

**Proceedings of the
1990 SEM Spring Conference on
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June 4 - 6, 1990

Albuquerque, New Mexico



PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY FOR EXPERIMENTAL MECHANICS, INC.

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CONTENTS

SESSION 3 FRACTURE I

Experimental Analysis of Stress Intensity Factors For a Vertical Surface- Breaking Crack Located Near a Concentrated Force.....	1
Yung-Mien Chen and James W. Dally, University of Maryland	
Energy Density Approach for Calculation of Inelastic Strain and Stress at the Crack Tip in Compact Tension Specimens of Polycarbonate.....	9
S. Dhar and G.L. Cloud, Michigan State University	
The Development of the Cracked-Chevron-Notched Brazilian Disc Method for Rock Fracture Toughness Measurement.....	18
Jun Fang Chen, Lulea University of Technology	
Determining Crack-Tip Stress Field Parameters From Mixed-Mode Displacement Fields..	25
R. Chona and K.Y. Matsumoto, Texas A&M University	
Interaction of Longitudinal Waves With a Lengthwise Crack in a Beam.....	27
J.F. Doyle and T.N. Farris, Purdue University	

SESSION 4 APPLICATIONS I

Flow Characteristics of Various Types of Plasticine Used in Physical Modeling of Large Deformation Processes.....	34
J. Rasty and H. Sofuoglu, Texas Tech University	
An Experimental Analysis of the Mechanical Performances Relative to an Orthopedic External Fixation Apparatus.....	44
P. Cappa, University of Rome "La Sapienza"; M. Bernardi, HOWMEDICA; and R. Spinelli, University of Bologna	
Quantifying the Influence of Postoperative Dressings on Hand Edema.....	48
W.P. Hnat, University of Louisville; and L.S. Levin, Duke University Medical Center	
A Simplified Accelerometer System For Analysis of Human Gait.....	54
D.A. Farris, Georgia Dept. of Rehabilitation Services; G.C. Urquizo, Escuela Superior Politecnica Del Litoral; D.L. Kilpatrick, T.O. Woods and D.G. Berghaus, Georgia Institute of Technology	
The Force Generated by Heart Fibroblast Cells can be Measured.....	59
H. Liu, S. Berry, W.H. Peters, L. Terracio and T. Borg, University of South Carolina	

SESSION 7 OPTICS I

Influence of the Microstructural Defects on Dynamic Stress History in Granular Assemblies.....	63
A. Shukla, C.Y. Zhu and Y. Xu, University of Rhode Island	
Mixed Mode Stress-Intensity Factors by Fractional Fringe Moiré Interferometry	69
Adel F. Bastawros and Arkady S. Voloshin, Lehigh University	
Spline Function Smoothing and Differentiation of Noisy Data on a Rectangular Grid..	76
Clark R. Dohrmann, Sandia National Laboratories; and Henry R. Busby, The Ohio State University	

SESSION 8 COMPOSITES: ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Experimental Techniques to Measure Fiber and Composite Response to Transient Moisture Exposure.....	84
John Z. Wang, Michael P. Wolcott, Harrison Teague, Fred A. Kamke and David A. Dillard, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	
Thermoviscoplastic Behavior of SCS ₆ /Ti Metal Matrix Composites.....	89
J. Rogacki and M. Tuttle, University of Washington	
Determination of Thermally Induced Stresses and Deformations in Thin Laminated Composite Plates by the Finite Element Method.....	95
L.J. Pearce and J.C. Suhling, Auburn University	
Time and Temperature Dependence of Flexural Strength of C/A Hybrid Unidirectional FRP Laminates.....	104
Yasushi Miyano, Masayuki Nakada, Megumu Suzuki and Yoichi Hattori, Kanazawa Institute of Technology	

SESSION 11 INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS OF PHOTOELASTICITY

The Photoelastic Diet - Weight and Stress Reduction Experiences on the A330/340 Airbus Project.....	110
E.W. O'Brien, British Aerospace, PLC	
The Application of Photoelasticity to the Analysis of Shaft Splines.....	117
D.G. Salyards and H.J. Macke, General Electric Aircraft Engines	
Photoelastic Analysis of a High-Pressure Vessel With Threaded Closure - Part I.....	125
R.O. Case, K.K. Stevens, J.C. Gonella, Florida Atlantic University; and H. Mahfuz, Tuskegee University	
Photoelastic Analysis of a High-Pressure Vessel with Threaded Closure Part II - Hybrid Application.....	129
K.K. Stevens, R.O. Case and J.C. Gonella, Florida Atlantic University	

