

Staggered fracture-elasticity solver

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1 Introduction

This document describes the weak form and associated linearized equations for the staggered fracture-elasticity solver implemented in *IFEM*, based on the papers by Borden *et al.* [1], and Gerasimov and De Lorenzis [2].

2 Energy functionals

The energy functional for the quasi-static brittle fracture problem, using a phase-field to represent the crack geometry is in [1] given as follows (see Equation (17) therein):

$$\begin{aligned} E_c(\mathbf{u}, c) = & \int_{\Omega} [g(c)\Psi_0^+(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{u})) + \Psi_0^-(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{u}))] \, dV \\ & + G_c \int_{\Omega} \left(\frac{1}{4\ell_0} (1-c)^2 + \ell_0 \boldsymbol{\nabla} c \cdot \boldsymbol{\nabla} c \right) \, dV \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where c is the phase field describing the crack, i.e., it has the value 1.0 where the material is undamaged and equal to 0.0 for fully cracked material. $g(c) = (1-k)c^2 + k$ is the stress degradation function used to scale down the tensile part of the strain energy density in the elasticity equation. $k \geq 0.0$ is a (small) stability parameter that can be used to improve the conditioning of the resulting linear equation system.

In [2], an alternative formulation is used, where $d = 1 - c$ is used as the unknown phase field instead of c , i.e., it has the value 0.0 in the undamaged material and 1.0 in the fully cracked material. Moreover, a penalty term is introduced to ensure crack irreversibility, and the length scale parameter ℓ_0 is replaced by $\ell = 2\ell_0$. The energy functional therefore reads as follows (see also Equation (3) in [2]):

$$\begin{aligned} E_d(\mathbf{u}, d) = & \int_{\Omega} [g(d)\Psi_0^+(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{u})) + \Psi_0^-(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{u}))] \, dV \\ & + G_c \int_{\Omega} \left(\frac{1}{2\ell} d^2 + \frac{\ell}{2} \boldsymbol{\nabla} d \cdot \boldsymbol{\nabla} d \right) \, dV + \frac{1}{2\gamma} \int_{\text{CR}_{d-1}} (1-d)^2 \, dV \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where the stress degradation function now reads $g(d) = (1-k)(1-d)^2 + k$.

The directional derivatives of E_c and E_d read, respectively:

$$\begin{aligned} E'_c(\mathbf{u}, c; \mathbf{v}, w) &:= \frac{\partial E_c}{\partial \mathbf{u}} \cdot \mathbf{v} + \frac{\partial E_c}{\partial c} w \\ &= \int_{\Omega} \left[g(c) \frac{\partial \Psi_0^+}{\partial \boldsymbol{\epsilon}}(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{u})) + \frac{\partial \Psi_0^-}{\partial \boldsymbol{\epsilon}}(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{u})) \right] : \boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{v}) \, dV \\ &+ \int_{\Omega} g'(c) \Psi_0^+(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{u})) w \, dV + G_c \int_{\Omega} \left(\frac{1}{2\ell_0} (c-1)w + 2\ell_0 \boldsymbol{\nabla} c \cdot \boldsymbol{\nabla} w \right) \, dV \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

with $g'(c) = 2(1 - k)c$, and

$$\begin{aligned} E'_d(\mathbf{u}, d; \mathbf{v}, w) &:= \frac{\partial E_d}{\partial \mathbf{u}} \cdot \mathbf{v} + \frac{\partial E_d}{\partial d} w \\ &= \int_{\Omega} \left[g(d) \frac{\partial \Psi_0^+}{\partial \boldsymbol{\epsilon}}(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{u})) + \frac{\partial \Psi_0^-}{\partial \boldsymbol{\epsilon}}(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{u})) \right] : \boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{v}) \, dV \\ &\quad + \int_{\Omega} g'(d) \Psi_0^+(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{u})) w \, dV + G_c \int_{\Omega} \left(\frac{1}{\ell} dw + \ell \boldsymbol{\nabla} d \cdot \boldsymbol{\nabla} w \right) \, dV + \frac{1}{\gamma} \int_{\text{CR}_{l-1}} (d - 1) w \, dV \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

with $g'(d) = 2(1 - k)(d - 1)$. The problem is then solved by seeking a solution $(\mathbf{u}, c) \in \mathbf{V}_1 \times H^1(\Omega, [0, 1])$, such that

$$E'_c(\mathbf{u}, c; \mathbf{v}, w) = 0 \quad \forall (\mathbf{v}, w) \in \mathbf{V}_0 \times H^1(\Omega, [0, 1]) \quad (5)$$

or alternatively, a solution $(\mathbf{u}, d) \in \mathbf{V}_1 \times H^1(\Omega, [0, 1])$, such that

$$E'_d(\mathbf{u}, d; \mathbf{v}, w) = 0 \quad \forall (\mathbf{v}, w) \in \mathbf{V}_0 \times H^1(\Omega, [0, 1]) \quad (6)$$

