



Letter

Threshold characteristics of short-pulsed loads combined with the ultrasound field causing dynamic delamination of adhesive joints



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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 9 June 2017

Received in revised form 25 August 2017

Accepted 30 August 2017

Available online 22 November 2017

*This article belongs to the Solid Mechanics.

Keywords:

Dynamic fracture

Incubation time criterion

Delamination

ABSTRACT

In the present work, we analyse the delamination problem under the combined dynamic load. We show the effect of background harmonic vibrations on critical amplitudes of the principal force pulse. The effect is demonstrated on the simple model of a string on an elastic foundation and the fracture phenomenon is predicted by the incubation time criterion. The results state the possibility of considerable decrease in threshold amplitude by a proper choice of the frequency of a background excitation.

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Rapidly emerging areas of engineering that operate at small scales gave rise to many various problems for modelling. One of them is related to the behaviour of a solid structure at micro-level subjected to adhesive forces. These problems are essential for consideration, for instance, in microelectromechanical systems (MEMS) when structures lose their capacity by stiction of their parts to a substrate [1, 2], or while developing the adhesives that may mimic the sticking mechanism that geckos use [3, 4].

There is a standard procedure of measuring an adhesive strength which is referred to as the peeling test [5]. The measurements are performed under quasi-static loading conditions and allow to obtain a work of adhesion as an output parameter in a simple way. Although this test is tabulated and gives useful results, the consideration of inertia effects may deliver alternative ways in coping with the problems.

In such a way, it was shown that the application of a background vibrational field can substantially decrease the load that causes the failure of adhesive bonds [6, 7]. In this paper, we analyse the effect of background vibrational load on the adhesive failure in a simple model of a finite string on an elastic foundation. The model can be easily adopted for the beam structures

that are usually studied for MEMS [1, 2, 5, 7, 8]. The main point of this work is to demonstrate the modelling approach and the physical effects with the help of the structural-temporal fracture criterion, also known as the incubation time criterion [9-11]. The choice of this criterion is reasoned by the fact that it can capture features of dynamical processes in fracture [10-12], structural changes of media [13, 14], etc.

We consider a string of length L attached to an elastic foundation characterised by constant k . The tension of the string is μ and a unit length density is ρ . Figure 1 displays the configuration of the problem in question. The vertical displacement of a string is $u = u(x, t)$. The governing equation in the range $0 < x < L$, $t > 0$ for the considered setting is

$$\rho \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} u(x, t) = \mu \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} u(x, t) - ku(x, t) + f_0 \left[f(t) \delta \left(x - \frac{L}{2} \right) + r \sin(\nu t) \right]. \quad (1)$$

The last equation is usually used for illustration of dispersive waves and can be derived similarly to Ref. [15]. We prescribe homogeneous initial conditions and boundary conditions corresponding to the clamped ends

$$u(x, 0) = 0, \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(x, 0) = 0, u(0, t) = u(L, t) = 0. \quad (2)$$

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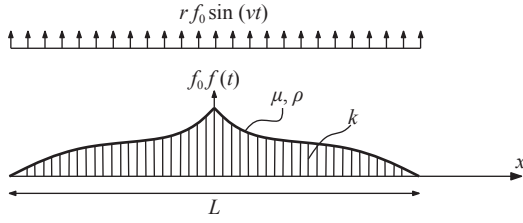


Fig. 1. String of length L , density ρ , and tension μ attached to an elastic foundation with stiffness k . The string subjected to a load at its centre $f_0 f(t)$ and simultaneously to background harmonic vibrations $r f_0 \sin(vt)$.

External load is considered as a concentrated force at the centre of a string, highlighted by the Dirac delta function $\delta(x)$ in Eq. (1), with time variable value $f_0 f(t)$, where f_0 characterises the amplitude of the force while $f(t)$ is a dimensionless pulse of the force, which is specified below. There is also a background vibrational load, $r f_0 \sin(vt)$, whose amplitude is a fraction of a concentrated force, given by ratio r . The excitation frequency of external force is given by v .

It should be noticed that the foundation can behave differently in tension and compression, which indeed happens in practice. Thus, for this case the stiffness of the foundation should be chosen to be dependent on the displacement of a string. However, the mathematical formulation of the problem will become significantly more complicated in derivation of the solution. As long as we are concerned in demonstration of fracture event, we chose the simplest case.

We suppose that fracture happens in the middle part of the string, right at the spot where the concentrated force is located. This assumption appears to be reasonable as long as the concentrated force $f_0 f(t)$ generate the elongation of the spring. The investigation of different amplitudes f_0 of this force allows to determine the critical values depending on the various pulse functions $f(t)$. The question that is addressed in this work is: how does the vibrational field effect the critical amplitude of concentrated force?

