Finite Elements Solution of the Fiber-Matrix Interface Crack: Effects of Mesh Refinement and Domain Size

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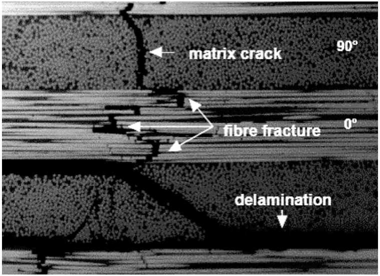
Outline

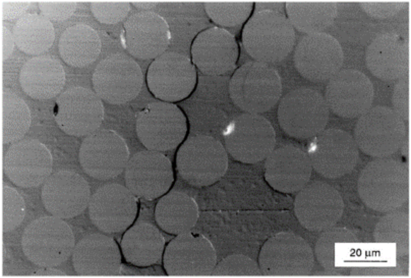
- Characterization of Fracture in FRPC Laminates
- The Fiber-Matrix Interface Problem in Fiber Reinforced Polymer Laminates
- Effects of Mesh Refinement & Domain Size
- Conclusions & Outlook

CHARACTERIZATION OF FRACTURE IN FRPC

Damage Onset and Propagation in FRPC Laminates



(a) By Dr. R. Olsson, Swerea, SE.



(b) By Prof. Dr. E. K. Gamstedt, KTH, SE.

A visual definition of intralaminar transverse cracking.

Characterization of the Fracture Process

➔ Energy Release Rate

$$G_m = G_m\left(p_1, \ldots, p_i, \ldots, p_n\right) \quad \text{where} \quad G = \frac{\partial W}{\partial A} - \left(\frac{\partial U}{\partial A} + \frac{\partial E_k}{\partial A}\right)$$

➔ Stress Intensity Factor

$$K_m = K_m\left(p_1, \ldots, p_i, \ldots, p_n\right) \quad \text{where} \quad \sigma_m \sim K_m \frac{\alpha}{(x-a)^{\beta}} \quad \alpha, \beta > 0$$

➔ J-Integral

$$J = J\left(p_1, \ldots, p_i, \ldots, p_n\right) \quad \text{where} \quad J = \lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} \left(W(\Gamma) n_i - n_j \sigma_{jk} \frac{\partial u_k(\Gamma, x_i)}{\partial x_i}\right) d\Gamma$$

➔ Crack Opening & Shear Displacement

$$COD = COD\left(p_1, \ldots, p_i, \ldots, p_n\right) \quad \text{and} \quad CSD = CSD\left(p_1, \ldots, p_i, \ldots, p_n\right)$$

$$p_i \in \{\text{geometry}, \text{materials}, \text{boundary conditions}, \text{loading mode}, \text{scale}\}$$

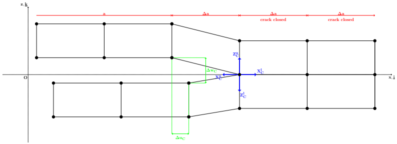
$$m \in \{I, II, III, I/II, I/III, II/III\}$$

Evaluation of Fracture Parameters

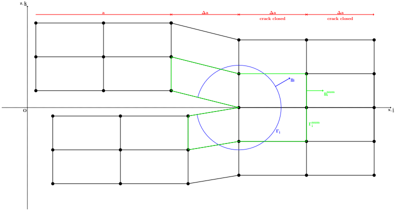
- ➔ Analytical
  - ✓ Closed form
  - ✓ Every material scale can be studied
  - ✗ Available only for particular configurations
- ➔ Experimental
  - ✓ Complex geometries can be studied
  - ✗ Not every material scale is accessible
- ➔ Numerical
  - ✓ Complex geometries can be studied
  - ✓ Every material can be studied
  - ✗ Discretization
  - ✗ Finite domains

