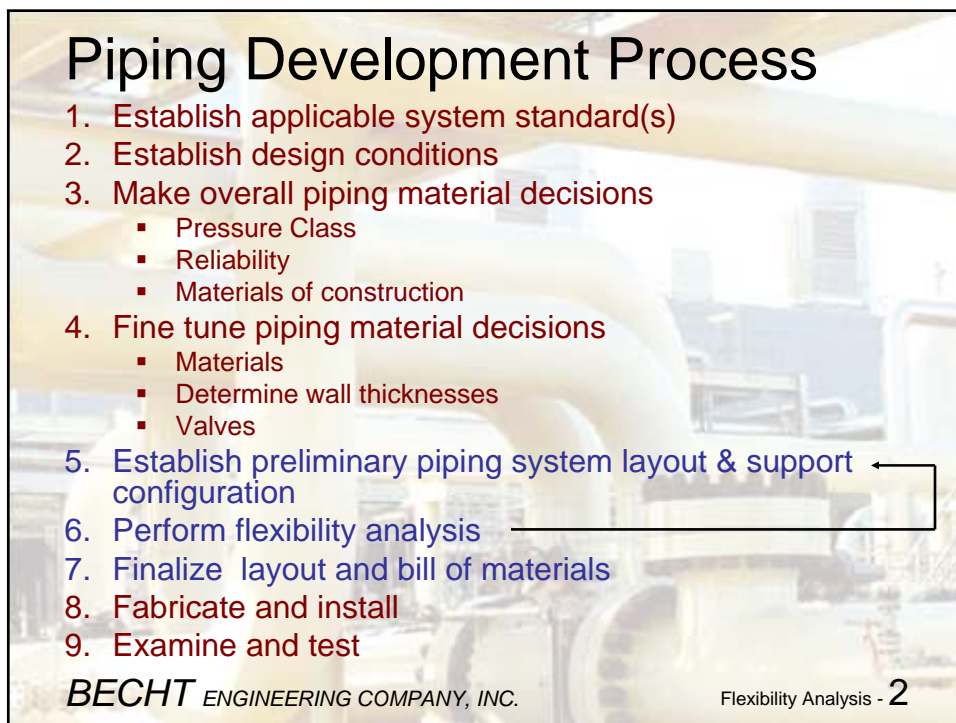


ASME B31.3 Process Piping

Charles Becht IV, PhD, PE
Don Frikken, PE
Instructors

BECHT ENGINEERING COMPANY, INC. Flexibility Analysis - 1



Piping Development Process

1. Establish applicable system standard(s)
2. Establish design conditions
3. Make overall piping material decisions
 - Pressure Class
 - Reliability
 - Materials of construction
4. Fine tune piping material decisions
 - Materials
 - Determine wall thicknesses
 - Valves
5. Establish preliminary piping system layout & support configuration
6. Perform flexibility analysis
7. Finalize layout and bill of materials
8. Fabricate and install
9. Examine and test

BECHT ENGINEERING COMPANY, INC. Flexibility Analysis - 2

6. Flexibility Analysis

- What are we trying to achieve?
- Flexibility Analysis Example

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Flexibility Analysis - 3

The Material in This Section is
Addressed by B31.3 in:

Chapter II - Design

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Flexibility Analysis - 4

What are we trying to achieve?

1. Provide adequate support;
2. Provide sufficient flexibility; and
3. Prevent the piping from exerting excessive reactions



BECHT ENGINEERING COMPANY, INC. Flexibility Analysis - 5

What are we trying to achieve?

