom-in mode and selection of the column and row numbers for the zoom-in location. For example, in the test results listed in this report we used only 4 columns and all 8 rows.



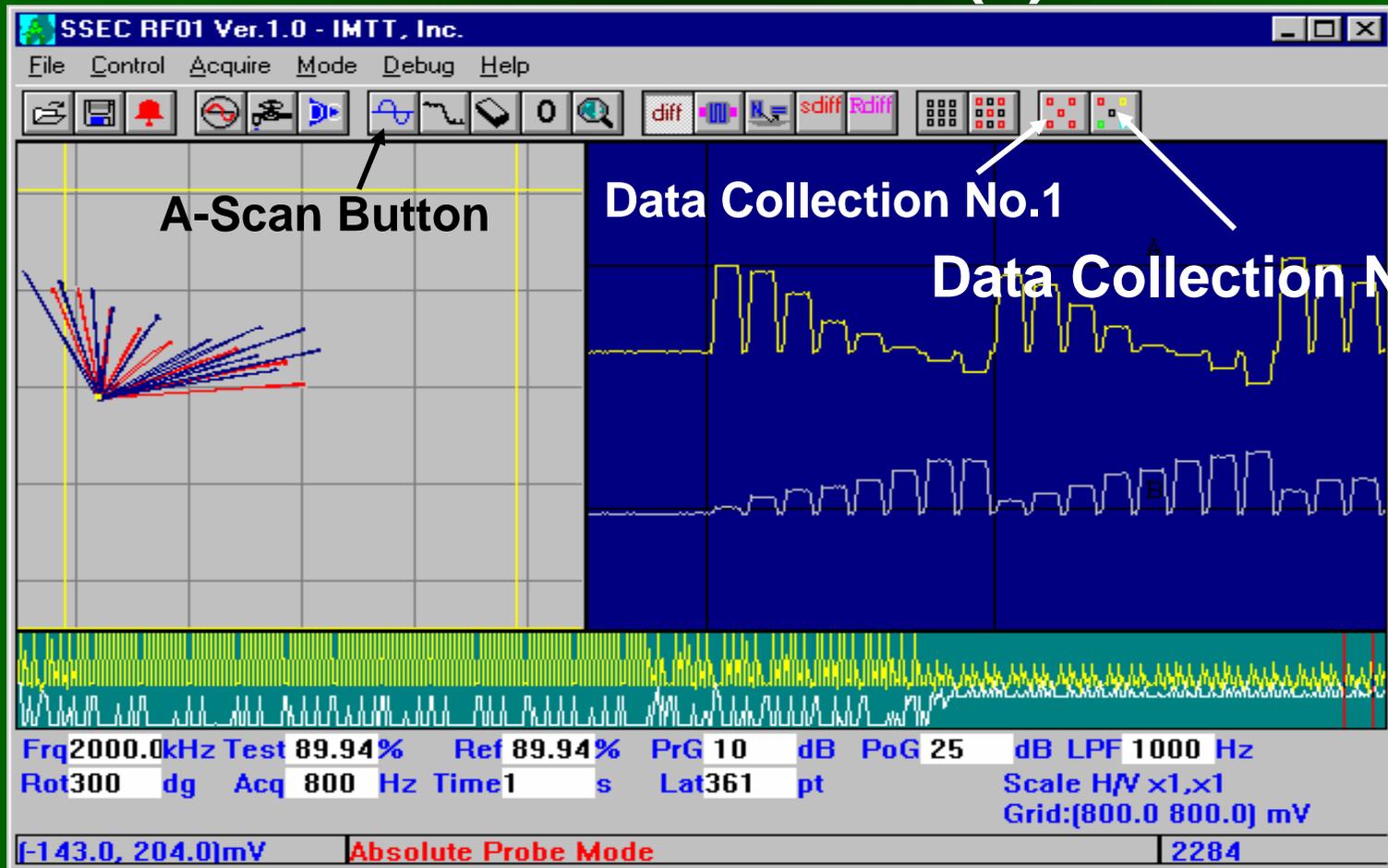
Typical Signals: A Copy from the Screen

Imaginary Component





Test Procedure (1)





Test Procedure (2)

