

Changes to FRANC3D from Version 8.4.4 to 8.4.5

May 14, 2024

- 1) Bug fix for kinked template geometry.
- 2) Bug fix in Select Surface dialog when reading retained nodes file.
- 3) Check for .dtp file when using .odb for CFTs.
- 4) Add more error checking for Nastran and Sierra analyses.
- 5) Add support for Sierra thermal log strain.

Changes to FRANC3D from Version 8.4.3 to 8.4.4

Apr 29, 2024

- 1) Fix ANSYS and ABAQUS CTE settings for restarts for CFT load steps.
- 2) Update ABAQUS Python scripts for ABAQUS 2024 and Python3.
- 3) Add an option to the Preference dialog tab for ABAQUS to choose 2024 version.
- 4) Fix an import/export issue when importing as ANSYS and exporting as ABAQUS.
- 5) SIERRA updates for multiple CFT time steps and multiple substep SIFs.
- 6) Bug fix when adding pyramid elements during remeshing.
- 7) Fix 'total passes' display in the fatigue life dialog for combined time+cycle crack growth.
- 8) Fix temperature display in fatigue growth rate plots for temperature independent models.
- 9) Update NASGRO xml file import.

Changes to FRANC3D from Version 8.4.2 to 8.4.3

Mar 6, 2024

- 1) Fix ANSYS local CSYS ID when requesting contour integrals.
- 2) Update importing of ABAQUS contour integral data.
- 3) Modify ANSYS and ABAQUS contact surface naming and update fretting module.
- 4) Update surface treatment crack face traction dialog for table data and Back updating.
- 5) Fix Back updating for FEM input wizard.
- 6) Add option to output all nodal SIFs to a file from the SIF Path dialog.
- 7) Added cohesive elements for SIERRA.

Changes to FRANC3D from Version 8.4.1 to 8.4.2

Feb 12, 2024

- 1) Modify processing of ANSYS contact surfaces.
- 2) Split ANSYS surf154 surfaces and regenerate to allow for surface mass.
- 3) Add ANSYS TB,FRIC to material list.
- 4) Add MECH_1 and MECH_2 license strings for ANSYS.
- 5) Fix command language for ANSYS command parameters that are set in preferences.

- 6) Allow user to specify path and file name for ABAQUS template material.
- 7) Edit ABAQUS WriteDtpFile.py to collect LE strain if present.
- 8) Check for ABAQUS nmap keyword.
- 9) Bug fix when checking input FE mesh for doubled nodes.
- 10) Bug fix in Fatigue Lifting dialog when reading .fcg files without a model present.
- 11) Bug fix when displaying VCCT computed SIFs.
- 12) Fix DARWIN .kva file output.

Changes to FRANC3D from Version 8.4.0 to 8.4.1

Jan 9, 2024

- 1) Update documentation to version 8.4.
- 2) Add ANSYS MFOR contour integral option.
- 3) Bug fix in crack insertion/meshing library.

Changes to FRANC3D from Version 8.3.7 to 8.4.0

Dec 20, 2023

- 1) Revised search/range tree.
- 2) Fix equation/character GUI display.
- 3) Fix Nastran .pch file reader for large line numbers.
- 4) Fix quotes for Abaqus, Ansys and Nastran commands in Windows.
- 5) Fix Ansys PRCINT command placement in .cdb file.
- 6) Collect Ansys license string from command line for reuse in the GUI.
- 7) Revise volume meshing code; old volume meshing is available via Preferences.
- 8) Revised crack growth data stored in .fdb file.
- 9) Collect fitting parameters from .fdb file for restart and add moving poly range value.
- 10) Modify/fix midside-to-quarter and quarter-to-midside node position code.
- 11) Make blunt brick option available for Ansys and Sierra.
- 12) Fix issues with thick cracks (voids) with and without templates.
- 13) Fix flaw-from-file with changes to template settings.
- 14) Fix computation of DC SIFs at midside node locations.
- 15) Fix DC SIF computation for cracks without templates.
- 16) Add Advanced button for DC SIFs to choose midside- or corner-nodes.
- 17) Add to the Advanced menu to read analysis code contour integral data, with a dialog to plot the CI data.
- 18) Fix GUI recenter red-box display.
- 19) Update CrackView program for export of display to file(s).

