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DEPARTMENT OF  
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

# The Sequential Static Fatigue algorithm: a fast approach to predict composites delamination growth under fatigue loadings

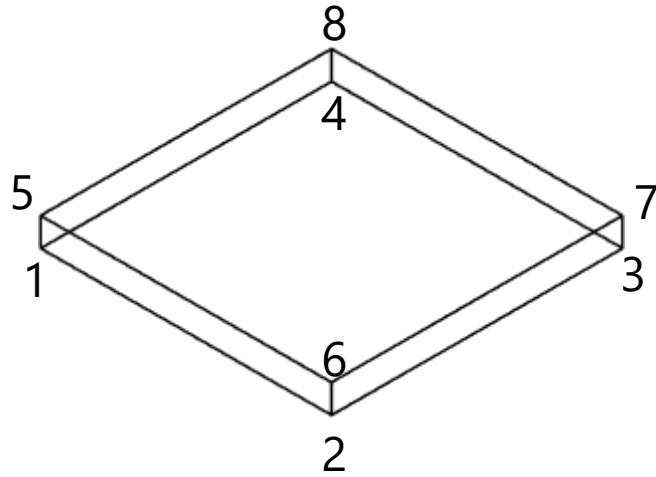
L. M. Martulli, A. Bernasconi

[lucamichele.martulli@polimi.it](mailto:lucamichele.martulli@polimi.it)



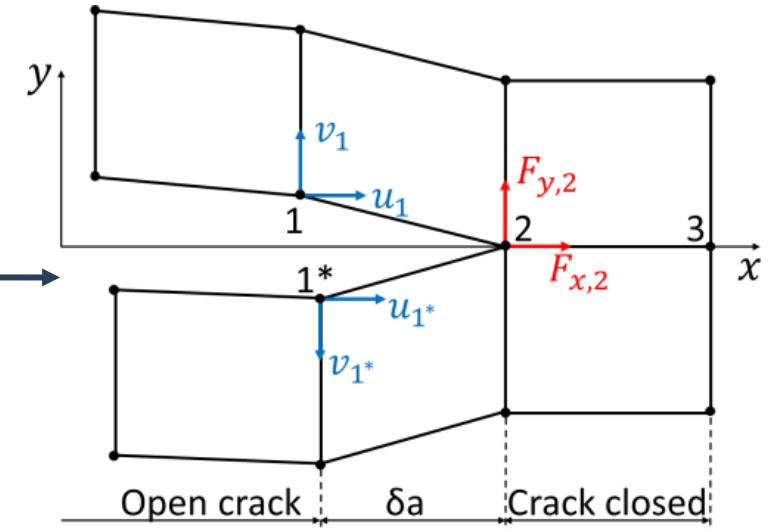
# BACKGROUND

Cohesive elements



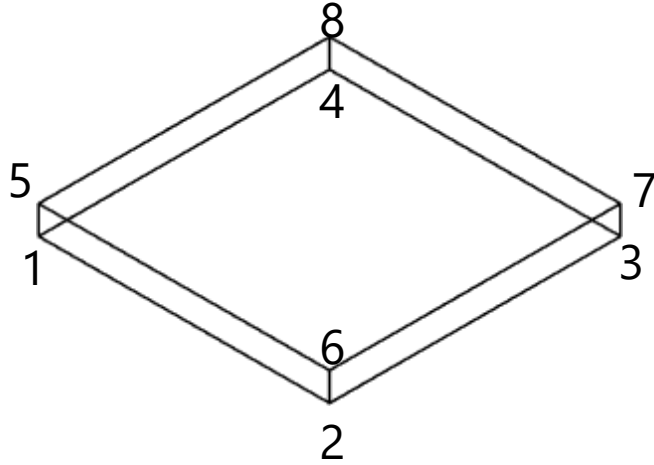
**Modelling  
delamination  
propagation under  
fatigue**

