Finite Element solution of the fiber/matrix interface crack problem: convergence properties and mode mixity of the Virtual Crack Closure Technique

Luca Di Stasio[a,b], Janis Varna[b], Zoubir Ayadi[a]

[a] *Université de Lorraine, EEIGM, IJL, 6 Rue Bastien Lepage, F-54010 Nancy, France*
[b] *Luleå University of Technology, University Campus, SE-97187 Luleå, Sweden*

Abstract

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1. Introduction

Bi-material interfaces represent the basic load transfer mechanism at the heart of Fiber Reinforced Polymer Composite (FRPC) materials. They are present at the macroscale, in the form of adhesive joints, at the mesoscale, as interfaces between layers with different orientations, at the microscale, i.e. the fiber-matrix interface. Bi-material interfaces have for long attracted the attention of researchers in Fracture Mechanics, due to their hidden complexity.