1. Provide adequate support to resist loads such as pressure, weight, earthquake and wind

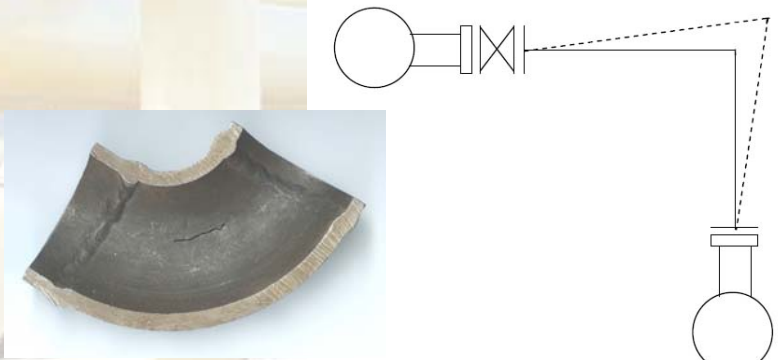


January 17 1994 Northridge Earthquake

BECHT ENGINEERING COMPANY, INC. Flexibility Analysis - 6

What are we trying to achieve?

2. Provide sufficient flexibility to safely accommodate changes in length resulting from temperature variations

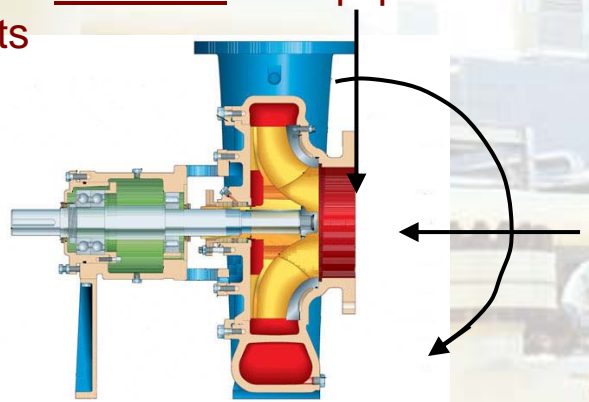


The diagram shows a piping system with a valve. A dashed line indicates the pipe's deflection under load. Below the diagram is a photograph of a pipe section that has cracked due to stress.

BECHT ENGINEERING COMPANY, INC. Flexibility Analysis - 7

What are we trying to achieve?

3. Provide sufficient support and flexibility to prevent the piping from exerting excessive reactions on equipment and restraints



The diagram shows a cross-section of a piping system with a valve. Arrows indicate forces and reactions on the equipment and restraints.

BECHT ENGINEERING COMPANY, INC. Flexibility Analysis - 8

What are we trying to achieve?

