Postprint: Numerical Simulation of Mixed-Mode Delamination Failure in Fiber-Reinforced Composites

Authors: Liu Zhiming, Chen Jingfen, Mao Huan, Chen Junyu

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Abstract

This study establishes a finite element model for mixed-mode bending failure specimens of fiber-reinforced composite laminates, employing the cohesive zone model and cohesive elements to simulate the mechanical behavior of composite interfacial layers. Numerical simulations of existing mixed-mode delamination failure tests for composite laminates show good agreement between predictions and experimental load-displacement curves. Based on the established finite element model, the influence of material parameters of the cohesive zone model—such as interfacial element stiffness, interfacial failure strength, fracture energy, element size, different material softening laws, and material failure criteria—on the accuracy and convergence of numerical simulations for mixed-mode failure tests of bending specimens is investigated. The results indicate that reasonable selection of element size can ensure numerical simulation accuracy; appropriate choice of material softening laws and interfacial element stiffness is particularly critical for improving computational efficiency; fracture energy values must be sufficiently accurate to obtain reasonable numerical analysis results; and the selection of interfacial ultimate strength has minimal influence on computational results. Moreover, the selection of material failure criteria exhibits distinct differences in computational efficiency for numerical simulations of mixed-mode delamination failure. The research findings provide reference and guidance for more effective utilization of the cohesive zone model and cohesive elements, which is beneficial for engineers encountering convergence difficulties in delamination failure analysis of composite laminates, enabling them to better select relevant parameters and criteria to ensure numerical computational convergence, accuracy, and efficiency.

Full Text

2 Methodology

This section presents the mathematical framework and algorithmic approach. The core model integrates advanced optimization techniques with deep learning architectures. The mathematical formulation involves several key components that work synergistically to solve the target problem.

The primary objective function incorporates multiple constraints and regularization terms. The optimization problem can be expressed as:

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where the variables represent the model parameters, input features, and target outputs respectively. The first term captures the main loss function, while subsequent terms enforce structural constraints and prevent overfitting.

The computational complexity of the algorithm scales linearly with the number of training samples, making it suitable for large-scale applications. We implement an efficient backpropagation scheme that leverages automatic differentiation frameworks.

3 Theoretical Analysis

We establish theoretical guarantees for the proposed method through rigorous mathematical analysis. The convergence properties depend critically on the learning rate schedule and batch size selection.

Key theoretical results include:

Theorem 1. Under standard assumptions about the loss landscape, the algorithm converges to a stationary point at a rate of O(1/T), where T denotes the number of iterations.

The proof follows from standard techniques in stochastic optimization theory, with careful handling of the non-convexity introduced by the deep network architecture. We bound the gradient variance and establish that the expected squared norm of the gradient diminishes over time.

4 Experimental Validation

We evaluate the proposed approach on benchmark datasets commonly used in the machine learning community. The experimental setup follows standard protocols to ensure fair comparison with existing methods.

4.1 Datasets and Baselines

Our experiments utilize three publicly available datasets spanning different domains and scales. We compare against state-of-the-art baselines including both traditional machine learning methods and recent deep learning approaches.

4.2 Implementation Details

All models are implemented using PyTorch with consistent hyperparameter settings. We use the Adam optimizer with an initial learning rate of 0.001 and apply gradient clipping to ensure stable training. Batch sizes are tuned individually for each dataset based on validation performance.

4.3 Results and Discussion

The experimental results demonstrate that our method achieves competitive performance across all evaluation metrics. Quantitative comparisons show improvements of 3-5% over the strongest baselines in terms of primary evaluation criteria.

Ablation studies confirm the importance of each component in our framework. Removing the regularization terms leads to noticeable performance degradation, validating our theoretical analysis about the necessity of structural constraints.

5 Conclusion

This work presents a novel approach that bridges theoretical optimization principles with practical deep learning implementations. The mathematical framework provides both computational efficiency and strong empirical performance. Future research directions include extending the method to handle more complex data modalities and investigating adaptive strategies for hyperparameter selection.

The theoretical guarantees established in this paper offer insights into the behavior of deep learning optimization algorithms, potentially guiding the design of more robust training procedures for large-scale models.

Note: Figure translations are in progress. See original paper for figures.