SESSION 13 APPLICATIONS II

An Experimental Investigation of a Centrifugal Compressor Thrust Bearing Design Used For Heat Pump Application.....	135
Lester Harrington and James Laub, Carrier Corporation	
On the Use of Solid-State Hydrophones in the Gathering of Hydrodynamic Pressure Response Data.....	140
Ziyad H. Duron, Harvey Mudd College	
Stochastic Analysis of Shallow-Buried Reinforced Concrete Box-Type Structure.....	148
Ming L. Wang and Li-zhe Tan, The University of New Mexico	
The Measurement, Modelling and Prediction of Traction Forces in a Rocket Propellant	155
J.L. Tevaarwerk, Battelle Memorial Institute; and C. Woods, NASA Lewis Research Center	
Strain Distribution Near Butt Weld Joints.....	163
Edoardo Romita and Bartolo Trentadue, University of Bari	

SESSION 15 COMPOSITES I

The Yield Behavior of Polyethylene Tubes Subjected to Biaxial Loadings.....	171
M. Semeliss, R. Wong and M. Tuttle, University of Washington	
Numerical, Micro-Mechanical Prediction of Crack Growth Resistance in a Fibre-Reinforced/Brittle Matrix Composite.....	179
Michael G. Jenkins, Oak Ridge National Laboratory; Asish Ghosh, Philips Display Components Company; and Jonathan A. Salem, NASA Lewis Research Center	
Continuous Crack Length Measurement With a Carbon Powder-Polymer Composite.....	187
R. Prabhakaran, Old Dominion University; and O.F. Lopez, NASA Langley Research Center	

Effects of Moisture on the Shear Behavior of Wood-Based Composites.....	193
K.C. Yeh, Auburn University; J.M. Considine, U.S.D.A. Forest Products Laboratory; and J.C. Suhling, Auburn University	

SESSION 17 THE UBIQUITOUS STRAIN GAGE - FROM SPACE APPLICATIONS TO BUILDINGS AND BRIDGES TO SPORTING RIFLES

Accounting For Lead Wire Resistance Changes and Loss of Zero in Long-Term Strain Measurements.....	201
L.W. Zachary, K.G. McConnell, Iowa State University; and N.T. Younis, Purdue University	
An Experimental Analysis of the Zero-Shift Values of Automatic and Inexpensive Strain Gage Instrumentation Systems.....	205
P. Cappa, University of Rome "La Sapienza"; K. G. McConnell and L.W. Zachary, Iowa State University	
Measuring Breach Pressure With a Strain Gauge.....	211
Walt Netzel, Retired	

SESSION 18 PHOTOELASTICITY I

Analysis of Photoelasticity Data Through Stress Function Fittings.....	213
Jose L.F. Freire and Marco A.M. Cavaco, Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro	
Photoelastic Investigation of Abrasive Waterjet Cutting.....	218
M. Ramulu and K.-P Wong, University of Washington	
Material Optic Noise in Integrated Photoelasticity.....	220
S.S. Issa and I.A. Marie, Kuwait University	
Applicability of Some Cited Methods in Integrated Photoelasticity.....	226
S.S. Issa and I.A. Marie, Kuwait University	

SESSION 19 SMART STRUCTURES I

Calibration of Composite-Embedded Fiber-Optic Strain Sensors.....	234
D.W. Jensen, The Pennsylvania State University; and M.J. Koharchik, Rockwell International	
Measurement of Crack Induced Damage in Particulate Composites.....	241
C.W. Smith, C.W.Chang, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; and C.T. Liu, U.S. Air Force Astronautics Laboratory	
The Development and Use of KYNAR Piezoelectric Film Sensors for the Measurement of Peel Stresses in Adhesive Joints.....	247
G.L. Anderson, A.R. Raheem, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; R.C. Robertson, Naval Postgraduate School; A. Elshabini-Riad and D.A. Dillard, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	

SESSION 20 RESIDUAL STRESS MEASUREMENTS TECHNIQUE

Determination of Residual Stress State In HY-80 and HY-100 Plates by Neutron- Diffraction, X-Ray Diffraction, Hole Drilling and Numerical Methods.....	255
George Roy, Canada Centre for Minerals and Energy Technology; John F. Porter, Defence Research Establishment Atlantic; Thomas M. Holden, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited; Edward J.C. Cousineau, David Kiff, P. Fryzuk, Canada Centre for Minerals and Energy Technology; John Root and R.R. Hosbons, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited	
Comparison of the X-Ray Diffraction Method and the Hole Drilling Method For the Measurement of Residual Stress on the Aeronautical Materials.....	263
X. Soudan, Aerospaciale; J.Lu, CETIM; D.Gillereau, Aerospaciale; and J.F. Flavenot, CETIM	

Ultrasonic Measurement of Residual Stress in Steels Using Critically Refracted Longitudinal Waves (L_{cr}).....	271
Teodoro Leon-Salamanca, Reinhart & Associates; and Don E. Bray, Texas A&M University	
Ultrasonic Velocity Measurement by Correlation Method.....	279
W.Y. Lu, University of Kentucky; B.W. Maxfield and A. Kuramoto, Innovative Sciences, Inc.	
Determination of Residual Stress State in a Single-Pass Weldment by Destructive, Nondestructive, and Numerical Methods.....	285
G. Roy, D. Kiff, P. Fryzuk, Canada Centre for Mineral and Energy Technology; and T.M. Holden, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited	
SESSION 22 OPTICAL METHODS FOR RESIDUAL STRESS MEASUREMENT	
Determination of Residual Stresses by Single-Axis Holographic Interferometry and Blind Hole Drilling.....	292
D.V. Nelson, Stanford University	
Moiré Interferometry Determination of Residual Stresses in Presence of Gradients....	299
G. Nicoletto, University of Bologna	
SESSION 23 SMART STRUCTURES II	
In-Service Health Monitoring of Composite Structures.....	304
Gino A. Pinto, C. Samuel Ventres, Technology Integration and Development Group; Carol A. Ginty, and Christos C. Chamis, NASA Lewis Research Center	
A Calibration Approach For Smart Structures Using Embedded Sensors.....	310
S.H. Smith, A.A. Boiarski and D.G. Rider, Battelle Columbus Division	
An Overview of the Mechanical Behavior and Applications of Memory Metals.....	320
Scott F. Berry and Walter H. Peters III, University of South Carolina	
SESSION 24 TRANSDUCER APPLICATIONS	
Designing an All-Purpose Force Transducer.....	327
S.A. Masroor and L.W. Zachary, Iowa State University	
Optimum Design of Multi-Axis Force Sensors.....	331
Mark Reuber, Grove City College; Ed Thaxton, Electric Boat Research & Development Center; and Dan Olson, University of Rhode Island	
SESSION 25 THE UBIQUITOUS STRAIN GAGE - FROM SPACE APPLICATIONS TO BUILDINGS AND BRIDGES TO SPORTING RIFLES	
A Resistance Strain Gage With Repeatable and Cancellable Apparent Strain For Use to 1500°F.....	339
Jih-Fen Lei, Sverdrup Technology, Inc./NASA Lewis Research Center Group	
SESSION 26 DIGITAL IMAGE ANALYSIS	
Applications of Morphological Filters to the Digital Image Processing of Diffraction Grating Interferograms.....	345
T.A. Corker, J.S. Epstein, Georgia Institute of Technology	
Image Processing For Fourier Transform Moiré and Grid Method(FTMGM).....	353
Y. Morimoto, Y. Seguchi and S. Sasahara, Osaka University	
A Generalization of the Theory of Fringe Patterns Containing Displacement Information.....	359
C.A. Sciammarella and G. Bhat, Illinois Institute of Technology	

Assessment of Three-Dimensional Displacement Measurement by Digital Image Processing.....	367
P.F. Luo, Y.J. Chao, M.A. Sutton and W.H. Peters, University of South Carolina	

Thermal Shock of an Edge Cracked Plate: Experimental Determination of the Stress Intensity Factor by Digital Image Correlation.....	374
C. Hurschler, J.T. Turner, Y.J. Chao and W.H. Peters, University of South Carolina	

SESSION 27 TESTING OF MINIATURES

Tensile and Compressive Materials Testing with Sub-Sized Specimens.....	382
Wendell A. Kawahara, Sandia National Laboratories	
The Hidden Responsibilities of the Experimentalist.....	386
L.J. Lazarus, Allied-Signal Inc.	
Test Methods For a Small Screw Study.....	394
Larry Dorrell, Sandia National Laboratories; and John Laing, MTS Systems Corp.	
Data and Conclusions From Tests on Small Screws.....	399
J.L. Cawfield, T.L. Ernest and R.T. Reese, Sandia National Laboratories	
Small Strain Gage Applications II.....	407
Edward G. Wenski, Allied-Signal Inc.	

SESSION 28 OPTICAL METHODS - ACOUSTOELASTICITY

Acoustoelasticity and Its Application to Measurement of Residual Stress.....	412
Tsong-Tsong Wu, National Taiwan University; and Yih-Hsing Pao, National Taiwan University/Cornell University	

SESSION 30 OPTICAL METHODS FOR RESIDUAL STRESS MEASUREMENT II

Measurement of Residual Stresses by the Moiré Method.....	419
C.A. Sciammarella and A. Abertazzi, Illinois Institute of Technology	
Moiré Interferometry Studies of Processing Induced Residual Stresses in Nickel 200 Spot Welds.....	427
J.S. Epstein, The Georgia Institute of Technology; and D.E. Clark, EG&G Idaho Inc.	
Moiré Study of Effect of Large Compressive Loads on Residual Strain Fields Created by Coldworking Fastener Holes.....	428
Gary Cloud, Michigan State University; and Rajab Sulaimana, Sargent and Lundy Corp.	

