

Rate and temperature dependent viscoelastic cohesive zone model for delamination of composites

Ammasai Sengodan Ganapathi, Giuliano Allegri and Stephen R. Hallett

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Introduction

- Bilinear Cohesive Zone Models capture the interlaminar failure of composites well
- However, they are inadequate for loading rate and temperature-dependent fracture
- Traditionally, empirical expressions are used to include the strain rate effects¹ as

$$T_N(\dot{\varepsilon}_N) = T_{refN} + T_{0N} \ln\left(\frac{\dot{\varepsilon}_N}{\dot{\varepsilon}_{ref}}\right)$$
$$G_{cN}(\dot{\varepsilon}_N) = G_{refN} - G_{0N} \ln\left(\frac{\dot{\varepsilon}_N}{\dot{\varepsilon}_{ref}}\right)$$



Fig: Typical Mode-I energy release rate for increasing wedge (opening) velocity of IM7/8552²

Stiffness of the interfaces assumed as rate-independent

- 1. M. Lißner a, et al., Experimental characterisation and numerical modelling of the influence of bond-line thickness, loading rate, and deformation mode on the response of ductile adhesive interfaces, Journal of the Mechanics and Physics of Solids, 2019.
- 2. Andrew Schlueter, An Experimental Study of Rate Effects on Mode I Delamination of Z-pinned Composite, PhD Thesis, Purdue University, 2012.







Loading rate and temperature dependent traction

A physically-based model that includes

- Strain rate effects at the interfaces due to QS/dynamic loading
- Viscoelastic behaviour of interfaces at extreme temperatures
- Viscoelastic behaviour due to thermoplastic toughening and extreme temperature and moisture
- The loading part of the traction-separation curve is modelled by the

Generalized Maxwell model

$$\sigma(T,t) = \int_0^t E_0 \dot{\delta}(s) ds + \sum_{i=1}^N \int_0^t E_i \exp\left(-\frac{t-s}{\tau_i}\right) \dot{\delta}(s) ds$$

Using FDM forward scheme, we get

$$\sigma^{n+1} = \sigma_0^{n+1} + \sum_{i=1}^{N} \exp\left(-\frac{\Delta t}{\tau_i}\right) \sigma_i^n + \frac{E_i \tau_i}{E_0 \Delta t} \left(1 - \exp\left(-\frac{\Delta t}{\tau_i}\right)\right) \left[\sigma_{i0}^{n+1} - \sigma_{0i}^n\right]$$

Traction-Separation curve

 σ









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Loading rate and temperature dependent softening

From sub-microcrack formation theory, damage of a material can be represented as

 $D(T,t) = \frac{N(T,t)}{N_r}; \text{ where } \begin{array}{l} D(T,t) = 0 \rightarrow no \ damage \\ D(T,t) = 1 \rightarrow macrocrack \end{array}$

 N_r -sub-microcrack concentration at rupture Assuming a form for rate of damage

$$\frac{dD(T,t)}{dt} = \left(1 - D(T,t)\right)^p A(T,t)$$

where the damage rate constant A is represented by the **Zhurkov's kinetic theory*** as

$$A(T,t) = \frac{1}{t_0} \exp((-U + \gamma \sigma(t))/(RT))$$
$$\frac{dD(T,t)}{dt} = \left(1 - D(T,t)\right)^p \frac{1}{t_0} \exp((-U + \gamma \sigma(T,t))/(RT))$$

Using FDM forward scheme

$$D^{n+1} = D^n + \Delta t (1 - D^n)^p \frac{1}{t_0} \exp((-U + \gamma \sigma^n)/(RT))$$

Finally, the traction is updates as

$$\sigma(T,t) = (1 - D(T,t))^* \sigma(T,t)$$

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*Paul W. Harper, Stephen R. Hallett, Cohesive zone length in numerical simulations of composite delamination, Engineering Fracture Mechanics, 2008



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Proposed model capability – Mode I - DCB

Effect of loading rate

- Critical energy kept constant
- Peak traction increases with loading rate



Effect of Temperature

- Critical energy assumed to be constant
- Peak traction decreases as temp. increases



Fibre bridging effects

Effective damage rate constant

$$A(t,T)_{eff} = \frac{A(t,T)_M}{1 + \exp[C(D(T,t) - DC)]}$$

DC is Damage index at fibre bridging initiation







Model validation against Bilinear CZM – Mode II End Notch Flexure

Material - HTA6376/C *

Loading rate = 1 mm/S

U= 124000 J/mol and σ_0 = 230 MPa

 $E_1 = 100000 \text{ N/mm^3} \text{ and } E_2 = 1000 \text{ N/mm^3}$

 τ = 6 S and p=-2.9









Mixed-mode viscoelastic CZM model Mixed-mode traction

 $\sigma_m(T,t) = (1 - D_m(T,t))^* \sigma_m(T,t)$

Updated damage function

$$\frac{dD_i(T,t)}{dt} = \left(1 - D_m(T,t)\right)^{p_i} A(T,t); \ i = I, II$$

Updated traction function

$$\sigma_i(T,t) = (1 - D_i(T,t))^* \sigma_i(T,t)$$

Energy based mixed-mode damage

$$G_{mi} = G_{mC} - \int_{0}^{\delta} \sigma_{mi} d\delta$$

$$G_{mi} = G_{mC} - \left(\int_{0}^{\delta_{mi}} (1 - D_m) k \delta d\delta + \int_{\delta_{mi}}^{\delta} (1 - D_m) k \delta d\delta\right)$$

$$D_m = 1 - \left(1 - \frac{G_{mi}}{G_{mC}}\right) \left(\frac{\delta_{m0}}{\delta_m}\right)$$

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Mixed-mode viscoelastic CZM model













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Validation - a carbon/epoxy material – DCB-Mode-I Effect of Temperature

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Summary

- A viscoelastic Cohesive Zone Model (CZM) with loading rate and temperature dependent traction-separation is developed and implemented as a VUMAT subroutine
- The proposed model is compared against the bilinear CZM for mode-I and mode-II delamination cases
- An energy-based mixed-mode CZM framework is proposed and compared against bilinear CZM for a fixed ratio mode-mixity
- The VECZM model is validated for a carbon/epoxy laminate under mode-I delamination at different loading rates and temperatures
- The rate and temperature dependent simulation results are in good agreement with the experimental results







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Email.gana.ammasaisengodan@bristol.ac.uk

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