

David Broek

ELEMENTARY ENGINEERING FRACTURE MECHANICS

Third revised edition

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Elementary engineering fracture mechanics

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Elementary engineering fracture mechanics

Preface to the first edition

When asked to start teaching a course on engineering fracture mechanics, I realized that a concise textbook, giving a general oversight of the field, did not exist. The explanation is undoubtedly that the subject is still in a stage of early development, and that the methodologies have still a very limited applicability. It is not possible to give rules for general application of fracture mechanics concepts. Yet our comprehension of cracking and fracture behaviour of materials and structures is steadily increasing. Further developments may be expected in the not too distant future, enabling useful prediction of fracture safety and fracture characteristics on the basis of advanced fracture mechanics procedures. The user of such advanced procedures must have a general understanding of the elementary concepts, which are provided by this volume.

Emphasis was placed on the practical application of fracture mechanics, but it was aimed to treat the subject in a way that may interest both metallurgists and engineers. For the latter, some general knowledge of fracture mechanisms and fracture criteria is indispensable for an appreciation of the limitations of fracture mechanics. Therefore a general discussion is provided on fracture mechanisms, fracture criteria, and other metallurgical aspects, without going into much detail. Numerous references are provided to enable a more detailed study of these subjects which are still in a stage of speculative treatment. Metallurgists and mechanicians need to know the particular problems of industry in order to be able to respond to the demands of engineers. Therefore, some pertinent practical problems are discussed.

No attempt was made to present a detailed review of every aspect of

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the principles and application of fracture mechanics. Such a treatment has already been given in the seven volumes "Fracture, An advanced treatise", edited by Liebowitz. Instead, as the title indicates, an attempt was made to deal with the elementaries and with those engineering applications that have found some acceptance. The text may serve as an introduction to the literature and as a basis for the understanding of forthcoming development. Although I have tried to arrive at a balanced presentation of the various subjects, the treatment of certain subjects may betray my personal interests.

In view of the stage of development of fracture mechanics, a certain degree of speculation could not be avoided. Where appropriate, speculative discussions are specified as such. Attention is focussed on subjects that are promising for quantitative use in design. Qualitative fracture analysis procedures and testing, such as the use of Charpy test data, Robertson tests and dynamic tear tests, are not considered, because these have been amply treated elsewhere.

The text is considered suitable for advanced undergraduate or first year graduate students. But it may also serve as a general introduction to this relatively new discipline for engineers and metallurgists who have not been confronted earlier with fracture mechanics.

I am indebted to my former colleagues at the National Aerospace Laboratory N.L.R., in whose enthusiastic fracture mechanics group I participated during twelve years. Without their encouragement I would not have developed to a stage where writing this text would have been possible. In particular, I want to thank Dr. R. J. H. Wanhill, who scrutinized the text and made many useful suggestions for improvement. I am grateful to Miss Lucy Loomans for her assistance in the preparation of the manuscript, to Mr. L. van de Eijkel for the art work, and to Ir. B. Pennekamp for his help in correcting the proofs. Finally, I want to apologize to all who have suffered from my limited interest in other matters during preparation of the manuscript.

Delft, January 1974

David Broek

Preface to the second edition

Since the publication of the first edition the prediction of fatigue crack propagation has become common practice in several areas of industry. Therefore it seemed appropriate to add an extra chapter 17 dealing with crack growth prediction. Apart from that this second edition is essentially the same as the first, although a few areas, such as dynamic fracture and mixed mode loading, were expanded.

I want to emphasize that the objective of this book is to deal in particular with those areas of fracture mechanics that have found practical application. The background, assumptions and limitations are presented and the problems of engineering application are pointed out. The text touches upon matters presently under development, but I do not believe that more extensive treatment is appropriate in a textbook on engineering fracture mechanics.

I am grateful for the many appreciative comments I received upon publication of the first edition.

Columbus, May 1978

David Broek

Preface to the third edition

During the last five years a considerable amount of research on elastic-plastic fracture mechanics has been conducted. Although elastic-plastic fracture concepts are still mostly in the stage of paper and laboratory studies, some technical applications begin to emerge. Therefore it seemed appropriate to expand this text to cover elastic-plastic fracture mechanics in more detail. To this end, the J integral has been given more coverage in chapter 5 as an energy concept and in chapter 9 as a stress field parameter and a fracture criterion, whereas chapter 15 has been extended with a discussion of the practical aspects of fracture predictions in structures of high toughness materials.

In the area of fatigue crack propagation, a more detailed discussion of similitude requirements was felt necessary. This resulted in an extension of chapter 10.

It is the aim of this book to show the use and application of fracture mechanics to practical problems. The numerous compromises that have to be made in practical applications have to be based on sound engineering judgement. For this reason shortcomings and limitations of the various fracture mechanics concepts are strongly emphasized, and on the other hand, approximative and simplified concepts are amply discussed because they are often more useful than the "formal" methods.

I am grateful that there is still sufficient interest in this text, so that the publisher would entertain a third edition.

Columbus, January 1981

David Broek

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Part I

Principles

1 | *Summary of basic problems and concepts*

1.1 Introduction

Through the ages the application of materials in engineering design has posed difficult problems to mankind. In the Stone Age the problems were mainly in the shaping of the material. In the early days of the Bronze Age and the Iron Age the difficulties were both in production and shaping. For many centuries metal-working was laborious and extremely costly. Estimates go that the equipment of a knight and horse in the thirteenth century was of the equivalent price of a Centurion tank in World War II.

With the improving skill of metal working, applications of metals in structures increased progressively. Then it was experienced that structures built of these materials did not always behave satisfactorily, and unexpected failures often occurred. Detailed descriptions of castings and forgings produced in the Middle Ages exist. When judged with present day knowledge, these production methods must have been liable to build important technical deficiencies into the structure. This must have made gunners pray—when igniting the charge—that the projectile would be properly delivered and the barrel not blown up ...

The vastly increasing use of metals in the nineteenth century caused the number of accidents and casualties to reach unknown levels. The number of people killed in railway accidents in Great Britain was in the order of two hundred per year during the decade 1860–1870. Most of the accidents were a result of derailing caused by fractures of wheels, axles or rails. Anderson [1] has recently made an interesting compilation of accident reports from the last two hundred years. A few quotations follow: