

# Computational Fracture Mechanics with FE method

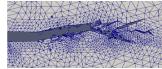
G. Anciaux

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## FE Numerical methods for fracture: wide choice

**Cohesive element** (Camacho, Ortiz, Pandolfi, Needleman ...)



(+) Crack description closest to  
fract. mech., contact resolution

Zhou, Molinari and Shioya, Eng.  
Fract. Mech. (2005)

(-) Mesh dependency

**G. Camacho, M. Ortiz.** Computational Modelling of Impact Damage in Brittle Materials. International Journal of Solids and Structures. **33**(20- 22),2899-2938. (1996)

**G. Ruiz, M. Ortiz, A. Pandolfi.** Three-Dimensional Finite-Element Simulation of the Dynamic Brazilian Tests on Concrete Cylinders. International Journal for Numerical Methods in Engineering. **48**(7),963-994. (2000)

**X.-P. Xu, A. Needleman.** Numerical Simulations of Fast Crack Growth in Brittle Solids. Journal of the Mechanics and Physics of Solids. **42**(9),1397-1434. (1994)

**X-FEM** (Belytschko, Moës, ...)



(+) No mesh dependency

(-) Need ad hoc criterion for crack  
branching

Song, Wang  
and Belytschko, Comput. Mech.  
(2008)

**N. Moës, J. Dolbow, T. Belytschko.** A Finite Element Method for Crack Growth without Remeshing. International Journal for Numerical Methods in Engineering. **46**(1),131-150. (1999)

**J.-H. Song, H. Wang, T. Belytschko.** A Comparative Study on Finite Element Methods for Dynamic Fracture. Computational Mechanics. **42**(2),239-250. (2008)

**Phase field** (Karma, Miehe, Marigo, Bourdin, ...)



Borden,  
Verhoosel, Scott, Hughes and Landis,  
Comput. Methods Appl. Mech. Engrg.  
(2012)

(+) Complex crack description  
in 2D, 3D

(-) Cost

**Peridynamics** (Silling, Bobaru, ...)

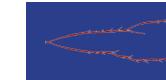


Yho Doh Ha and  
Bobaru, Int. J. of Fract. (2010)

(+) Meshfree, integro-differential approach

(-) Computational cost ?

**Classical Non-local continuum  
damage** (Bazant, Pijaudier-Cabot,  
Jirasek ...)



(+) No mesh dependency,  
based on realistic damage  
behavior, easy to implement,  
well-recognized method but  
rarely tested in dynamics

(-) Computational cost

## Discrete approach: cohesive zone concept, Dugdale Barenblatt, 1960's

- Introduce a cohesive region (process zone) at the crack tip in the form of a length scale
- Eliminate the singularity of stresses at the extended crack tip
- Process zone size  $l_z$  not known a priori but can be estimated in simple cases

Rice and Palmer estimate:

$$l_z = \frac{9\pi}{32} \frac{EG_c}{(1-\nu^2)\sigma_c^2}$$

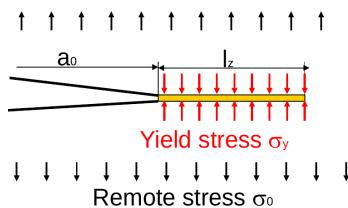
Anderson estimate

$$l_z = \frac{1}{\pi} \left( \frac{K}{\sigma_Y} \right)^2 = \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{EG_c}{\sigma_Y^2}$$

Rq:  $G_c \sim K_I^2/E$

A. Palmer, J. Rice, R. Hill. *The Growth of Slip Surfaces in the Progressive Failure of Over-Consolidated Clay*. Proceedings of the Royal Society of London. A. Mathematical and Physical Sciences. 332(1591), 527-548. (1997)

- Example of constant cohesive stress  $\sigma_y$



## FE implementation: cohesive elements: a popular approach

- Camacho Ortiz (2D) 1996, Pandolfi Ortiz (3D) 1999, Xu Needleman 1993, Rose et al., etc...

- Cohesive elements glue two neighboring elements

Cracks created within ordinary elements boundaries  
(Mesh dependency)

Computationally expensive  
( $h_{FE} < l_z < W$ )

- Cracks explicitly described by cohesive elements

Easy to handle branching,  
fragmentation

As close as one can be to fracture mechanics  
Can incorporate contact

- The opening/closing properties of cohesive elements are governed by a cohesive law

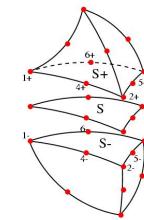
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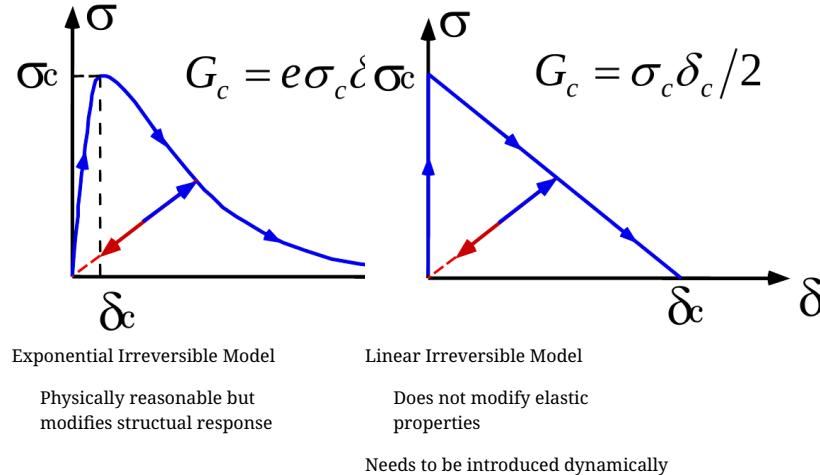
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M. Ortiz, A. Pandolfi. *Finite-Deformation Irreversible Cohesive Elements for Three-Dimensional Crack-Propagation Analysis*. International Journal for Numerical Methods in Engineering. 44(9), 1267-1282. (1999)

**Two examples of cohesive laws:  
amongst a wide choice...**

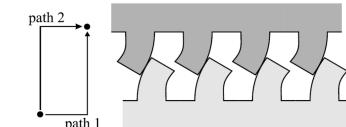
⇒ Opening :  $d\delta > 0$   
⇒ Closing :  $d\delta < 0$





## Determination of cohesive law: not from potentials?

- Potential-derived laws can have anomalies  
Ex: Xu - Needleman (wrong predicted crack growth speed)
- And path dependence can be physically rationalized



Energy dissipated path 1 > Energy dissipated path 2

- Alternative: direct construction of a cohesive law
  - Bosch, Schreurs, Geers, EFM, 2006

## Determination of cohesive law: cohesive parameters

From a potential?

$$\mathbf{T} = \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \Delta}$$

Examples

- Xu, Needleman (1993)

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi(\Delta) &= \sigma_c \delta_n \exp \left[ 1 - \left( 1 + \frac{\Delta}{\delta_n} \right) e^{-\frac{\Delta}{\delta_n}} \right] \\ \mathbf{T} &= \sigma_c \frac{\Delta}{\delta_n} e^{1-\frac{\Delta}{\delta_n}} \mathbf{n}\end{aligned}$$

- Camacho, Ortiz (1996)

$$\Phi(\Delta) = \frac{1}{2} \sigma_c \delta \left( 2 - \frac{\delta}{\delta_c} \right)$$

