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Crack Surface Interference

► [Crack Closure](#)

Crack Surfaces Contact

► [Crack Closure](#)

Cracks in Transversely Isotropic and Inhomogeneous Elastic Solids

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Synonyms

[Crack](#)

Overview

Fracture mechanics is essential to the mechanical safety of structures, in which cracks and the corresponding stress intensity factors (SIFs) near their tips (fronts) are important [1]. In 1957, Irwin [2] introduced the SIFs to describe the stress and displacement fields near a crack tip. As it is well known, there are three basic crack modes: opening (mode I), sliding (mode II), and tearing (mode III). Determining the SIFs near the crack tip (or front) in linear elasticity is interesting yet challenging. While most previous studies in SIFs were focused on one or two fracture modes, mixed three-dimensional (3D) modes need to be considered as materials could be mostly failed under combined tensile/compressive, shearing, and tearing loads or the material under consideration is anisotropic (as for most composite materials). For 3D isotropic elastic materials, Singh et al. [3] obtained the SIFs using the concept of a universal crack closure integral. For transversely isotropic (TI), orthotropic, and anisotropic solids, Pan and Yuan [4] presented

the general relationship between the SIF and the relative crack opening displacement (COD). Lazarus et al. [5] compared the calculated SIFs with experimental results for brittle solids under mixed mode I-III or I-II-III loadings. The 3D SIFs were also calculated by Zhou et al. [6] using the variable-order singular boundary element. More recently, Yue et al. [7] employed the boundary element method (BEM) [8, 9] in their calculation of the 3D SIFs of an inclined square crack within a finite but bimaterial domain. Other representative works in this direction are those by Liu et al. [10], Blackburn [11], dell'Erba and Aliabadi [12], Partheymüller [13], Hatzigeorgiou and Beskos [14], Popov [15], Ariza and Dominguez [16], Lo et al. [17], and Zhao et al. [18]. The weakly singular and weak-form integral equation method recently proposed by Rungamornrat [19] and Rungamornrat and Mear [20] is also efficient in crack analysis in anisotropic media. Besides the analytical (integral equation) and BEM methods [21], other common methods, such as the finite difference (FD) [22–24] and finite element (FE) [25, 26], were also applied to the 3D SIF analysis. Since both the FD and FE methods require discretization of the whole problem domain, they could be time consuming and more expensive than the BEM in fracture analyses.

While BEM is an excellent choice for fracture mechanics analysis in a linear and homogeneous solid, material heterogeneity or inhomogeneity introduces complexity to this approach. Nevertheless, various progresses have been made in modifying BEM for the inhomogeneity systems, including composites, rock structures, porous and cracked media. Bush [27] investigated the interaction between a crack and a particle cluster in composites using the BEM. Also applying the BEM, Knight et al. [28] analyzed the effect of the constituent material properties, fiber spatial distribution, and microcrack damage on the local behavior of fiber-reinforced composites. Dong et al. [29] presented a general-purpose integral formulation in order to study the interaction between the inhomogeneity and cracks embedded in 3D isotropic matrices. Based on a symmetric Galerkin BEM, Kitey et al. [30] investigated the crack growth behavior in

materials embedded with a cluster of inhomogeneities. Lee and Tran [31] applied the Eshelby equivalent inclusion method to carry out the stress analysis when a penny-shaped crack interacts with inhomogeneities and voids. Dong et al. [32] investigated the interaction between cracked TI inhomogeneous solids using a special BEM formulation. Interface cracks in two or more isotropic materials were also studied by Sladek and Sladek [33] and Liu and Xu [34]. Recent representative developments in this direction include the three-step multi-domain BEM solver [35], the subregion-by-subregion approach based on the Krylov solver [36, 37], and the well-known fast multipole BEM [38, 39].

In this entry, we will give a brief account on 3D linear fracture mechanics in TI inhomogeneous materials, based on the BEM approach. The field responses, the relative crack opening displacement (COD), as well as the SIFs will be discussed.

Governing Equations

– Equations of equilibrium

$$\sigma_{ij,j} + b_i = 0, \quad i, j = 1, 2, 3 \quad (1)$$

where σ_{ij} is the stress tensor; b_i the body force; and the subscript “ j ” denotes the partial differentiation with respect to the coordinates x , y , and z .

