

EXTENDED FAILURE MODELS FOR GLOBAL AND LOCAL ANALYSES OF COMPOSITE AEROSTRUCTURES

Giuseppe Corrado^{1,2*}, Albertino Arteiro¹, José Reinoso³, Florian Glock² and Fernass Daoud²

¹Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal

²Airbus Defence and Space GmbH, Manching, Germany

³Group of Elasticity and Strength of Materials, University of Seville, Seville, Spain

* gcorrado@fe.up.pt

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Detailed numerical models for large aerospace products result in prohibitive computational costs with the current state of technology. Therefore, to overcome the need of high-fidelity models involving millions of degrees of freedom, efficient modelling strategies have been recently proposed, such as global/local approaches. In this framework, “hot-spot” identification analysis can be used to highlight the most critical structural details where a local model would have a crucial role in capturing more accurately the structural behavior.

The methodology presented in this work consists in the implementation of a 3D invariant-based failure model [1] in a user subroutine to perform “hot-spot” first-ply failure analysis and predict the onset of intralaminar damage in large-scale models, identifying the critical failure mode. Then, after identifying the “hot-spots” for the onset of ply failure, a damage model was employed to predict ultimate strength of the most critical areas. Because these critical areas are often characterised by high levels of triaxility (e.g., bolted connections), a composite material model proposed in the literature [2], representing the quasi-brittle behaviour of composite structures, was extended to account for the effect of general 3D stress states in the initiation and broadening of fibre kinking using the 3D invariant-based failure theory. This approach was validated against experimental results from the literature, revealing the accuracy of the “hot-spot” first-ply failure analysis and the suitability of the proposed damage model for local detailed analysis of composite aerostructures.

REFERENCES

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