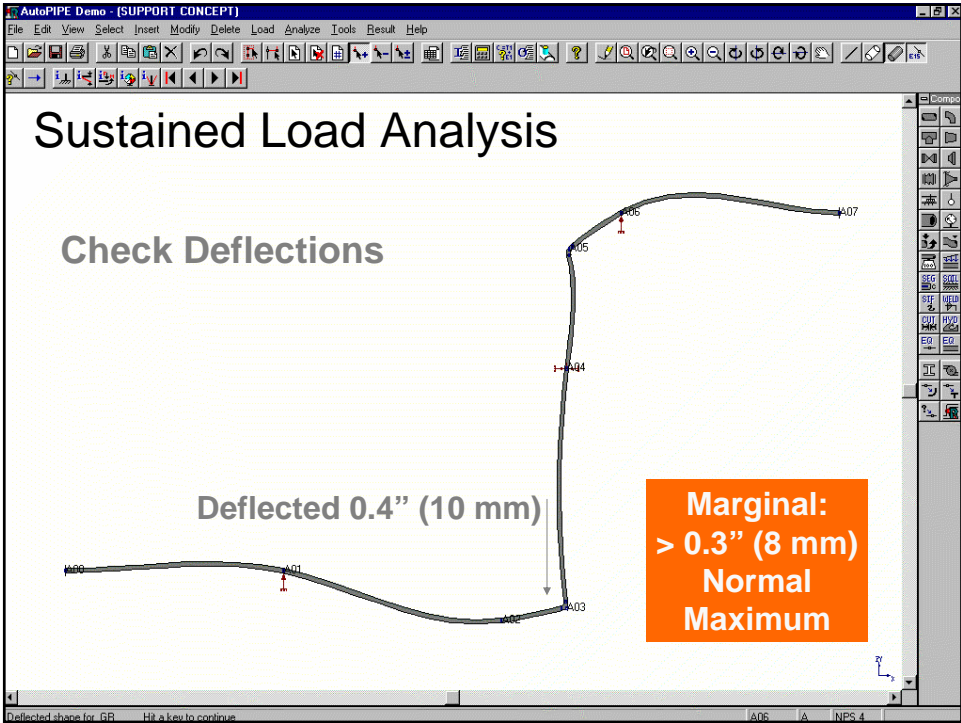
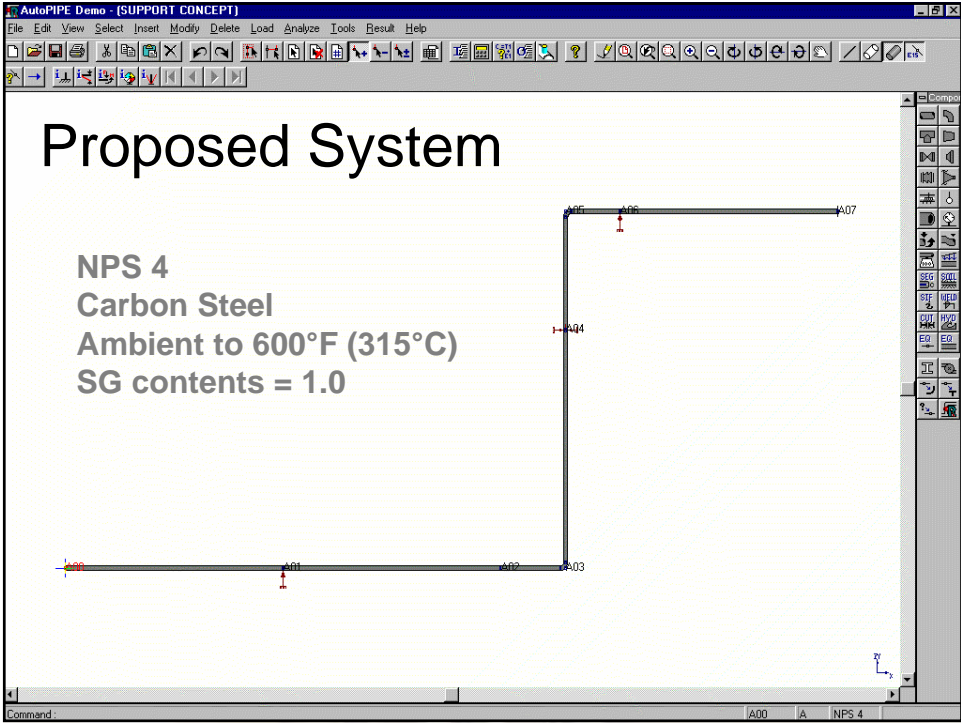
And we do that in order to