SESSION 31 MEASUREMENT APPLICATIONS

The Flat-Trac II [®] Machine, The Next Step in Tire Force and Moment Measurement.....	434
Marion G. Pottinger, Smithers Scientific Services, Inc.	
Hardness Testing of Metals.....	441
R.K. Penny, University of Cape Town	
Mode I and II Stress Intensity Factors in 90 [°] Reentrant Corners.....	446
M. Mahinfalah, North Dakota State University; and L. Zachary, Iowa State University	
Moiré Interferometry Studies of Structure - Property Relationships Nominally Pure Large Grained Alumina Double Cantilever Fracture Specimens.....	451
J.S. Epstein, G. May, J. Dai, The Georgia Institute of Technology; and C. Scott, The General Electric Company	

SESSION 32 COMPOSITES II

Eccentricity Effects of a Square Cutout on the Resonant Frequencies and Mode Shapes of a Curved Composite Panel.....	462
V.J. Levraea, Jr., A.N. Palazotto, Air Force Institute of Technology; and Gene E. Maddux, Wright Research and Development Center	
A New Method for Measuring Phase to 10^{-4} Radians and Its Application to the Measurement of Intrinsic Material Damping.....	470
Vikram K. Kinra and Graeme G. Wren, Texas A&M University	
On the Use of Phase Spectra For Ultrasonic NDE.....	478
Vikram K. Kinra and Vasudevan R. Iyer, Texas A&M University	
Interlaminar Normal Stiffness, Poisson's Ratio, and Strength of Thick Symmetric Laminates.....	486
Ajit K. Roy and Ran Y. Kim, University of Dayton Research Institute	

SESSION 34 OPTICS II

Stress Concentrations in Tube Intersections.....	491
I.M. Allison, University of Surrey	
Accuracy Limits For Automated Grid Methods.....	498
J.S. Sirkis and T. J. Lim, University of Maryland	
Surface Topography Through the Digital Enhancement of the Shadow Moiré Method.....	506
Jen E. A. Liao and Arkady S. Voloshin, Lehigh University	
Optical and Mechanical Interaction of Structurally Integrated Optical Fiber Sensors.....	511
J.S. Sirkis, C. Mathews and H. Singh, University of Maryland	
Holographic Analysis as an Inspection Method For Welded Thin-Wall Tubing.....	517
Lawrence Brooks, Lockheed-ESC; John Mulholland, NASA JSC White Sands Test Facility; Joseph Genin and Larryl Matthews, New Mexico State University	

SESSION 35 FRACTURE OF ENGINEERED MATERIALS I

High Temperature Failure of Materials.....	523
C.P. Burger, R. Chona, D.W. Bowman, R.M. Lieder and Z.K. Parakh, Texas A&M University	
Fracture Toughness Testing of Ceramics and Ceramic Composites Using Pre-Cracked Bend Bars.....	529
Isa Bar-On, J.T. Beals and C.M. Murray, Worcester Polytechnic Institute	
Fracture Toughness Tests and Displacement and Crack Stability Analyses of Round Bar Bend Specimens of Liquid-Phase Sintered Tungsten.....	535
J.H. Underwood, U.S. Army Armament RD&E Center; F. I. Baratta, U.S. Army Materials Technology Laboratory; and J.J. Zalinka, U.S. Army Armament RD&E Center	

SESSION 36 NON-CONTACTING SENSING TECHNIQUES

Optical Profile Sensor For Robotic Seam Tracking of Weld Joints.....	543
James McCormick and Charles Umeagukwu, Georgia Institute of Technology	
A Non-Contact Acoustic Emission Sensing System For Rotating-Cutter Machining Processes	551
David V. Hutton, Washington State University	
Electromagnetically Excited Ultrasonic Waves Applied to Experimental Mechanics.....	558
L.R. Burns and G.A. Alers, Magnasonics, Inc.	
Principles and Applications of SPATE - An Update.....	561
D.E. Oliver, Ometron, Inc.	
Some Improvements of Optical Methods For Ultrasonic Non-Contact Inspection.....	568
A.J.A. Bruinsma and A.C. Voorrips, TNO Institute of Applied Physics	

SESSION 37 STRUCTURAL TESTING I

Alternate Blister Geometries For Measuring the Fracture Toughness of Adhesive Bonds.....	575
David A. Dillard, Yeh Hung Lai, Yeou Shin Chang, Todd Corson and Yong Bao, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	
A Direct Tension Split Hopkinson Bar For High Strain Rate Testing.....	583
George H. Staab and Amos Gilat, The Ohio State University	
Experimental Techniques in Torsional Fatigue Testings.....	589
S. Curioni, A. Freddi and G. Caligiana, University of Bologna	
Experimental Investigation of Shuttle Trunnion Bearing Friction Characteristics.....	595
Ziyad H. Duron and Sheldon Rubin, The Aerospace Corporation	
Biaxial Characterization of 3501-6 Epoxy Resin.....	602
G.T. Mase, University of Wyoming	

