

Progressive Delamination in a Laminated Shell

Interfacial failure or delamination in a composite material can be simulated with a cohesive zone model (CZM). A key ingredient of a cohesive zone model is a traction-separation law that describes the softening in the cohesive zone near the delamination tip. This example shows the implementation of a CZM with a bilinear traction-separation law in a laminated composites using the Layered Shell interface. The capabilities of the CZM to predict mixed-mode softening and delamination propagation are demonstrated in the model.

The example illustrates the delamination initiation and propagation in a composite plate having two layers with an initial delaminated region at the interface. A compressive load is gradually applied and removed in a parametric study in order to predict the total interfacial damage in one load cycle.

Model Definition

The geometry of a composite plate is shown in Figure 1. The composite plate consists of two layers where each layer has a thickness of 1.5 mm with [0/45] stacking sequence.

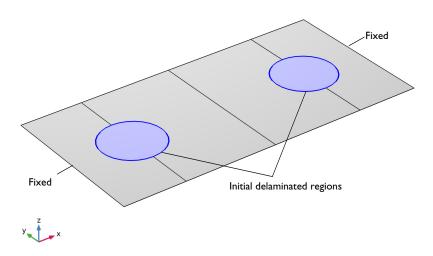


Figure 1: The geometry of a composite plate having two layers with an initial delaminated region at the interface.

The geometry consists of circular regions where the interface between the two layers is in delaminated or debonded state.

MATERIAL PROPERTIES

The material properties are those of AS4/PEEK unidirectional laminates. The transversely isotropic linear elastic properties assume that the longitudinal direction is aligned with the global X direction. The material properties of the laminate composite are listed in Table 1.

TABLE I: LAMINATED COMPOSITE MATERIAL PROPERTIES.

PROPERTY	SYMBOL	VALUE
Young's modulus, along fibers	E_X	122.7 GPa
Young's modulus, across fibers	$E_{Y}=E_{Z}$	10.1 GPa
Poisson's ratio	$v_{XY} = v_{XZ}$	0.25
Poisson's ratio	$ u_{YZ}$	0.45
Shear modulus	G_{XY} = G_{XZ}	5.5 GPa
Shear modulus	G_{YZ} =0.5 E_{Y} /(1+ v_{YZ})	3.48 GPa

COHESIVE ZONE MODEL (CZM)

The CZM used in this example is defined using the displacement based damage model available in the **Delamination** node. The model is used to predict crack propagation at the interface of a laminated composite under different loading. The material properties needed for this constitutive model are summarized in Table 2.

TABLE 2: SUMMARY OF MATERIAL PROPERTIES OF THE CZM INTERFACE. THE VALUES ARE FOR AS4/PEEK.

PROPERTY	SYMBOL	VALUE
Normal tensile strength	$\sigma_{ m t}$	80 MPa
Shear strength	$\sigma_{ m s}$	100 MPa
Penalty stiffness	$p_{ m n}$	10 ⁶ N/mm ³
Critical energy release rate, tension	$G_{ m Ic}$	969 J/m ²
Critical energy release rate, shear	$G_{ m IIc}$	1719 J/m ²
Exponent of Benzeggagh and Kenane (B-K) criterion	η	2.284

The CZM is defined using a bilinear traction-separation law. Traction increases linearly with a stiffness p_n until the opening crack reaches a damage initiation displacement u_0 . When the crack opens beyond u_0 , the material softens irreversibly and the stiffness decreases as a function of increasing damage d. The material fails once the stiffness has decreased to zero, that is, when d = 1. This happens at the ultimate displacement u_f .

The values of u_0 and u_f depend on whether the separation displacement is normal (mode I) or tangential (mode II and III) to an interface. For the mixed mode, a combination is used. For the displacement based damage model, two different criteria are available to define this combination. Here the model by Benzeggagh and Kenane is used.

BOUNDARY CONDITIONS

- Face load with a total maximum value of 28 kN is applied at the top surface of the composite plate in negative z-direction. The load is parametrically increased and then decreased to zero using a sinusoidal function.
- Fixed constraints are used on the exterior edges of the plate which are parallel to y-axis.

FINITE ELEMENT MESH

A rather fine mapped mesh is used in the geometry in order to accurately predict the initiation and propagation of delamination in the structure.

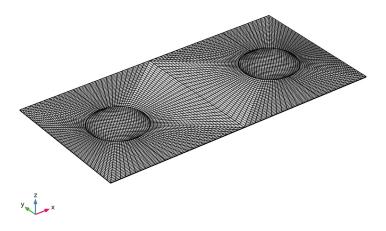


Figure 2: A mapped finite element mesh used to accurately model the delamination propagation in the composite plate.