Effective opening displacement

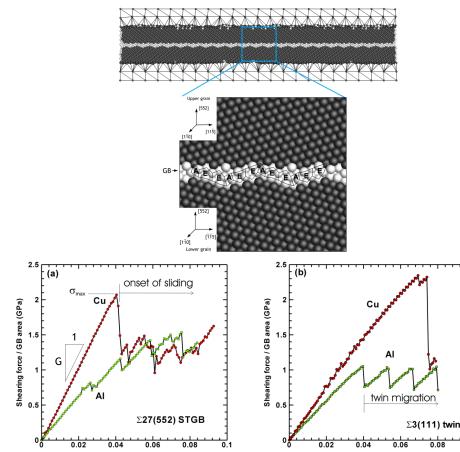
$$\begin{aligned}\delta &= \sqrt{\beta^2 \Delta_t^2 + \Delta_n^2} \\ \mathbf{T} &= \frac{\mathbf{T}}{\delta} (\beta^2 \Delta_t \mathbf{t} + \Delta_n \mathbf{n})\end{aligned}$$

X.-P. Xu, A. Needleman. Numerical Simulations of Fast Crack Growth in Brittle Solids. Journal of the Mechanics and Physics of Solids. 42(9), 1397-1434. (1994)

G. Camacho, M. Ortiz. Computational Modelling of Impact Damage in Brittle Materials. International Journal of Solids and Structures. 33(20-22), 2899-2938. (1996)

## Determination of cohesive law

From atomistic simulations



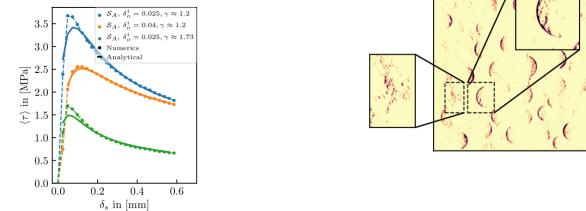
F. Sansoz, J. Molinari. Mechanical Behavior of  $\Sigma$  Tilt Grain Boundaries in Nanoscale Cu and Al: A Quasicontinuum Study. Acta Materialia. 53(7), 1931-1944. (2005)

## Determination of cohesive law

Elasto-plastic shear resistance in concrete

- Employ the mortar-aggregate structure

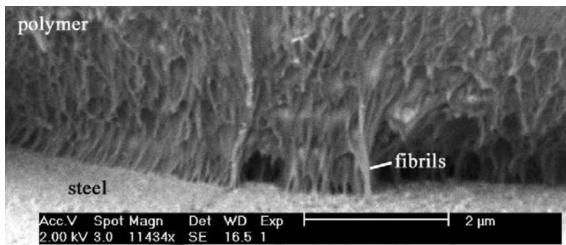
### Meso-scale simulations



**M. Pundir, G. Anciaux.** Numerical Generation and Contact Analysis of Rough Surfaces in Concrete. Journal of Advanced Concrete Technology. 19(7), 864-885. (2021)

## Determination of cohesive law: from experiments

Vast literature: in composites, polymers, metals, ceramics, concrete...

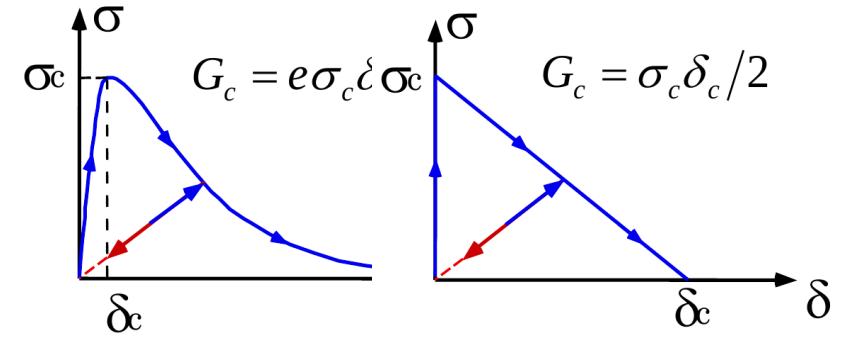


Identification and characterization of delamination in polymer coated metal sheet, van den Bosch, Schreurs, Geers, JMPS, 2008