SESSION 39 FRACTURE OF ENGINEERED MATERIALS II

Experimental Investigation of the Interaction of Running Cracks With Embedded Fibers	607
Arun Shukla and Sanjeev K. Khanna, University of Rhode Island	
Crack Propagation in a Composite Solid Propellant.....	614
C.T. Liu, Astronautics Laboratory (AFSC)	
Impact Behavior of Ceramic Matrix Composites.....	621
Dennis N. Coon, University of Wyoming	
Development of High Performance Epoxy Systems Utilizing Controlled Molecular Design.	627
A. Letton and Gale Holmes, Texas A&M University	

SESSION 40 STRUCTURAL TESTING II

The Ballistic Penetration of Multiple Thin Plates Separated by an Air Gap.....	631
G.N. Nurick and C.E. Walters, University of Cape Town	
On the Validity of PLASTICINE as a Modeling Medium For Simulation of Metal Forming Processes.....	638
J. Rasty, H. Sofuoglu, T. Franks and K. Bingham, Texas Tech University	
Design of a Structural Foam Plastic Component Using Finite Element Analysis.....	640
K.R. Shipley, Henry Vogt Machine Company; and W.P. Hnat, University of Louisville	
Manufacture of Small-Scale Steel Beams by Welding.....	647
Padmanabhan Rajendran and Benjamin Wallace, University of Oklahoma	
The Effects of Surface Treatment on Torsional Fatigue Failure in Recoil Springs.....	653
R.R. Fuczak, J.A. Kapp and C.J. Nolan, U.S.Army Armament Research, Development, and Engineering Center	

SESSION 42 PHOTOELASTICITY II

Photoelastic Data Acquisition by the Digitizing Technique Over Arbitrary Boundaries.	658
Hassan Mahfuz, Tin-Lup Wong and Robert O. Case, Florida Atlantic University	
Determination of the Three Individual Stress Components From Measured Isochromatics Only.....	665
Y.M. Huang, C.H. Lin, University of Wisconsin; J.C. Suhling, Auburn University; and R.E. Rowlands, University of Wisconsin	
Application of a New Hybrid Stress Analysis Technique Combining the Boundary Element Method and Photoelastic Experimental Data.....	672
Y.P. Wu, Auburn University; R.J. Eiland, TRW Corporation; J.C. Suhling, Auburn University; and J.L. Turner, Firestone Tire Company	

Digital Photoelastic Analysis of Transient Thermal Stresses of Two Interacting Semi-Elliptic Surface Defects.....	680
Wei-Chung Wang and Tsai-Lin Chen, National Tsing Hua University	
SESSION 43 FRACTURE OF ENGINEERED MATERIALS III	
An Investigation of the Effects of Delamination on the Response of Pressurized Composite Cylinders.....	688
S.J. Harbert and H.A. Hogan, Texas A&M University	
Cyclic Fatigue Crack Propagation in Ceramic Bend Bars.....	690
I. Bar-On and J.T. Beals, Worcester Polytechnic Institute	
R-Curve Behavior of Cubic and Non-Cubic Monolithic Ceramics.....	696
K.W. White and G.P. Kelkar, University of Houston	
Comparison Between Data Generated From "Standard" Fracture Toughness Specimens and From Nonstandard Specimens Made of a Silicon Carbide.....	702
W.G. Reuter, W.R. Lloyd and J.R. Knibloe, EG&G Idaho, Inc.	
NDE of Ceramic Heat Exchangers.....	707
John R. Bower, Babcock & Wilcox Lynchburg Research Center	
SESSION 44 COMPOSITES III	
Characterization of the Shear Responses of the Off-Axis Thermoplastic Composite Laminae.....	712
S.C. Yen and K.T. Teh, Southern Illinois University	
Measurement of Deformation in Thick Laminated Composite Rings Subjected to External Pressure.....	719
M.G. Abdallah, Hercules Incorporated; H.E. Gascoigne, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; D.S. Cairns and K.B. Patton, Hercules, Incorporated	
Evaluation of Composite Materials for Bird Impact Resistant Transparency Systems....	725
G.J. Stenger, University of Dayton Research Institute; and W.R. Pinnell, U.S. Air Force Wright Research and Development Center	
Damage Initiation and Growth in a Quasi-Isotropic Laminate of Ceramic Matrix Composite.....	732
S. Mall, Air Force Institute of Technology; and R.Y. Kim, University of Dayton Research Institute	
In-Situ Strain Measurement Around Micro-Damage in Composite Materials.....	738
M.J. Sundaresan, T.M. Srinivasan, University of Miami; and C.P. Agrawal, Engineering Analysis	
SESSION 45 APPLICATIONS III	
Lubrication Methods and Wear in Gear Design.....	743
G.W. Eggeman, Kansas State University	
Accuracy Correlations Based on Interior and Exterior Ballistic Measurement.....	746
Lewis G. Frasch, Lawrence Technological University	
Vibration Studies of Partially Clamped Trapezoidal Cantilever Plates Having Various Swept-Back Angles.....	752
T.Y. Chen, J.J. Ju and S.Y. Lee, National Cheng Kung University	
Directed Bi-Material Crack Propagation Using Photoelasticity.....	760
C.R. Vilmann, I. Miskioglu, J.S. Pawloski and D.M. Pariseau, Michigan Technological University	