– Strain and displacement relation

$$\varepsilon_{ij} = 0.5(u_{i,j} + u_{j,i}), \quad i, j = 1, 2, 3 \quad (2)$$

where u_i is the elastic displacement.

– Constitutive relation

Again, we assume that the material is TI and we let the global z -axis be along the symmetry axis of the material. Then, the constitutive relation for this case can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_{xx} &= c_{11}\varepsilon_{xx} + c_{12}\varepsilon_{yy} + c_{13}\varepsilon_{zz} \\ \sigma_{yy} &= c_{12}\varepsilon_{xx} + c_{11}\varepsilon_{yy} + c_{13}\varepsilon_{zz} \\ \sigma_{zz} &= c_{13}\varepsilon_{xx} + c_{13}\varepsilon_{yy} + c_{33}\varepsilon_{zz} \\ \sigma_{yz} &= 2c_{44}\varepsilon_{yz}; \quad \sigma_{xz} = 2c_{44}\varepsilon_{xz}; \quad \sigma_{xy} = 2c_{66}\varepsilon_{xy} \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

where c_{ij} are the stiffness coefficients with $c_{66} = (c_{11} - c_{12})/2$. Thus, in a TI, there are only five independent material coefficients. In terms of the compliance coefficients (the inverse of the stiffness), the physical meanings of the five independent coefficients are: the Young's modulus and Poisson's ratio in the isotropic plane (i.e., the xoy plane), the Young's modulus and Poisson's ratio in the plane normal to the isotropic plane, and the shear modulus in the plane normal to the isotropic plane.

It is noted that since a crack may be oriented in any direction with respect to the TI material system, one usually needs to introduce two orientation angles, for instance, ψ and β [4, 40], to describe the relation between the material system and the crack orientation. Furthermore, one may need extra coordinate transforms between the material systems and the global space-fixed coordinate system if multiple material domains (inhomogeneous materials) are involved and/or the boundary conditions are described in terms of the global system.

The BEM for a Cracked Matrix with a Single Inhomogeneity

We start with a cracked matrix containing only one inhomogeneity. The single crack is located in the matrix. We now present the solution process based on the BEM. First, we discretize the cracked matrix in terms of the single-domain BEM [4]. In other words, we apply the following displacement and traction boundary integral equations [4]

$$\begin{aligned} b_{ij}u_j(y_s) = & \int_S U_{ij}(y_s, x_s) t_j(x_s) dS(x_s) \\ & - \int_S T_{ij}(y_s, x_s) u_j(x_s) dS(x_s) \\ & - \int_{\Gamma^+} T_{ij}(y_s, x_{\Gamma^+}) [u_j(x_{\Gamma^+}) \\ & - u_j(x_{\Gamma^-})] d\Gamma(x_{\Gamma^+}) + u_i^0(y_s) \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & [t_l(y_{\Gamma^+}) - t_l(y_{\Gamma^-})]/2 + n_m(y_{\Gamma^+}) \\ & \int_S c_{lmik} T_{ij,k}(y_{\Gamma^+}, x_s) u_j(x_s) dS(x_s) \\ & + n_m(y_{\Gamma^+}) \int_{\Gamma^+} c_{lmik} T_{ij,k}(y_{\Gamma^+}, x_{\Gamma^+}) \\ & [u_j(x_{\Gamma^+}) - u_j(x_{\Gamma^-})] d\Gamma(x_{\Gamma^+}) \\ & = n_m(y_{\Gamma^+}) \int_S c_{lmik} U_{ij,k}^*(y_{\Gamma^+}, x_s) t_j(x_s) dS(x_s) \\ & + [t_l^0(y_{\Gamma^+}) - t_l^0(y_{\Gamma^-})]/2 \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

