

List of Figures

| | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| 1.1 | Square corners of de Havilland Comet | 2 |
| 1.2 | “Titanic” Marine disaster | 3 |
| 1.3 | Titanic disaster | 4 |
| 1.4 | Mode of Fracture | 5 |
| 1.5 | Stress-Strain curve | 6 |
| 1.6 | Brittle, Ductile and Elastic material curves | 6 |
| 1.7 | Elliptic crack in infinite plate | 9 |
| 2.1 | Geometry of the Problem | 36 |
| 2.2 | Plots of M_a versus b/a | 43 |
| 2.3 | Plots of M_b versus b/a | 43 |
| 2.4 | Plots of W_1^* versus b/a | 43 |
| 2.5 | Plots of W_2^* versus b/a | 44 |
| 3.1 | The geometry of the Problem | 51 |
| 3.2 | Plot of M_I^a versus h at $a = 0.5$ | 65 |
| 3.3 | Plot of M_{II}^a versus h at $a = 0.5$ | 65 |
| 3.4 | Plot of M_I^b versus h at $b = 0.6$ | 66 |
| 3.5 | Plot of M_{II}^b versus h at $b = 0.6$ | 66 |
| 3.6 | Plot of M_I^1 versus h at $b = 0.6$ | 67 |
| 3.7 | Plot of M_{II}^1 versus h at $b = 0.6$ | 67 |
| 4.1 | Geometry of the Problem | 74 |
| 4.2 | Normalized SIF at the point $a-$ versus b/a | 84 |
| 4.3 | Normalized SIF at the point $b+$ versus b/a | 84 |
| 5.1 | Geomerty of the Problem | 87 |
| 5.2 | Normalized SIF at the point $x = -a^+$ versus h | 99 |
| 5.3 | Normalized SIF at the point $x = -a^+$ versus a/h | 99 |
| 5.4 | Normalized SIF at the point $x = a^-$ versus h | 100 |
| 5.5 | Normalized SIF at the point $x = a^-$ versus a/h | 100 |