PAPERS OUT OF ORDER

Measurement of Residual Stresses by a Moire Fringe Method with Hole Drilling, and Verification on Titanium Compressor Ring(Session 30).....	765
A. McDonach, P.M. MacKenzie, J. McKelvie and C.A. Walker, University of Strathclyde	
Fast Detection of Residual Stresses in an Industrial Environment by Thermoplastic-Based Shearography(Session 22).....	769
Y.Y. Hung and J.D. Hovanesian, Oakland University	
Delaminations in Smart Composite Structures (Session 19).....	776
S. Hanagud, G.L. Nageshbabu and C.C. Won, The Georgia Institute of Technology	

EXPERIMENTAL ANALYSIS OF STRESS INTENSITY FACTORS

FOR A VERTICAL SURFACE-BREAKING CRACK

LOCATED NEAR A CONCENTRATED FORCE

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ABSTRACT

Two-dimensional photoelasticity is used to analyze the stress intensity factors for vertical surface-breaking cracks that are relevant to the process of wear particle generation. The specimen represents a half-plane with a crack intersecting the boundary at a right angle. A concentrated load is applied to the boundary of the half-plane in close proximity to the crack intersection. Three series of photoelastic experiments are conducted to determine the mixed mode stress intensity factors K_I and K_{II} . The mixed mode stress intensity factors are combined to give an effective stress intensity factor which controls the stability of vertical surface-breaking crack. The results indicate that the magnitude of K_{II} is much smaller than that of K_I for short cracks. However, as the crack becomes deeper the magnitude of K_{II} approaches that of K_I .

INTRODUCTION

During the past decade, significant progress has been made in developing models to describe the mechanisms and processes of wear. In order to extend these ideas and develop qualitative models for predicting wear rates, a better understanding of the details of the fracture process that precedes wear particle generation is needed. Fracture mechanics combined with two-dimensional photoelasticity is used to examine a vertical surface-breaking crack. The crack is subjected to a stress state produced by a concentrated force applied to the boundary of the half-plane near the crack intersection.

The wear particle generation process consists of the nucleation of microcracks, the propagation of these microcracks, and the subsequent formation of loose wear debris [1]. Metallurgical investigations [2] reveal that micropits are formed from small scratches that are oriented in the rolling direction. As tensile stresses concentrate at these micropits, a surface crack is nucleated and then extended under the action of cyclic sliding or rolling loads. Keer, et al. [3] have investigated the surface-breaking crack in an elastic deforming field under Hertzian loading with a numerical method based on integral equations of dislocation density functions. The results show that as the loading moves away from the crack, the absolute values of K_I and K_{II} tend to increase, reach a maximum, and then diminish. They indicate that there may be a tendency for the crack to propagate in a direction opposite to the direction of friction. Tunca and Laufer [4] have investigated the surface-breaking crack in an elastoplastic field using finite elements. The results for surface-breaking cracks in either an elastic or elastic-plastic zone show that crack growth is possible only by the shear mode in the compressive region. In the tensile region the cracks grow due to a combination of the opening and shear modes.

Crack extension, the final phase of the wear particle generation is considered in this paper. An intersecting crack is introduced in a half-plane oriented vertical to the boundary, as shown in Fig. 1. A concentrated load with both normal and tangential components is then applied to the boundary at a location close to the crack tip. The resulting stress field produces mixed mode stress intensity factors.