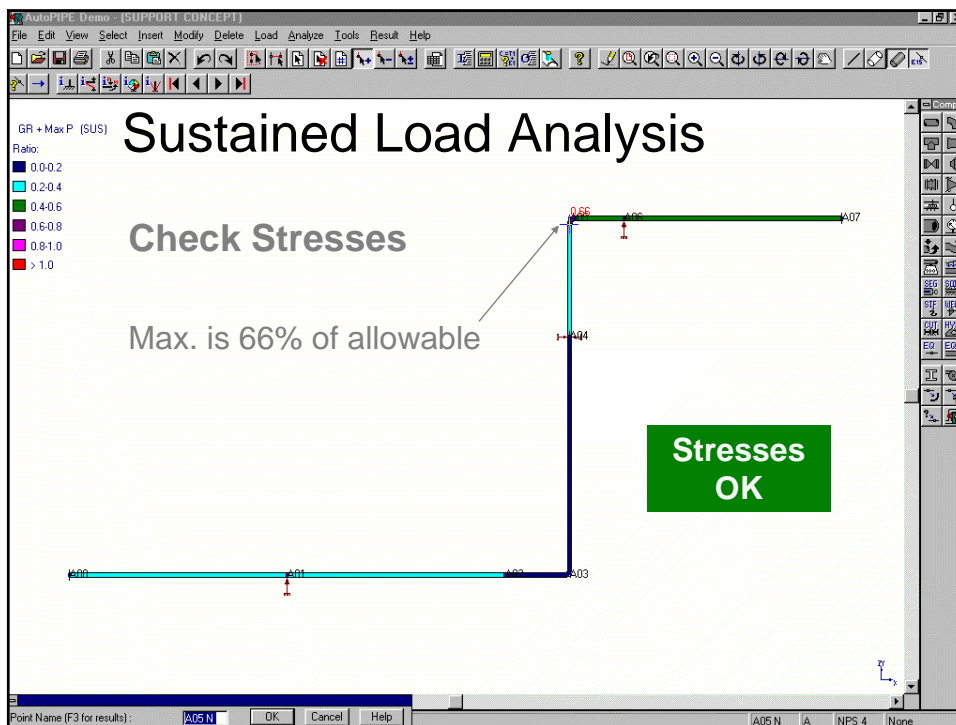
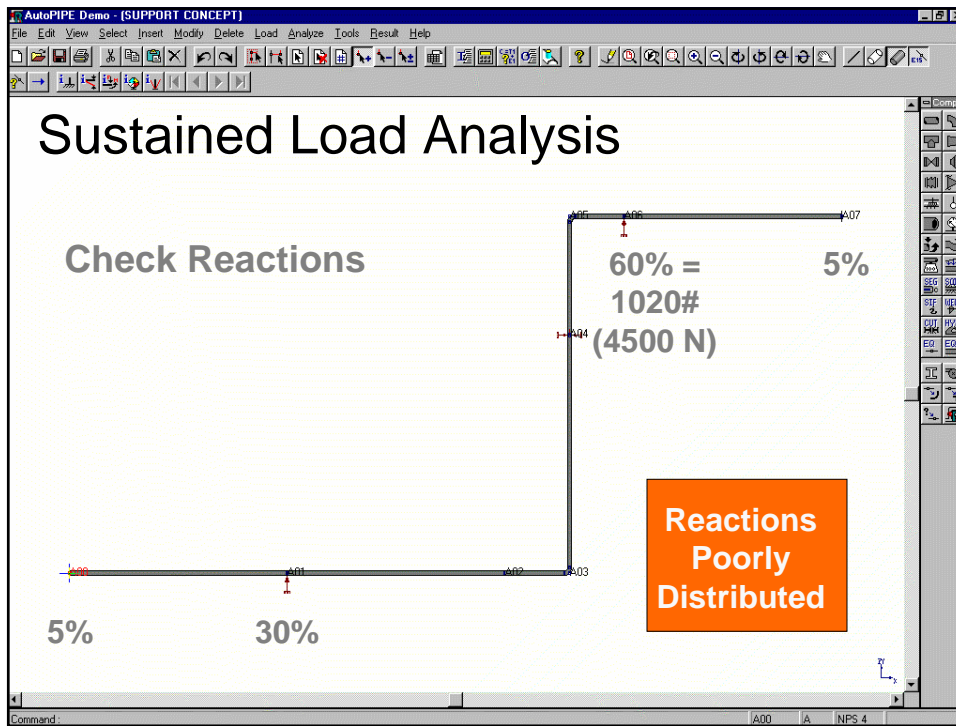
- make the piping look well supported to the facility engineers and operators
- prevent collapse of the piping
- prevent leaks due to fatigue cracks
- prevent joint leakage caused by excessive forces , and
- prevent failure or malfunction of attached equipment caused by excessive reactions