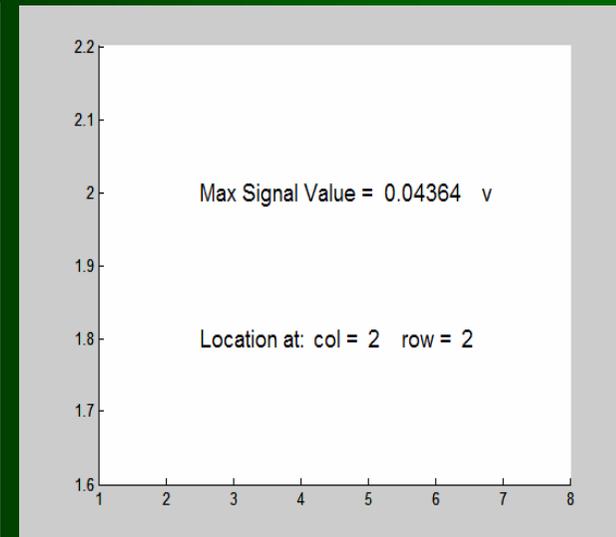
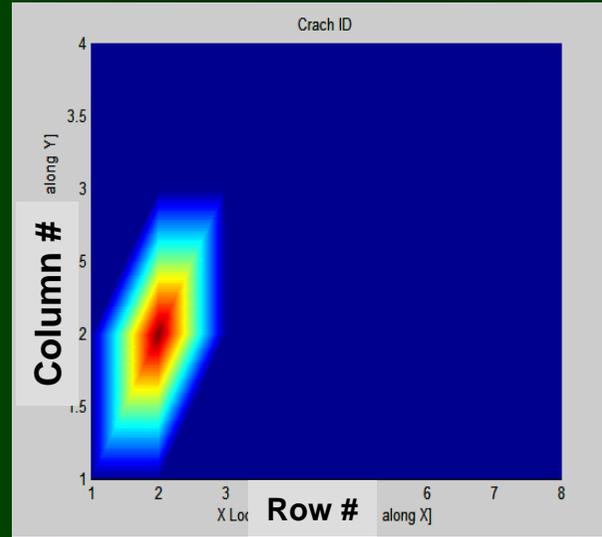
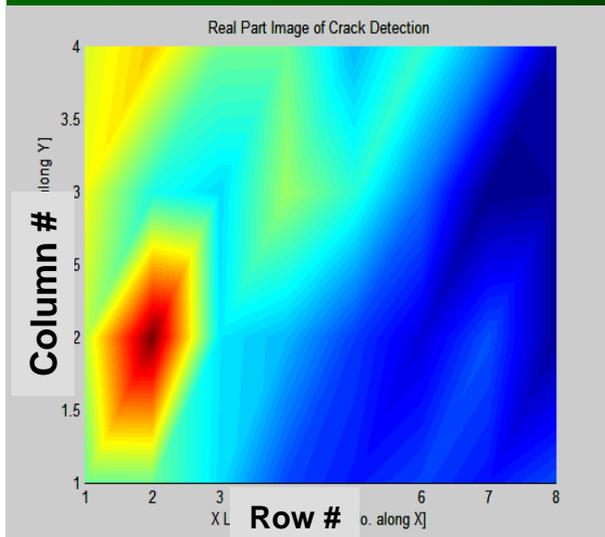
1. Firmly place MCP on a no-crack area;
2. Click “A-Scan” to start a scan & wait for about 2 seconds;
3. Click “Data Collection No. 1”. No-crack data are collected and processed practically in no time;

Note: we need to do 1, 2, and 3 only once per an inspection.

4. Firmly place MCP on the area of inspection;
5. Click “Data Collection No.2”. Crack data are collected and processed practically in no time;
6. All three images appear on the screen in a couple of seconds.



Signal & Information Displays



Display No. 1:

Image of signals obtained from all the sensor coils

Display No. 2:

Processed image for identification of a crack and its location

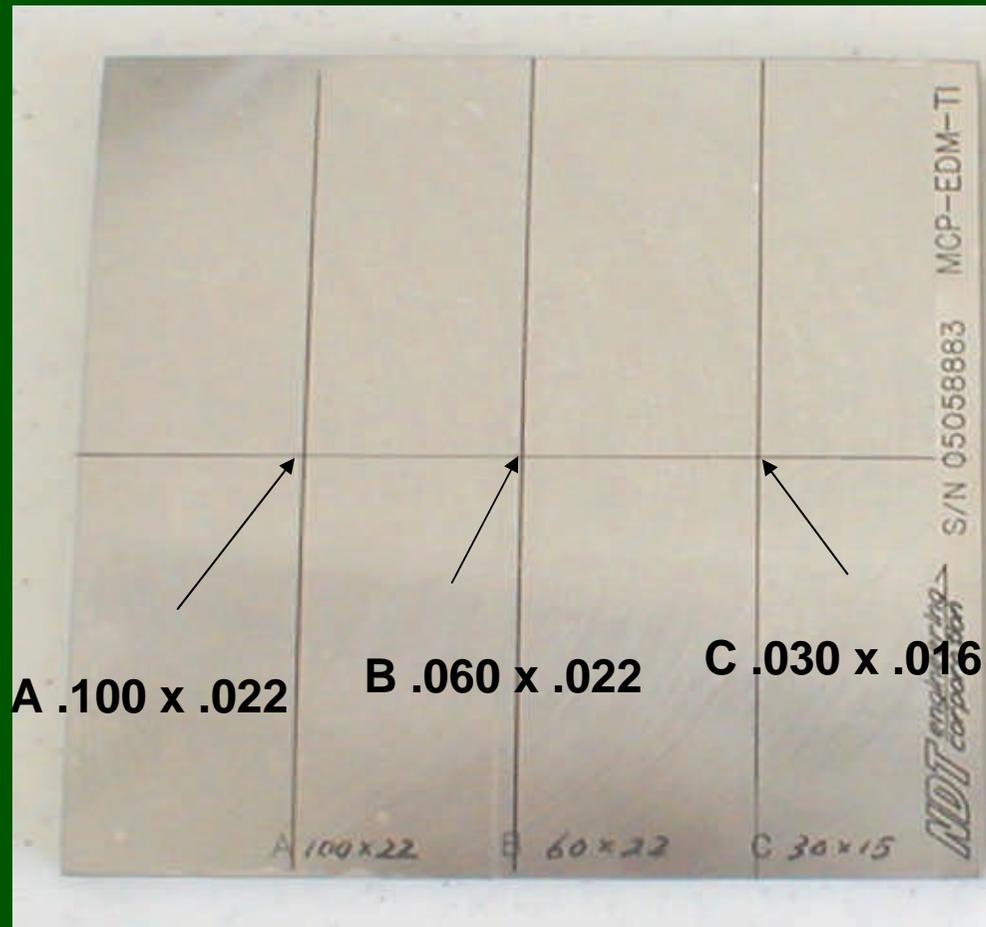
Display No. 3:

Printed information: signal value & crack location



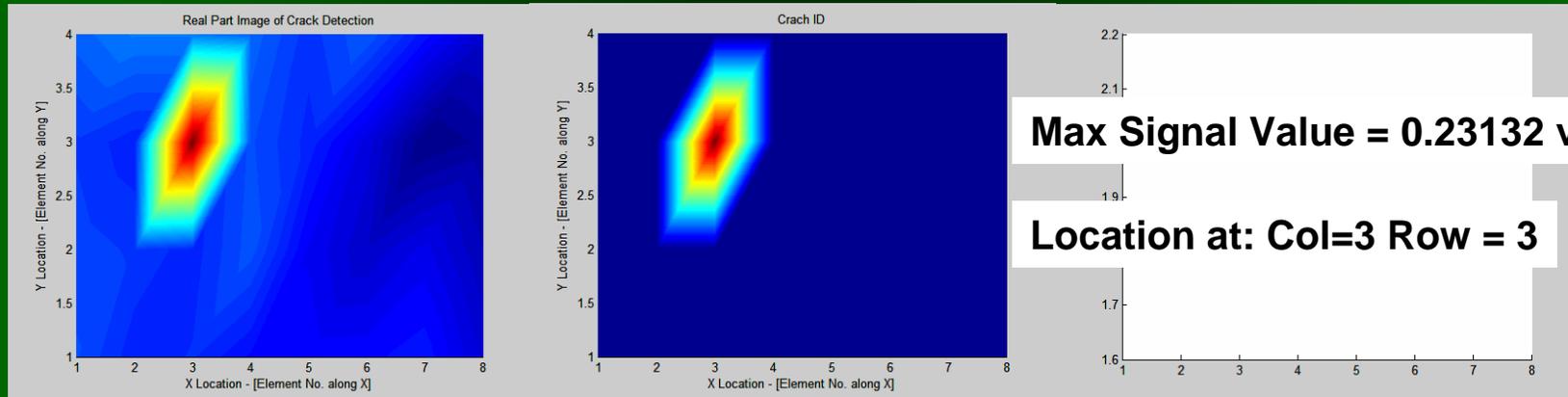
Detecting EDM Notches On A Titanium Standard