In the thickness direction, each layer has only one mesh element in order to reduce the overall computation time.

The von Mises stress distribution in both layers of the composite plate when the applied load is having maximum value is shown in Figure 3. The corresponding von Mises stress distribution at the midplane of two layers is shown in Figure 4. In this figure, the bottom layer undergoes higher stresses than the top layer due to the bending effects and fiber orientation.

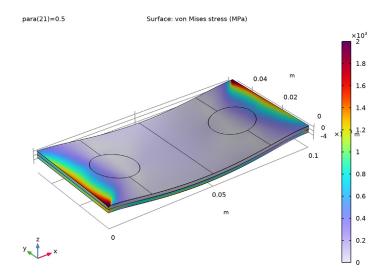


Figure 3: von Mises stress distribution in the composite plate for maximum applied force value.

The state of delaminated region when the applied load is having maximum value is shown in Figure 5, where debonded part is shown in red and bonded part is shown in green color. It can be seen the delamination starts near the comparatively weaker regions or high stress regions. The two such locations in the plate are the boundaries of initially delaminated region and the region near fixed edges.

The adhesive stress in the first tangent direction when the applied load is having maximum value is shown in Figure 6. Figure 7 illustrates the variation of applied load and total damage area as a function of parameter. It can be seen that the interfacial damage is irreversible and it stays permanently in the structure even if the load is removed. In the plot there are two damage area indices plotted; one is the overall damage area index and the other is the damage area index where the interface has broken by 90% or more.

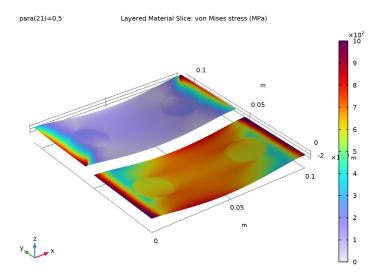


Figure 4: von Mises stress distribution at layer midplanes for maximum applied force value.

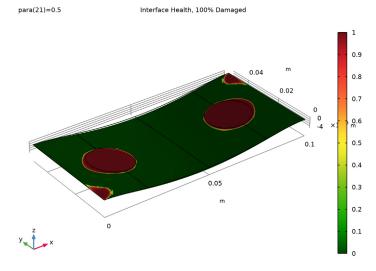


Figure 5: Plot showing the health of the laminate interface for maximum applied force value. The debonded part is shown in red, the intact part in green.

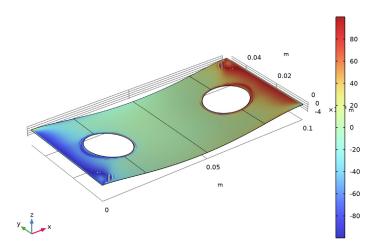


Figure 6: Adhesive stress in first tangent direction for maximum applied force value.

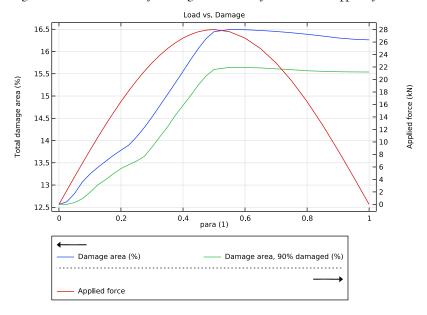


Figure 7: Load vs. damage curve. The overall damage area as well as area where 90% or more damage has occurred are shown.

Notes About the COMSOL Implementation

- To implement a cohesive zone model in Layered Shell interface, use the Delamination node which allows you to model adhesion, delamination and contact after delamination. There are two different ways to specify adhesive stiffness with default being taken from the interface material properties. Cohesive zone models are based on either displacement or energy in order to predict the interfacial separation. The contact after delamination is modeled by penalty contact method.
- The **Delamination** node can be used to model already delaminated region by setting initial state to delaminated. To model the portion of interface which is not delaminated set the initial state to bonded.
- The **Delamination** node is only applicable to the internal interfaces of composite laminates.
- Modeling a composite laminated shell requires a surface geometry (2D), in general called a base surface, and a Layered Material node which adds an extra dimension (1D) to the base surface geometry in the surface normal direction. You can use the Layered Material functionality to model several layers stacked on top of each other having different thicknesses, material properties, and fiber orientations. You can also optionally specify the interface materials between the layers and control mesh elements in each layer.