Changes to FRANC3D from Version 8.3.6 to 8.3.7

Oct 20, 2023

- 1) Bug fix when mapping from source boundary conditions.
- 2) Check for missing ANSYS BF at mid-side nodes when importing FE model.
- 3) Check for RATE TB data in ANSYS FE models.
- 4) SIERRA updates for orthotropic models.
- 5) Add rotations for thermal strains.
- 6) Edit ABAQUS *.rpt* reader for temperature.
- 7) Set unique temperature ID for NASTRAN CFTs with temperature.
- 8) Fix NASTRAN exponential output of 0.0 values.
- 9) Fix bug in rainflow counting for simplified dadN pairing.
- 10) Fix bug in anchor node for flaw from file.
- 11) Try to retrieve RLM license automatically if it timed-out.
- 12) Edits to partial extension front fitting.
- 13) Prevent NAN in crack surface geometry.
- 14) Fix issue when restarting from a *.fdb* file without retained_nodes.

Changes to FRANC3D from Version 8.3.5 to 8.3.6

Sept 25, 2023

- 1) Update to thick crack (void) templates and some bug fixes for crack insertion/meshing.
- 2) Check for older ANSYS table data format.
- 3) Fix partial extension curve-fit extrapolation.
- 4) Update merging front intersections and extension.
- 5) Bug fixes for SIF path and session log after front merge.
- 6) Bug fixes when computing SIFs if a crack front exits the model and a second crack is added.

Changes to FRANC3D from Version 8.3.4 to 8.3.5

Aug 14, 2023

- 1) Bug fix when mapping boundary conditions *etc*; specifically, look for a single stray node with ID of 0 from a collapsed ANSYS element and an isolated midside node with constraint.
- 2) Updates for ANSYS table data and skip writing CMBLOCK for a single node with ID of 0.
- 3) Updates for NASTRAN dynamic / modal analyses; specifically, look for rload and tload data.
- 4) Fixes and updates to crack insertion and meshing, and preliminary addition of new volume meshing code.
- 5) Bug fix for crack merge/growth.

Changes to FRANC3D from Version 8.3.3 to 8.3.4

Jul 21, 2023

- 1) Fix model display update bug in GUI during playback of commands.

- 2) Fix bug in GUI for symmetry crack insertion when using the Back button.
- 3) Add check for both E and Nu values for any material used in volume elements.
- 4) Fix bug in surface mapping for some ABAQUS models.
- 5) Updates for NASTRAN, specifically for DLOAD* and other "large" field format data, and fixed pload on pyramid element faces.
- 6) Surface meshing improvements.
- 7) Update for SIERRA to read all time step results.

Changes to FRANC3D from Version 8.3.2 to 8.3.3

Jun 24, 2023

- 1) Fix bugs in GUI for Edge Wizard when using ruler and recenter.
- 2) Fix bug in GUI for time dependent growth model when using the Back button.
- 3) Fix the image capture on Windows to get the current displayed image in the GUI.
- 4) Check file extension case in GUI when saving files.

Changes to FRANC3D from Version 8.3.1 to 8.3.2

Jun 21, 2023

- 1) Fix bugs in GUI for Read Crack Growth and Grow/Merge Crack Growth.

Changes to FRANC3D from Version 8.3 to 8.3.1

Jun 19, 2023

- 1) Fix an issue when mapping pressure boundary conditions for some ABAQUS models with complex surfaces.
- 2) Check for collapse elements and missing nodes when extracting and interpolating stress for crack face tractions.
- 3) Adjust tolerance when mapping retained nodes after crack insertion and remeshing.
- 4) Modify ANSYS modal load step processing to pass through more ANSYS commands or data.
- 5) Update crack insertion and meshing for a symmetry-crack front that splits into two fronts when it breaks through a surface.
- 6) Fix bug in PyF3D module when using GetCrackData().
- 7) Save model data before attempting crack growth and recover the saved data if the crack growth fails; the user does not have to reread the .fdb and related files to retry growth.
- 8) Fix GUI display issues with zoom box and cutting plane dialog.
- 9) Make parameterized ring crack use general triangulation to improve the crack geometry.
- 10) Fix command language I/O for cracks without a template mesh.

Changes to FRANC3D from Version 8.2.4 to 8.3

May 8, 2023

- 1) Incorporate more C++ 11/14/17 standards.
- 2) Add support for modal crack face traction (CFT); using .dtp files for stress and temperature.
- 3) Add Python script for Nastran analysis.
- 4) Additional support for NX Nastran data.
- 5) Additional support for Abaqus shell and beam sections
- 6) Bug fixes in crack insertion and meshing library.
- 7) More checks for consistent crack types in multiple crack dialog.
- 8) Upgrade to RLM 15.1 with checks for timed-out license.
- 9) Additional crack growth rate models.
- 10) Add label for “passes” through load schedule in fatigue dialog.
- 11) Add electrostatic energy release rate.

