

# PLY-THICKNESS AND PLY-BLOCK EFFECT ON FIBER/MATRIX INTERFACE CRACK GROWTH IN CROSS-PLY LAMINATES UNDER TENSILE LOADING

## INSIGHTS FROM LEFM-BASED MICROMECHANICAL MODELING

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Instituto IMDEA Materiales  
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## Outline

- ➔ Transverse Cracks Initiation
- ➔ Modeling
- ➔ Debond Initiation
- ➔ Debond Propagation
- ➔ Conclusions

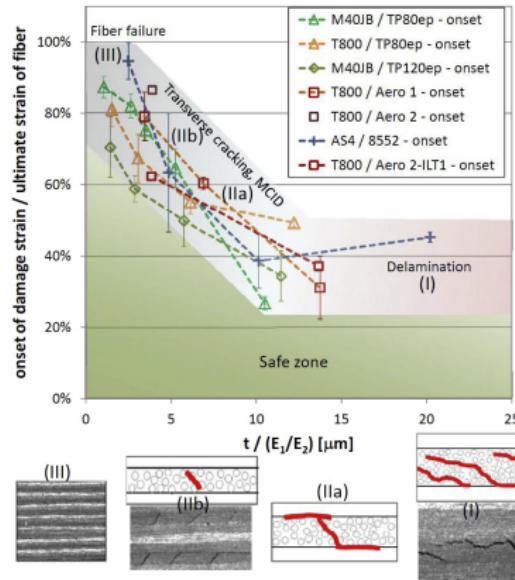
Transverse Cracks Initiation Modeling Debond Initiation Debond Propagation Conclusions  
The Thin-ply "Advantage" Micromechanics of Initiation An Interesting Observation Objectives

## TRANSVERSE CRACKS INITIATION

Transverse Cracks Initiation Modeling Debond Initiation Debond Propagation Conclusions  
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## The Thin-ply "Advantage": new material

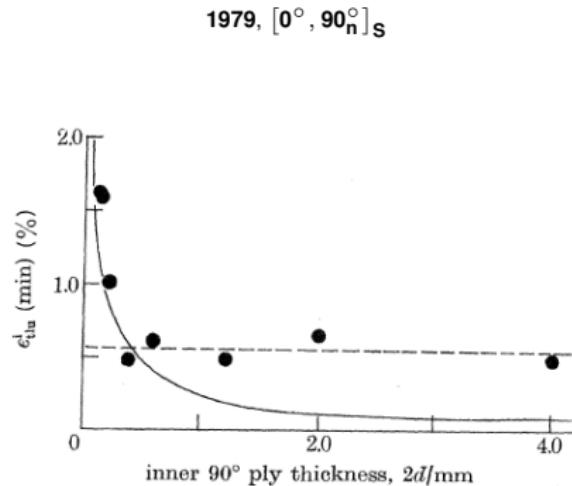
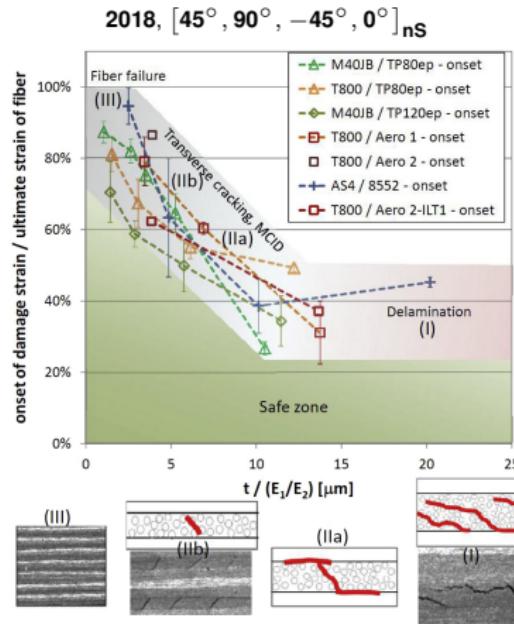
2018,  $[45^\circ, 90^\circ, -45^\circ, 0^\circ]$  ns



Cugnoni et al., Compos. Sci. Technol. **168**, 2018.

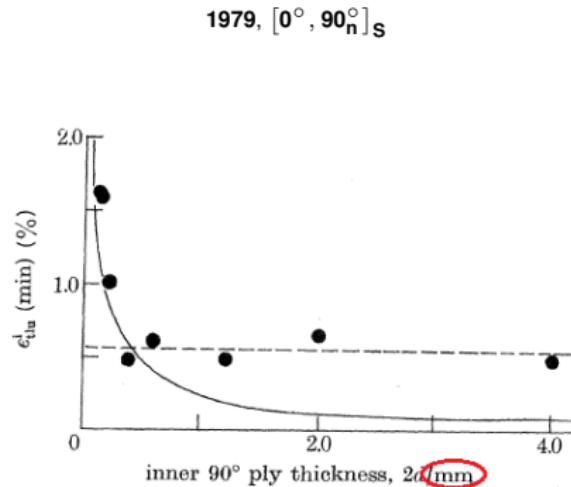
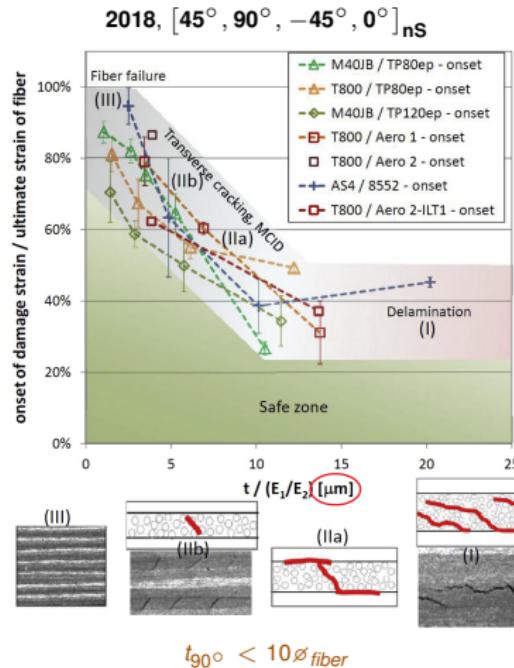
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## The Thin-ply "Advantage": new material, old result



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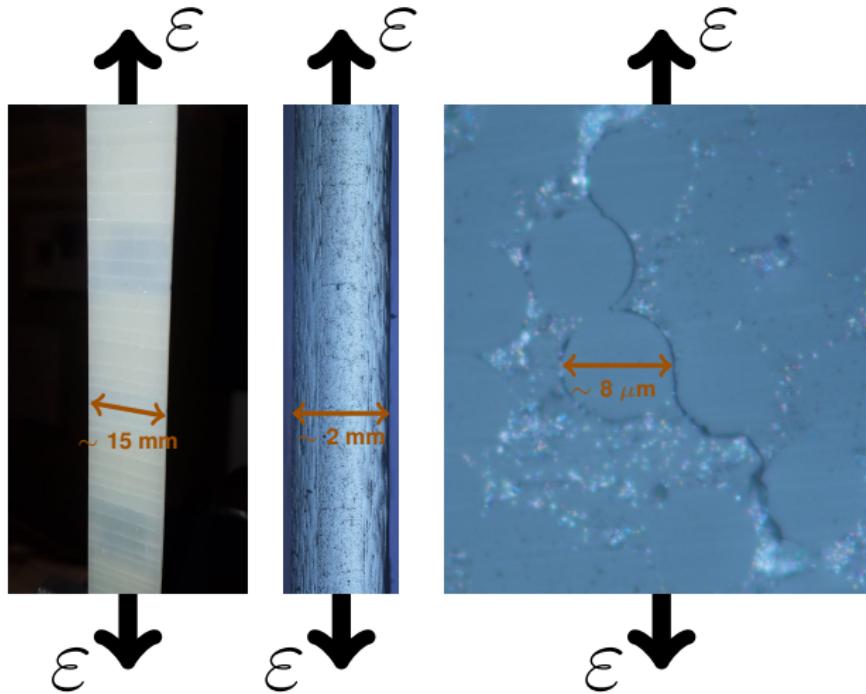
## The Thin-ply "Advantage": new material, old result?



Cugnoni et al., Compos. Sci. Technol. **168**, 2018.

Bailey et al., P. Roy. Soc. A-Math. Phys. **366** (1727), 1979.

## Micromechanics of Initiation



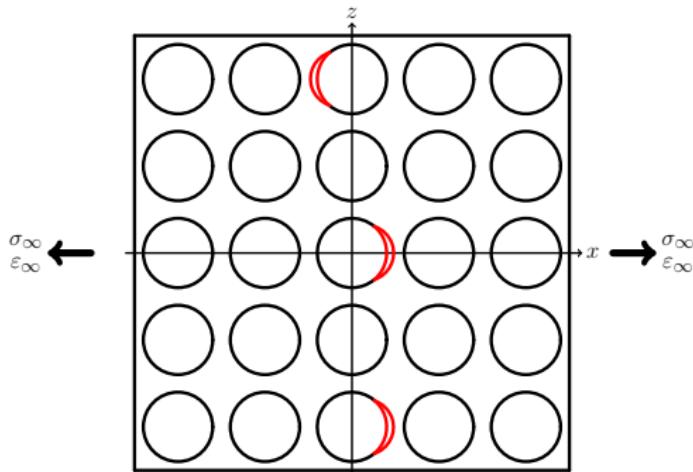
**Left:**  
front view of [0, 90<sub>2</sub>]<sub>S</sub>,  
visual inspection.

