The MECASENS IV conference on stress evaluation on materials by neutron or synchrotron radiation in Vienna, Austria, September 24th -26th, 2007 was the fourth in a series of conferences starting with MECASENS I in Reims, France 2000, organised by Prof. Alain Lodini, University of Reims, France, continuing with MECASENS II in Manchester, UK, 2003 and MECASENS III in Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA in 2005. MECASENS IV was jointly organised by the Institute of Material Science and Technology, Vienna University of Technology, Vienna, Austria (TUWien), and the Department Material Diagnostics and Steel Technology, Max-Planck-Institut für Eisenforschung GmbH, Düsseldorf, Germany (MPI).

The conference MECASENS IV brought together more than 140 scientists from all over the world, both academia and industry, to address specific topics within the field of measurement of stresses in solids using neutrons, X-rays and synchrotron radiation. Special emphasis was placed on multi-disciplinary approaches involving an understanding of the measured stress field and the consequences of the stress field for the behaviour of materials and components. The advances in instrumentation, experimental techniques, data evaluation, modelling and simulation have been presented by scientists from all over the world. The scientific community in this challenging field of research is increasing significantly. The discussion of the achievements and of the planned research demonstrated the evolution and the scientific as well as the technological potential of stress measurements in solids.

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