



Translaminar Fracture Analysis in Hybrid Fibre-Reinforced Composites through 4D in-situ Synchrotron Tomography

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Translaminar Fracture: Why Do We Care?



Goal & Objectives

Goal:

To better understand translaminar fracture crack propagation at the microscale.

Objectives:

- To design a new mini compact tension specimen that:
 - Is geometrically suitable for 4D synchrotron radiation computed tomography,
 - Can yield stable crack propagation.

3D View: Swiss Light Source SLS



Compact Tension Experiments: Specimen Design



Compact Tension Experiments: F–δ Results



Voxel size **800** *nm* **GigaFRoST** camera as the detector polychromatic beam (energy = 24 keV)

3D & 2D Slices





[90₂/0/90₂/0/90₂/0/90₂]

250 μm

Scans reconstruction using SLS in-house absorption-based algorithm (Gridrec) F. Marone et al. 2012

Complex Fracture Morphology



3D & 2D Slices





 $200 \ \mu m$

3D & 2D Slices





3D & 2D Slices: Various Load Levels



Displacement [mm]

Fibre Breaks Ahead of the Crack Tip











First 90° Ply Block

Second 90° Ply Block

Third 90° Ply Block



First 0° Ply Block

Second 0° Ply Block







Significant bundle pull-out

Also noted in a high-strain baseline specimen





The difference between the crack fronts at 0° and 90° is 595±96 μm



R-Curves: Fracture Toughness Values



FE Model: Defining Fracture Behaviour



FE Model: Defining Fracture Behaviour



Conclusions

Results:

- The mini-protruded design, with a pre-crack half its length, results in stable crack propagation,
- 2D slices reveal advancing crack fronts in the 90° plies and lagging fronts in the 0° plies on fracture surface,
- FEM can capture this!
- Interlayer & intrayarn hybrids have a higher translaminar fracture toughness than either of their two baseline configurations.

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