**M. van den Bosch, P. Schreurs, M. Geers.** Identification and Characterization of Delamination in Polymer Coated Metal Sheet. Journal of the Mechanics and Physics of Solids. 56(11), 3259-3276. (2008)

## Back to our two examples: intrinsic versus extrinsic law

⇒ Opening :  $d\delta > 0$   
⇒ Closing :  $d\delta < 0$



Exponential Irreversible Model

Physically reasonable but  
modifies structural response

Linear Irreversible Model

Does not modify elastic  
properties

Needs to be introduced dynamically

## Dynamic insertion of cohesive elements: Extrinsic law

- Introduce a cohesive element when
  - the facet opening tractions is larger than a critical stress
  - Mode-I

$$\mathbf{n} \cdot \sigma^\pm \cdot \mathbf{n} > \sigma_c$$

- Camacho Ortiz

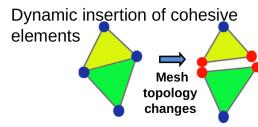
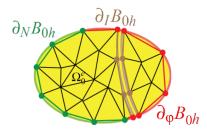
$$\sqrt{(\mathbf{n} \cdot \sigma^\pm \cdot \mathbf{n})^2 + \frac{1}{\beta^2} (\mathbf{n} \cdot \sigma^\pm \cdot \mathbf{t})^2} > \sigma_c$$

- General case

$$f(\sigma^+, \sigma^-) > \sigma_c$$

- This is computationally challenging (particularly in parallel):  
3D dynamic insertion ⇒ keep track of facets, edges, duplicated nodes,..
- Can create stress perturbations
- But results in computational savings

## FEM implementation: explicit dynamics, extrinsic approach



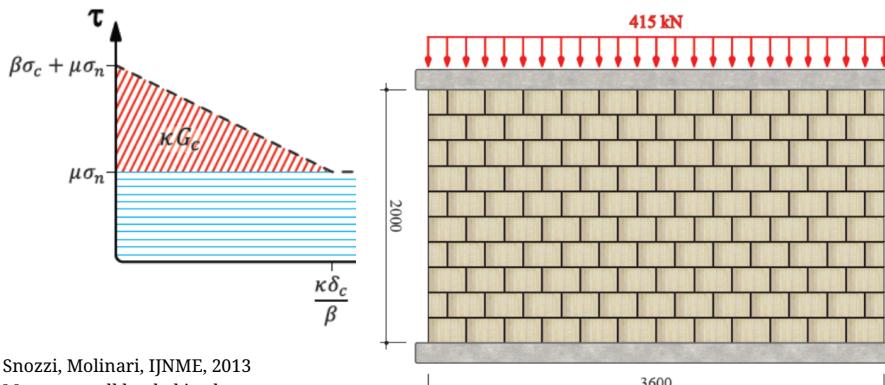
Space discretization:

$$B_{0h} = \bigcup_{e=0}^N \Omega_0^e$$

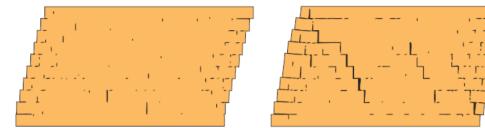
$$\int_{B_{0h}} (\rho_0 \ddot{\mathbf{x}}_h \delta \mathbf{x}_h + P_h : \nabla_0 \mathbf{x}_h \delta \mathbf{x}_h) dV - \underbrace{\int_{\partial N B_{0h}} \bar{\mathbf{T}} \delta \mathbf{x}_h dS}_{\text{Continuum term}} - \int_{B_{0h}} \rho_0 B \delta \mathbf{x}_h dV + \underbrace{\int_{\partial I B_{0h}} \mathbf{T}([\mathbf{x}_h]) [\delta \mathbf{x}_h] dS}_{\text{Cohesive term}} = 0$$