(1). Ti EDM Notch Standard

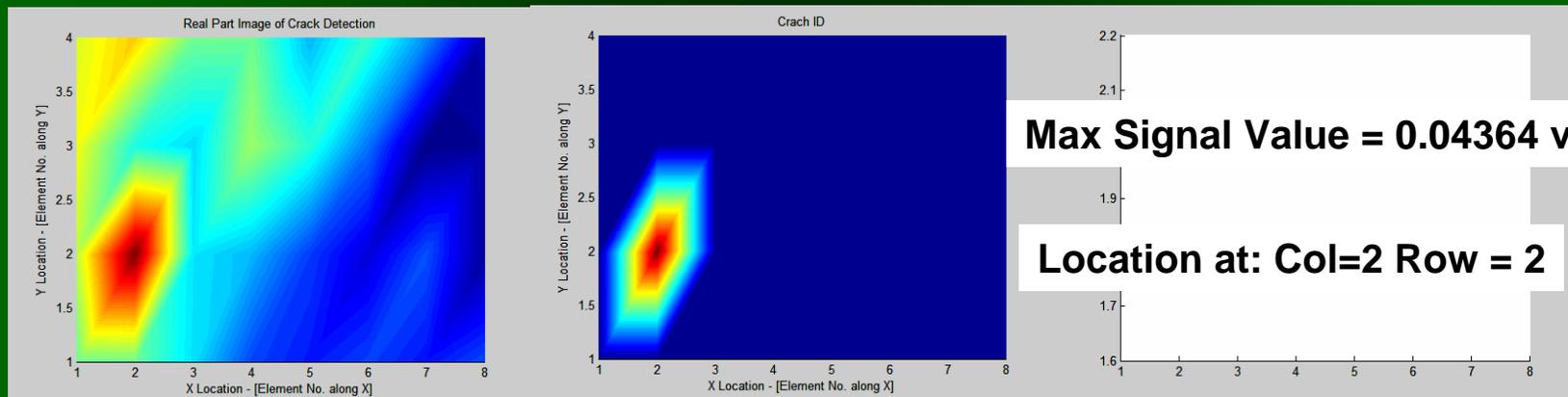




Notch B: 0.060" x 0.022"



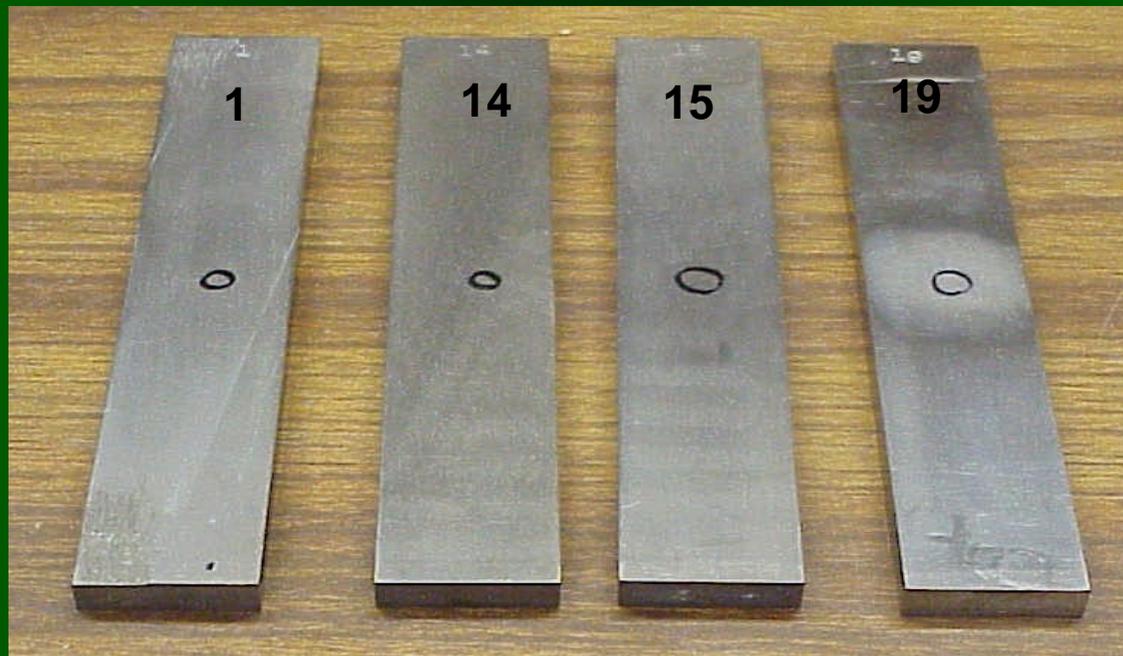
Notch C: 0.030" x 0.016"





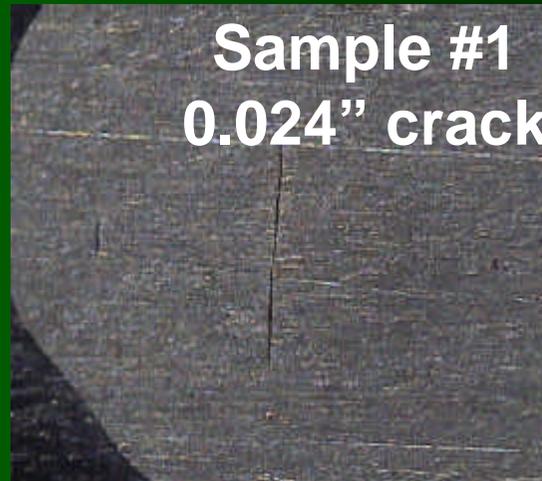
Testing Real Cracks On Titanium Standards Provided by Mike Bode, FAA AANC, Sandia (1). Four Standards