Application Library path: Composite_Materials_Module/Delamination/ progressive delamination in a laminated shell

Modeling Instructions

From the File menu, choose New.

NEW

In the New window, click Model Wizard.

MODEL WIZARD

- I In the Model Wizard window, click **3D**.
- 2 In the Select Physics tree, select Structural Mechanics>Layered Shell (Ishell).
- 3 Click Add.
- 4 Click 🔵 Study.

- 5 In the Select Study tree, select General Studies>Stationary.
- 6 Click **Done**.

GLOBAL DEFINITIONS

Parameters 1

- I In the Model Builder window, under Global Definitions click Parameters I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Parameters, locate the Parameters section.
- 3 Click Load from File.
- **4** Browse to the model's Application Libraries folder and double-click the file progressive_delamination_in_a_laminated_shell_parameters.txt.

AS4/PEEK

- I In the Model Builder window, under Global Definitions right-click Materials and choose Blank Material.
- 2 In the Settings window for Material, type AS4/PEEK in the Label text field. Add a Layered Material node and assign appropriate thickness and rotation angles to each ply.

Layered Material: [0/45]

- I Right-click Materials and choose Layered Material.
- 2 In the Settings window for Layered Material, type Layered Material: [0/45] in the Label text field.
- **3** Locate the **Layer Definition** section. In the table, enter the following settings:

Layer	Material	Rotation (deg)	Thickness	Mesh elements
Layer 1	AS4/PEEK (mat1)	0	hb	1

- 4 Click + Add.
- **5** In the table, enter the following settings:

Layer	Material	Rotation (deg)	Thickness	Mesh elements
Layer 2	AS4/PEEK (mat1)	45	hb	1

DEFINITIONS

Variables 1

I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl) right-click Definitions and choose Variables.

- 2 In the Settings window for Variables, locate the Variables section.
- **3** In the table, enter the following settings:

Name	Expression	Unit	Description
F	Fmax*sin(pi*para)	N	Applied force

The geometry is in an XY-plane in which the fibers are oriented with respect to the X direction. Hence set the first axis of the laminate coordinate system in the X direction. Also set the frame of **Boundary System** to reference configuration.

Boundary System I (sys I)

- I In the Model Builder window, click Boundary System I (sysI).
- 2 In the Settings window for Boundary System, locate the Settings section.
- 3 From the Frame list, choose Reference configuration.
- 4 Find the Coordinate names subsection. From the Axis list, choose x.

GEOMETRY I

Work Plane I (wbl)

In the Geometry toolbar, click Work Plane.

Work Plane I (wb I)>Plane Geometry

In the Model Builder window, click Plane Geometry.

Work Plane I (wbl)>Rectangle I (rl)

- I In the Work Plane toolbar, click Rectangle.
- 2 In the Settings window for Rectangle, locate the Size and Shape section.
- 3 In the Width text field, type 1b/2.
- 4 In the **Height** text field, type wb.
- 5 Click Pauld Selected.
- 6 Click the **Zoom Extents** button in the **Graphics** toolbar.

Work Plane I (wpl)>Circle I (cl)

- I In the Work Plane toolbar, click Circle.
- 2 In the Settings window for Circle, locate the Size and Shape section.
- 3 In the Radius text field, type 1b/10.
- 4 Locate the **Position** section. In the xw text field, type 1b/5.
- 5 In the yw text field, type wb/2.

Work Plane I (wp I)>Rectangle 2 (r2)

- I In the Work Plane toolbar, click Rectangle.
- 2 In the Settings window for Rectangle, locate the Size and Shape section.
- 3 In the Width text field, type 1b/5.
- 4 In the Height text field, type wb.
- 5 Click Pauld Selected.

Work Plane I (wbl)>Mirror I (mirl)

- I In the Work Plane toolbar, click Transforms and choose Mirror.
- 2 Click in the **Graphics** window and then press Ctrl+A to select all objects.
- 3 In the Settings window for Mirror, locate the Input section.
- 4 Select the **Keep input objects** check box.
- 5 Locate the Point on Line of Reflection section. In the xw text field, type 1b/2.
- 6 Click Pauld Selected.

Form Union (fin)

In the **Home** toolbar, click **Build** All.

Ignore Edges I (ige I)

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click Geometry I and choose Virtual Operations> Ignore Edges.
- 2 On the object fin, select Edges 8 and 20 only.
- 3 In the Geometry toolbar, click **Build All**.

