

# Mixed mode crack propagation in PMMA using the Thick Level Set approach to fracture

B. Lé<sup>\*,†</sup>, N. Chevaugeon<sup>†</sup>, A. Salzman<sup>†</sup> and N. Moës<sup>†</sup>

<sup>†</sup> Institut de Recherche en Génie Civil et Mécanique (GeM)  
École Centrale de Nantes, Université de Nantes, CNRS : UMR6183  
1 rue de la Noë BP92101 44321 Nantes cedex 3, France

\* e-mail: benoit.le@ec-nantes.fr

## ABSTRACT

The Thick Level Set model is a non-local damage model introduced in [1, 2]. The damage variable is expressed in terms of a level set function, which allows to delimitate an undamaged, a partially damaged and a fully damaged zone. In particular, it gives the position of macro-cracks as an iso-value, which can be enriched to introduce a displacement discontinuity [3]. Using level set functions also makes the TLS particularly suitable to model crack branching and coalescence. Furthermore, it reduces the damage propagation problem to a problem of dimension  $n - 1$  ( $n$  being the dimension of the problem), which helps decreasing computing times.

Some features of the TLS approach are illustrated on the mixed mode crack propagation in PMMA benchmark : the initiation of new damaged zones, the capacity to accurately recover crack paths and force displacement curves, and relatively low computing times.

## REFERENCES

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