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USE OF SHEAR LAG FOR COMPOSITE MICROSTRESS

ANALYSIS - LINEAR ARRAY

S.B. Batdorf and Robert W.C. Ko

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Reproduction in whole or in part is permitted United States Government DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of the obstract entered in Block 20, If different SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES KEY WORDS (Continue on reverse elde If necessary and identify by block numb Electric Analogue Micromechanics Unidirectional Composites Stress Distrib Shear Lag Damage Accumul Mechanics of Failure ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse elde If necessary and identify by block numb —)The task of finding shear distributions in by means of the theory of elasticity is prohib approximate techniques are generally employed. shear lag theory. This theory contains a param coupling between fibersthat has been difficult The present paper evaluates this parameter for In the limiting case of small fiber diameter	for any purpose of the from Report) trom Report) tution ation er/ damaged composites analytically itively difficult, so The most widely used is eter representing the shear to evaluate in the past. a linear array of fibers. r to fiber spacing ratio

20. Abstract

And large matrix thickness to fiber diameter ratio an analytical solution is possible and is provided in this paper. For other geometries the solution is obtained experimentally. It is found that the assumption usually made for the parameter is rather far off for most geometries of practical interest.

NOMENCLATURE

d	distance between fiber or rod centers							
^d 2	distance between nearest fiber pair in a rectangular array							
(<u>h</u>) d c, v	h/d for the interaction between nearest fiber pair in a rectangu- lar array							
ro	radius of a fiber or a rod							
t	lamina thickness							
w _i	axial displacement of the i'th fiber							
z	axial coordinate	Constant Part						
F _i '	load transfer to the i'th fiber per unit length	In Canted D						
F '	axial line force per unit length	By						
G	shear modulus of the matrix	Availe a la stars						
Gh	effective shear stiffness of the composite	Dist S. S. int						
I	current generated by the power supply							
Do	a large distance approaching infinity at which the di	splacement of						
	the field point is essentially zero	\smile						
R	resistance							
α	ratio of the distance between next-to-nearest fiber	pair to the						



INTRODUCTION

Studies of the micromechanics of failure of unidirectionally reinforced composites are based on theoretical analyses of the stress distribution in damaged composites under load. Any use of the theory of elasticity for this purpose turns out to be prohibitively difficult, and therefore approximate techniques must be employed. A number of authors have used shear lag theory or some modification thereof for this purpose [1-5]. However the relation between the solutions found in this manner and experimental results has been made uncertain by the fact that the solutions involve a parameter the values of which were not really known. This parameter is the effective shear stiffness of the matrix, which serves to transfer direct stress from one fiber to another.

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Several previous papers deal with various aspects of this question. One gives an exact solution for the shear interaction between two infinitely long rigid fibers immersed in an infinite elastic medium [6]. Another gives an approximate solution for the interaction between neighboring pairs of fibers in a square array [7]. A third extends this solution to the case of a rectangular array [8].

The present paper considers a linear array, i.e., a unidirectionally reinforced lamina or tape. A theoretical solution is given for such an array that is valid when the fiber diameter is small compared to fiber separation and fiber separation is small compared to matrix thickness. For other geometries, the solution is obtained experimentally using an electric analogue technique [8]. These findings are compared to assumptions that have been made concerning the shear transfer stiffness by previous investigators.

The analysis of a linear array can be carried out by considering the case of a three-fiber interaction in which static equilibrium is maintained as in Figure 1. The center fiber is loaded with an axial line force $2F_0'$ per unit length, while the neighbors are each loaded with F_0' , directed in the opposite sense.

The shear lag equation becomes

$$F_{a}' = G\left[\frac{h}{d}\right] \left(-w_{c} + 2w_{a} - w_{b}\right)$$
(1a)

Since $w_b = w_c$

$$F_{a}' = 2G\left(\frac{h}{d}\right)(w_{a} - w_{b})$$
(2)

The displacement of each fiber can be obtained by superimposing the effects of all of the applied loads. Employing the relationship between the load points and the field point in [6],

$$w_{a} = -\frac{F_{a}'}{2\pi G} \ln (r_{o}/D_{o}) - \frac{2F_{b}'}{2\pi G} \ln (d/D_{o})$$
$$= \frac{2F_{o}'}{2\pi G} \ln (d/r_{o}) \qquad (3)$$

and

$$w_{b} = -\frac{F_{b}'}{2\pi G} \ln(r_{o}/D_{o}) - \frac{F_{a}'}{2\pi G} \ln(d/D_{o}) - \frac{F_{c}'}{2\pi G} \ln(2d/D_{o})$$
$$= \frac{F'}{2\pi G} \ln(2r_{o}/d)$$
(4)

Subtracting (4) from (3), we obtain

$$w_{a} - w_{b} = \frac{F_{o}'}{2\pi G} \left[2 \ln(d/r_{o}) + \ln(d/2r_{o}) \right]$$
(5)

Thus,

$$2(w_{a} - w_{b}) = \frac{F_{a}'}{2\pi G} \left[3 \ln(d/r_{o}) - \ln 2 \right]$$
(6)

or
$$F_a' = \frac{2\pi [2G(w_a - w_b)]}{[3 \ln(d/r_o) - \ln 2]}$$
 (7)

$$\frac{h}{d} = \frac{2\pi}{3 \ln(d/r_0) - \ln 2}$$
(8)

Experimental Setup

The theory underlying the electric analogue can be found in [8]. A linear array with various thicknesses of matrix material was simulated by placing two vertical insulating panels with height exceeding the depth of the fluid (electrolyte), on top of a submerged panel with holes that match the size of the conducting rods and with spacing approximate to the r_0/d under

investigation. The insulating panels were spaced at equal distances from the center lines of the rods. The distance was chosen to represent the desired composite thickness. Thus, the fluid between the vertical panels was analogous to the matrix associated with that particular array.