with the jump operator:  $[\![\bullet]\!] = \bullet^+ - \bullet^-$

## Application 1: coupling with contact: cohesive/Friction law

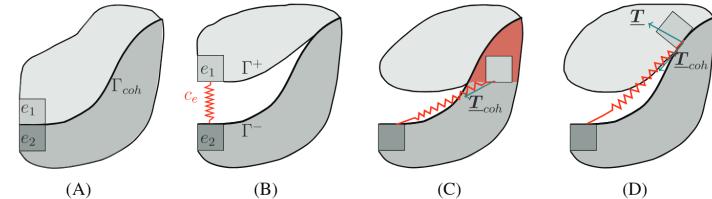


Snozzi, Molinari, IJNME, 2013  
Masonry wall loaded in shear at two loading rates



L. Snozzi. A meso-scale computational approach to dynamic failure in concrete. EPFL (Lausanne), 2013.

## Mesh refinement and contact

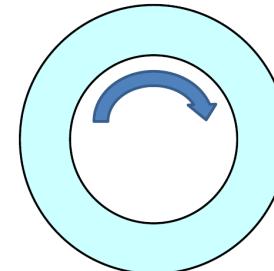


M. Pundir, G. Anciaux. Coupling between Cohesive Element Method and Node-to-Segment Contact Algorithm: Implementation and Application. International Journal for Numerical Methods in Engineering. 122(16), 4333-4353. (2021)

## Application 2: ring fragmentation

Illustration of mesh dependency, Zhou Molinari  
IJNME 2004

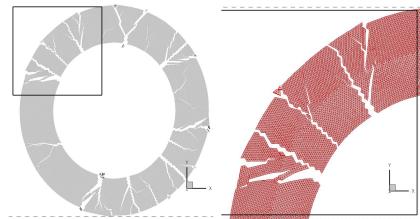
Fragmentation of a rotating brittle ceramic (SiN) ring under centrifugal force



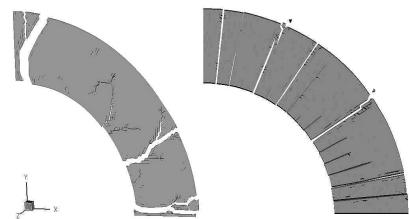
- Material properties:  $r = 3300 \text{ Kg/m}^3$   $E = 320 \text{ GPa}$   $n = 0.3$
- Wave Velocities:  $C_L = 9847 \text{ m/s}$ ,  $C_s = 6107 \text{ m/s}$ ,  $C_R = 5620 \text{ m/s}$
- Fracture Properties:  $s_c = 450 \text{ Mpa}$ ,  $d_c = 0.889 \text{ mm}$ ,  $G_c = 200 \text{ N/m}$