6.0" x 1.0" x 0.25" Titanium Crack Sample





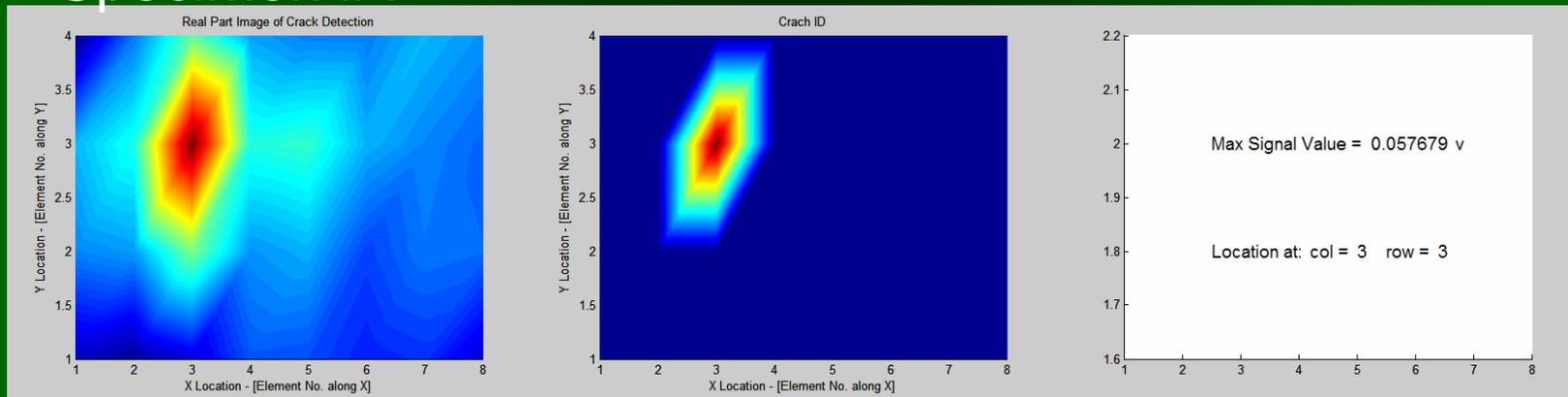
(2). Crack Photos Sizes



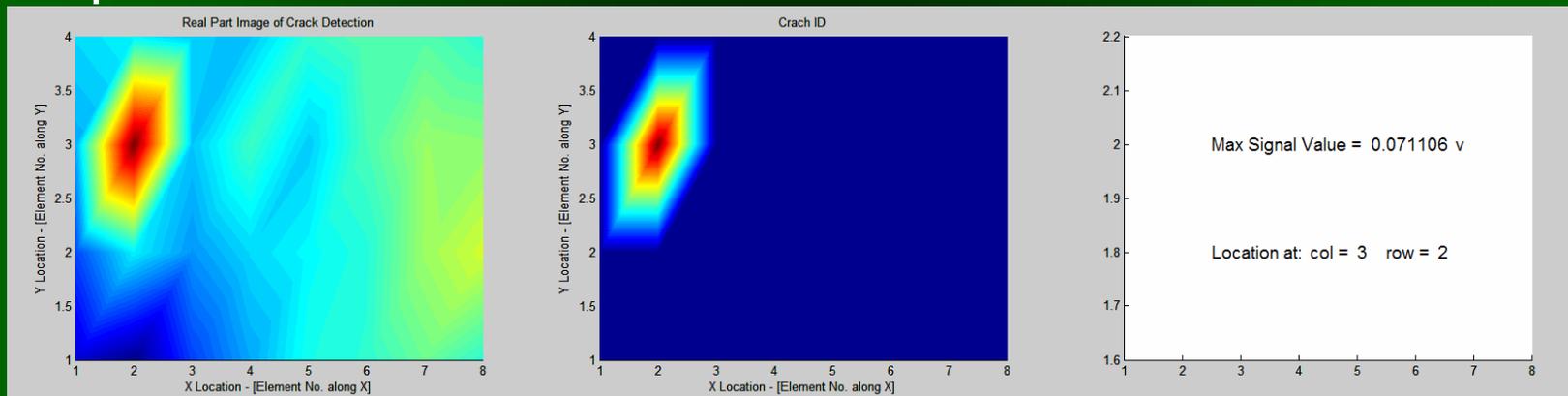


(3). Testing Fatigue Crack Standard (1)