to the cracked matrix. In (4) and (5), b_{ij} are the coefficients that depend only on the local geometries of the inhomogeneity–matrix interface S at y_s . A point on the positive (negative) side of the cracks is denoted by x_{Γ^+} (x_{Γ^-}), and on the inhomogeneity–matrix interface S by both x_s and y_s ; n_m is the unit outward normal of the positive side of the crack surface at y_{Γ^+} ; c_{lmik} is the fourth-order stiffness tensor of the TI material; $u_i^0(y_s)$ is the i -th displacement component at point y_s corresponding to the given remote loading, and $t_l^0(y_{\Gamma^+})$ and $t_l^0(y_{\Gamma^-})$ the corresponding traction components along the l -direction at points y_{Γ^+} and y_{Γ^-} ; u_i and t_i are the displacements and tractions on the inhomogeneity–matrix interface S (or the crack surface Γ); U_{ij} and T_{ij} are the Green's functions of the displacements and tractions; $U_{ij,k}$ and $T_{ij,k}$ are, respectively, the derivatives of the Green's displacements and tractions with respect to the source point. The displacement and traction Green's functions are taken from Pan and Chou [41] while their derivatives are taken from Pan and Yuan [4]. It is noted that the single-domain boundary integral equations similar to (4) and (5) were applied to a cracked homogeneous solid before and it has been demonstrated that this single-domain BEM approach is very efficient. However, if there is also an inhomogeneity in the cracked domain, one needs another BEM equation. In other words, the displacement integral equation

needs to be applied to the surface of the inhomogeneity as follows [32]:

$$b_{ij}u_j(y_S) = \int_S U_{ij}(y_S, x_S) t_j(x_S) dS(x_S) - \int_S T_{ij}(y_S, x_S) u_j(x_S) dS(x_S) \quad (6)$$

Equations (4), (5), and (6) then can be utilized to investigate the effect of the inhomogeneity on the SIFs of the crack in a TI matrix as well as the internal field behaviors both within the inhomogeneity and the matrix. In discretization of these equations, the nine-node quadrilateral curved elements can be applied to the inhomogeneity–matrix interface and the crack surface with the crack front being treated by special elements [4].

Taking each node in turn as the collocation point and performing the involved integrals, we finally obtain the compact forms of the discretized equations from (4), (5), and (6) as

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{H}_{11} & \mathbf{H}_{12} \\ \mathbf{H}_{21} & \mathbf{H}_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{U}_m \\ \Delta \mathbf{U}_c \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{B}_1 \\ \mathbf{B}_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{G}_{11} & \mathbf{G}_{12} \\ \mathbf{G}_{21} & \mathbf{G}_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{T}_m \\ \mathbf{T}_c \end{bmatrix} \quad (7)$$

and

$$\mathbf{H}_i \mathbf{U}_i = \mathbf{G}_i \mathbf{T}_i \quad (8)$$

where the subscripts i and m represent, respectively, the inhomogeneity and matrix; \mathbf{H} and \mathbf{G} are, respectively, the influence coefficient matrices containing integrals of the fundamental Green's function solutions; \mathbf{B}_1 and \mathbf{B}_2 are, respectively, the displacement and traction vectors induced by the remote loading; \mathbf{U}_m (\mathbf{U}_i) and \mathbf{T}_m (\mathbf{T}_i) are, respectively, the nodal displacement and traction vectors on the matrix side (inhomogeneity side) of the inhomogeneity–matrix interface; $\Delta \mathbf{U}_c$ and \mathbf{T}_c are, respectively, the discontinuous displacement and traction vectors over the crack surface. In this entry, we assume that the tractions

on both sides of the crack are equal and opposite, and thus, \mathbf{T}_c is equal to zero.

Using the continuity condition of the displacement and traction vectors along the interface, i.e., $\mathbf{U}_m = \mathbf{U}_i$ and $\mathbf{T}_m = -\mathbf{T}_i$, between the inhomogeneity and matrix, we can combine (7) and (8) into

