

PREFACE

A symposium on "Energy Release Rates and Path-independent Integrals in Defect and Fracture Mechanics" was held at the Physics Centre in Bad Honnef, Federal Republic of Germany, on 9–11 January 1985. The meeting was attended by approximately 40 invited persons and was organized by Dietmar Gross (Technische Hochschule Darmstadt) and George Herrmann (Stanford University). The symposium benefited greatly from financial support from the Volkswagen Foundation.

A selection of lectures presented at the symposium has been assembled and is being published in this special issue of the journal.

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