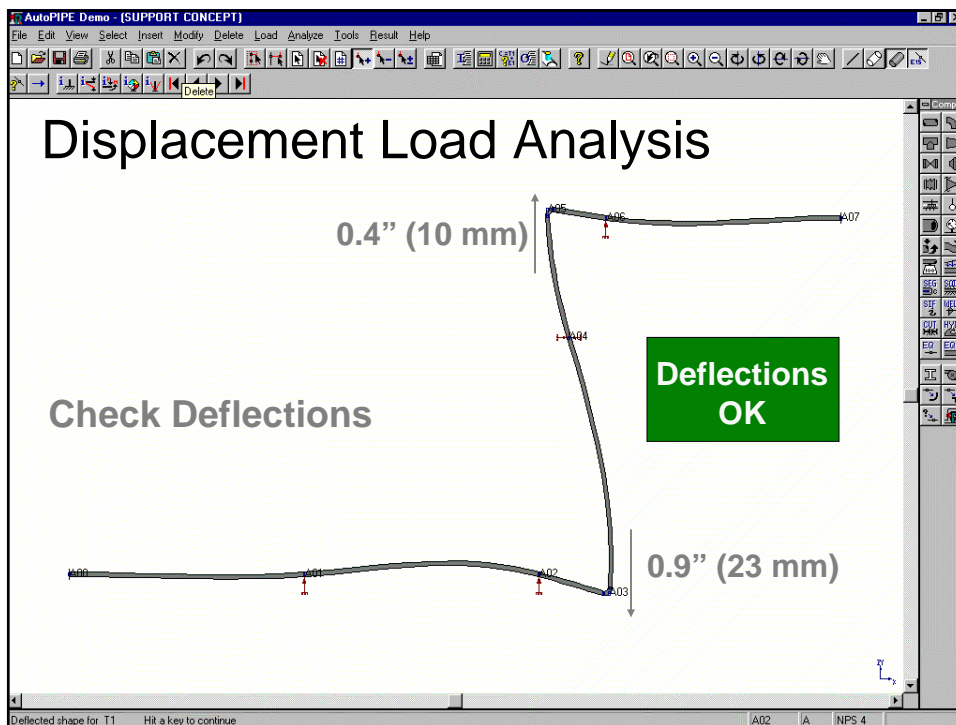
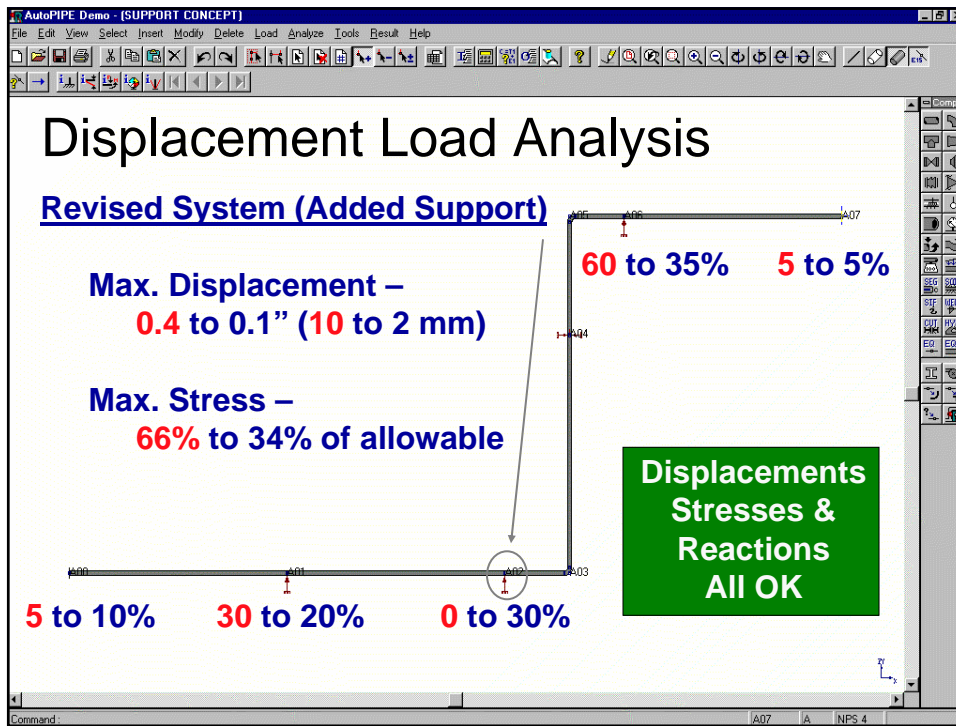
Flexibility Analysis Example