3 Residual and tangent for the Borden formulation

Equation (5) is rewritten into a system of coupled equations:

$$Q_1(\mathbf{u}, c; \mathbf{v}) = \int_{\Omega} \left[g(c) \frac{\partial \Psi_0^+}{\partial \boldsymbol{\epsilon}}(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{u})) + \frac{\partial \Psi_0^-}{\partial \boldsymbol{\epsilon}}(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{u})) \right] : \boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{v}) \, dV = 0 \quad (7)$$

$$Q_2(\mathbf{u}, c; w) = \int_{\Omega} \left[g'(c) \Psi_0^+(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{u})) w + G_c \left(\frac{1}{2\ell_0} (c - 1) w + 2\ell_0 \boldsymbol{\nabla} c \cdot \boldsymbol{\nabla} w \right) \right] \, dV = 0 \quad (8)$$

To ensure crack irreversibility, the tensile strain energy density Ψ_0^+ in Equation (8) is replaced by a history field $\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{x}, t)$, with the property

$$\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{x}, t_0) = \frac{G_c}{4\ell_0} \left(\frac{1}{C} - 1 \right) \left(1 - \max \left\{ \frac{\delta(\mathbf{x}, \Gamma)}{\ell_0}, 1 \right\} \right) \quad (9)$$

$$\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{x}, t_n) = \max \left\{ \mathcal{H}(\mathbf{x}, t_{n-1}), \Psi_0^+(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t_n))) \right\}, \quad n > 0 \quad (10)$$

where C is a constant and $\delta(\mathbf{x}, \Gamma)$ denotes the shortest distance from the point \mathbf{x} to the initial crack Γ . Moreover, Equation (8) is scaled by $\frac{\ell}{G_c} = \frac{2\ell_0}{G_c}$ to obtain

$$Q_2(\mathbf{u}, c; w) = \int_{\Omega} \left[\frac{g'(c)\ell}{G_c} \mathcal{H}(\mathbf{x}, t) w + (c - 1) w + \ell^2 \boldsymbol{\nabla} c \cdot \boldsymbol{\nabla} w \right] \, dV = 0 \quad (11)$$

The Equations (7) and (11) are solved in a staggered manner, where in the former the phase field c is assumed known and in the latter the displacement field \mathbf{u} is assumed known. We then do a linearization of the functionals Q_1 and Q_2 about a certain known configuration (\mathbf{u}_0, c_0) for the unknown variables, i.e.

$$Q_1(\mathbf{u}_0 + \Delta \mathbf{u}, c_0; \mathbf{v}) \approx Q_1(\mathbf{u}_0, c_0; \mathbf{v}) + \frac{\partial Q_1}{\partial \mathbf{u}} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{u} = 0 \quad (12)$$

$$Q_2(\mathbf{u}_0, c_0 + \Delta c; w) \approx Q_2(\mathbf{u}_0, c_0; w) + \frac{\partial Q_2}{\partial c} \Delta c = 0 \quad (13)$$

from which we obtain the tangent operators

$$\frac{\partial Q_1}{\partial \mathbf{u}} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{u} = \int_{\Omega} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\Delta \mathbf{u}) : \left[g(c) \frac{\partial^2 \Psi_0^+}{\partial \boldsymbol{\epsilon}^2}(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{u})) + \frac{\partial^2 \Psi_0^-}{\partial \boldsymbol{\epsilon}^2}(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{u})) \right] : \boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{v}) \, dV \quad (14)$$

$$\frac{\partial Q_2}{\partial c} \Delta c = \int_{\Omega} \left[\Delta c \left(\frac{g''(c)\ell}{G_c} \mathcal{H}(\mathbf{x}, t) + 1 \right) w + \ell^2 \boldsymbol{\nabla}(\Delta c) \cdot \boldsymbol{\nabla} w \right] \, dV \quad (15)$$

Since $g''(c) = 2(1 - k)$ is a constant, the latter is linear in Δc and w , and independent of c , hence a linear solve is sufficient for Equation (13).