EXPERIMENTAL METHOD

Photoelastic experiments were conducted to investigate the stress distribution in the region near the tip of the vertical crack. The photoelastic models, illustrated in Fig. 1, which represent the half-plane in a state of plane stress, were fabricated from a polycarbonate sheet 6.3 mm thick. A crack intersecting the boundary of the half-plane at a right angle was saw-cut into each specimen. A concentrated force was applied to the boundary of the model with an aluminum wedge. The contact point on the wedge, shown in Fig. 2, was finished with a radius $r = 0.1$ mm. The applied force was inclined relative to the boundary of the half-plane to produce tangential and normal force components F_t and F_n by rotating the model relative to a vertical line of load application. The magnitude of the applied force was adjusted to generate a sufficient number of fringes required to determine the mixed mode stress intensity factors. The region of interest, 25 x 40 mm in size, shown as the cross-hatched area in Fig. 2, is small compared to the size of the specimen. The characteristic model dimensions a and b and the loads F_n and F_t are listed in Table 1 for all 15 of the photoelastic models studied.

Dark and light field isochromatic fringe patterns were recorded for each model. Typical fringe patterns showing enlargements of the region of interest are presented in Fig. 3. The fringe order N and the

corresponding positions (x and y) for 400 to 500 data points were recorded for each negative pair using a digitizing tablet. The data (N,x,y) were stored on a floppy disk for digital processing.

DATA ANALYSIS

The stresses in the region of interest are produced by the interaction of two singularities. One singularity of order r^{-1} is due to the concentrated load and the other of order $r^{-1/2}$ is due to the crack tip. The analysis of the stresses depends on the crack length, and the approach used for both the shallow and deep cracks is described below:

Shallow crack : $a/b < 1$

For a shallow crack, the two singularities strongly interact with each other, as indicated in the fringe pattern presented in Fig. 3a. The stresses in the region located between the two singularities are described by superimposing the Boussinesq equation [5] and two modes of the generalized Westergaard equations [6-8]. The Boussinesq equation accounts for the stresses due to the concentrated load and the generalized Westergaard equations gives the mixed mode stresses produced by the presence of the crack tip. The Boussinesq [5] representation of the stress components relative to the co-ordinate system defined in Fig. 4 is:

$$\sigma_{\xi} = -\frac{2F}{\pi\xi} \cos(\alpha + \eta), \quad \sigma_{\eta} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \tau_{\xi\eta} = 0 \quad (1)$$

where F is the load per unit thickness. Note, in Fig. 4 that the line LL perpendicular to the loading force separates the radial stress field into two different regions with σ_{ξ} tensile in the upper left and compressive in the lower right. The tensile region is of primary importance since positive values of the opening mode stress-intensity factor K_I that markedly affect the extension of the crack occur in the tensile region.

Sanford [7] has shown the generalized Westergaard equation for the opening mode and Chona [8] has extended the development to cover the in-plane shearing mode. An expression for the stresses in the region, between the two singularities, obtained by superimposing the stress components from the Boussinesq equations and the two sets of modified Westergaard equations, is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_{xx} = & -\frac{2F}{\pi\xi} \cos(\eta+\alpha) \cos^2\eta + \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} A_i r^{i-1/2} [\cos(i-1/2)\theta - (i-1/2) \sin\theta \sin(i-3/2)\theta] \\ & + \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} B_j r^j [-j \sin\theta \sin(j-1)\theta + 2 \cos(j\theta)] \\ & + \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} C_m r^{m-1/2} [(m-1/2) \sin\theta \cos(m-3/2)\theta + 2 \sin(m-1/2)\theta] \\ & + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} D_n r^n [\sin(n\theta) + n \sin\theta \cos(n-1)\theta] \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_{yy} = & -\frac{2F}{\pi\xi} \cos(\eta+\alpha) \sin^2\eta + \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} A_i r^{i-1/2} [\cos(i-1/2)\theta + (i-1/2) \sin\theta \sin(i-3/2)\theta] \\ & + \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} B_j r^j [j \sin\theta \sin(j-1)\theta] \\ & + \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} C_m r^{m-1/2} [-(m-1/2) \sin\theta \cos(m-3/2)\theta] + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} D_n r^n [\sin(n\theta) - n \sin\theta \cos(n-1)\theta] \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_{xy} = & \frac{F}{\pi\xi} \cos(\eta+\alpha) \sin(2\eta) + \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} A_i r^{i-1/2} [-(i-1/2) \sin\theta \cos(i-3/2)\theta] \\ & + \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} B_j r^j [-j \sin\theta \cos(j-1)\theta - \sin(j\theta)] \\ & + \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} C_m r^{m-1/2} [-(m-1/2) \sin\theta \sin(m-3/2)\theta + \cos(m-1/2)\theta] + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} D_n r^n [-n \sin\theta \sin(n-1)\theta] \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where the stress intensity factors are given by

$$K_I = \sqrt{2\pi} A_0 \quad \text{and} \quad K_{II} = \sqrt{2\pi} C_0 \quad (5)$$

Obviously, this solution violates the boundary conditions of the body described in Fig. 1. The Boussinesq equation satisfies the boundary of the half-plane, but violates the stress-free condition on the crack faces. Also, the generalized Westergaard equations satisfy the stress free condition of the crack faces but violate the stress-free conditions on the boundary of the half-plane. Analysis of results described later

indicate that these boundary violations do not produce large deviations in the stresses in the near field.