**Center:**  
edge view of [0, 90]<sub>S</sub>,  
optical microscope.

**Right:**  
edge view of [0, 90]<sub>S</sub>,  
optical microscope.

## Micromechanics of Initiation

### Stage 1: isolated debonds



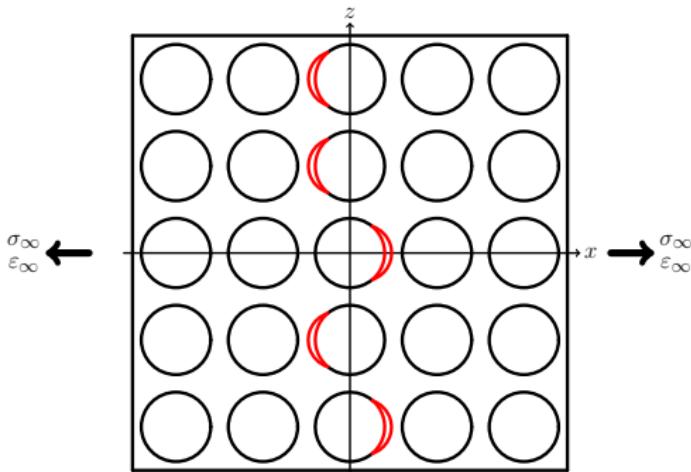
Bailey et al., P. Roy. Soc. A-Math. Phy. **366** (1727), 1979.

Bailey et al., J. Mater. Sci. **16** (3), 1981.

Zhang et al., Compos. Part A-Appl. S. **28** (4), 1997.

## Micromechanics of Initiation

### Stage 2: consecutive debonds



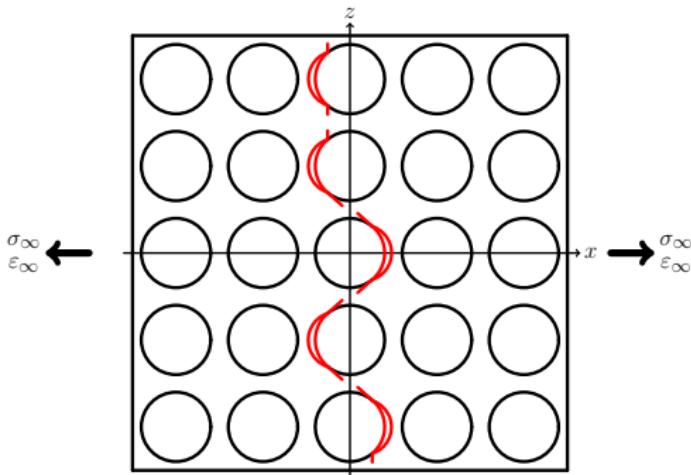
Bailey et al., P. Roy. Soc. A-Math. Phy. **366** (1727), 1979.

Bailey et al., J. Mater. Sci. **16** (3), 1981.

Zhang et al., Compos. Part A-Appl. S. **28** (4), 1997.

## Micromechanics of Initiation

### Stage 3: kinking



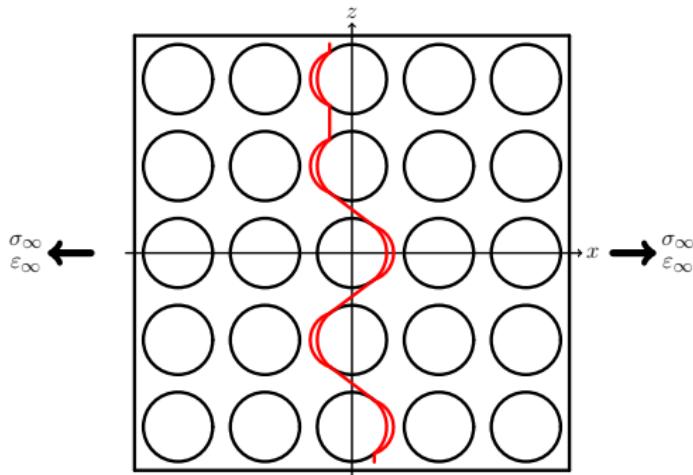
Bailey et al., P. Roy. Soc. A-Math. Phy. **366** (1727), 1979.

Bailey et al., J. Mater. Sci. **16** (3), 1981.

Zhang et al., Compos. Part A-Appl. S. **28** (4), 1997.

## Micromechanics of Initiation

### Stage 4: coalescence



Bailey et al., P. Roy. Soc. A-Math. Phy. **366** (1727), 1979.

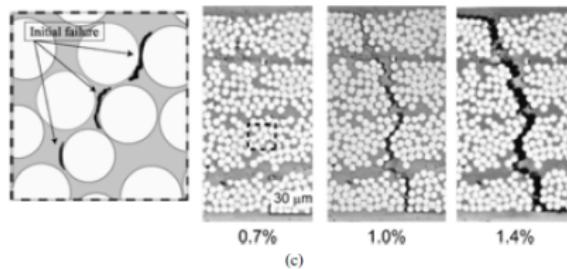
Bailey et al., J. Mater. Sci. **16** (3), 1981.

Zhang et al., Compos. Part A-Appl. S. **28** (4), 1997.

Transverse Cracks Initiation Modeling Debond Initiation Debond Propagation Conclusions  
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## An Interesting Observation

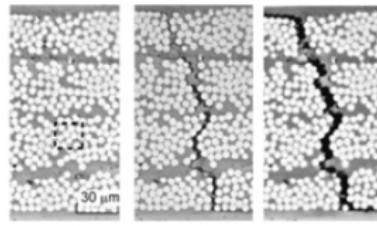
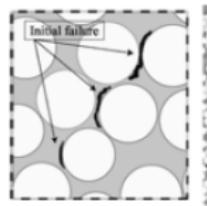
$[0^\circ, 90_n^\circ]_S$



$$n = 4, t_{90^\circ} = 160 \mu m$$

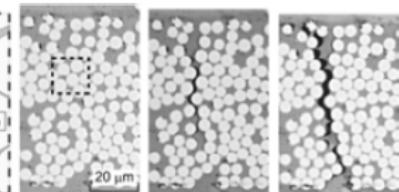
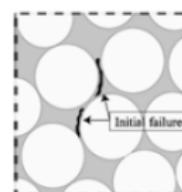
## An Interesting Observation

$[0^\circ, 90^\circ_n]_S$



(c)

$$n = 4, t_{90^\circ} = 160 \mu m$$



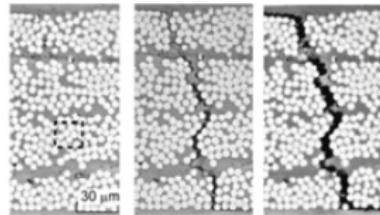
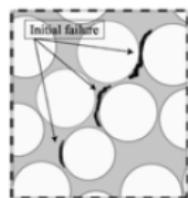
(b)

$$n = 2, t_{90^\circ} = 80 \mu m$$

Transverse Cracks Initiation Modeling Debond Initiation Debond Propagation Conclusions  
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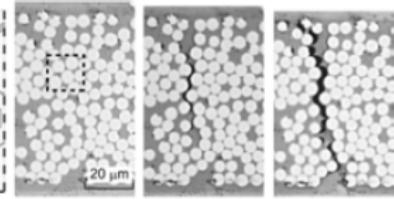
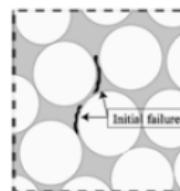
## An Interesting Observation

$[0^\circ, 90^\circ]_S$



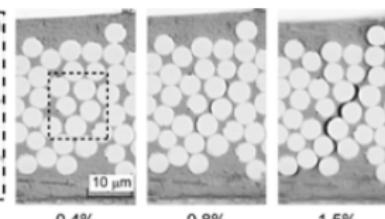
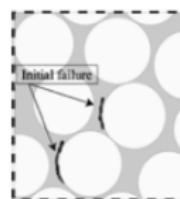
(c)

$n = 4, t_{90^\circ} = 160 \mu m$



(b)

$n = 2, t_{90^\circ} = 80 \mu m$



(a)

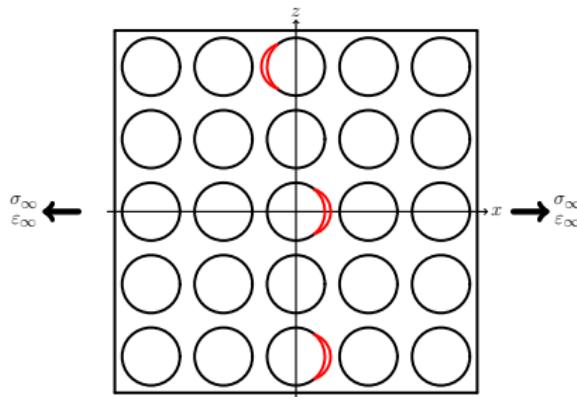
$n = 1, t_{90^\circ} = 40 \mu m$

Saito et al., Adv. Compos. Mater. 21 (1), 2012.

## Objectives

90° layer thickness and 0° layer thickness: what are their effects on fiber-matrix interface crack growth?