Alternatively to using the history field, we may include a penalty term to enforce the crack irreversibility as in Equation (2), i.e.:

$$E_c(\mathbf{u}, c) = \int_{\Omega} [g(c)\Psi_0^+(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{u})) + \Psi_0^-(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{u}))] dV + G_c \int_{\Omega} \left(\frac{1}{4\ell_0} (1-c)^2 + \ell_0 \boldsymbol{\nabla} c \cdot \boldsymbol{\nabla} c \right) dV + \frac{1}{2\gamma} \int_{\text{CR}_{l-1}} c^2 dV \quad (16)$$

such that the alternatives to Equations (11) and (15) become, respectively

$$Q_2(\mathbf{u}, c; w) = \int_{\Omega} \left[\frac{g'(c)\ell}{G_c} \Psi_0^+(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{u}))w + (c-1)w + \ell^2 \boldsymbol{\nabla} c \cdot \boldsymbol{\nabla} w \right] dV + \frac{1}{\gamma} \int_{\text{CR}_{l-1}} \frac{\ell}{G_c} cw dV = 0 \quad (17)$$

and

$$\frac{\partial Q_2}{\partial c} \Delta c = \int_{\Omega} \left[\Delta c \left(\frac{g''(c)\ell}{G_c} \Psi_0^+(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{u})) + 1 \right) w + \ell^2 \boldsymbol{\nabla}(\Delta c) \cdot \boldsymbol{\nabla} w \right] dV + \frac{1}{\gamma} \int_{\text{CR}_{l-1}} \Delta c \frac{\ell}{G_c} w dV \quad (18)$$

4 Residual and tangent for the penalty formulation

Equation (6) is rewritten into a system of coupled equations:

$$Q_1(\mathbf{u}, d; \mathbf{v}) = \int_{\Omega} \left[g(d) \frac{\partial \Psi_0^+}{\partial \boldsymbol{\epsilon}}(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{u})) + \frac{\partial \Psi_0^-}{\partial \boldsymbol{\epsilon}}(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{u})) \right] : \boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{v}) dV = 0 \quad (19)$$

$$Q_2(\mathbf{u}, d; w) = \int_{\Omega} \left[g'(d) \Psi_0^+(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{u}))w + G_c \left(\frac{1}{\ell} dw + \ell \boldsymbol{\nabla} d \cdot \boldsymbol{\nabla} w \right) \right] dV + \frac{1}{\gamma} \int_{\text{CR}_{l-1}} (d-1)w dV = 0 \quad (20)$$

These two equations are solved in a staggered manner, where in Equation (19) the phase field d is assumed known and in Equation (20) the displacement field \mathbf{u} is assumed known. We then do a linearization of the functionals Q_1 and Q_2 about a certain known configuration (\mathbf{u}_0, d_0) for the unknown variables, i.e.

$$Q_1(\mathbf{u}_0 + \Delta \mathbf{u}, d_0; \mathbf{v}) \approx Q_1(\mathbf{u}_0, d_0; \mathbf{v}) + \frac{\partial Q_1}{\partial \mathbf{u}} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{u} = 0 \quad (21)$$

$$Q_2(\mathbf{u}_0, d_0 + \Delta d; w) \approx Q_2(\mathbf{u}_0, d_0; w) + \frac{\partial Q_2}{\partial d} \Delta d = 0 \quad (22)$$

from which we obtain the tangent operators

$$\frac{\partial Q_1}{\partial \mathbf{u}} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{u} = \int_{\Omega} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\Delta \mathbf{u}) : \left[g(d) \frac{\partial^2 \Psi_0^+}{\partial \boldsymbol{\epsilon}^2}(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{u})) + \frac{\partial^2 \Psi_0^-}{\partial \boldsymbol{\epsilon}^2}(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{u})) \right] : \boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{v}) dV \quad (23)$$

$$\frac{\partial Q_2}{\partial d} \Delta d = \int_{\Omega} \left[\Delta d \left(g''(d) \Psi_0^+(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{u})) + \frac{G_c}{\ell} \right) w + G_c \ell \boldsymbol{\nabla}(\Delta d) \cdot \boldsymbol{\nabla} w \right] dV + \frac{1}{\gamma} \int_{\text{CR}_{l-1}} \Delta d w dV \quad (24)$$

Since $g''(d) = 2(1-k)$ is a constant, the latter is linear in Δd and w , and independent of d , hence a linear solve is sufficient for Equation (22).

References

- [1] M. J. Borden, C. V. Verhoosel, M. A. Scott, T. J. R. Hughes, and C. M. Landis. A Phase-field Description of Dynamic Brittle Fracture. *Computer Methods in Applied Mechanics and Engineering*, 217–220:77–95, 2012.
- [2] T. Gerasimov and L. De Lorenzis. A Line Search Assisted Monolithic Approach for Phase-field Computing of Brittle Fracture. *Computer Methods in Applied Mechanics and Engineering*, 312:276–303, 2016.