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{H}_{11} + \mathbf{G}_{11} \mathbf{G}_i^{-1} \mathbf{H}_i & \mathbf{H}_{12} \\ \mathbf{H}_{21} + \mathbf{G}_{21} \mathbf{G}_i^{-1} \mathbf{H}_i & \mathbf{H}_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} \mathbf{U}_m \\ \Delta \mathbf{U}_c \end{Bmatrix} = - \begin{Bmatrix} \mathbf{B}_1 \\ \mathbf{B}_2 \end{Bmatrix} \quad (9)$$

which can be solved for the unknowns \mathbf{U}_m and $\Delta \mathbf{U}_c$. After that, a boundary integral equation similar to (4) or (6) can be applied to find the internal displacements and their gradients (by taking the derivatives) inside the matrix or the inhomogeneity. It is pointed out that in discretizing the boundary and the crack face, besides the regular shape functions, special ones need to be applied. For instance, the discontinuous elements need to be introduced to handle the common edge of the displacement and traction boundary conditions, and the common edge of the displacement/traction boundary and the crack surface. Furthermore, special shape functions have to be utilized to the elements adjacent to the crack front to make sure that the relative COD is proportional to \sqrt{r} where r is the distance behind the crack front. These discontinuous/special elements along with their corresponding shape functions can be found in Pan and Yuan [4].

Once the relative COD $\Delta \mathbf{U}_c$ is solved in the global coordinates, it can be transformed to the local coordinates (or the crack-tip coordinates) to find the SIFs. Assuming that the crack front is smooth and that the crack tip is away from the possible corner of the problem geometry, then the singular term (in the sense of stresses) in the asymptotic expansion of the displacement field near the crack tip (front) satisfies the generalized plane-strain condition in the local coordinates. Actually, if we let r be the distance behind the crack front, then in terms of the relative CODs in

the crack-tip coordinate, the three SIFs can be expressed as follows:

$$\begin{Bmatrix} K_{II} \\ K_I \\ K_{III} \end{Bmatrix} = 2\sqrt{\frac{2r}{\pi}}\mathbf{L}^{-1}\begin{Bmatrix} \Delta u_1 \\ \Delta u_2 \\ \Delta u_3 \end{Bmatrix} \quad (10)$$

where \mathbf{L} is the Barnett-Lothe tensors [42] which depends only on the anisotropic properties of the solid in the crack-front coordinates, and Δu_1 , Δu_2 , and Δu_3 are the relative CODs in the local crack-front coordinates. We also point out that r in (10) was selected to be a very small value as compared to the crack size [4, 32, 40]. For a penny-shaped crack lying in the isotropic plane of the TI material, the SIF can be calculated analytically [43], which can be used as the benchmark for BEM modeling. The result was extended to the bimaterial case where the crack was located on the interface plane [44].

General Inhomogeneity Problems with Multiple Cracks

It is obvious that the approach presented above can be extended to the multi-inhomogeneity case with multiple cracks. However, there are more efficient approaches proposed recently to the problems in inhomogeneous or heterogeneous media, as discussed briefly below.

Three-step Multi-domain BEM

The three-step multi-domain BEM solution technique [35] can be used to effectively solve the problems consisting of any number of arbitrarily distributed sub-domains. In the multi-domain BEM technique, nodes are arranged in the following order: The “self nodes” which are used only by the considered sub-domain itself are collocated first; the “common nodes” which are shared by two adjacent sub-domains are collocated next; and the “internal nodes” which are located inside a sub-domain are arranged in the last step. The three-step multi-domain BEM solution technique will produce condensations by eliminating the internal unknowns (internal nodal displacements) and boundary unknowns

(self-nodal quantities) so that the final multi-domain BEM formula only contains the common nodal displacements. Since the number of degrees of freedom in the system is reduced by this technique and the coefficient matrix is blocked sparse, the computational efficiency of large-scale problems can be improved.

Subregion-by-subregion with Krylov Solver

In general, this approach contains two main parts: (1). A robust subregion-by-subregion (SBS) technique, which is necessary for coping with heterogeneous materials. (2). The efficient integration procedures, which are needed for evaluating the singular and nearly singular integrals involved in the BEM. The SBS technique is based on the use of the Krylov solver, which allows the treatment of a large number of inhomogeneities. The diagonal-preconditioned bi-conjugate gradient solver is employed to solve the resulting linear system of equations. A detailed description on this method can be found in the work by Araujo and coworkers [36, 37].