Specimen #1

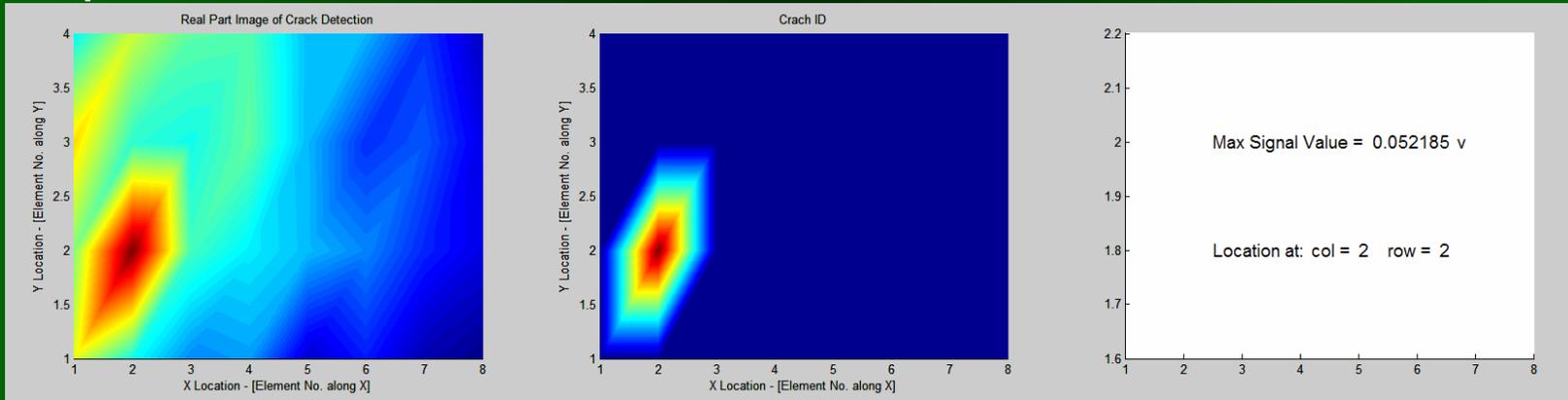


Specimen #14

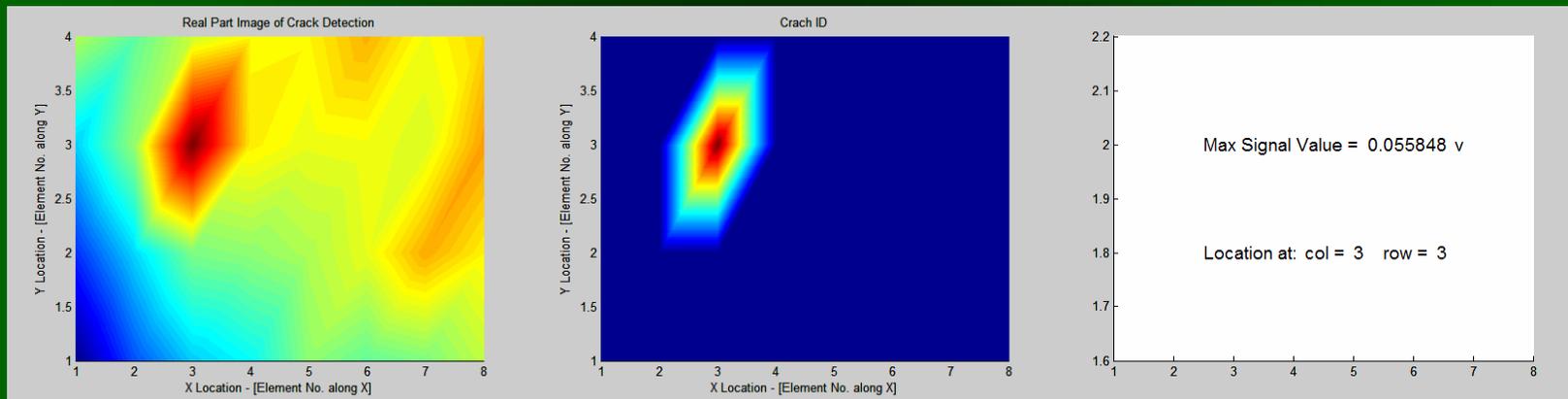




Specimen #19



