

A phase-field and interface damage model for mixed-mode fracture in materials with inclusions

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The presented approach provides a tool for analysing fracture in materials and along material interfaces of general multi-domain structures under quasi-static conditions. It is intended for materials appearing in engineering structures made of multiple components: including grains or fibres which may be spaced inside the matrix material. Description of the fracture processes are based on considering internal parameters in sense of damage.

Two independent parameters are introduced to make a difference between interface and material cracks. The state of interface faults is defined considering it as a thin adhesive layer and pertinent internal variable renders relation between stress and strain quantities in the form known in cohesive zone models. Such treatment results from problems of delamination [1] or adhesive contact [2] which introduced requested internal variable for interface damage. The other parameter is defined in bulk domains and controls the degradation state in a sense of phase-field fracture guaranteeing the damaged zones in form of smeared cracks. Though originally considered as a regularisation of variational Griffith-like models of fracture [3], the phase-field approach developed to a powerful computational tool, which may modify damaging behaviour by adjusting material degradation, fault initiation [4], or even be combined with flaws related to material interfaces [5]. Another important feature of modelling both interface and phase-field rupture is the capability of making difference between fracture modes which is useful when the structure is exposed to combined loading causing both tensional and shear effects. It is usually related to additional dissipation in other than opening fracture modes. The crack mode sensitivity was in this sense described by the model in [1] and an appropriate phase field model can be found in [6]. The present contribution intends to integrate both concepts as it was sketched by the author in [7].

The computational techniques used in the approach

utilise possibility of defining the solved problem variationally which allows implementation of (sequential) quadratic programming methods into a finite element discretisation and appropriate time stepping methods. The MATLAB simulations with an in-house computer code validate developed formulation for analysis of fracture problems in multi-domain elements of structures.

References

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