Fast Multipole BEM

With the development of the fast multipole methods (FMMs) [39, 45] for solving boundary integral equations, large models with several million degrees of freedom can be solved readily on a desktop computer. Rokhlin and Greengard [46], who pioneered the FMM, and coworkers [47] have done extensive research on the FMM in the context of potential fields. Fu et al. [48] formulated the boundary integral equations for the 3D elastic inclusion problem using the FMM. Solutions for up to 343 spherical voids in an elastic domain were computed using the parallel FMM BEM code with total degrees of freedom around 400 K. Some other developments of the fast multipole BEM can be found in Pierce and Napier [49] and Popov and Power [50] for general elasticity problems, and in Nishimura et al. [51], Yoshida et al. [52], and Lai and Rodin [53] for crack problems. To develop an FMM for BEM, one needs simple and appropriate expressions of the two-point Green's functions of the associated problem domain, and their suitable expansion, i.e., the multipole expansion.

For most linear systems, the two-point Green's functions can be successfully expanded and therefore, the three key translations in FMM can be achieved (M2M, L2L, and M2L) [38, 39].

Future Directions for Research

Solution to the penny-shaped crack problem in pure elasticity is a benchmark, and it has been extended to the multiphase material couplings [54–57]. For instance, Zhao et al. [54] derived the solution for an ellipsoidal cavity in an infinite TI magneto-electro-elastic medium, and obtained the exact closed-form solution for a penny-shaped crack by letting the minor axis of the ellipsoidal cavity approach zero. Zhao et al. [55] analyzed the planar crack of arbitrary shape in the isotropic plane of a 3D TI magneto-electro-elastic medium by using the hyper-singular integral equation method. Niraula and Wang [56] derived an exact closed-form solution for a penny-shaped crack in an infinite magneto-electro-thermo-elastic medium under a temperature field, where the problem was transformed into the dual integral equations which were solved directly. Wang and Niraula [57] further considered the transient thermal fracture problem of TI magneto-electro-elastic materials, where the problem is reduced to an integral equation which was treated exactly using the Abel's integral equation. The fracture properties of a penny-shaped crack embedded in a magneto-electro-elastic layer of finite height under both thermal flow and radial shear loads were investigated by Feng et al. [58]. Thermally insulated crack surface assumption is adopted. By means of the Hankel transform technique, the problem was reduced to a Fredholm integral equation, which is different to that addressed previously [54–57].

Acknowledgment This work was partially supported by the Dept. of Civil Engineering, University of Akron, Henan Province, National Natural Science Foundation of China (11072034, 11172273), and the Major Program of National Natural Science Foundation of China (11132011).

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Crack-Tip Singular Fields in Functionally Graded Materials

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Overview

This entry introduces the asymptotic temperature, thermal flux, stress, and displacement fields near the tip of a crack in a functionally graded material (FGM) with continuous and piecewise differentiable material properties. This entry begins with the introduction of basic equations of heat conduction, thermoelasticity, and

thermoplasticity for FGMs. The eigenfunction expansion method is then employed to prove that the governing equations of the crack-tip dominant solutions of temperature and stress functions remain the same as the corresponding equations for homogeneous materials in every differentiable piece near the crack tip. Hence, the inverse square-root singular thermal flux and stress fields still prevail at the crack tip in a thermoelastic FGM, and the near-tip HRR field exists for a power-law hardening FGM. The effects of material property gradients on the dominance of the crack-tip singular fields are also discussed.

Introduction

Functionally graded materials (FGMs) represent a new concept of tailoring materials with microstructural and property gradients to achieve optimized performance. FGMs were originally conceived as high-temperature-resistant materials for aircraft and aerospace applications. The FGM concept has since spread to other areas, for example, tribological coatings, diesel engines, energy conversion systems, biomedical engineering, and so on. An FGM is a multiphase material with volume fractions of the constituents varying gradually in a predetermined (designed) profile, thus yielding a nonuniform microstructure in the material with continuously graded properties. In applications involving severe thermal gradients, FGMs exploit the heat, oxidation, and corrosion resistance typical of ceramics and the strength, ductility, and toughness typical of metals. Damage tolerance and defect assessments for structural integrity of FGM components require knowledge of the fracture behavior of FGMs.

From the fracture mechanics point of view, materials fail by the initiation and unstable growth of macroscopic cracks. Fracture parameters often arise from analyses of the asymptotic stress and deformation fields near the crack tip. The validity of continuum fracture mechanics to predict material failure lies in the fact that the fracture process zone around the crack tip is contained in a singular field of continuum