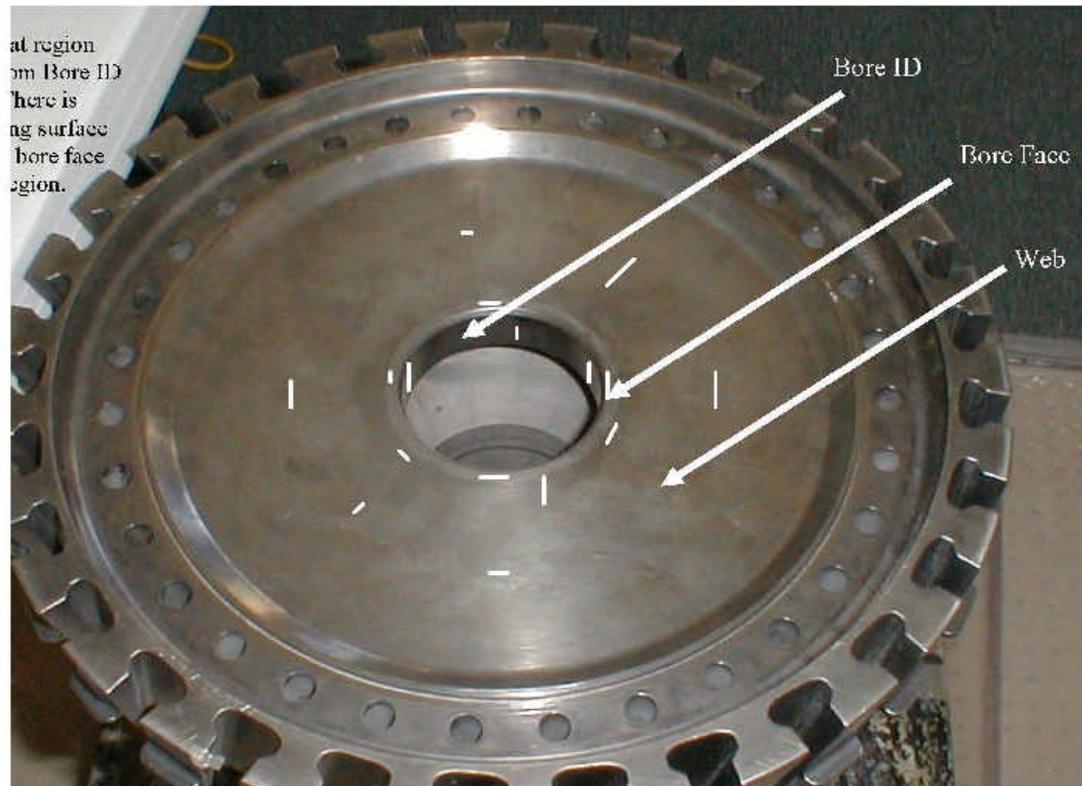
Specimen #15





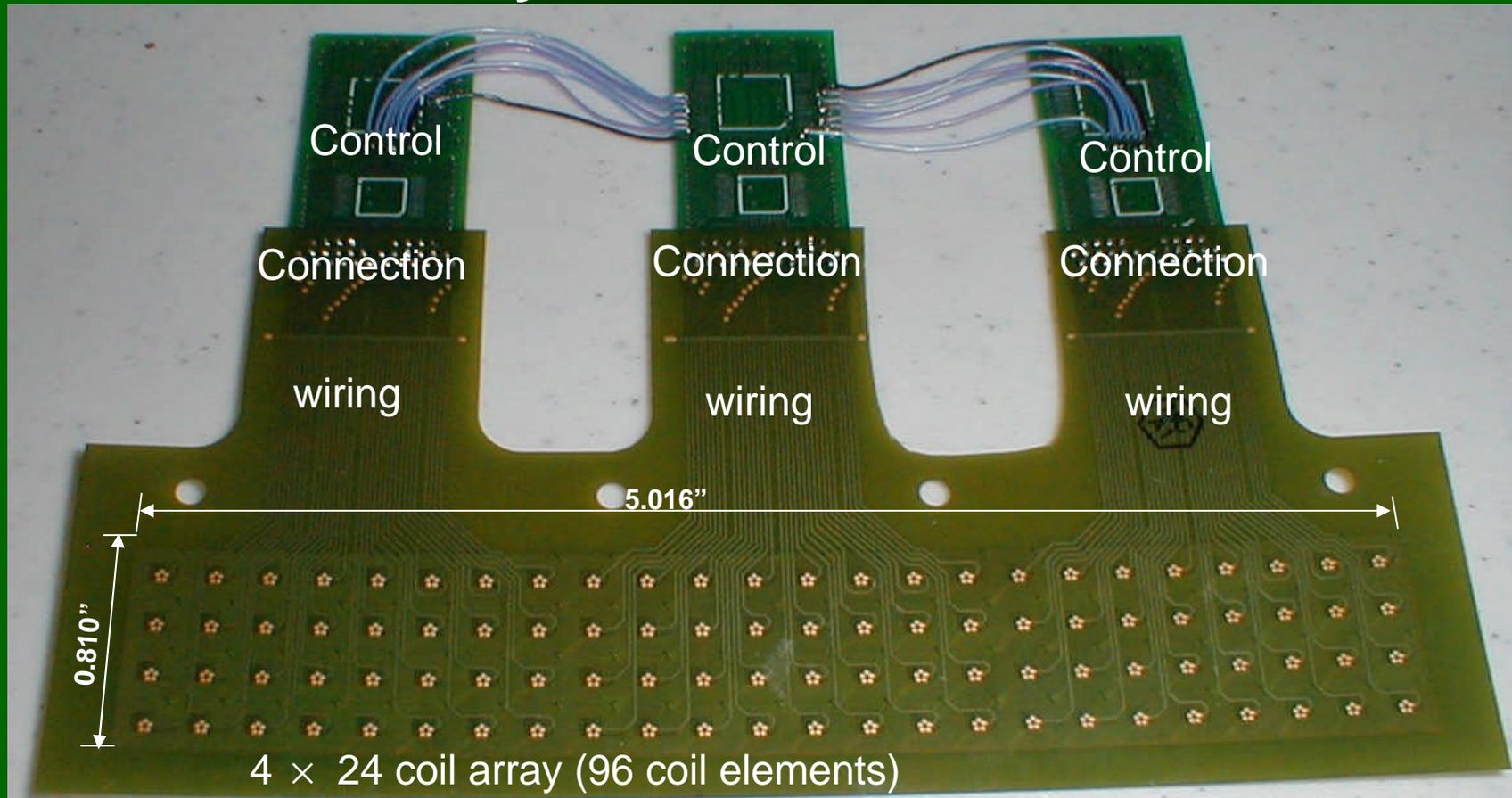
Planned Testing EDM Notches On Engine Bore ID

