

Response to the reviewers

We thank the reviewers for their critical assessment of our work. In the following we address their concerns point by point.

Please note that reviewers' comments are in italics while our answers are using normal fonts.

Reviewer 1

The authors thank the reviewer for the valuable comments and suggestions; and we agree almost 100% with that.

General comments

I have to reject the paper in its present form. I suggest you to submit a rigorously revised manuscript taking these critics into account.

Issues

Reviewer Point 1.1 — *[Point heading]It was difficult to identify the new aspects of your manuscript compared to: - former submission to EFM: EFM-D-21-00395 - your publication in Theor. Appl. Fracture Mechanics 2020 (your reference [14]).*

Reply: Earlier we have submitted our manuscript to EFM: EFM-D-21-00395, considering the reviewer's suggestion we have modified the manuscript and also changed the title of manuscript as suggested by the reviewer and resubmitted to the same journal EFM.

Publication in Theor. Appl. Fracture Mechanics 2020 (your reference [14]) is based on the auto stepping algorithm for efficient analysis of brittle fracture problems using phase field approach. Though both of these manuscripts main aim is to give a computationally efficient phase-field method to solve brittle fracture problems. The novelty in both the papers are very different in its own way.

Reference [14] main aim is to auto adaptively adjust the displacement step size while solving the coupled system of non- linear equations arising from the phase field formulation of brittle fracture.

Whereas in the case of the present manuscript the main aim is to propose a new error-indicator based on the crack driving force to carry out adaptive mesh refinement of the domain for phase-field simulation of brittle fracture.

Reviewer Point 1.2 — *[Point heading]Moreover, the plagiarism check found 16% overlap with this paper (your reference [14]), mainly in the introduction and in fundamental chapters.*

Reply: I am aware of the fact that the plagiarism check found 16 % overlap with my reference [14]. As both the papers aim is to propose a computationally efficient phase-field fracture method and the authors of both the paper are same, so I believe it is permissible. I can definately assure that both the manuscript have their own novelty.

Minor Issues

Reviewer Point 1.3 — *[Point heading] Please include a nomenclature in alphabetic order*

Reply: We have included nomenclature to the manuscript.

Reviewer Point 1.4 — *[Point heading] Each HIGHLIGHT must not be longer than 85 characters – Please shorten them.*

Reply: We have modified the highlights.

Reviewer Point 1.5 — *[Point heading] Number of references should be shortened to essential ones.*

Reply: This point is also noted.