To answer the posed question we, firstly, need to obtain the solution of the problem presented in Eq. (1). The solution can be obtained by means of separation of variables. We use the final expression for $u(x, t)$ that can be found in Ref. [16] for a general type of load $g(x, t)$

$$u(x, t) = \int_0^L \int_0^t g(\xi, s) G(x, \xi, t - s) ds d\xi,$$

$$G(x, \xi, t) = \frac{2}{L} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sin(\lambda_n x) \sin(\lambda_n \xi) \frac{\sin(\Omega_n t)}{\Omega_n},$$

$$\lambda_n = \frac{\pi n}{L}, \Omega_n^2 = c^2 \lambda_n^2 + \omega^2, c^2 = \frac{\mu}{\rho}, \omega^2 = \frac{k}{\rho}. \quad (3)$$

Thus, in order to obtain the results we need to specify the concentrated load and perform the integration. We consider three major types of pulses $f(t)=f_j(t), j=1, 2, 3$, where

$$f_1(t) = H(t),$$

$$f_2(t) = H(t) - H(t - T),$$

$$f_3(t) = \frac{2}{T} \left\{ t \left[H(t) - H\left(t - \frac{T}{2}\right) \right] - (t - T) \left[H\left(t - \frac{T}{2}\right) - H(t - T) \right] \right\}. \quad (4)$$

The first type of pulse $f_1(t)$ is just a constant load of unit amplitude over the whole period of time while the second one $f_2(t)$ is a step pulse of duration T and unit magnitude. The last of the considered cases gives a symmetrical triangular pulse of duration T and, again, unit amplitude.

Hence, the solution of the problem in mind in the middle of the string, $x = L/2$, can be presented as

$$u_j\left(\frac{L}{2}, t\right) = f_0 \left[\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n^{(j)}(t) + r \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n(t) \right], j = 1, 2, 3. \quad (5)$$

Each solution u_j reflects the choice of the load in Eq. (4) for $j = 1, 2, 3$, respectively. The coefficients $A_n^{(j)}$ are defined as

$$A_n^{(1)}(t) = \frac{2}{L} \left(\sin \frac{\pi n}{2}\right)^2 \frac{1}{\Omega_n^2} [1 - \cos(\Omega_n t)] H(t),$$

$$A_n^{(2)}(t) = \frac{2}{L} \left(\sin \frac{\pi n}{2}\right)^2 \frac{1}{\Omega_n^2} \{ [1 - \cos(\Omega_n t)] H(t) - [1 - \cos[\Omega_n(t - T)]] H(t - T) \},$$

$$A_n^{(3)}(t) = \frac{2}{L} \left(\sin \frac{\pi n}{2}\right)^2 \left\{ \frac{\Omega_n t - \sin(\Omega_n t)}{\Omega_n^3} H(t) - \frac{\Omega_n(2t - T) - 2 \sin[\Omega_n(t - \frac{T}{2})]}{\Omega_n^3} H(t - \frac{T}{2}) - \frac{\sin[\Omega_n(t - T)]}{\Omega_n^3} H(t - T) \right\} \quad (6)$$

and $B_n(t)$ are given by

$$B_n(t) = \frac{2}{\pi n} [1 - (-1)^n] \sin \frac{\pi n}{2} \frac{1}{\Omega_n} \times \begin{cases} \frac{\nu \sin(\Omega_n t) - \Omega_n \sin(\nu t)}{\nu^2 - \Omega_n^2}, & \nu \neq \Omega_n, \\ \frac{1}{\nu} \sin(\nu t) - t \cos(\nu t), & \nu = \Omega_n. \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

The achieved solution allows to find the critical value of loading amplitude f_0 that is required to cause the fracture of a spring in the middle of the structure. The prediction of this event can be based on the appropriate fracture condition. In this work we choose it to be of a following kind:

$$\max_t \int_{t-\tau}^t u\left(\frac{L}{2}, s\right) ds = u_s. \quad (8)$$

Value u_s corresponds to the linear elongation of a spring under quasi-static loading condition. This value can be easily determined experimentally. The other quantity in fracture condition Eq. (8) is incubation time τ . This time characterises the rapidity of the fracture events and allows to model failure events at high-strain rates. This parameter is considered as a material property and can be measured by the experiments as well [17, 18].

Utilising obtained expressions for the solution in Eq. (5) and also fracture condition Eq. (8) we write down the equation for a critical loading amplitude

$$\frac{f_c}{k u_s} = \frac{1}{I}, I = \max_{t \in [0; 20]} \int_{t-\tau}^t k \left[\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n^{(j)}(s) + r \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n(s) \right] ds. \quad (9)$$

In the last expression ku_s is the force that breaks a spring if loaded quasi-statically. Range $t \in [0, 20]$ was chosen just to illustrate the used criterion. It was required in order to make possible to observe the fracture in finite time, otherwise the fracture event happens in infinite time.