Changes to FRANC3D from Version 8.2.3 to 8.2.4

Mar 17, 2023

- 1) Bug fixes in crack insertion and meshing library.
- 2) Update for NX Nastran cyclic symmetry and dload.
- 3) Update for Abaqus composites and amplitude.
- 4) Bug fixes in dynamic rainflow pairing.
- 5) Update to make partial extension fit tolerance consistent between GUI and -batch.
- 6) Update for crack surface geometry boundary smoothing.
- 7) Add anchor_normal keyword to InsertParamFlaw command to turn on/off the automatic surface normal rotation.
- 8) Bug fix for user-mesh symmetry crack with reversed surface normals.
- 9) Bug fix for elasto-plastic J computation for symmetry cracks.

Changes to FRANC3D from Version 8.2.2 to 8.2.3

Feb 5, 2023

- 1) Bug fixes in crack insertion and meshing library.
- 2) Updates for Nastran SOL 401 and ANSYS super elements.
- 3) Check for existing .dtp file and move to .old prior to ANSYS / ABAQUS analysis.
- 4) Update crack surface coarsening/smoothing for partial growth.

Changes to FRANC3D from Version 8.2.1 to 8.2.2

Jan 11, 2023

- 1) Check to see if ANSYS material has plastic properties when condensing.
- 2) Store the crack “anchor” node to ensure the crack remains exactly at the initial node location during crack growth.
- 3) Make sure flaw insertion error messages are output or displayed.

- 4) Save the SIMPLIFIED or TOTAL “dyn_pairing_hcf_lcf” setting to the session log file.
- 5) Modifications to partial growth fitting and extrapolation to improve robustness.
- 6) Bug fix in command language when checking for non-default local crack axes.
- 7) Fix some issues for 1D, 2D and surface treatment CFT when finding nearest orthogonal distance to portions of a larger surface.

Changes to FRANC3D from Version 8.2.0 to 8.2.1

Dec 11, 2022

- 1) Add support for NX Nastran contact and extra connections.
- 2) Bug fixes in crack insertion and meshing library.
- 3) Bug fixes in rainflow pairing.
- 4) Modifications to partial front extension for closed-loop ring crack fronts.
- 5) Bug fixes for command driven multiple crack insertion and flaw insertion into a model with an existing flaw.

Changes to FRANC3D from Version 8.1.6 to 8.2.0

Nov 1, 2022

- 1) Add language dictionary to support additional languages for the GUI.
- 2) Fix some node/element set naming issues.
- 3) Update symmetry crack insertion capabilities.
- 4) Add Fronts checkbox under Display in the GUI to display crack fronts; specifically for symmetry crack fronts but works for all cracks.
- 5) Fix fretting module contact surface selection in the GUI.
- 6) Add additional checks when inserting a crack into an already cracked model.
- 7) Allow user to plot SIF history and compute fatigue cycles for a crack where the front exits the model.
- 8) Update the Help menu to include all documentation.

Changes to FRANC3D from Version 8.1.5 to 8.1.6

Sept 9, 2022

- 1) Update ABAQUS blunted brick element output.
- 2) Add some support for ABAQUS composite lamina.
- 3) Improve symmetry crack insertion/meshing.
- 4) Update automated crack growth/fit checks, specifically for split fronts and partial growth.
- 5) Add to Edit Crack dialog to display adjacent crack facets with differing normal directions.
- 6) Modify dynamic rainflow pairing when all values are below threshold.
- 7) Bug fix in multiple crack insertion dialog for curved ellipse cracks.
- 8) Fix point-in-region search for models with multiple regions.

- 9) Only show .cdb files when importing ANSYS already-divided models.
- 10) Add the Edit Retained Nodes menu option to the Advanced menu.
- 11) Fix kink angle computation for resonance blossom event.