Provided by Mike Bode, FAA AANC, Sandia



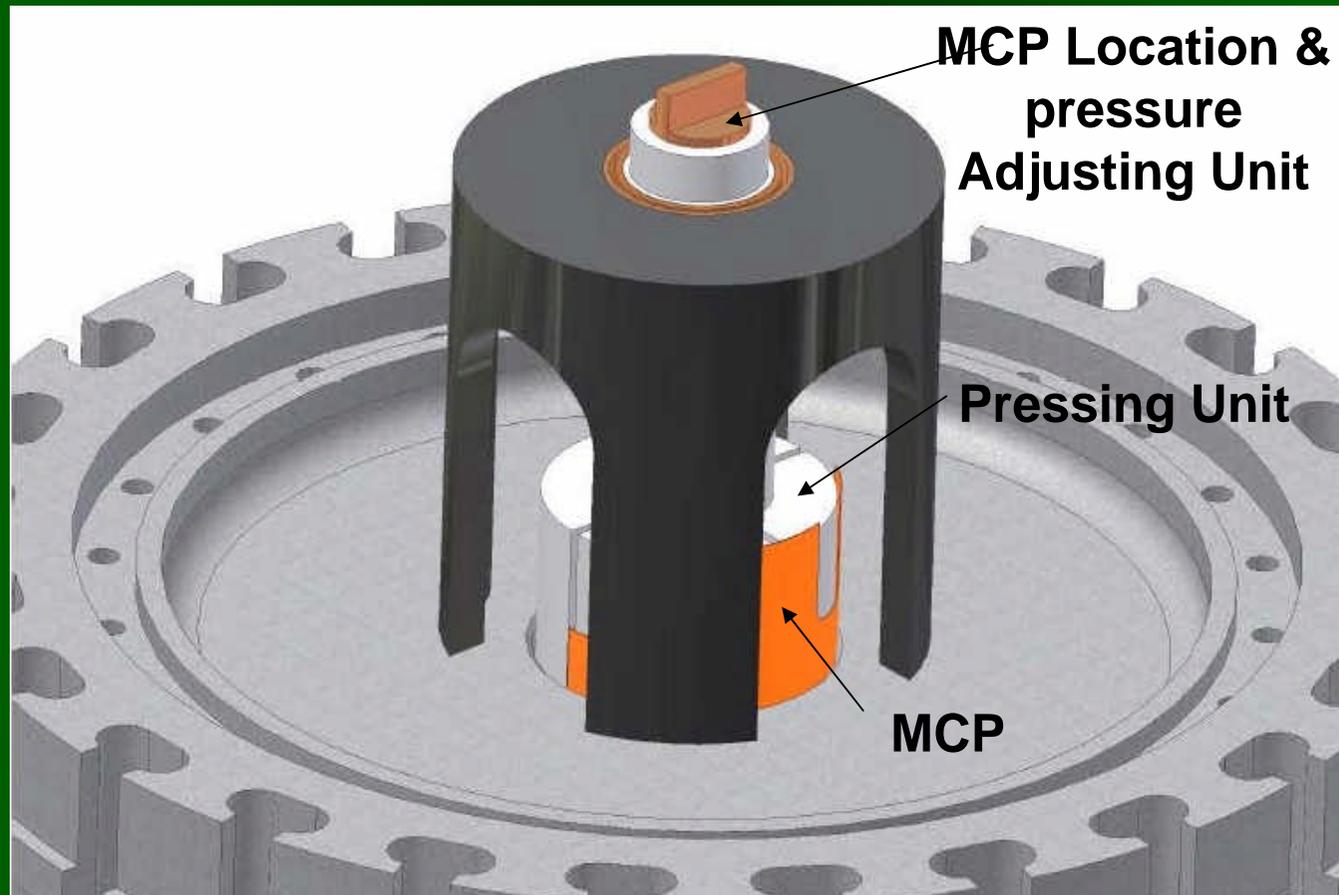


Prototype MCP-1 V.5 A 10 layer and 96 element Circuit





Designed Fixture Placing and Holding MCP At Bore ID Location





Conclusions

1. A new NDI method for large-area and instant inspection of engine disc, MCP Technique, has been developed. A number of prototypes have been developed.
2. Test results have shown it is promising. The unique features include:
 - No mechanic noise, high sensitivity;
 - High speed large area inspection;
 - Simplicity, robustness, and low cost;
 - Conformable to curve surfaces;
 - Attachable to non-accessible areas for possible health monitoring;
 - Software controlled call/reject actions, minimum human factor.
3. Future work – apply the technique in read engine disc applications