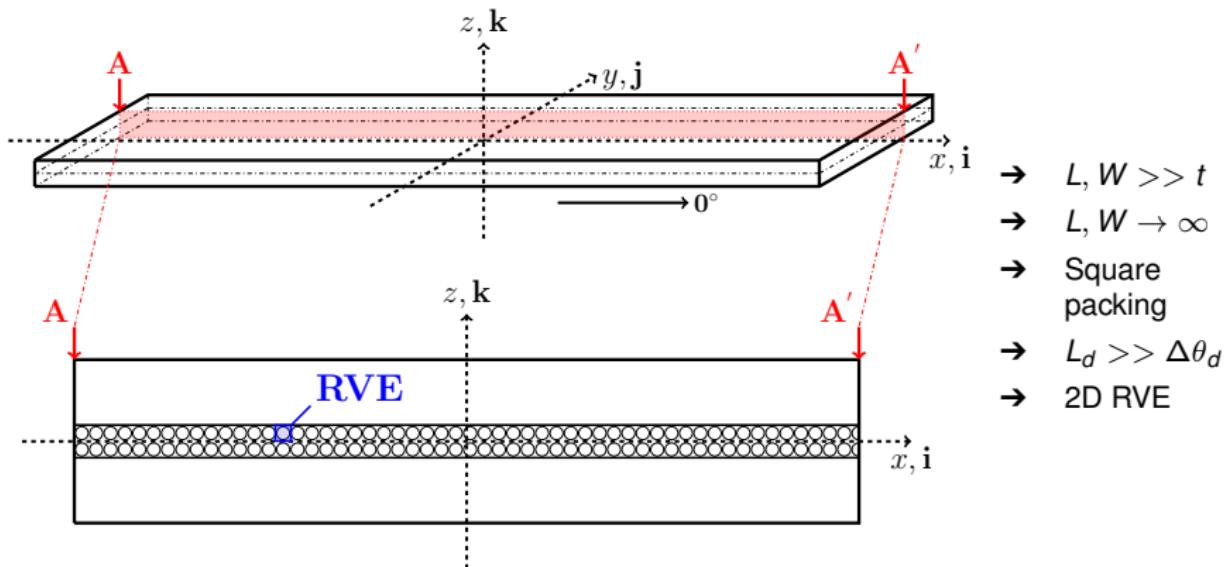
### Stage 1: isolated debonds



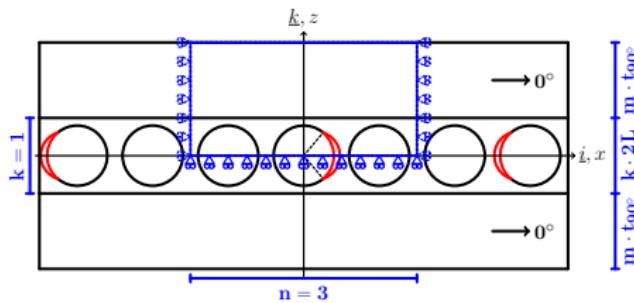
Transverse Cracks Initiation Modeling Debond Initiation Debond Propagation Conclusions  
Geometry Representative Volume Elements Assumptions Solution

## MODELING

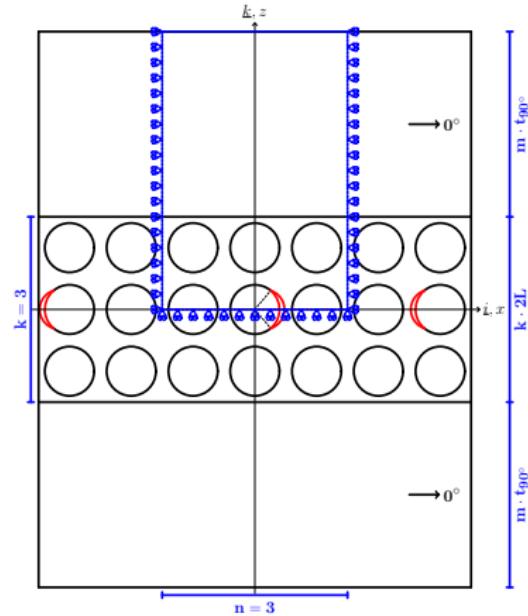
## Geometry



## Representative Volume Elements

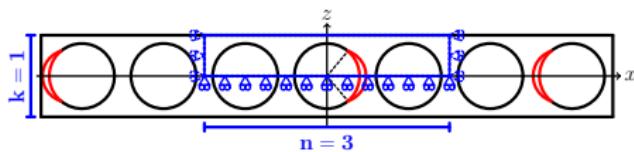


$$n \times 1 - m \cdot t_{90^\circ}$$



$$n \times k - m \cdot t_{90^\circ}$$

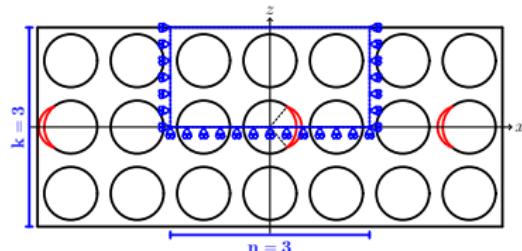
## Representative Volume Elements



– free

$n \times 1$  – coupling

– coupling +  $H$

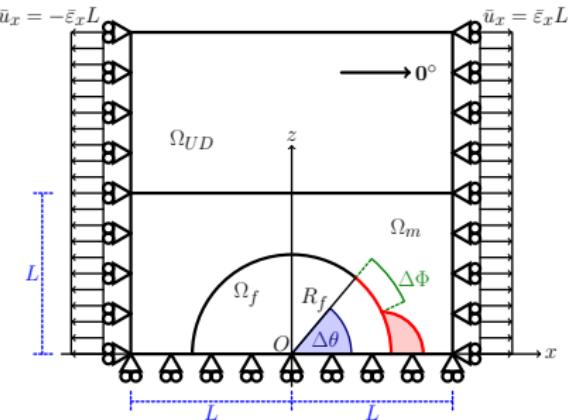


– free

$n \times k$  – coupling

– coupling +  $H$

## Assumptions

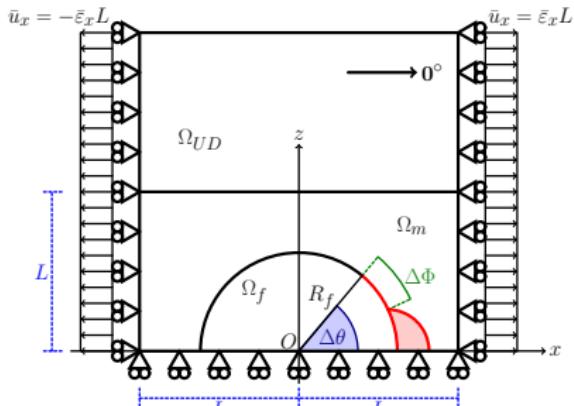


- Linear elastic, homogeneous materials
- Concentric Cylinders Assembly with Self-Consistent Shear Model for UD
- Plane strain
- Frictionless contact interaction
- Symmetric w.r.t. x-axis
- Coupling of x-displacements on left and right side (repeating unit cell)
- Applied uniaxial tensile strain  $\bar{\varepsilon}_x = 1\%$
- $V_f = 60\%$

$$R_f = 1 \text{ } [\mu\text{m}] \quad L = \frac{R_f}{2} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{V_f}}$$

| Material    | $V_f$ [%] | $E_L$ [GPa] | $E_T$ [GPa] | $\mu_{LT}$ [GPa] | $\nu_{LT}$ [-] | $\nu_{TT}$ [-] |
|-------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Glass fiber | -         | 70.0        | 70.0        | 29.2             | 0.2            | 0.2            |
| Epoxy       | -         | 3.5         | 3.5         | 1.25             | 0.4            | 0.4            |
| UD          | 60.0      | 43.442      | 13.714      | 4.315            | 0.273          | 0.465          |

## Solution



in  $\Omega_f, \Omega_m, \Omega_{UD}$  :

$$\frac{\partial^2 \varepsilon_{xx}}{\partial z^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \varepsilon_{zz}}{\partial x^2} = \frac{\partial^2 \gamma_{zx}}{\partial x \partial z} \quad \text{for } 0^\circ \leq \alpha \leq \Delta\theta : \\ (\vec{u}_m(R_f, \alpha) - \vec{u}_f(R_f, \alpha)) \cdot \vec{n}_\alpha \geq 0$$

$$\varepsilon_y = \gamma_{xy} = \gamma_{yz} = 0 \quad \text{for } \Delta\theta \leq \alpha \leq 180^\circ :$$

$$\frac{\partial \sigma_{xx}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \tau_{zx}}{\partial z} = 0 \quad \vec{u}_m(R_f, \alpha) - \vec{u}_f(R_f, \alpha) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \tau_{zx}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \sigma_{zz}}{\partial z} = 0 \quad \sigma_{ij} = E_{ijkl} \varepsilon_{kl}$$

$$\sigma_{yy} = \nu(\sigma_{xx} + \sigma_{zz}) \quad + BC$$

$$\forall \Delta\theta \neq 0^\circ$$

→ oscillating singularity

$$\sigma \sim r^{-\frac{1}{2}} \sin(\varepsilon \log r), \quad V_f \rightarrow 0$$

$$\varepsilon = \frac{1}{2\pi} \log \left( \frac{1-\beta}{1+\beta} \right)$$

$$\beta = \frac{\mu_2(\kappa_1 - 1) - \mu_1(\kappa_2 - 1)}{\mu_2(\kappa_1 + 1) + \mu_1(\kappa_2 + 1)}$$

→ receding contact

$$\rightarrow \frac{G(R_{f,2})}{G(R_{f,1})} = \frac{R_{f,2}}{R_{f,1}}, \quad \frac{G(\bar{\varepsilon}_{x,2})}{G(\bar{\varepsilon}_{x,1})} = \frac{\bar{\varepsilon}_{x,2}^2}{\bar{\varepsilon}_{x,1}^2}$$

→ FEM + LEFM (VCCT)