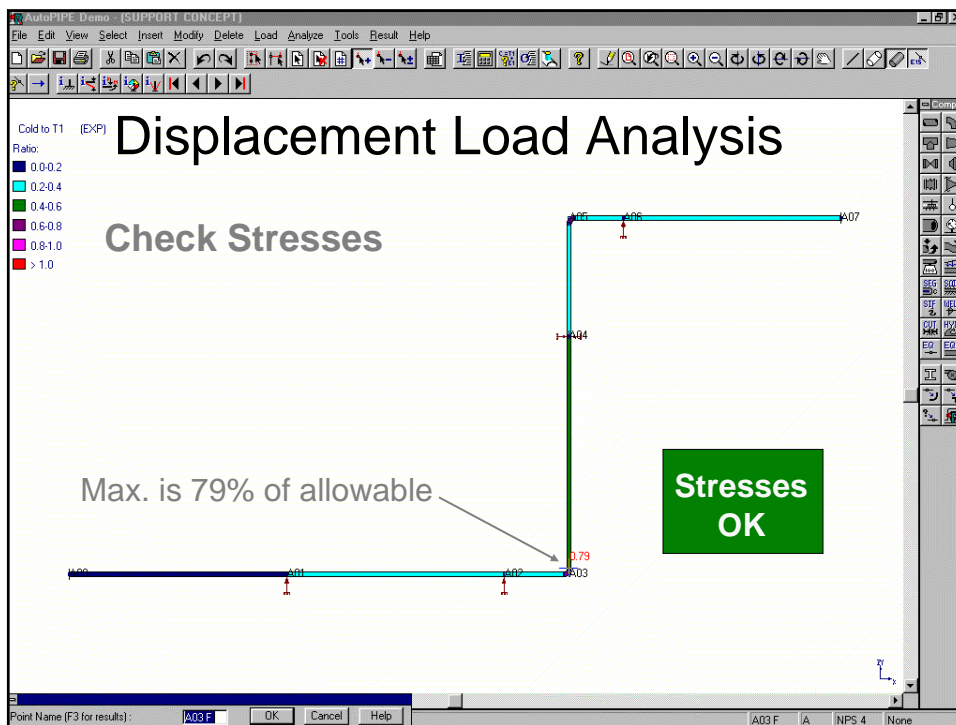
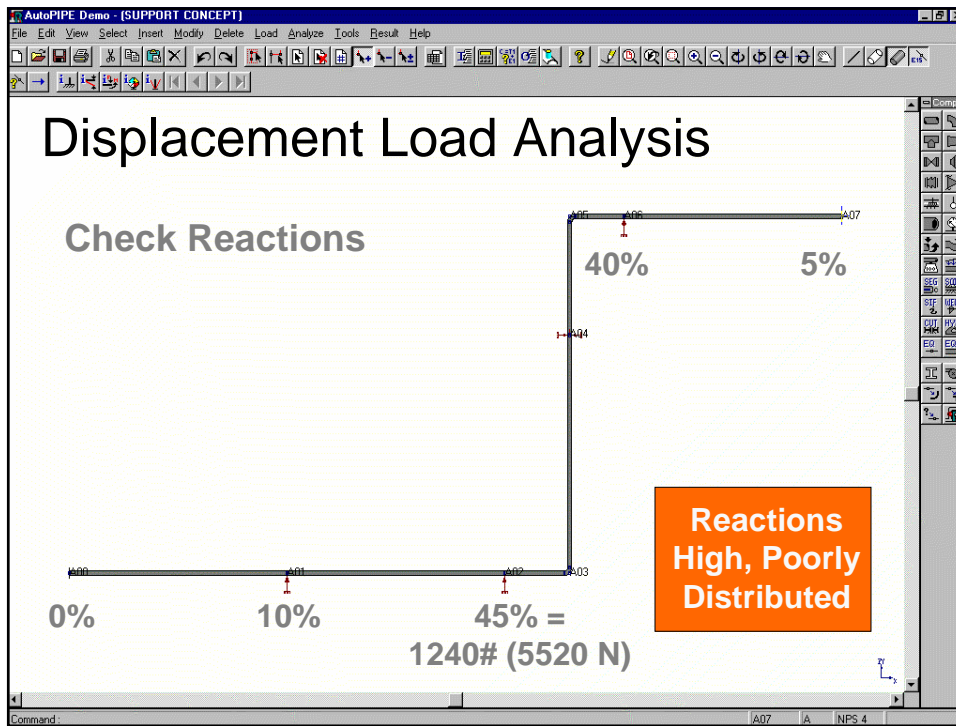
A two step analysis is shown.