**Computationally challenging!** Symmetry  $\Rightarrow$  Mesh dependency of fracture paths likely

## Fragmentation patterns: OK results

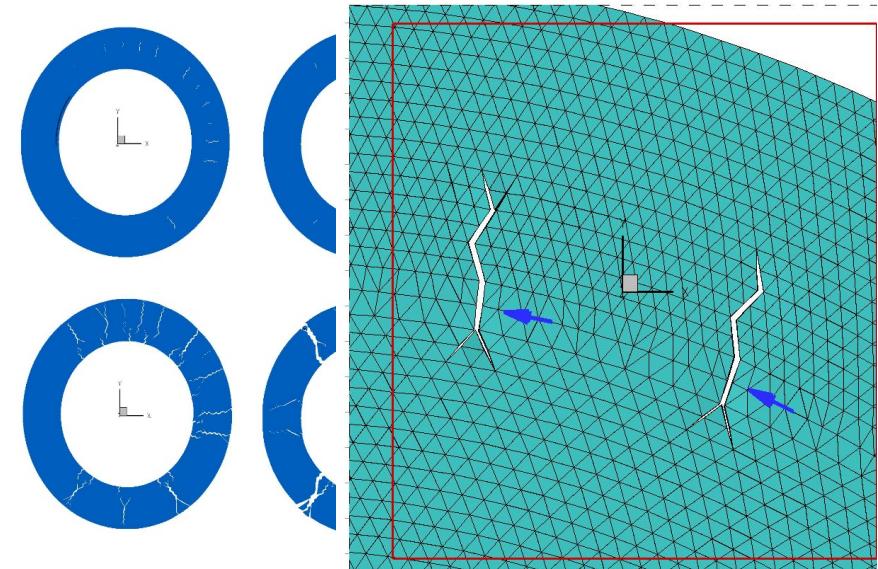


### Degenerate fragmentation patterns: not OK results



- Mesh influenced by boundaries
- Partitioned Mesh
- Cracks may propagate in certain preferred orientations

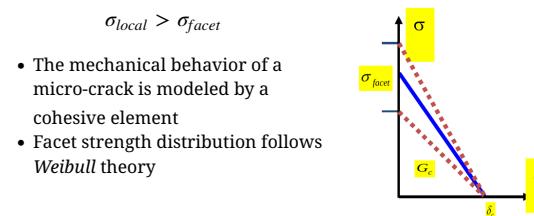
### Degenerate fragmentation patterns: not OK results



Cracks initiate at small elements perpendicular to loading

### Addressing mesh dependency: stochastic cohesive elements (Zhou, Molinari,IJNME, 2004)

- All facets between tetrahedral elements are defects
- A defect is activated as a micro-crack if the tensile stress applied on the facet is larger than the facet strength

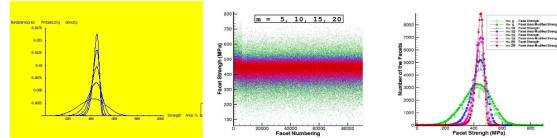


## Addressing mesh dependency: Weibull distribution of cohesive strengths

$$P(\bar{\sigma}_{facet}) = 1 - \exp\left[-\left(\frac{\bar{\sigma}_{facet}}{\bar{\sigma}_s}\right)^m\right]$$

$$\frac{dP}{d\bar{\sigma}_{facet}} = \frac{m}{\bar{\sigma}_s} \left(\frac{\bar{\sigma}_{facet}}{\bar{\sigma}_s}\right)^{m-1} \exp\left[-\left(\frac{\bar{\sigma}_{facet}}{\bar{\sigma}_s}\right)^m\right]$$

$$\bar{\sigma}_{facet} = A_{facet}^{1/m} \sigma_s, \quad \bar{\sigma}_s = A_s^{1/m} \sigma_s$$



Test #1

Test #2



Test #3

Test #4

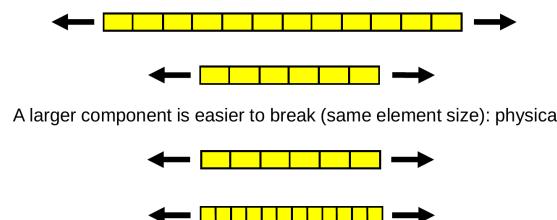


Test #5

Test #6

## Physical interpretation

### Weibull distribution of cohesive strengths



A larger component is easier to break (same element size): physical!

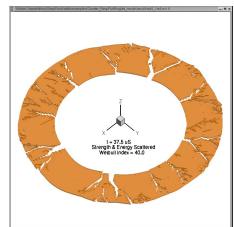
A finer mesh provides more possibilities for the component to break (same component size): numerical artifact!