→ regular mesh of quadrilaterals at the crack tip:

$$- AR \sim 1, \quad \delta = 0.05^\circ$$

$$\forall \Delta\theta$$

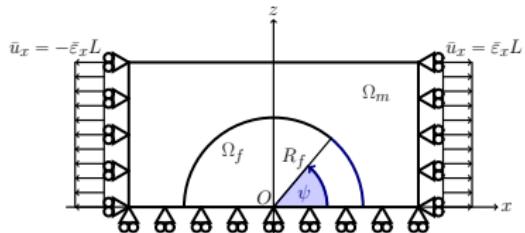
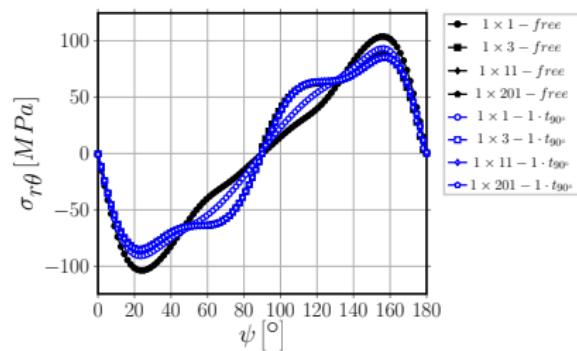
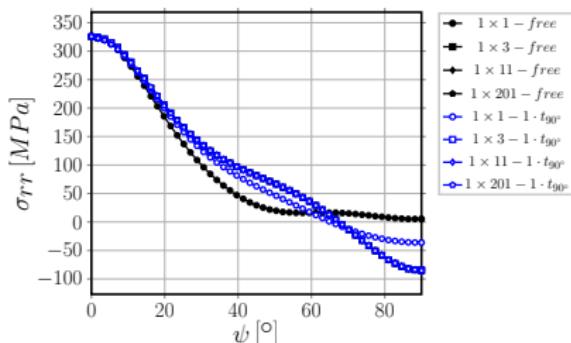
→ 2<sup>nd</sup> order shape functions

Transverse Cracks Initiation Modeling Debond Initiation Debond Propagation Conclusions

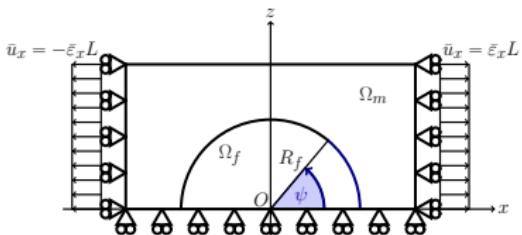
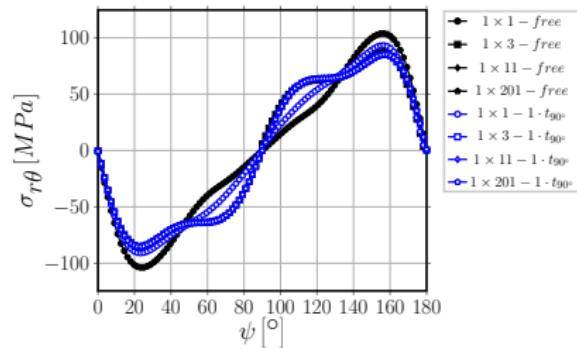
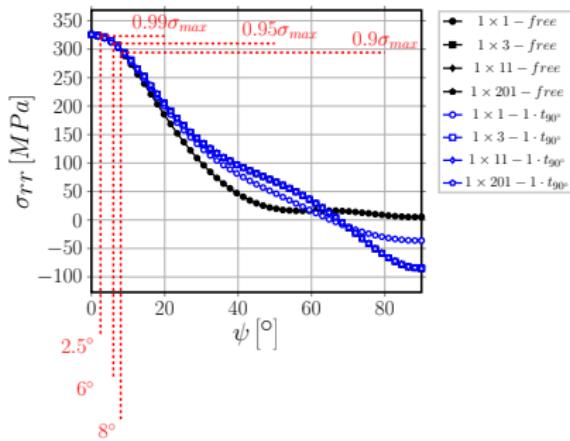
$\sigma_{rr}$  vs  $\tau_{r\theta}$     $\sigma_{LHS}$     $\sigma_{vM}$     $\sigma_I$

## DEBOND INITIATION

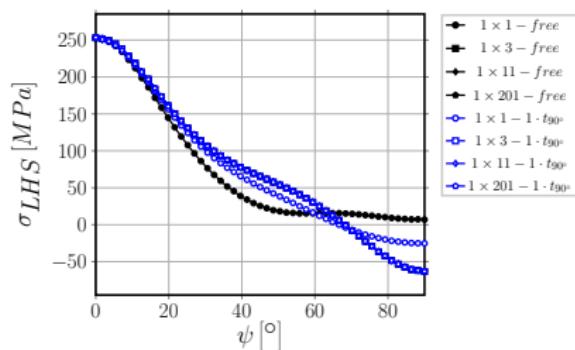
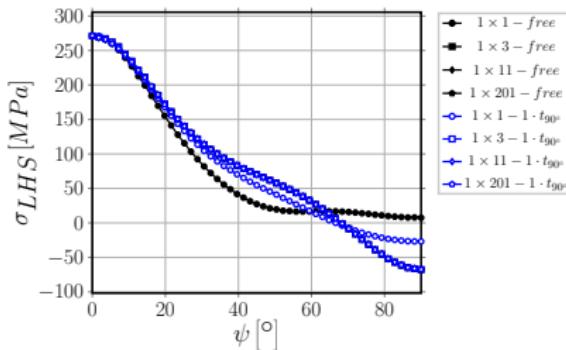
## $\sigma_{rr}$ vs $\tau_{r\theta}$ : radial stress vs tangential shear at the interface



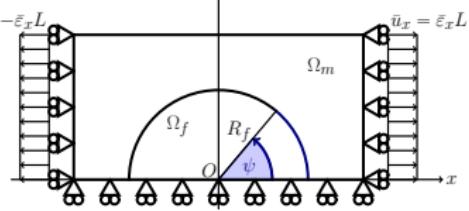
## $\sigma_{rr}$ vs $\tau_{r\theta}$ : radial stress vs tangential shear at the interface



## $\sigma_{LHS}$ : local hydrostatic stress at the interface

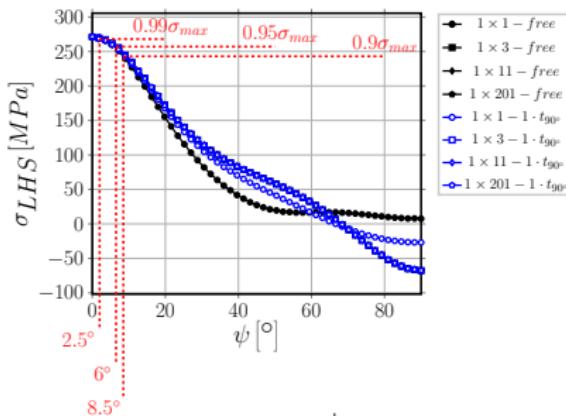


$$\sigma_{LHS}^{2D} = \frac{\sigma_{rr} + \sigma_{\theta\theta}}{2}$$

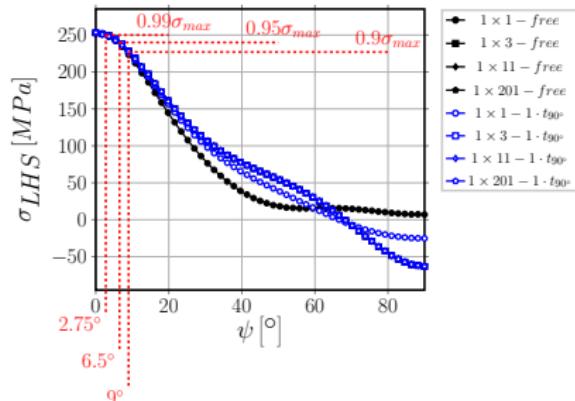
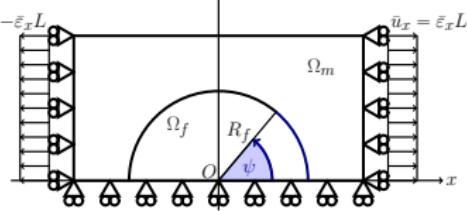


$$\sigma_{LHS}^{3D} = \frac{\sigma_{rr} + \sigma_{\theta\theta} + \sigma_{yy}}{3}$$

## $\sigma_{LHS}$ : local hydrostatic stress at the interface

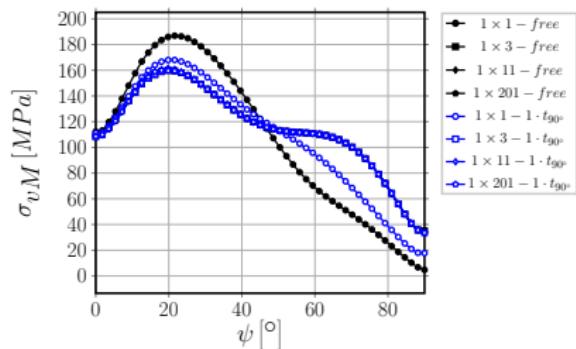
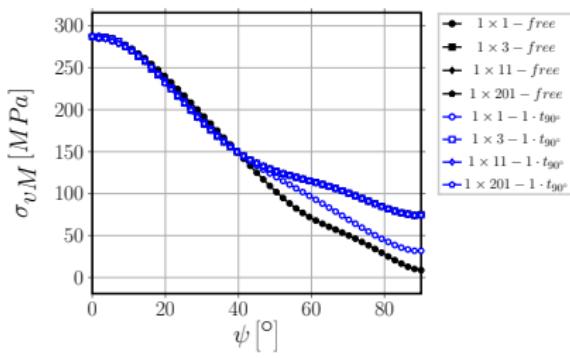


$$\sigma_{LHS}^{2D} = \frac{\sigma_{rr} + \sigma_{\theta\theta}}{2}$$

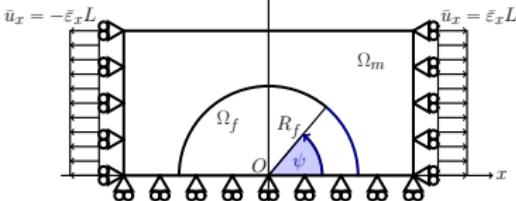


$$\sigma_{LHS}^{3D} = \frac{\sigma_{rr} + \sigma_{\theta\theta} + \sigma_{yy}}{3}$$