Linear arrays with different thicknesses and rod spacing were investigated, the first experiment involving three rods as in figure 2. A constant AC potential was applied across rods a and b with b connected to c. The current through the power supply was measured in each case. The potential difference between a and b was also measured. The governing equation can be written as

$$\frac{dI}{dz} = \frac{1}{\rho_e} \left(\frac{h}{d} \right) \left(2\phi_{ab} \right)$$
(9)

The effect of the presence of a free rod adjacent to b and c was investigated by a second experiment as in Figure 3.

<u>Results</u>

The results of the experiments for evaluating h/d are summarized in Figures 4-6. In these figures h/d is plotted against r_0/d for various ratios of fiber radius to lamina thickness, r_0/t . We do not have a theoretical solution except for $r_0/t \rightarrow 0$, so Figures 4-6 are based entirely on the experimental data. Extrapolation beyond the data points is aided by the knowledge that $h/d \rightarrow 0$ for $r_0/d \rightarrow 0$, and $h/d \rightarrow \infty$ when $r_0/d \rightarrow 0.5$. These limiting cases are discussed in Reference 7 and 8.

Figure 7 shows the results for h/d for a linear array of rods in an open tank (i.e., the vertical panels are removed, so the matrix has the shape of the tank). Also shown are the theoretical results for an infinite tank. We note that, as expected, the theoretical results agree very closely with the experimental data obtained in a large but finite tank for small values of r_{o}/d , i.e., where the theoretical solution is valid.

Another limiting case is obtained by noting that for a very rectangular array $(\alpha >> 1)$ the nearest fiber interaction should be almost the same as though the adjacent lamina was not there. Table 1 gives the h/d obtained for $\alpha = 10.5$ and shows that the results are substantially the same as those obtained for a linear array in an open tank.

In this investigation, most of the data were obtained using three rods as in Fig. 1. A linear array is better approximated by a very large number of rods, but a very large number of rods will in many cases exceed the capacity of the tank. To see whether additional rods are really needed, the effect of adding an additional rod at each end as in Fig. 3 was investigated. The added rods were left free to adopt the local potential. The results are contained in Table 2. It was found that the resistance was virtually unaffected by the presence of the additional rods. The largest change was a couple of percent, and it occurred when r_0/d and r_0/t were both large. If either was small, the change in resistance was negligible. We conclude that the results obtained using three rods are sufficiently accurate for most engineering purposes.

Discussion

Some investigators who have employed shear lag to find stress distributions in single ply composites have assumed that h/d is equal to t/d, irrespective of the value of r_0/d . Since $t/d = (t/r_0)(r_0/d)$, a plot of t/d vs. r_0/d is a straight line of slope t/r_0 . Such lines are shown in dot-dash format for $r_0/t = 0.107$, 0.144, and 0.380. We see that the assumption that h/d = t/d is not bad for most of the r_0/d range when $r_0/t = 0.144$, but is rather far off for values of r_0/t differing widely from this value.

This paper and its predecessors [7,8] have attempted to find the shear interaction to be used under the simplifying assumption generally employed in shear lag theory that only nearest-neighbor fibers interact. The accuracy of this basic assumption is currently unknown.

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Comparison of a linear array with a very rectangular array with same ratio of fiber radius to fiber spacing. Table 1

$$\frac{\mathbf{r}_{0}}{\mathbf{d}} = \frac{\mathbf{r}_{0}}{\mathbf{d}_{2}} = \mathbf{0.370} = \mathbf{0.325} = \mathbf{0.280} = \mathbf{0.230}$$

$$\frac{\mathbf{h}}{\mathbf{d}} = \mathbf{3.477} = \mathbf{2.724} = \mathbf{2.263} = \mathbf{1.857}$$

$$\left(\frac{\mathbf{h}}{\mathbf{d}}\right)_{\mathbf{c},\mathbf{v}} = \mathbf{3.535} = \mathbf{2.712} = \mathbf{2.214} = \mathbf{1.830}$$

Table 2. Resistance due to 3-fiber interaction and 5-fiber interaction

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a Resistance of 3-fiber interaction (Ohms)
b Resistance of 5-fiber interaction (Ohms)



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FIG. 1 A 3-FIBER INTERACTION IN WHICH STATIC EQUILIBRIUM IS MAINTAINED

The Residence of the second second



FIG. 2 SIMULATION OF A 3-FIBER INTERACTION BY AN ELECTRIC ANALOGUE



and the second second

FIG. 3 SIMULATION OF A 5-FIBER INTERACTION BY AN ELECTRIC ANALOGUE





FIG. 5 $\frac{h}{d}$ FOR LINEAR ARRAY OF FIBERS

Constant State