LAYERED SHELL (LSHELL)

Linear Elastic Material I

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl)>Layered Shell (Ishell) click Linear Elastic Material I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Linear Elastic Material, locate the Linear Elastic Material section.
- 3 Select the Transversely isotropic check box.

MATERIALS

Layered Material Link I (Ilmat I)

In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl) right-click Materials and choose Layers>Layered Material Link.

GLOBAL DEFINITIONS

AS4/PEEK (mat1)

- I In the Settings window for Material, locate the Material Contents section.
- **2** In the table, enter the following settings:

Property	Variable	Value	Unit	Property group
Young's modulus	{Evect1, Evect2}	{122.7e 9, 10.1e9}	Pa	Transversely isotropic
Poisson's ratio	{nuvect1, nuvect2}	{0.25, 0.45}	I	Transversely isotropic
Shear modulus	GvectI	5.5e9	N/m²	Transversely isotropic
Density	rho	1570	kg/m³	Basic

LAYERED SHELL (LSHELL)

For the portion of interface which is initially delaminated, the initial state in **Delamination** node can be set to **Delaminated**.

Delamination I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose **Delamination**.
- 2 Select Boundaries 2 and 5 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Delamination, locate the Initial State section.
- 4 From the list, choose **Delaminated**.
- **5** Locate the **Contact** section. In the p_n text field, type pn.

Delamination 2

For the portion of interface which is not yet delaminated, the initial state in **Delamination** node can be set to Bonded. To model contact between delaminated interfaces, the penalty factor is taken same as adhesive stiffness.

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose **Delamination**.
- **2** Select Boundaries 1, 3, 4, and 6 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Delamination, locate the Adhesion section.
- 4 From the Adhesive stiffness list, choose User defined.

5 Specify the \mathbf{k}_{A} vector as

pn	tl
pn	t2
pn	n

- **6** Locate the **Delamination** section. In the σ_t text field, type N_strength.
- 7 In the σ_s text field, type S_strength.
- **8** In the $G_{\rm ct}$ text field, type GIc.
- **9** In the G_{cs} text field, type GIIc.
- 10 From the Mixed mode criterion list, choose Benzeggagh-Kenane.
- II In the α text field, type eta.
- 12 Locate the Contact section. From the Penalty factor list, choose From adhesive stiffness.

Fixed Constraint I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Edges** and choose **Fixed Constraint**.
- **2** Select Edges 1 and 23 only.

Face Load 1

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose **Face Load**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Face Load, locate the Boundary Selection section.
- 3 From the Selection list, choose All boundaries.
- 4 Locate the Interface Selection section. From the Apply to list, choose Top interface.
- 5 Locate the Force section. From the Load type list, choose Total force.
- **6** Specify the \mathbf{F}_{tot} vector as

0	x
0	у
-F	z

MESH I

Mapped I

- I In the Mesh toolbar, click \times More Generators and choose Mapped.
- 2 In the Settings window for Mapped, locate the Boundary Selection section.
- 3 From the Selection list, choose All boundaries.

Distribution I

- I Right-click Mapped I and choose Distribution.
- **2** Select Edges 4–6, 8–10, 15–17, and 19–21 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Distribution, locate the Distribution section.
- 4 In the Number of elements text field, type 25.
- 5 In the Model Builder window, right-click Mesh I and choose Build All.

STUDY I

Step 1: Stationary

- I In the Model Builder window, under Study I click Step I: Stationary.
- 2 In the Settings window for Stationary, locate the Study Settings section.
- 3 Select the Include geometric nonlinearity check box.
- 4 Click to expand the **Study Extensions** section. Select the **Auxiliary sweep** check box.
- 5 Click + Add.
- **6** In the table, enter the following settings:

Parameter name	Parameter value list	Parameter unit
para (Load parameter)	range(0,0.025,0.5) range(0.55,0.05,1)	

Solution I (soll)

- I In the Study toolbar, click Show Default Solver.
- 2 In the Model Builder window, expand the Solution I (soll) node.
 - Switch to an undamped Newton method.
- 3 In the Model Builder window, expand the Study I>Solver Configurations> Solution I (soll)>Stationary Solver I node, then click Fully Coupled I.
- 4 In the Settings window for Fully Coupled, click to expand the Method and Termination section.
- 5 From the Nonlinear method list, choose Constant (Newton).
- 6 In the Study toolbar, click **Compute**.

RESULTS

Stress (Ishell)

- I In the Settings window for 3D Plot Group, locate the Data section.
- 2 From the Parameter value (para) list, choose 0.5.

