

Similarity laws of the fiber-matrix interface crack in polymer composites

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ABSTRACT

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1. Introduction

One of the most promising developments in Fiber Reinforced Polymer Composites (FRPCs) for advanced structural applications is currently represented by *thin-ply* laminates [1]. Constituted by extremely thin plies, with t_{90° as small as just $\sim 4-5$ fiber diameters, this family of laminates is characterized by its damage tolerance, in particular the capability of delaying to higher strains and even suppressing the onset and propagation of transverse cracks [2]. The recent experimental assessment of transverse cracks suppression in *thin-ply* laminates [3, 4, 5] validates the existence of a *ply-thickness* effect [5] at scales 10x smaller than those at which it was originally observed at the end of the 1970's [6].

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2. Representative Volume Elements (RVEs)

3. Dimensional analysis

4. Similarity laws

5. Conclusions

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