To evaluate the dependence in Eq. (9) one has to set the model parameters. For the illustrative purposes, we define their values in appropriate physical units as: $L = 1[L]$, $\rho = 1[M]$, $\mu = 10[F]$, $k = 5[F/L^2]$. The incubation time is taken in time units $\tau = 0.1[T]$. The effect of introduced external vibrations is demonstrated in Fig. 2 in the case of constant load with time, $f_1(t)$, from Eq. (4). As one can see, the adopted incubation time criterion Eq.(8) reveals a decrease in critical forces close to the eigenfrequencies in comparison with a case without introduced vibrations ($r = 0$). This effect is significant for optimisation of detachment processes as it gives an opportunity to cause a fracture with less efforts. Even for the small amplitudes of vibrational fields, $r = 0.1$, there is a noticeable reduction of critical amplitudes. For higher amplitudes, for example $r = 0.5$, the effect is even more pronounced. This observation is caused by the resonance which is provided by the background vibration, which is underlined by Eq. (7). Notice that such effect is presented for the odd eigenfrequencies which follows from the chosen boundary conditions. The alternative choice of boundary conditions will result in the drop of amplitude at points different from those presented in Fig. 2.

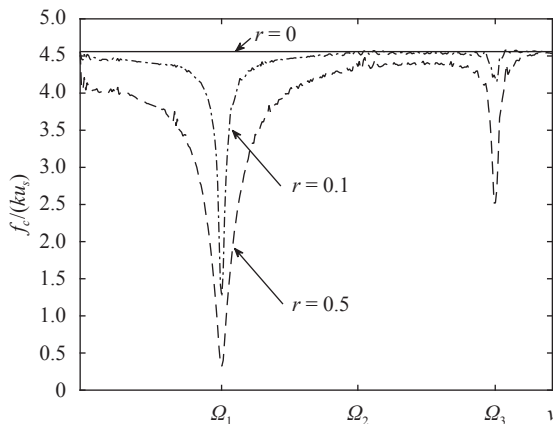


Fig. 2. Effect of background vibrational field on critical load in case $f_1(t)$.

A lot of phenomena in dynamic fracture mechanics appear at short pulses of load. In Fig. 3 one can observe that for two different shapes of pulses without an external vibration, the critical force infinitely grows when the duration of the pulse decreases. At the same time the critical force for a triangular pulse appears to be greater than in the case of step pulse $f_2(t)$.

Introduction of external vibrations allows to drop the values of critical load. Notice that this happens even not at the resonant frequency. Interestingly, with the growth of pulse duration the critical force tends to a constant value. This value is recovered if the conventional criterion, i.e., $\tau \rightarrow 0$, is considered. So to say, the curves in Fig. 3 distinguish the fracture processes between high rate processes and low rate ones. Moreover, the decrease of duration pulse to 0 results in the fracture caused by a

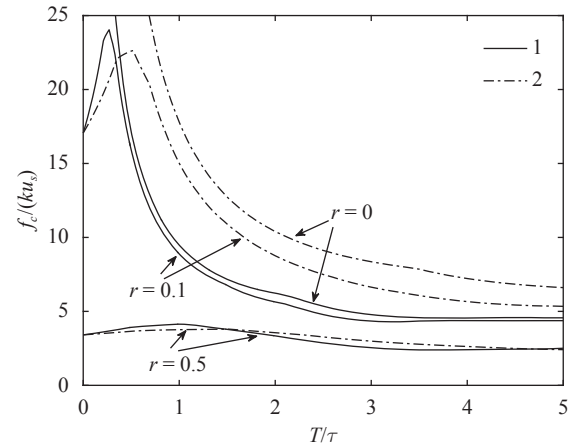


Fig. 3. Effect of background vibrational field on critical load in cases $f_2(t)$ and $f_3(t)$ given by curves 1 and 2, respectively. The excitation frequency is $\nu = 0.9\Omega_1$.

vibrational field only. Furthermore, there is a tendency in decrease of f_c with the increase of r . The introduction of incubation time criterion Eq. (8) allows to capture rate dependence of fracture processes, according to its original purpose and definition [9, 10], avoiding to impose the rate-dependence of the other material properties responsible for fracture.

To summarise, the simplified adhesion problem was analysed. We considered the failure of adhesion in the model of a string on the elastic foundation. The main aim of the study was to examine the influence of a background vibrations on the integrity of the structure under some principal load. It was shown that, imposing a background vibration on the already applied load, it is possible to considerably decrease the value of the critical force. At the same time, in the case of a pulse load, it was demonstrated that the critical load is characterised by the dynamic and static branches, which depend on the relation between the time characteristics of the basic and background effects and also on the parameters of the system. The obtained results show the possibility of controlling the detachment by imposing a proper vibrational load. The experimental validation of the examined problem is still needed. However, the wide range of applicability of the incubation time criterion in similar cases [9, 11, 13] provides the support for the achieved results in the present paper and expectation of their correctness.

Acknowledgement

This work was supported by the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (16-51-53077) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (1161130019).

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