

# Length of the cohesive zone in delaminated composite materials

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# Outline

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Introduction

Length of Cohesive Zone

- Isotropic materials
- Orthotropic materials
- Finite sized geometries

Simulation using cohesive elements

• Mode I, Mode II and Mixed Mode

Delamination simulation using coarse meshes

Conclusions







## Introduction



#### Difficult to detect

Causes of delamination:

- Low velocity impacts
- Manufacturing defects
- In service loads

#### Consequences:

- Loss of stiffness
- Loss of Compression strength
- Structural Collapse
- Water intake

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Delamination has been often referred to as " the most feared failure mode to attack a structural composite" (Pagano and Schoeppner, 2000)"

11<sup>th</sup> Japanese-European Symposium on Composite Materials Porto. September 9-11, 2008







# Virtual testing









FE using CZM approach

- $\square$  Fracture properties  $\rightarrow$  Cohesive surface
- $\square$  Properties of the bulk material  $\rightarrow$  Continuum regions



Necessary conditions for accurate simulations:

- Global compliance is unaffected by the interface.
- Mesh size smaller than the cohesive zone length (3-4 elements).

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Mesh size and Cohesive Zone length

If the mesh size is larger than the cohesive zone:

- The softening region ahead of the crack tip is not captured.
- Fracture Energy is not represented accurately.
- Not converged results.

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# Simulation of delamination under fatigue loading & cohesive zone length



# Simulation of delamination under fatigue loading & cohesive zone length

Degradation of the interface due to fatigue loading





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# Motivation of the work

It is important to predict the length of the cohesive zone to simulate delamination under static and fatigue loading and get accurate results.





Length of cohesive zone: Isotropic materials

Different approaches to determine the length of the cohesive zone:

Irwin's approach:

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Length of cohesive zone: Isotropic materials

Different approaches to determine the length of the cohesive zone:

Irwin's approach:

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Length of cohesive zone: Isotropic materials

Other approaches to determine the length of the cohesive zone:

Dugdale's approach: By linear superposition of the crack tip stress intensity factors produced by the external loads and by the internal cohesive tractions

$$f_{cz}^{\infty} = \frac{\pi}{8} \frac{K_{Ic}^2}{(\tau^o)^2}$$

Cox and Marshall: stress intensity factor at the crack tip equal to the critical value and COD at the beginning of the cohesive zone equal to the critical value.

$$l_{cz}^{\infty} = \frac{\pi}{4} \frac{K_{Ic}^2}{\left(\tau^o\right)^2}$$

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$l_{cz}^{\infty} = M \frac{K_{Ic}^2}{(\tau^o)^2}$
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Hillerborg characteristic length of the material

$$G_I = \frac{K_I^2}{E'}$$

$$l_{cz}^{\infty} = M \frac{E'G_{Ic}}{\left(\tau^{o}\right)^{2}}$$

	М
Hui et al. [12]	$\frac{2}{3\pi} = 0.21$
Irwin [13]	$\frac{1}{\pi} = 0.31$
Bažant et al. [2]	$\frac{n+1}{\pi}$
Dugdale [7], Barenblatt [1]	$\frac{\pi}{8} = 0.39$
Cox and Marhall [5]	$\frac{\pi}{4} = 0.785$
Rice [16], Falk et al. [8]	$\frac{9\pi}{32} = 0.88$

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#### Isotropic materials

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#### Orthotropic materials

$$G_I = \frac{K_I^2}{E'}$$

$$G_{I} = K_{I}^{2} \left(\frac{a_{11}a_{22}}{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left[ \left(\frac{a_{22}}{a_{11}}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} + \frac{2a_{12} + a_{66}}{2a_{11}} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}}$$
$$G_{II} = K_{II}^{2} \frac{a_{11}}{\sqrt{2}} \left[ \left(\frac{a_{22}}{a_{11}}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} + \frac{2a_{12} + a_{66}}{2a_{11}} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}}$$







# Length of cohesive zone: Orthotropic materials

#### Isotropic materials

#### Orthotropic materials

$$l_{Icz}^{\infty} = M_I \frac{E_I' G_{Ic}}{\left(\tau_3^o\right)}$$

$$l_{IIcz}^{\infty} = M_{II} \frac{E_{II}' G_{IIc}}{(\tau_{shear}^{o})}$$

$$E_{I}^{\prime} = \left(\frac{a_{1}}{2} - \frac{B_{cz}}{2} - \frac{B_{m}}{(\tau^{o})^{2}} - \frac{a_{12} + a_{66}}{2a_{11}}\right]^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$E_{II}^{\prime} = \left(E_{m}^{\prime} = E_{I}^{\prime} - \frac{1}{2} + E_{II}B^{-\frac{1}{2}}\right)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$





$$l_{cz}^{\infty} = M \frac{E'G_{Ic}}{(\tau^o)^2}$$



Crack propagates for lower values than Fracture Toughness



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# Cohesive elements. Static formulation.