## $\sigma_{vM}$ : von Mises stress at the interface

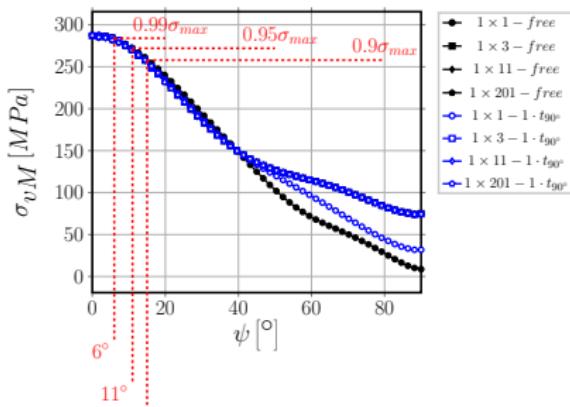


$$\sigma_{vM}^{2D} = \sqrt{(\sigma_{rr} - \sigma_{\theta\theta})^2 + 3\tau_{12}^2}$$



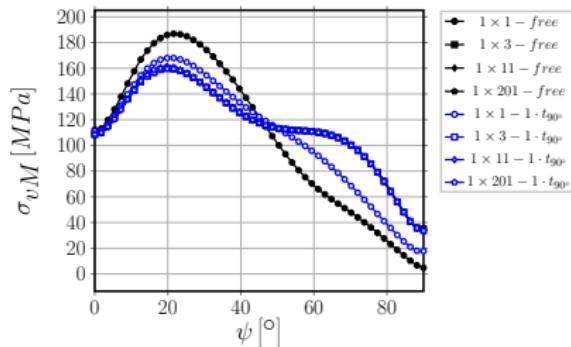
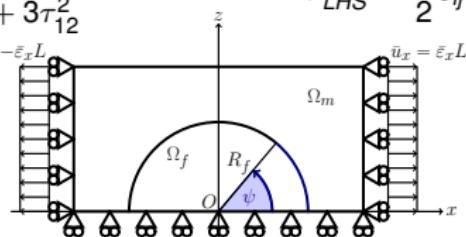
$$\sigma_{LHS}^{3D} = \frac{3}{2} s_{ij} s_{ij} \quad s_{ij} = \sigma_{ij} - \frac{1}{3} \sigma_{kk} \delta_{ij}$$

## $\sigma_{vM}$ : von Mises stress at the interface



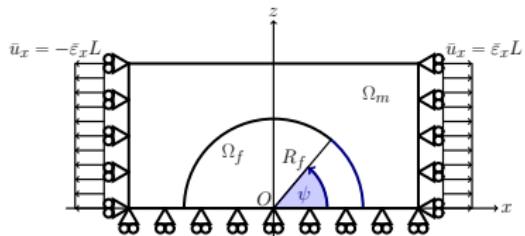
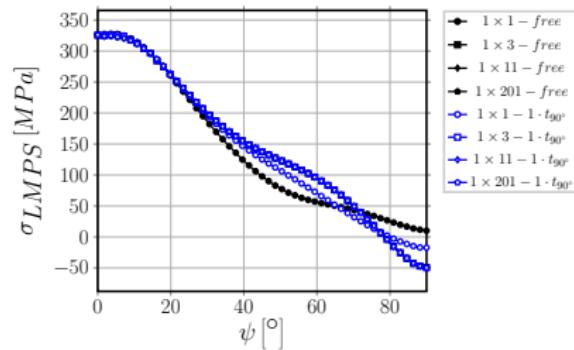
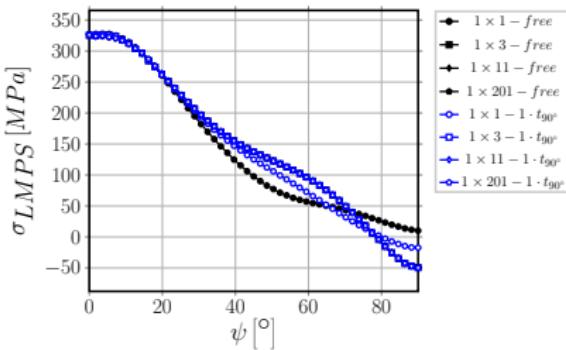
$$\sigma_{vM}^{2D} = \sqrt{(\sigma_{rr} - \sigma_{\theta\theta})^2 + 3\tau_{12}^2}$$

$$\bar{u}_x = -\bar{\varepsilon}_x L$$

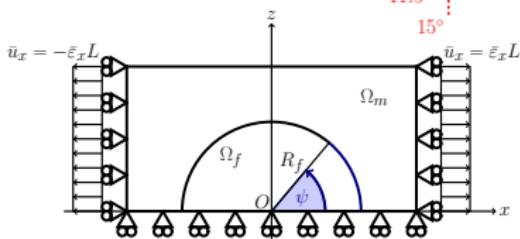
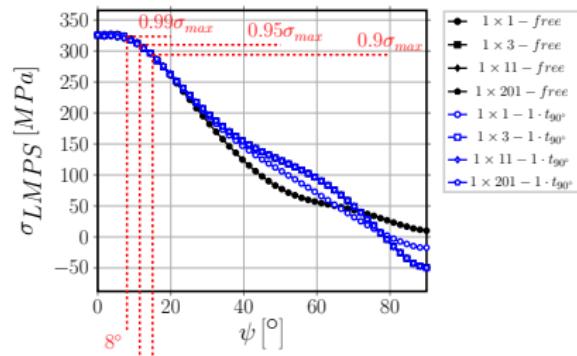
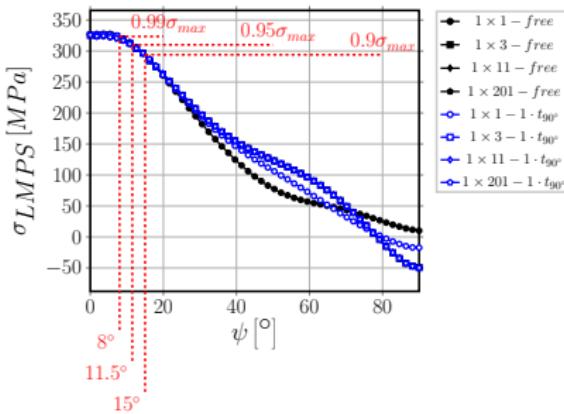


$$\sigma_{LHS}^{3D} = \frac{3}{2} s_{ij} s_{ij} \quad s_{ij} = \sigma_{ij} - \frac{1}{3} \sigma_{kk} \delta_{ij}$$

## $\sigma_I$ : maximum principal stress at the interface



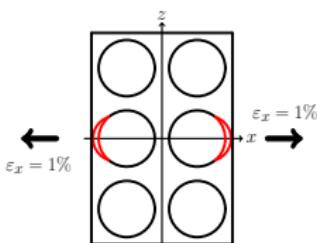
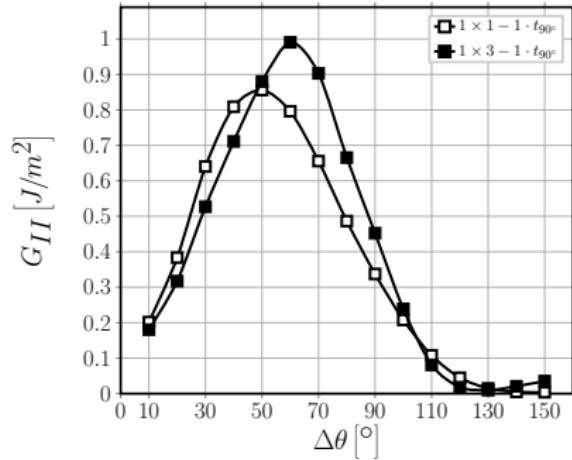
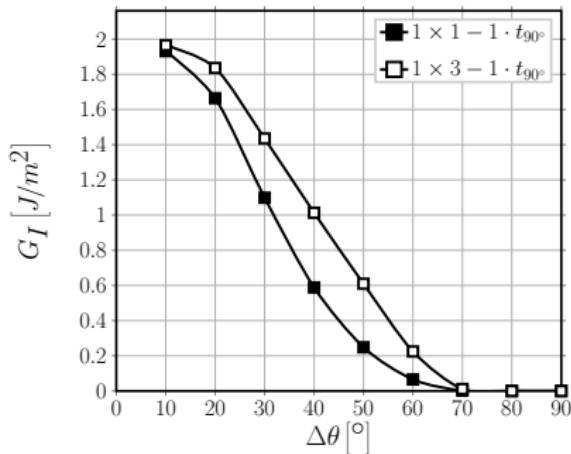
## $\sigma_I$ : maximum principal stress at the interface



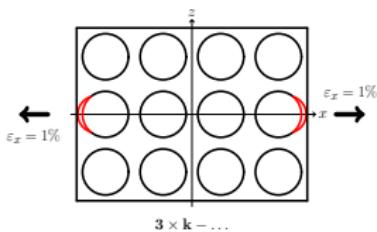
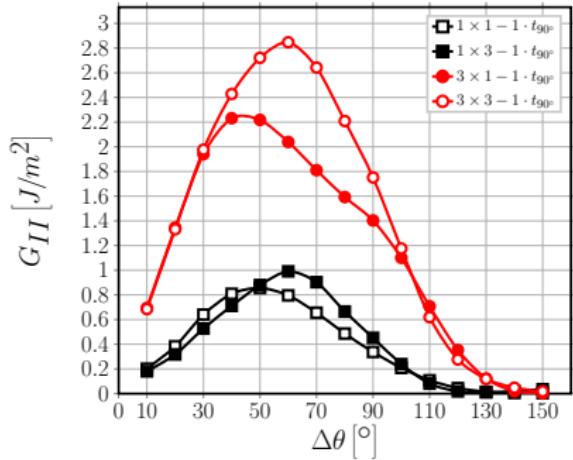
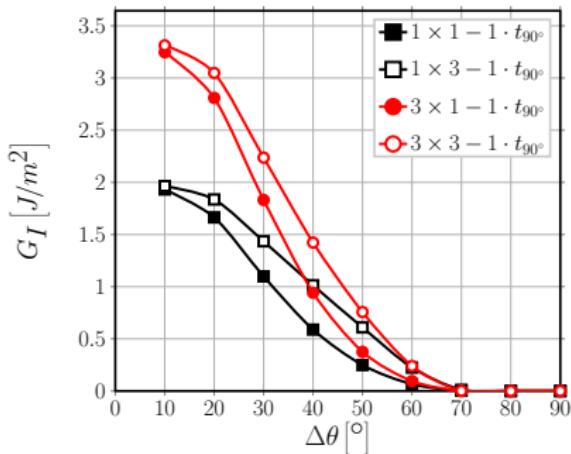
Transverse Cracks Initiation Modeling Debond Initiation Debond Propagation Conclusions  
Interaction of Debonds Effect of 0° ply thickness Effect of 90° ply thickness