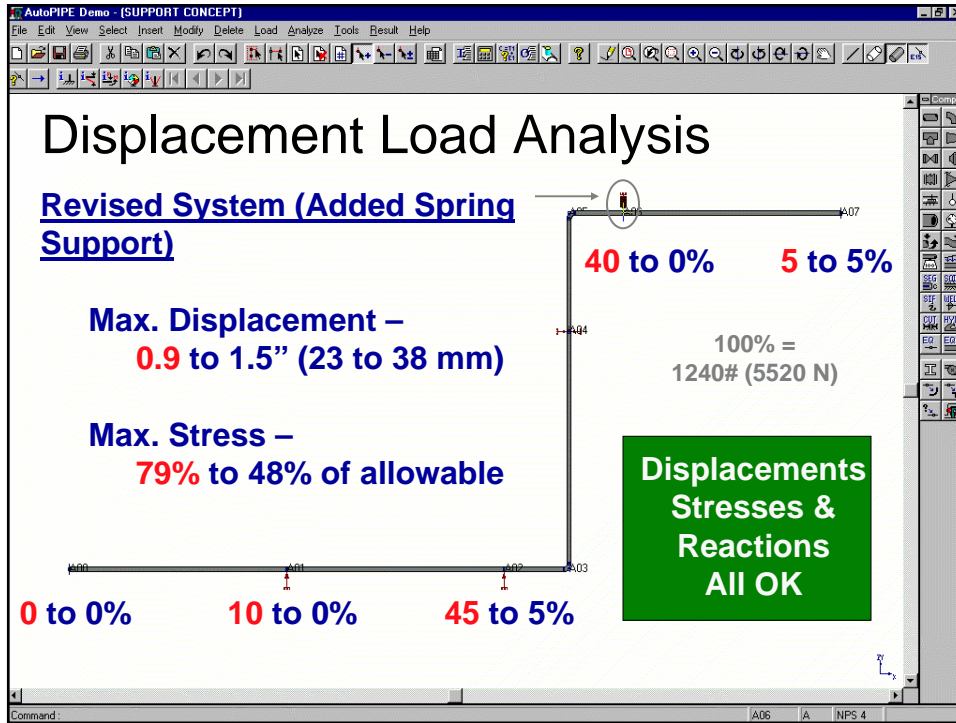
1. Weight and Pressure Loads – verify proper support and check reactions
2. Thermal Expansion Load – verify adequate flexibility and check reactions











Flexibility Analysis

Is the process of calculating the strains, and resultant stresses and forces in a piping system to determine if the system

- has adequate support
- has sufficient flexibility to safely accommodate changes in length resulting from temperature variations
- exerts sufficiently low reaction forces at restraints and equipment