Surface I

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Stress (Ishell) node, then click Surface I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Surface, locate the Expression section.
- 3 From the Unit list, choose MPa.
- 4 Click to expand the Range section. Select the Manual color range check box.
- **5** In the **Minimum** text field, type **0**.
- 6 In the Maximum text field, type 2e3.

Stress (Ishell)

In the Model Builder window, collapse the Results>Stress (Ishell) node.

ROOT

In the Model Builder window, right-click the root node and choose Plot.

ADD PREDEFINED PLOT

- In the Home toolbar, click Add Predefined Plot to open the Add Predefined Plot window.
- 2 Go to the Add Predefined Plot window.
- 3 In the tree, select Study I/Solution I (soll)>Layered Shell>Stress, Slice (Ishell).
- 4 Click Add Plot in the window toolbar.
- 5 In the Home toolbar, click Add Predefined Plot to close the Add Predefined Plot window.

RESULTS

Stress, Slice (Ishell)

- I In the Settings window for 3D Plot Group, locate the Data section.
- 2 From the Parameter value (para) list, choose 0.5.
- 3 Locate the Plot Settings section. Clear the Plot dataset edges check box.

Layered Material Slice I

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Stress, Slice (Ishell) node, then click Layered Material Slice I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Layered Material Slice, locate the Through-Thickness Location section.
- 3 From the Location definition list, choose Layer midplanes.
- 4 Locate the Layout section. From the Displacement list, choose Linear.

- **5** From the **Orientation** list, choose **y**.
- 6 Locate the Expression section. From the Unit list, choose MPa.
- 7 Click to expand the Range section. Select the Manual color range check box.
- **8** In the **Minimum** text field, type 0.
- 9 In the Maximum text field, type 1e3.

Interface Health, 100% Damaged

- I In the Home toolbar, click **Add Plot Group** and choose **3D Plot Group**.
- 2 In the Settings window for 3D Plot Group, type Interface Health, 100% Damaged in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Data section. From the Parameter value (para) list, choose 0.5.
- 4 Locate the Plot Settings section. From the Frame list, choose Spatial (x, y, z).
- 5 Click to expand the Title section. From the Title type list, choose Label.

Layered Material Slice 1

- I In the Interface Health, 100% Damaged toolbar, click More Plots and choose Layered Material Slice.
- 2 In the Settings window for Layered Material Slice, locate the Expression section.
- **3** In the **Expression** text field, type lshell.idmg.
- 4 Locate the Through-Thickness Location section. From the Location definition list, choose Interfaces.
- 5 Locate the Coloring and Style section. Click | Change Color Table.
- **6** In the **Color Table** dialog box, select **Traffic>Traffic** in the tree.
- 7 Click OK.

Deformation I

- I Right-click Layered Material Slice I and choose Deformation.
- 2 In the Settings window for Deformation, locate the Scale section.
- 3 Select the Scale factor check box. In the associated text field, type 1.

Interface Health, 100% Damaged

In the Model Builder window, collapse the Results>Interface Health, 100% Damaged node.

ROOT

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click the root node and choose Plot.
- 2 Click the **Zoom Extents** button in the **Graphics** toolbar.

RESULTS

In the Model Builder window, under Results right-click Interface Health, 100% Damaged and choose Duplicate.

Interface Health, 90% Damaged

- I In the Model Builder window, under Results click Interface Health, 100% Damaged I.
- 2 In the Settings window for 3D Plot Group, type Interface Health, 90% Damaged in the Label text field.

Layered Material Slice 1

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Interface Health, 90% Damaged node, then click Layered Material Slice I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Layered Material Slice, locate the Expression section.
- 3 In the Expression text field, type lshell.idmg>=0.9.

Interface Health, 90% Damaged

- I In the Model Builder window, collapse the Results>Interface Health, 90% Damaged node.
- 2 In the Model Builder window, click Interface Health, 90% Damaged.
- 3 In the Interface Health, 90% Damaged toolbar, click Plot.

Adhesive Stress, t1 Direction

- I In the Home toolbar, click **Add Plot Group** and choose **3D Plot Group**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **3D Plot Group**, type Adhesive Stress, t1 Direction in the **Label** text field.
- 3 Locate the Data section. From the Parameter value (para) list, choose 0.5.
- 4 Locate the Plot Settings section. From the Frame list, choose Spatial (x, y, z).