## DEBOND PROPAGATION

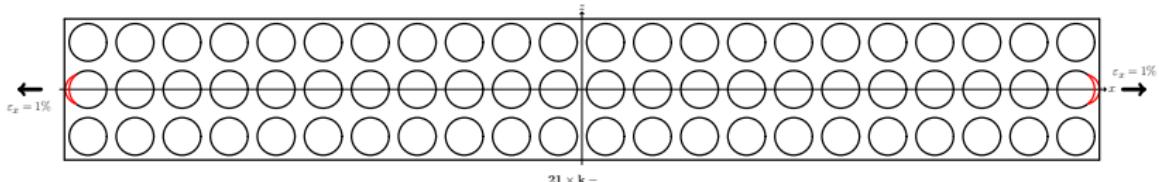
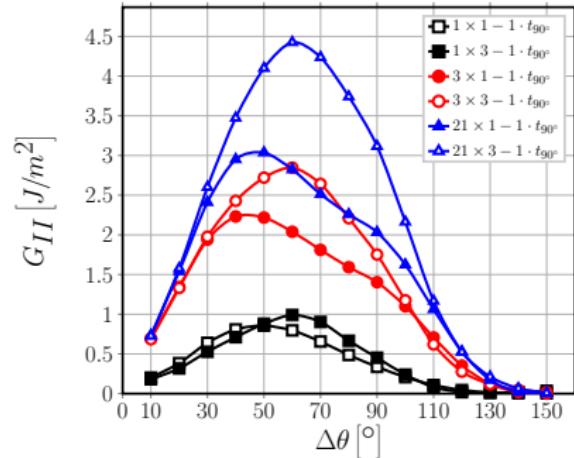
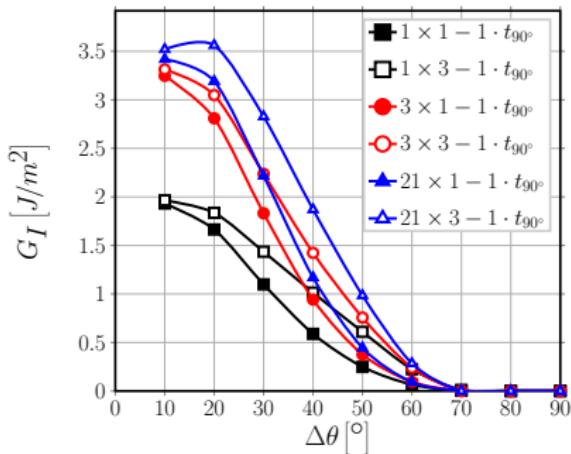
## Interaction of Debonds: Strain Magnification



## Interaction of Debonds: Strain Magnification



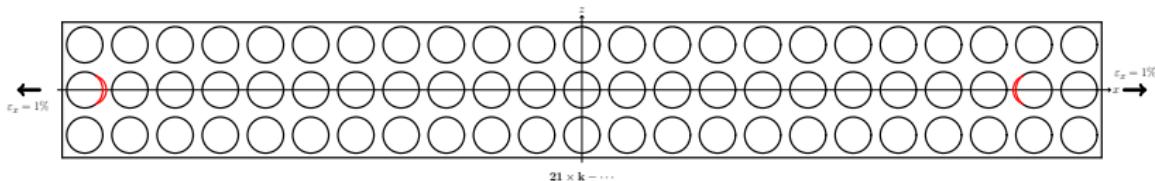
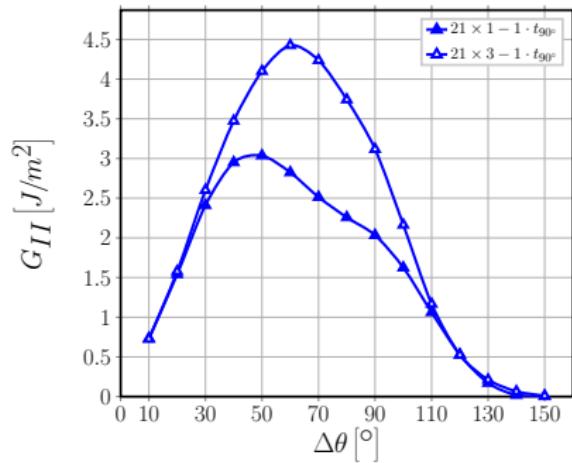
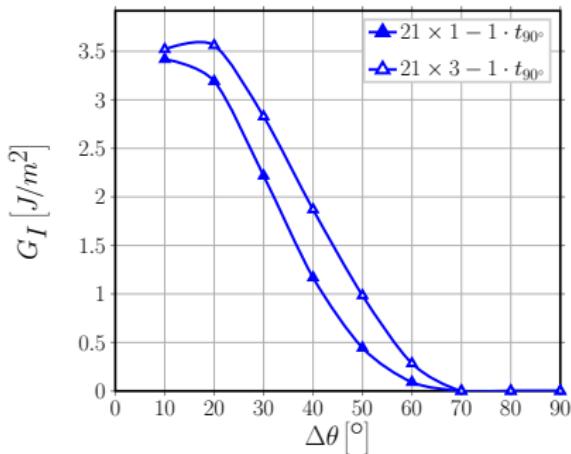
## Interaction of Debonds: Strain Magnification



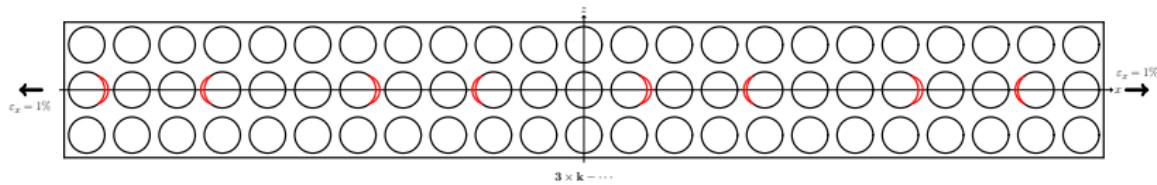
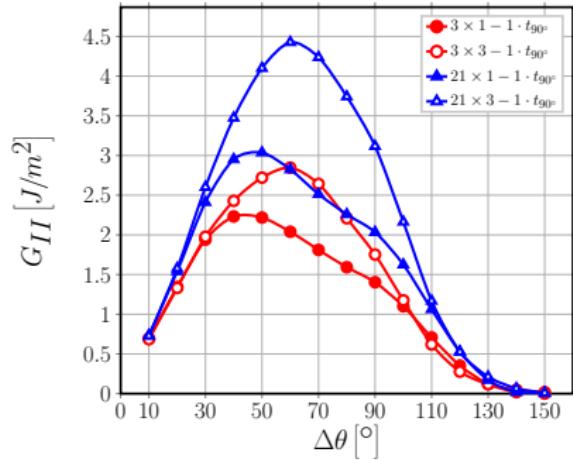
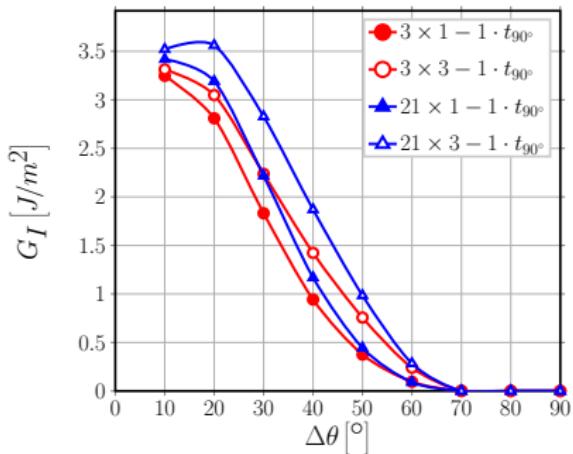
Transverse Cracks Initiation Modeling Debond Initiation Debond Propagation Conclusions

