2020/10/1 Friday, October 16, 2020 2:51 PM





This is why 1/4 position 2nd elements, can produce LEFM singularity



How should the mesh look like around the crack tip?



Transition elements: According to this analysis mid nodes of next layers move to ½ point from ¼ point

Lynn and Ingraffea 1977)





Recall 
$$f_{z-1} \rightarrow \alpha = \frac{1}{4}$$
  
 $f_{z-0}^{*} \rightarrow \alpha = \frac{1}{2}$ 

As we will see, even with inferior meshes we can get decent solutions for K, J, G if the right method is used.





## 1. K from local fields







allouw Stress solution has a lower Donvergence rate  $\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{L}} \left( \mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{L}} \right)$ =  $\nabla \mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{L}} \neq \nabla$ Stress solution general is test accurate. method is sensitive to orack sufface tracks أمأر 3\_ ٦.

# 2. K from energy approaches

- 1. Elementary crack advance (two FEM solutions for a and  $a + \Delta a$ )
- 2. Virtual Crack Extension: Stiffness derivative approach
- 3. J-integral based approaches (next section)

After obtaining G (or J=G for LEFM) K can be obtained from

$$K_I^2 = E'G$$
  $E' = \begin{cases} E & \text{plane stress} \\ \frac{E}{1-\nu^2} & \text{plane strain} \end{cases}$ 

## 2.1 Elementary crack advance

For fixed grip boundary condition perform two simulations (1, *a*) and (2,  $a+\Delta a$ ): All FEM packages can compute strain (internal) energy U<sub>i</sub>









If we compute dK/da analytically, the virtual crack extension becomes equivalent to "Equivalent Domain Integration (EDI)" which is a very robust method for calculating J

- Only the few elements that are distrorted contribute to  $\frac{\partial K}{\partial a}$
- We may not even need to form elements and assemble K for a and  $a + \Delta a$  to obtain  $\frac{\partial K}{\partial a}$ . We can explicitly obtain  $\frac{\partial k^e}{\partial a}$  for elements affected by crack growth by computing derivatives of actual geometry of the element to parent geometry.
  - This method is equivalent to J integral method (Park 1974)

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### 2.2 Virtual crack extension: Mixed mode

• For LEFM energy release rates G<sub>1</sub> and G<sub>2</sub> are given by

$$J_{1} = G_{1} = \frac{K_{I}^{2} + K_{II}^{2}}{E'} + \frac{K_{III}^{2}}{2\mu}$$
$$J_{2} = G_{2} = \frac{-2K_{I}K_{II}}{E'}$$

• Using Virtual crack extension (or elementary crack advance) compute  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  for crack lengths  $a, a + \Delta a$  $\theta = -\pi$ 

$$J_{1} = G_{1} = \frac{K_{I}^{2} + K_{II}^{2}}{E} + \frac{K_{III}^{2}}{2\mu}$$

$$J_{2} = G_{2} = \frac{-2K_{I}K_{II}}{E'}$$

$$\theta = 0$$

• Obtain K<sub>1</sub> and K<sub>11</sub> from:



Note that there are two sets of solutions!

$$s = 2\sqrt{\frac{G_1 - G_2}{\alpha}}$$
 and  $\alpha = \frac{(1+\nu)(1+\kappa)}{E}$ 

#### 6.1.4. J integral



Contour integrals are difficult to implement in FEMs:

# J integral: 1.Contour integral

• Stresses are available and also more accurate at Gauss points

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• Integral path goes through Gauss points





$$J = \int_{\Gamma} w dy - t \cdot \frac{\partial d}{\partial x} ds \implies r = \int_{-1}^{1} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{e^{i\theta}}{\partial x} + \tau_{irr} \left( \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial x}{\partial x} \right) + e^{i\theta} \frac{\partial y}{\partial y} \right]_{0}^{i\theta} + \frac{\partial y}{\partial x} + e^{i\theta} \frac{\partial y}{\partial y} + e^$$



# Generalization of J integral

- Dynamic loading
- Surface tractions on crack surfaces
- Body force
- Initial strains (e.g. thermal loading)
- Initial stress from pore pressures

cf. Saouma 13.11 & 13.12 for details



This formula is great: Crack surface traction, plasticity, dynamics, can even have body force The catch is that the contour integral should be at the limit of a point around the crack tip -> Computationally, this is where we have the worst numerical solution (very close to the crack tip)