Layered Material Slice 1

- I In the Adhesive Stress, t1 Direction toolbar, click More Plots and choose Layered Material Slice.
- 2 In the Settings window for Layered Material Slice, click Replace Expression in the upper-right corner of the Expression section. From the menu, choose Component I (compl)> Layered Shell>Delamination>Adhesive stress (spatial frame) N/m²>Ishell.fst1 Adhesive stress, t1-component.
- 3 Locate the Expression section. From the Unit list, choose MPa.
- 4 Locate the Through-Thickness Location section. From the Location definition list, choose Interfaces.
- 5 Locate the Coloring and Style section. Click Change Color Table.

- 6 In the Color Table dialog box, select Rainbow>RainbowLight in the tree.
- 7 Click OK.
- 8 In the Settings window for Layered Material Slice, locate the Coloring and Style section.
- 9 From the Scale list, choose Linear symmetric.

Deformation I

- I Right-click Layered Material Slice I and choose Deformation.
- 2 In the Settings window for Deformation, locate the Scale section.
- 3 Select the Scale factor check box. In the associated text field, type 1.

Adhesive Stress, t1 Direction

- I In the Model Builder window, collapse the Results>Adhesive Stress, t1 Direction node.
- 2 In the Model Builder window, click Adhesive Stress, t1 Direction.

Layered Material (Interfaces)

- I In the Results toolbar, click More Datasets and choose Layered Material.
- 2 In the Settings window for Layered Material, type Layered Material (Interfaces) in the **Label** text field.
- 3 Locate the Layers section. From the Evaluate in list, choose Interfaces.
- 4 In the Model Builder window, collapse the Results>Datasets node.

Surface Integration 1

- I In the Results toolbar, click 8.85 More Derived Values and choose Integration> Surface Integration.
- 2 In the Settings window for Surface Integration, locate the Data section.
- 3 From the Dataset list, choose Layered Material (Interfaces).
- 4 Locate the Selection section. From the Selection list, choose All boundaries.
- **5** Locate the **Expressions** section. In the table, enter the following settings:

Expression	Unit	Description
lshell.idmg/(lb*wb)	%	Damage area
(lshell.idmg>=0.9)/(lb*wb)	%	Damage area, 90% damaged

6 Click **= Evaluate**.

Load vs. Damage

I In the Results toolbar, click \sim ID Plot Group.

- 2 In the Settings window for ID Plot Group, type Load vs. Damage in the Label text field.
- 3 Click to expand the Title section. From the Title type list, choose Label.
- **4** Locate the **Plot Settings** section.
- **5** Select the **x-axis label** check box. In the associated text field, type para (1).
- 6 Select the y-axis label check box. In the associated text field, type Total damage area (%).
- 7 Select the Two y-axes check box.
- 8 Click to collapse the Axis section. Locate the Legend section. From the Layout list, choose Outside graph axis area.
- **9** From the **Position** list, choose **Bottom**.

Table Graph 1

- I Right-click Load vs. Damage and choose Table Graph.
- 2 In the Settings window for Table Graph, click to expand the Legends section.
- 3 Select the Show legends check box.

Global I

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click Load vs. Damage and choose Global.
- 2 In the Settings window for Global, locate the Data section.
- 3 From the Dataset list, choose Study I/Solution I (soll).
- 4 Locate the y-Axis section. Select the Plot on secondary y-axis check box.
- **5** Locate the **y-Axis Data** section. In the table, enter the following settings:

Expression	Unit	Description
F	kN	Applied force

Load vs. Damage

- I In the Model Builder window, collapse the Results>Load vs. Damage node.
- 2 In the Model Builder window, click Load vs. Damage.
- 3 In the Load vs. Damage toolbar, click o Plot.

Animation: Stress

- I In the Results toolbar, click Animation and choose Player.
- 2 In the Settings window for Animation, type Animation: Stress in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Frames section. From the Frame selection list, choose All.
- 4 Locate the Playing section. In the Display each frame for text field, type 0.3.

5 Right-click **Animation: Stress** and choose **Duplicate**.

Animation: Interface Health

- I In the Model Builder window, under Results>Export click Animation: Stress I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Animation, type Animation: Interface Health in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Scene section. From the Subject list, choose Interface Health, 100% Damaged.
- 4 Right-click Animation: Interface Health and choose Duplicate.

Animation: Adhesive Stress

- I In the Model Builder window, under Results>Export click Animation: Interface Health I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Animation, type Animation: Adhesive Stress in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Scene section. From the Subject list, choose Adhesive Stress, t1 Direction.