

## A CONSTRAINED LARGE TIME INCREMENT METHOD FOR A GRADIENT-ENHANCED DAMAGE MODEL

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**Key words:** *Constrained LATIN, Gradient-Enhanced Damage, Quasi-Brittle Failure.*

An important aspect when modelling quasi-brittle materials is a robust and efficient solution algorithm which can cope with highly non-linear behaviour such as snap-backs and bifurcations. An alternative to the widely used incremental-iterative Newton-Raphson algorithm is the non-incremental LArge Time INcrement (LATIN) method [1]. This algorithm differs significantly from conventional incremental methods since the whole loading process is iteratively calculated in a single time increment using two solution stages. In the local solution stage, stresses and strains verify the non-linear constitutive laws as well as a local search equation which searches for a new solution using the fields of the previous iteration. In the global solution stage, stress-strain couples are calculated which satisfy both structural equilibrium and a global search equation which searches for an improved solution using the stresses and strains of the local solution stage. In other words, the local and non-linear behaviour is separated from global and linear behaviour.

In the literature, LATIN algorithms are usually applied to elastoplastic hardening problems [2, 3]. In the few papers that investigate strain-softening problems using LATIN algorithms [4, 5], the softening behaviour is attributed to discontinuous and therefore local failure. In this contribution, the constrained LATIN algorithm developed in [6] will be applied to the continuous modelling of quasi-brittle failure. The problem is regularised using the implicit gradient-enhanced damage model [7] in which a modified Helmholtz equation is coupled to the standard equilibrium equation. Although coupled problems have been successfully modelled using the LATIN method [8], the implementation of a gradient-enhanced damage model in a LATIN framework is not straightforward since the non-linear constitutive behaviour can no longer be separated from the non-local (or global) behaviour. Special attention will therefore be devoted to implementation aspects of the algorithm. The performance of the proposed methodology is demonstrated by means of several numerical examples.

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