Numerical Estimation of Energy Release Rates

➔ Virtual Crack Closure Technique (VCCT) ➔ J-Integral



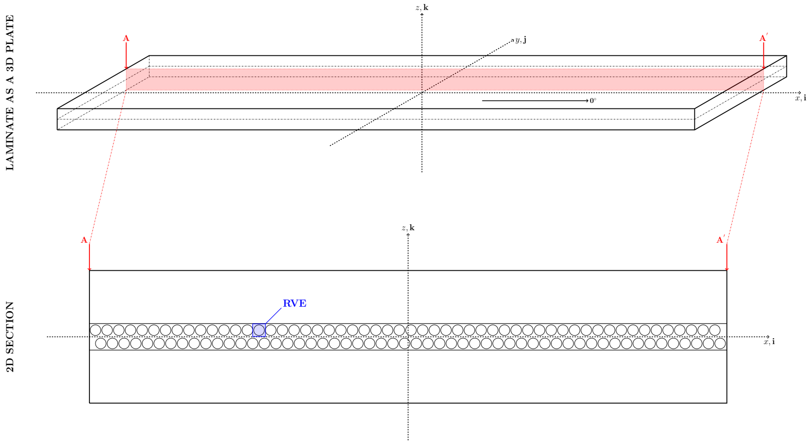
$$G_I = \frac{Z_C \Delta w_C}{2B\Delta a} \quad G_{II} = \frac{X_C \Delta u_C}{2B\Delta a}$$



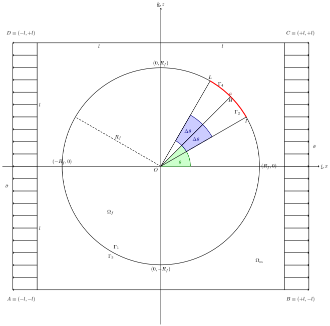
$$J_i = \lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} \left(W(\Gamma)\, n_i - n_j \sigma_{jk} \frac{\partial u_k (\Gamma, x_i)}{\partial x_i} \right) d\Gamma$$

The Fiber-Matrix Interface Problem in FRPC

From macro to micro

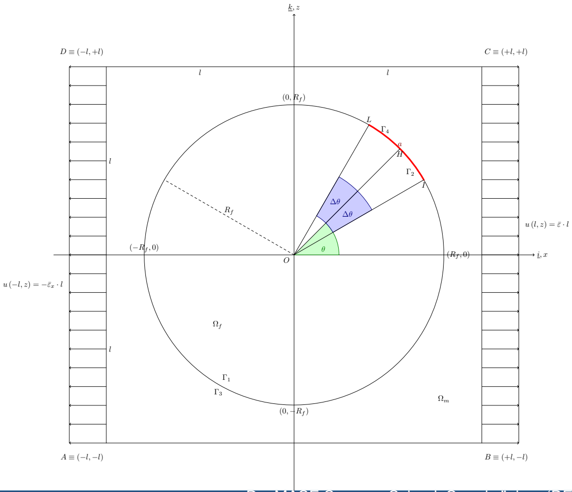


The Fiber-Matrix Interface Crack Problem



	Analytical	Numerical
Method	Analytical (complex) functions	FEM
Domain Type	Continuous	Discrete
Domain Size	Infinite	Finite
Natural variable	Stress (stress function)	Displacement field
Conjugate variable	Displacement	Stress
Dirichlet BC	Stress	Displacement
Loading process	Force-controlled	Displacement-controlled

FEM Model of the Fiber-Matrix Interface Crack



- ➔ 2D space
- ➔ Linear elastic materials
- ➔ Displacement-controlled
- ➔ Dirichlet-type BC
- ➔ LEFM
- ➔ Contact interaction

↘ MESH & DOMAIN SIZE

Effects of Mesh Refinement & Domain Size

Conclusions

Conclusions & Outlook

Conclusions

- 2D micromechanical models have been developed to investigate crack initiation in thin ply laminates
- A numerical procedure has been devised and implemented to automatize the creation of FEM models
- Analyses for $VF_f \rightarrow 0$ (matrix dominated RVE) conducted to validate the model with respect to previous literature

Outlook

- Investigate the dependence on VF_f, t_{ply}, $\frac{t_{ply}}{t_{bounding\ plies}}$ and different material systems
- Study numerical performances with respect to model's parameters
- Repeat for different RVEs and compare

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