Mesh-size dependency of the simulation results!  
→ Need area dependence in WLWD  
(removes ring fragmentation abnormalities)

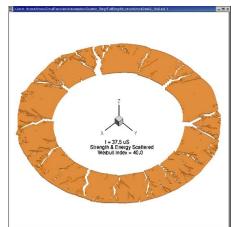
WLWD ≡ weakest link weibul distribution

### Monte Carlo simulations: Weibull distribution of cohesive strengths, m=2;

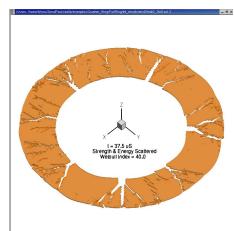
### Monte Carlo simulations: Weibull distribution of cohesive strengths, m=40



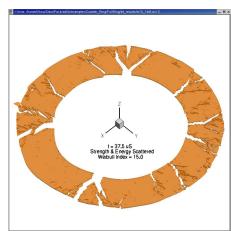
Test #1



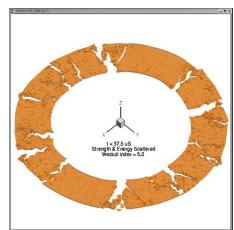
Test #2



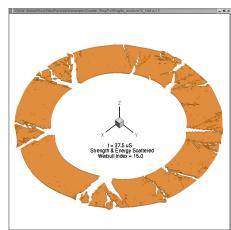
Test #3



Test #4



Test #5



Test #6

## Bibliography

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**X.-P. Xu, A. Needleman.** *Numerical Simulations of Fast Crack Growth in Brittle Solids.* Journal of the Mechanics and Physics of Solids. **42**(9),1397-1434. (1994) [10.1016/0022-5096\(94\)90003-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/0022-5096(94)90003-5)

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**F. Sansoz, J. Molinari.** *Mechanical Behavior of  $\Sigma$  Tilt Grain Boundaries in Nanoscale Cu and Al: A Quasicontinuum Study.* Acta Materialia. **53**(7),1931-1944. (2005) [10.1016/j.actamat.2005.01.007](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.actamat.2005.01.007)

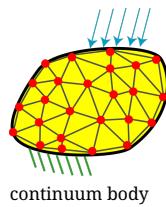
**F. Zhou, J.-F. Molinari, T. Shioya.** *A Rate-Dependent Cohesive Model for Simulating Dynamic Crack Propagation in Brittle Materials.* Engineering Fracture Mechanics. **72**(9),1383-1410. (2005) [10.1016/j.engfracmech.2004.10.011](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.engfracmech.2004.10.011)

**J.-H. Song, H. Wang, T. Belytschko.** *A Comparative Study on Finite Element Methods for Dynamic Fracture.* Computational Mechanics. **42**(2),239-250. (2008) [10.1007/s00466-007-0210-x](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00466-007-0210-x)

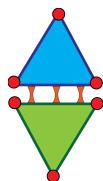
**M. van den Bosch, P. Schreurs, M. Geers.** *Identification and Characterization of Delamination in Polymer Coated Metal Sheet.* Journal of the Mechanics and Physics of Solids. **56**(11),3259-3276. (2008) [10.1016/j.jmps.2008.07.006](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmps.2008.07.006)

## Summary: showed examples using FEM in highly non-linear damage problems

- Reliable and efficient numerical framework:
  - Continuous response simulated with the FEM
  - Material heterogeneity and failure through cohesive approach
  - Requires significant computational power: parallel simulations and HPC?  
After break: dynamic fragmentation



Discretization of a continuum body



Cohesive methodology

**L. Snozzi.** *A meso-scale computational approach to dynamic failure in concrete.*  
EPFL (Lausanne), 2013.

**M. Pundir, G. Anciaux.** *Coupling between Cohesive Element Method and Node-to-Segment Contact Algorithm: Implementation and Application.* International Journal for Numerical Methods in Engineering. **122**(16), 4333-4353. (2021)  
[10.1002/nme.6705](https://doi.org/10.1002/nme.6705)

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(2021) [10.3151/jact.19.864](https://doi.org/10.3151/jact.19.864)