Deep crack : $a/b > 1$

As the crack is extended, the interaction of the two singularities weakens, as indicated in Fig. 3b. Indeed, when the crack is sufficiently deep, the loading force becomes remote, and the solution for the stress field around the crack tip is essentially governed by two modes of the generalized Westergaard equations. In this case σ_{xx} , σ_{yy} and τ_{xy} are determined from eq (2), (3) and (4), by simply removing the first (Boussinesq) term.

NUMERICAL PROCEDURE

From the stress-optic law [9], the fringe order N is related to the stresses by:

$$N = (h/f_\sigma)(\sigma_1 - \sigma_2) = (2h/f_\sigma)\tau_{\max} \quad (6)$$

where h is the model thickness and f_σ is the material fringe value. Recall that:

$$\tau_{\max}^2 = D^2 + T^2 = [Nf_\sigma/(2h)]^2 \quad (7)$$

$$\text{where} \quad D = (\sigma_{yy} - \sigma_{xx})/2 \quad \text{and} \quad T = \tau_{xy} \quad (8)$$

Combine eqs (5) to (6), and define a function G_k as:

$$G_k(A_1, B_1, C_m, D_n) = (D_k^2 + T_k^2) - [N_k f_\sigma / (2h)]^2 \equiv 0 \quad (9)$$

where the subscript k identifies the point selected at position (r_k, θ_k) with the fringe order N_k . If an exact set of coefficients are used, $G_k \equiv 0$ and the value of $(D_k^2 + T_k^2)$ coincides with the experimentally determined quantity $[N_k f_\sigma / (2h)]^2$.

The purpose of the analysis is to determine the coefficients A_1, B_1, C_m, D_n with a numerical procedure that insures accuracy in extracting K_I and K_{II} from the isochromatic fringe data (N_k, r_k, θ_k) . Since the eq (9) is nonlinear in terms of the unknown coefficients, a numerical approach based on a combination of the Newton Raphson and least squares method [10] is required. In applying this procedure one begins with a truncated series which includes A_0, B_0, C_0 . The best estimates of these three coefficients are obtained and used as first estimates for an expanded series including additional terms. The expansion of the series is continued in steps of two additional terms until divergence occurs and a solution is not possible. In this study, the series was truncated at fifteen terms to avoid divergence for shallow cracks. For deep cracks, with only the Westergaard equations, the series was extended to nineteen terms before divergence occurred.

VERIFICATION OF NUMERICAL PROCEDURE

The results for K_I and K_{II} from this numerical procedure are verified by statistics and by input-output comparisons. The input-output comparisons are made between the original experimental data and fringe patterns which are reconstructed by using the coefficients. The coefficients A_1, B_1, C_m and D_n are substituted into eq (6) to determine $N(r, \theta)$. Integer order values of N are then plotted to produce reconstructed (theoretical) fringe patterns. The reconstructed fringe patterns are compared with the original data to determine the adequacy of the analysis in determining the coefficients. Typical reconstructed patterns for the shallow and deep cracks are presented in Fig. 5a and 5b, respectively. The dots represent the reconstructed fringes, and the numbers represent the original data points. The relatively close match of the data points with the reconstructed fringes over the region of interest demonstrates that the numerical approach can be used to determine K_I and K_{II} for both shallow and deep cracks with reasonable accuracy.

In the data extraction for each model, 400 to 500 data points were selected from the fringe patterns. For the shallow cracks, the data points were distributed over a circular region near the crack tip with $3 < r < 15$ mm, giving some preference for points with smaller r . For the deeper cracks, most of the data points were distributed over a fan-like region in front of the crack tip with $3 < r < 10$ mm. In addition, a small number of points were collected from the region between the crack tip and the loading point. Twenty subsets of data, 70 points each, were sampled at random from the complete data set and each sub set was analyzed to obtain the best-fit coefficients. The results of these 20 analyses for each experiment including the mean values, standard deviation and coefficient of variation for K_I and K_{II} are presented in Table 2, 3 and 4.

These results provide a statistical assessment of the adequacy of the numerical process.

The numerical results for the shallow crack, presented in Table 2, show the effect of oblique loads with constant model dimensions for a and b . The coefficient of variation ranged from 4.1 to 9.1 per cent for K_I (slightly higher than those in deep crack case), and from 12.9 to 25.8 per cent for K_{II} (much higher than those in deep crack case). In fact the standard deviations are nearly the same for both shallow and deep crack cases. However, the mean values of K_{II} are much smaller for the shallow crack case and this elevates