INVESTIGATION OF SCALING LAWS OF THE FIBER/MATRIX INTERFACE CRACK IN POLYMER COMPOSITES THROUGH FINITE ELEMENT-BASED MICROMECHANICAL MODELING

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Outline

➷ Initiation of Transverse Cracking in Fiber Reinforced Polymer Composites (FRPCs): Microscopic Observations & Modeling

➷ The Fiber-Matrix Interface Problem in Fiber Reinforced Polymer Laminates

➷ Analysis of the Infinite Reference Volume Element (RVE)

➷ Conclusions & Outlook

TRANSVERSE CRACKING IN FRPCS

Damage Onset and Propagation

Characterization of the Fracture Process

➜ Energy Release Rate

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

➜ Stress Intensity Factor

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

➜ J-Integral

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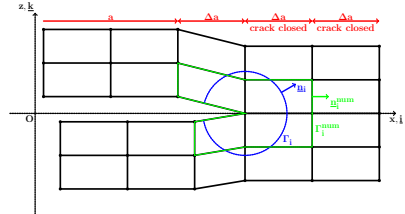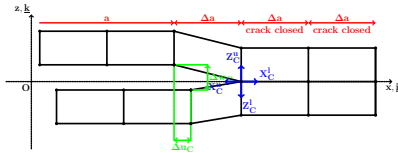
➜ Crack Opening & Shear Displacement

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

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

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

Numerical Estimation of Energy Release Rates

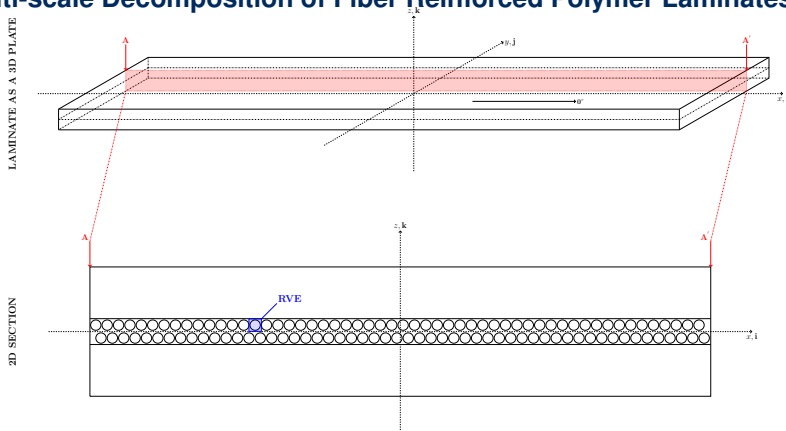→ Virtual Crack Closure Technique (VCCT)   → J-Integral

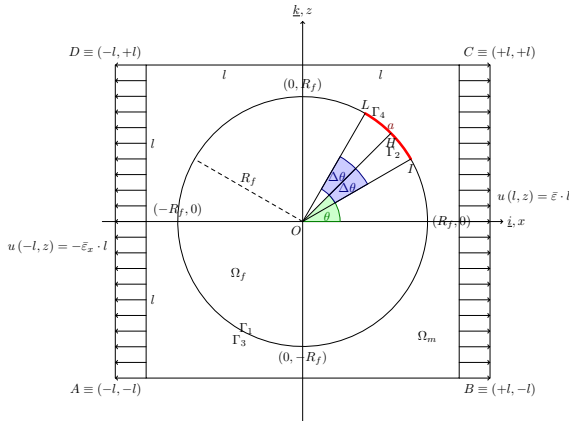$$G_I = \frac{Z_C \Delta w_C}{2B\Delta a} \quad G_{II} = \frac{X_C \Delta u_C}{2B\Delta a}$$

Krueger, 2004

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

Rice, 1968

⬊ THE FIBER-MATRIX INTERFACE PROBLEM IN FRPC

Multi-scale Decomposition of Fiber Reinforced Polymer Laminates

## The Fiber-Matrix Interface Crack Problem: Statement

- → 2D space
- → Linear elastic homogeneous isotropic materials
- → Mismatching elastic properties
- → Plane state (strain or stress)
- → Dirichlet-type BC
- → Linear Fracture Mechanics
- → Contact interaction
- → Applied uniaxial traction
- ? SIF, ERR, mode ratio, stress and displacement distribution at the interface

The Fiber-Matrix Interface Crack Problem: Solution

Method	Domain	Natural Variable	Conjugate Variable	Dirichlet BC
Analytical (complex) functions	2D, continuous, infinite	Airy stress potential & stress	Displacement & strain	In stress
	M. Toya (1975), A Crack Along the Interface of a Circular Inclusion Embedded in an Infinite Solid [10].			
Boundary Element Method (BEM)	1D, discrete, finite	Stress, by using Green's potentials or Betti's influence functions	Displacement & strain	In stress
	F. París et al. (1996), The fiber-matrix interface crack - A numerical analysis using Boundary Elements [11].			
Finite Element Method (FEM)	2D, discrete, finite	Displacement	Stress	In displacement

ANALYSIS OF THE INFINITE RVE

The Finite Element Model

The Finite Element Model
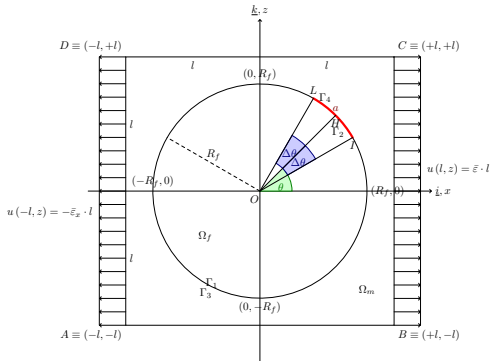
- $\rightarrow$ $\theta\ [^\circ] = 0$, angular position of debond's center
- $\rightarrow$ $2\Delta\theta\ [^\circ]$, debond's angular size
- $\rightarrow$ $\delta\ [^\circ]$, angle subtended by an element at the fiber/matrix interface
- $\rightarrow$ $VF_f\ [-]$, fiber volume fraction
- $\rightarrow$ $2L\ [\mu m]$, RVE's side length
- $\rightarrow$ $R_F\ [\mu m]$, fiber radius
- $\rightarrow$ $\frac{L}{R_f} = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{VF_f}}\ [-]$, RVE's aspect ratio
- $\rightarrow$ $\sigma_0\ [MPa] = \frac{E_m}{1-\nu_m^2}\varepsilon_{xx}$, reaction stress of undamaged infinite RVE
- $\rightarrow$ $G_0\ \left[\frac{J}{m^2}\right] = \pi R_f \sigma_R^2 \frac{1+(3-4nu_m)}{8G_m}$, normalization G following Toya [10] and París [11]
- $\rightarrow$ Small displacement formulation

↘ CONCLUSIONS

Conclusions & Outlook

Conclusions

➜ There is a limiting value of $\frac{L}{R_f}$ after which models are effectively infinite

➜ For models larger than this value, domain size and mesh refinement at the interface has a similar effect on the energy release rate

➜ The discrepancy in modes with the use of linear elements might be linked to the deformed shape of crack faces

Outlook

➜ Modeling extreme ply geometries, for example a ply with a single layer of fibers bounded by stiffer plies

➜ Investigate the effect of clusters of fibers in thin plies

➜ Analyzing the effect of complex stress and deformation states, thermal loads, different sets of boundary conditions

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