Interaction of Debonds Effect of 0° ply thickness Effect of 90° ply thickness

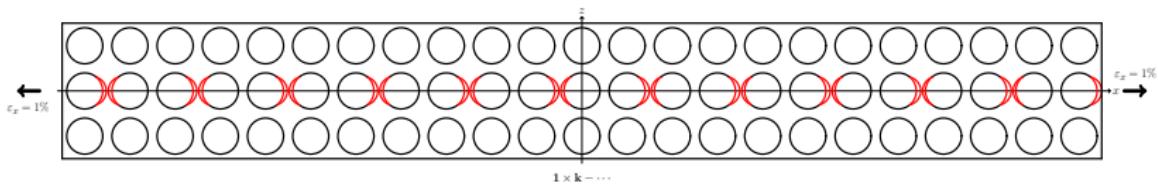
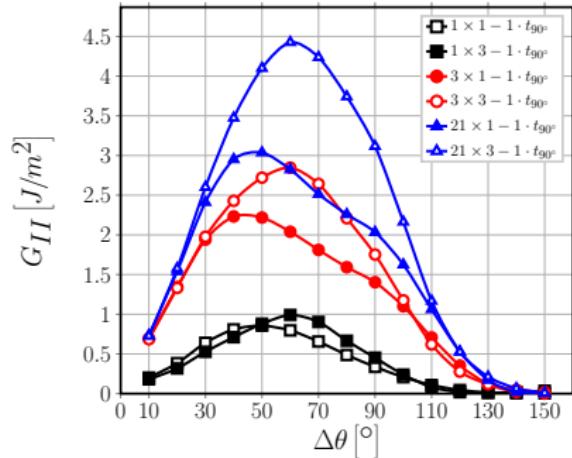
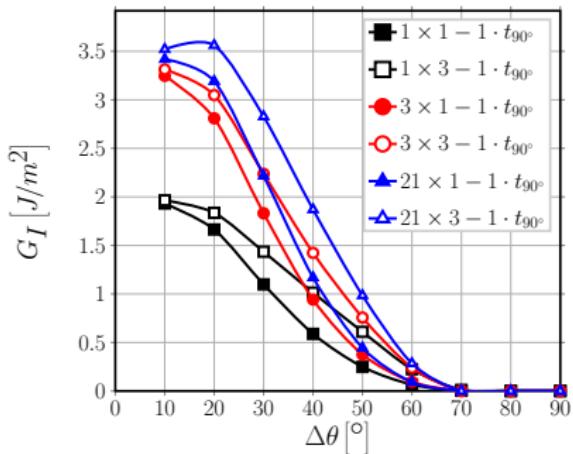
## Interaction of Debonds: Crack Shielding



## Interaction of Debonds: Crack Shielding

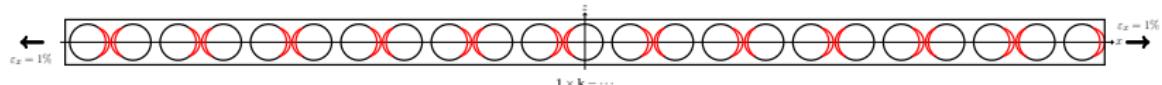
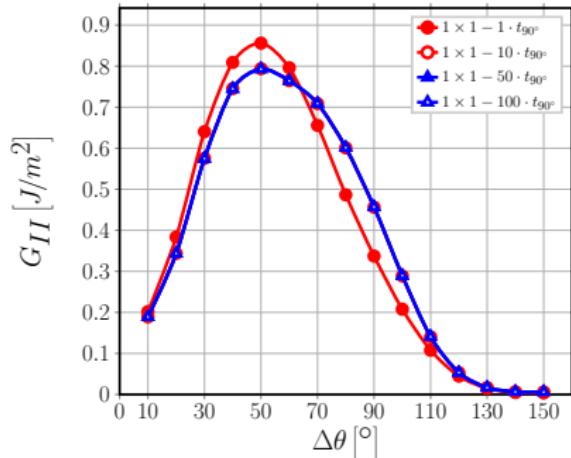
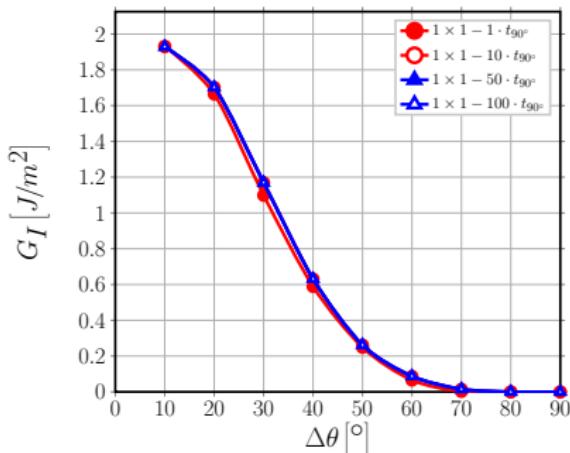


## Interaction of Debonds: Crack Shielding



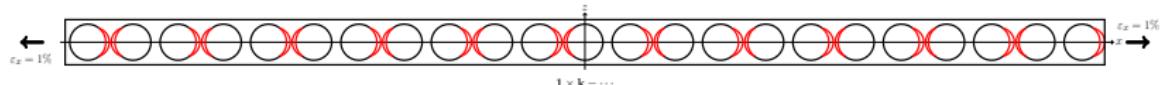
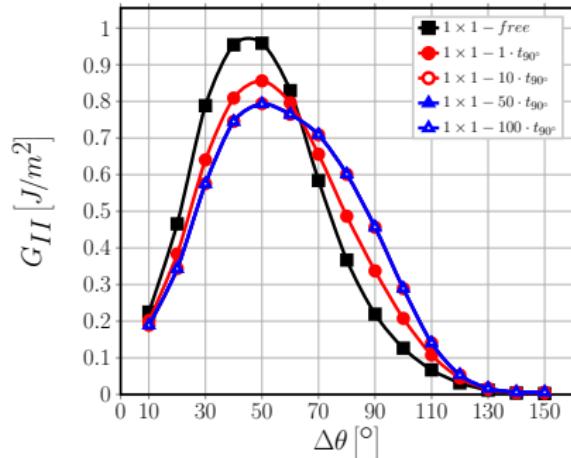
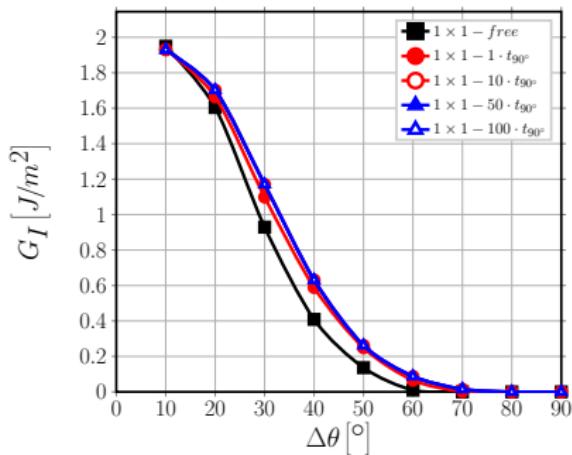
Transverse Cracks Initiation Modeling Debond Initiation Debond Propagation Conclusions  
Interaction of Debonds Effect of  $0^\circ$  ply thickness Effect of  $90^\circ$  ply thickness

## Effect of $0^\circ$ ply thickness



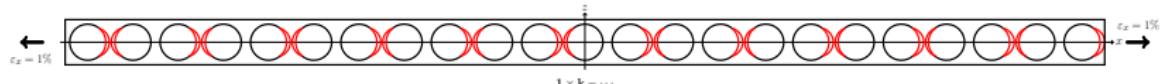
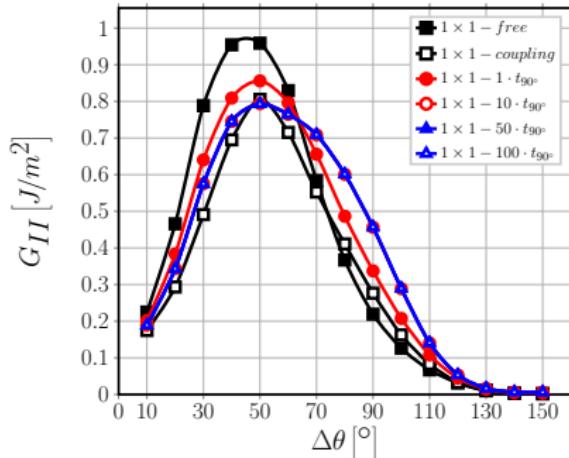
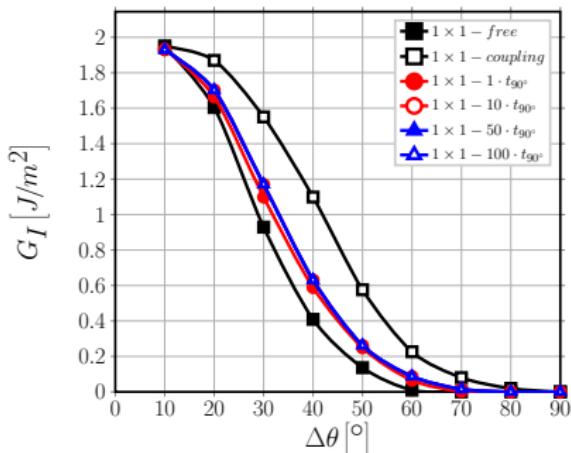
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## Effect of $0^\circ$ ply thickness

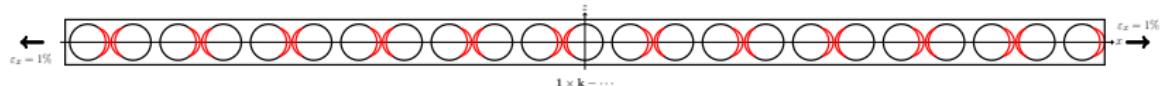
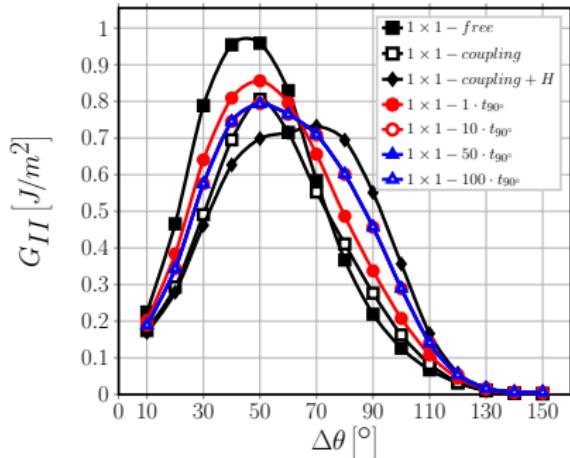
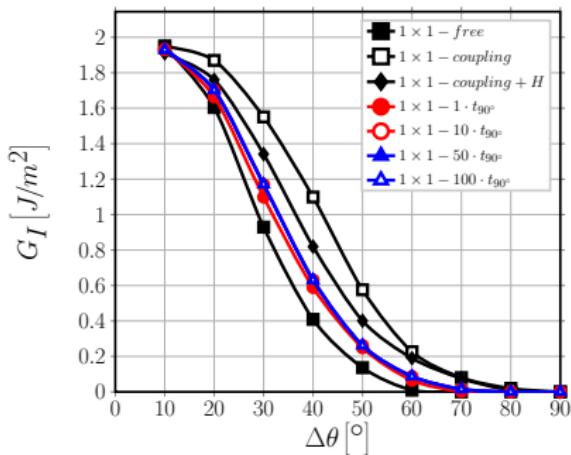