Free Energy 
$$\psi(\Delta, d) = (1 - d) \psi^0(\Delta_i) - d\psi^0(\delta_{3i} \langle -\Delta_3 \rangle)$$
  
Constitutive equation  $\tau_i = \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \Delta_i} = (1 - d) \delta_{ij} K \Delta_j - d\delta_{ij} K \delta_{3j} \langle -\Delta_3 \rangle$   
Displacement jump norm  $\lambda = \sqrt{\langle \Delta_3 \rangle^2 + (\Delta_{shear})^2}$   
Damage criterion  $\bar{F}(\lambda^t, r^t) := G(\lambda^t) - G(r^t) \le 0$   $\forall t \ge 0$   
 $G(\lambda) = \frac{\Delta^I(\lambda - \Delta^o)}{\lambda(\Delta^I - \Delta^o)}$   
Evolution law  $\dot{d} = \dot{\mu} \frac{\partial \bar{F}(\lambda, r)}{\partial \lambda} = \dot{\mu} \frac{\partial G(\lambda)}{\partial \lambda}$   
Load/unload conditions  $\dot{\mu} \ge 0$ ;  $\bar{F}(\lambda^t, r^t) \le 0$ ;  $\dot{\mu} \bar{F}(\lambda^t, r^t) = 0$   
 $r^t = \max{\{\Delta^o, \max_a \lambda^s\}}$   $0 \le s \le t$ 

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Implemented as a User element in ABAQUS

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$M_I$	$M_{50\%}$	$M_{80\%}$	$M_{II}$
0.66	0.51	0.66	1.03



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Delamination simulation using coarse meshes

#### Mixed-mode loading (50%)

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Delamination simulation using coarse meshes

What can we do to improve the solution?

$$l_{cz}(h) = \frac{h}{(h+h_0)} M E_m \frac{G_c}{(\tau^o)^2} \qquad \begin{array}{c} G_c \uparrow \Rightarrow l_{cz} \uparrow \\ \tau^o \uparrow \Rightarrow l_{cz} \downarrow \downarrow \end{array}$$

Engineering solution:

Reduce the interfacial strength in order to assure a minimum number of elements,  $N_e$ , in the cohesive zone:

$$N_e = \frac{l_{cz}}{l_e} \qquad f_r = \frac{\sqrt{\frac{Mh}{h+h_0} \frac{E_m G_C}{N_e l_e}}}{\tau^o} \qquad \qquad \tau_3^o = \min\left(\tau_3^o, f_r \tau_3^o\right)$$
$$\tau_{shear}^o = \min\left(\tau_{shear}^o, f_r \tau_{shear}^o\right)$$

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#### **IT IT INVOVATION SUPPORT CIDEM Delamination simulation using coarse meshes**

Mixed-mode loading (50%)





# Conclusions

Length of Cohesive Zone depends on the material properties, the geometry/size of the structure, and on the loading mode.

New expressions for finites-sized specimens have been presented.

Expressions proposed have been used to simulate delamination under mixed-mode loading conditions using coarse meshes.

Ongoing work: The implementation of the presented expressions within the fatigue model.

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### Length of cohesive zone: Orthotropic materials

#### Mixed-Mode loading



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		22 ▼11	Can Fabes	Spain	

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Specimen arm height, h (mm)

$$l_{Icz}(h) = \left(\frac{G_{Ic}E'}{(\tau_3^o)^2}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}} h^{\frac{3}{4}}$$

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 $G_{IIc}E$  $l_{Hcz}(h)$ h

1.07

0.94

0.81

0.67

0.54

0.40

0.27

0.13

0.00

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Ratio to Hillerborg constant,  $M_{\rm II}$ 

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