Changes to FRANC3D from Version 8.1.4 to 8.1.5

Aug 2, 2022

- 1) Bug fix when splitting models into local and global with “native” nodes.
- 2) Add velocity to list of processed boundary conditions.
- 3) Check for ABAQUS frequency, modal, and explicit solver settings.
- 4) Fix some ABAQUS *output data/options.
- 5) Fix bug when ABAQUS comment line (starts with **) ends in a comma.
- 6) Add support for ABAQUS *deformation plasticity in material data.
- 7) Updates to NASTRAN reader for SOL 103, 401, 402.
- 8) Check imported model for auto_cut_surf and global_connect_surf when doing import & divide.
- 9) Fix location of ANSYS “finish” command before and after solve command.
- 10) Turn on ALL_FRAMES if ABAQUS frequency load step detected.
- 11) Check .fdb file for SUBMODEL_NODE_MAP and display a warning if not present.
- 12) Additional bug fixes for crack insertion and meshing.
- 13) Make cycle counting and growth prediction consistent for the case where the growth exceeds the user-defined growth in less than one cycle.
- 14) Add “capped” option to turn off extrapolation of R and temperature dependent growth rate data.
- 15) Add support for inserting multiple symmetry cracks.
- 16) Bug fix when growing a crack front that splits and part of the split front does not grow.
- 17) Store temperature for all NASTRAN substeps for a transient load step.

Changes to FRANC3D from Version 8.1.3 to 8.1.4

June 22, 2022

- 1) Add support for ANSYS CP data applied to a single surface.
- 2) Bug fix for reading generated ABAQUS elset and nset data.
- 3) Retain original ABAQUS elset name for gravity (and similar) boundary conditions.
- 4) Additional bug fixes for crack insertion and meshing.
- 5) Add support for merging the ends of a single crack front that wraps around a void.
- 6) Add check for duplicate points and edge overlaps in EditCrack dialog.
- 7) Sort retained node list in .fdb and _RETAINED.txt file.
- 8) Update Python interface for single crystal crack growth.
- 9) Bug fix for ellipsoid void insertion; retrieve correct third dimension from the GUI.
- 10) Bug fix in flaw insertion wizard when using the Back button.
- 11) Add SetFemUnits and SetDisplayUnits for batch command language.
- 12) Bug fix for Kc when there is no R dependence in the crack growth rate.

- 13) Bug fix displaying crack growth rate model data in GUI for multiple R and temperatures.
- 14) Check for negative Kmax when predicting growth for a spectrum with a negative range.

Changes to FRANC3D from Version 8.1.2 to 8.1.3

May 29, 2022

- 1) Fix ABAQUS *include.
- 2) Reduce phase angles to 2 values.
- 3) Additional crack insertion and meshing bug fixes.
- 4) Bug fix for spectrum loading cycle counting.
- 5) Bug fixes for crack grow&merge and ability to skip growth of fronts that are not merging.
- 6) Bug fix in crack growth rate model interpolations when there is no R dependence.
- 7) Add support for multiple crack growth rate models.

Changes to FRANC3D from Version 8.1.1 to 8.1.2

May 16, 2022

- 1) Fix ABAQUS *boundary, submodel output and allow *submodel, type=nodes.
- 2) Crack insertion and meshing bug fixes.
- 3) Allow for multiple template radii during crack insertion using library flaws.
- 4) Bug fixes in rainflow and cycle counting.
- 5) Skip internal single element sets in the Submodel dialog.
- 6) Additional checks on user-defined crack boundary points.
- 7) Bug fix in resolved SIF output to file.
- 8) Modifications for crack growth rate model interpolation and plotting.
- 9) Fix Nasgro3 units displayed in the dialog.
- 10) Add button to EditCrackGeom dialog to replace the current crack.

Changes to FRANC3D from Version 8.1.0 to 8.1.1

Apr 25, 2022

- 1) Fix ABAQUS shell/solid coupling and shell *Surface.
- 2) Process ABAQUS *Distributing Coupling.
- 3) Add additional ABAQUS element type strings, including C3D10I.
- 4) Allow ANSYS .db and WB .dat file conversion during model import using the GUI; an ANSYS executable/license is required.
- 5) Fix Nastran crack face traction load ID.
- 6) Bug fix in the import GUI when using the Back buttons and switching FE models.
- 7) The list of analysis file extensions that are deleted has been added to the FRANC3D resource file. The list of extensions is recorded to the session log file also and is used during playback.
- 8) Bug fixes in the crack insertion and meshing library.

- 9) A bug in the dynamic rain flow pairing routine was fixed.
- 10) A bug in the transient load schedule load multiplier was fixed.
- 11) Updates made to the crack growth rate model plots.
- 12) An update to the single crystal module allows plots of resolved Kmax along a path.