Transverse Cracks Initiation Modeling Debond Initiation Debond Propagation Conclusions  
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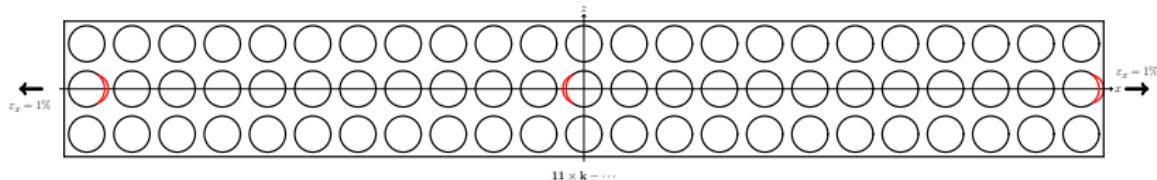
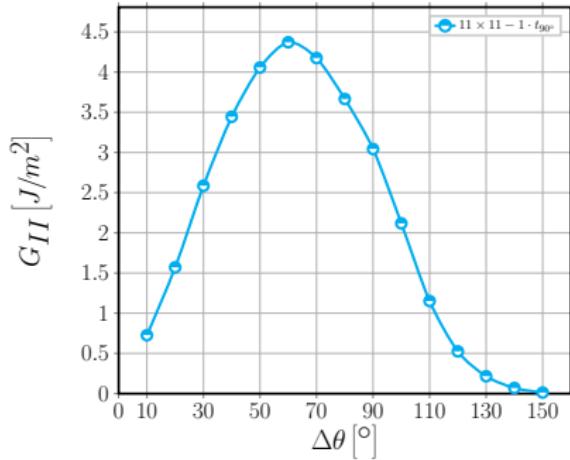
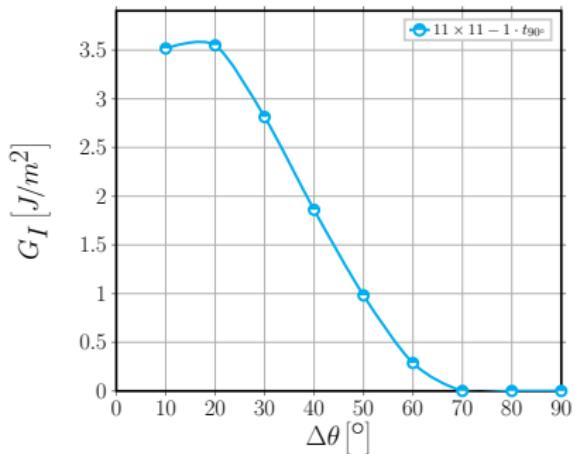


## Effect of $0^\circ$ ply thickness



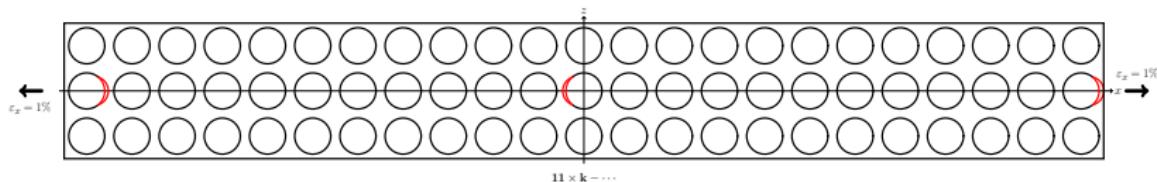
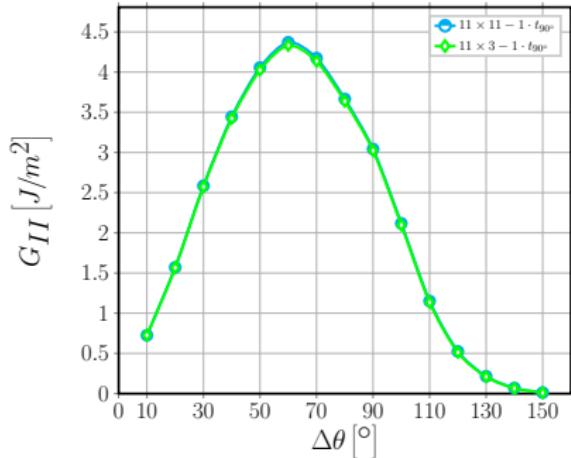
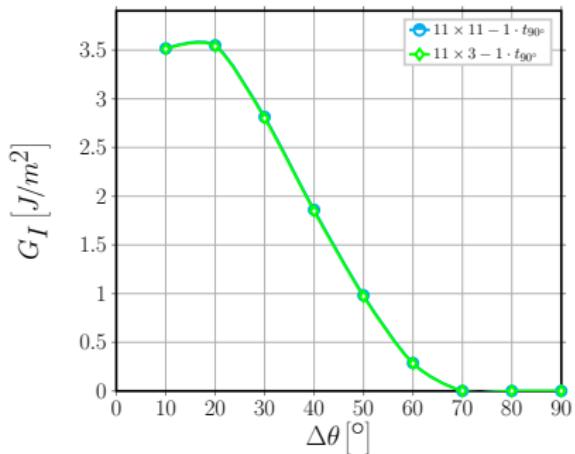
Transverse Cracks Initiation Modeling Debond Initiation Debond Propagation Conclusions  
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## Effect of 90° ply thickness

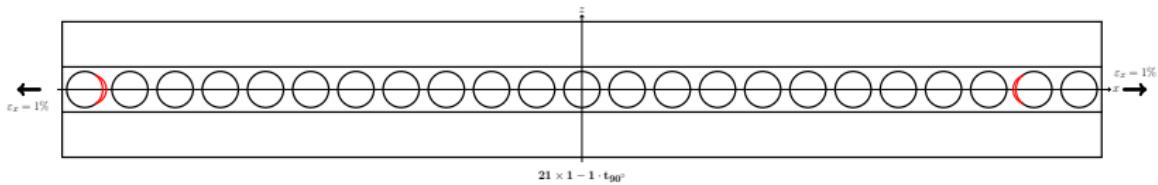
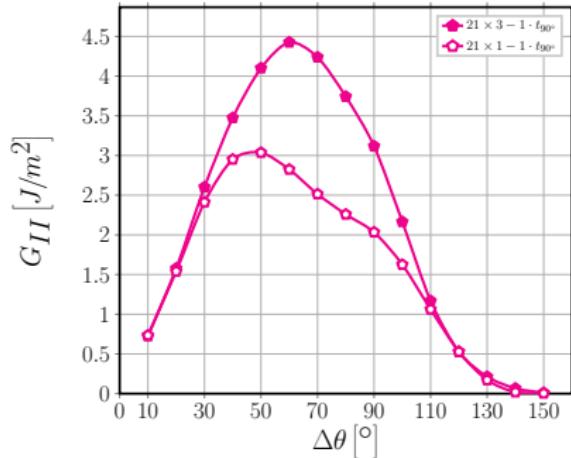
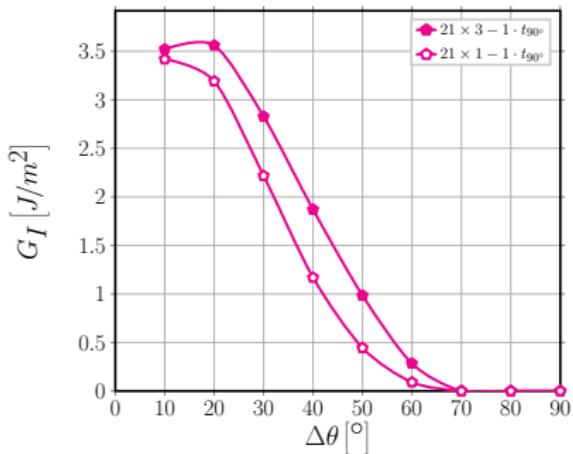


Transverse Cracks Initiation Modeling Debond Initiation Debond Propagation Conclusions  
Interaction of Debonds Effect of 0° ply thickness Effect of 90° ply thickness

## Effect of 90° ply thickness



## Effect of 90° ply thickness



## ◀ CONCLUSIONS

## Conclusions

- No effect of  $90^\circ$  ply thickness can be observed when  $t_{90^\circ}$  is at least  $\sim 3\phi_{fiber}$
- Only if  $t_{90^\circ}$  is reduced to  $1\phi_{fiber}$ , ERR is reduced for a given level of applied strain, i.e. debond growth is delayed to higher levels of applied strain ( $G \sim \varepsilon_{applied}^2$ )
- No effect of  $0^\circ$  ply thickness can be observed when  $t_{0^\circ}/t_{90^\circ} > 1$
- A small difference can be observed when  $t_{0^\circ} = t_{90^\circ}$ , due to the smaller bending stiffness of a thinner  $0^\circ$  layer



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