Changes to FRANC3D from Version 8.0.3 to 8.1

Apr 5, 2022

- 1) Process ABAQUS *Amplitude from .inp file rather than passing it through, for amplitude data defined in tabular form and using total time. This Amplitude can be applied to crack face tractions (CFTs). The ABAQUS total time is written to the .dtp file, and the time and amplitude values are accessed when computing SIFs based on the M-integral.
- 2) Nodal force mapping is revised to improve the transfer/mapping. In cases where the mesh facets/nodes are retained, a one-to-one transfer of forces is performed. If the surface is remeshed, the forces are mapped to the new mesh. Note that the force mapping can lead to some differences in results depending on the original and remeshed surface.
- 3) NASTRAN Pload4 and Force boundary condition updates have been made to fix several issues. Note the Pload4 with specified directions are only supported if the Pload4 is attached to the global model portion.
- 4) ABAQUS gravity loading for .inp files with unspecified element sets (or IDs) is fixed.
- 5) Differentiate ABAQUS and FRANC3D non-linear contour integrals and allow the user to choose the ABAQUS integral type: K, J, C or T.
- 6) The crack insertion and meshing library has been revised. Surface meshing and the associated parameters have been modified. These changes mean that Ver 8.0.3 will not read a Ver 8.1.fdb file (unless the MESH_PARAMS data block is removed or edited). The revised library has preliminary support for non-manifold (branched) cracks. It also now allows crack insertion into a single mesh facet along with other improvements to the template.
- 7) The old crack insertion and meshing library is no longer an option, so the “new library” option has been turned off in the preferences and crack insertion dialogs.
- 8) The advanced meshing tab in the preferences dialog displays the new meshing parameters. The franc3d.rc or franc3d.ini file will be updated with the new parameters; old parameters that are no longer used will be ignored.
- 9) The ellipsoid void sizing is fixed.
- 10) There are additional checks and automated adjustments to crack front fitting and growth for fronts that are approaching a surface or that have split after reaching a surface. An additional parameter “check_fit” was added to the GrowCrack command to turn the automated checks on/off. By default, the checks are off if using the GUI.
- 11) Add resolved SIF in the maximum shear direction for single crystals.
- 12) There are several edits to the dynamic rainflow counting, including the option to choose da/dN instead of ΔK as the pairing metric.
- 13) Fixed the table display for SIFs and T-stress, specifically for cases where there are no results for a load substep.
- 14) Turn off the initial crack length option in SIF history dialog if the start step is not zero.

15) The documentation has been updated to reflect the Ver 8.1 changes.

Changes to FRANC3D from Version 8.0.2 to 8.0.3

Feb 7, 2022

- 1) Updates for handling poor aspect-ratio Bezier surface patches; fixes some crack insertion/meshing issues.
- 2) Allow for crack insertion into a single mesh facet.
- 3) Add support for ANSYS /nolist command in .cdb file.
- 4) Fix issue with ABAQUS *boundary submodel data.
- 5) Throw/catch pyramid error when using ABAQUS volume meshing.
- 6) Updates to partial crack front propagation; smooth the geometry boundary near the crack front.
- 7) Fix spectrum dialog issues when editing in GUI.
- 8) Check file path for local and global model portions from the SubModel command; this fixes the errant ANSYS /cwd output to the LOCAL and GLOBAL .cdb files.
- 9) Fix resonance blossom integrations when $K_{max} < 0$.
- 10) Add the Check-Input-Mesh flag to command language, for batch and Python processing.
- 11) Turn off default translation of user-mesh-void in GUI.
- 12) Disable initial crack length if start step > 0 for SIF history and fatigue cycles along a path.

Changes to FRANC3D from Version 8.0.1 to 8.0.2

Jan 4, 2022

- 1) Fix surface pressure mapping adjacent to crack mouth edges.
- 2) Fix constraint mapping at a corner of two lines/edges.
- 3) Use the generate keyword for node and element sets in ABAQUS .inp file.
- 4) Process ABAQUS *system keyword for mesh-only reader to support user-mesh cracks.
- 5) Process additional ABAQUS commands that include surface or set names to make sure the name is "flattened" for part/instance.
- 6) Add user-mesh voids.
- 7) Prevent user from selecting void type and symmetry crack options in flaw wizard.
- 8) Prevent user from adding symmetry and non-symmetry cracks together.
- 9) Output additional error messages when reading crack growth settings.
- 10) Fix EP J display settings in GUI.
- 11) Bug fix for total passes when dK is below threshold.
- 12) Bug fix when reading older version .crk file format.