Virtual Crack Closure Technique



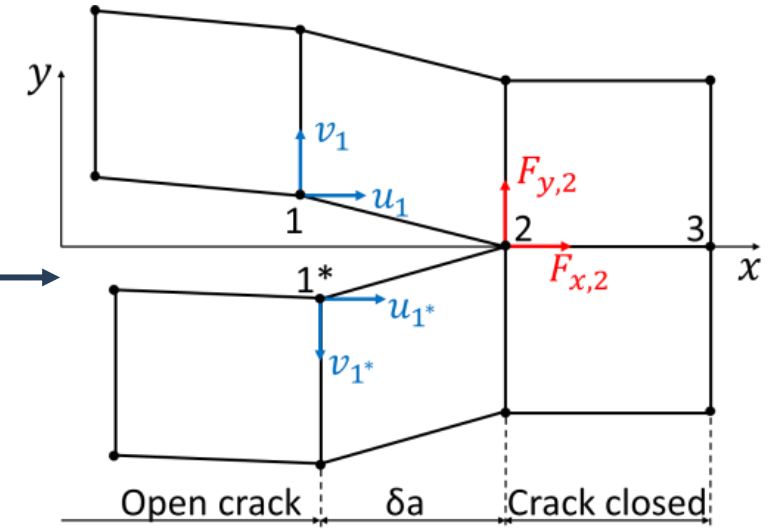
# BACKGROUND

Cohesive elements



**Modelling delamination propagation under fatigue**

Virtual Crack Closure Technique



9:10 10:30

Session 9: **COHESIVE ZONE MODELLING**

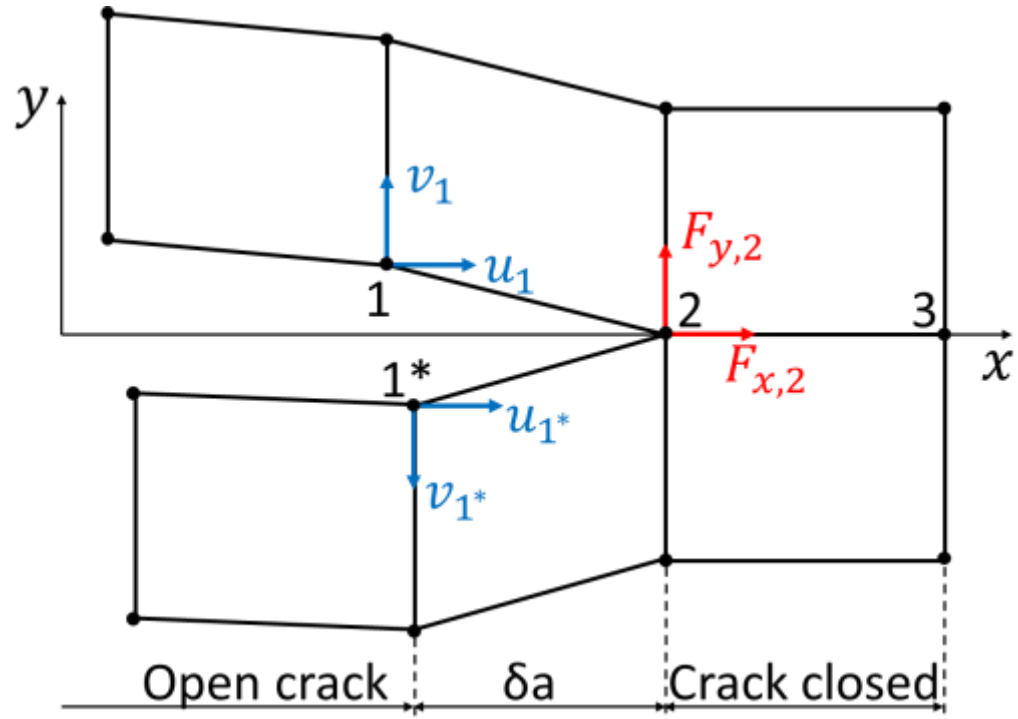
Chairman:

**R006 - The sequential static fatigue algorithm: a fast approach to predict composites delamination growth under fatigue loadings**

Oral

Luca M. Martulli, Andrea Bernasconi  
Politecnico di Milano

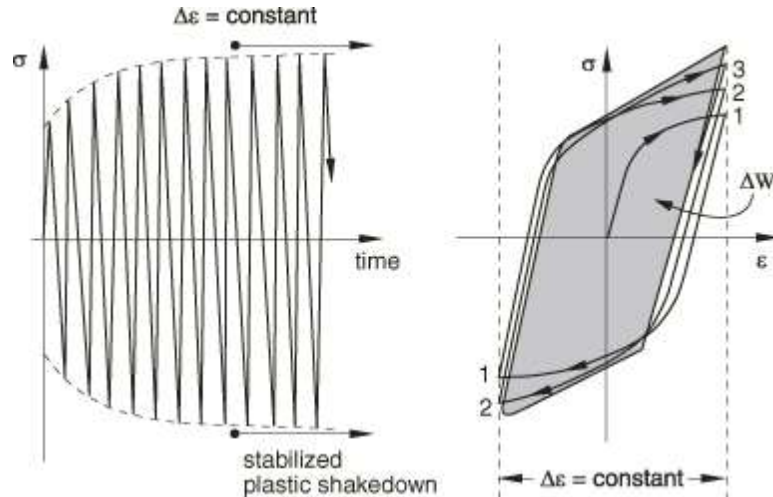
# VIRTUAL CRACK CLOSURE TECHNIQUE (VCCT)



Strain Energy Release Rate computation technique

Widely used for quasi-static simulations

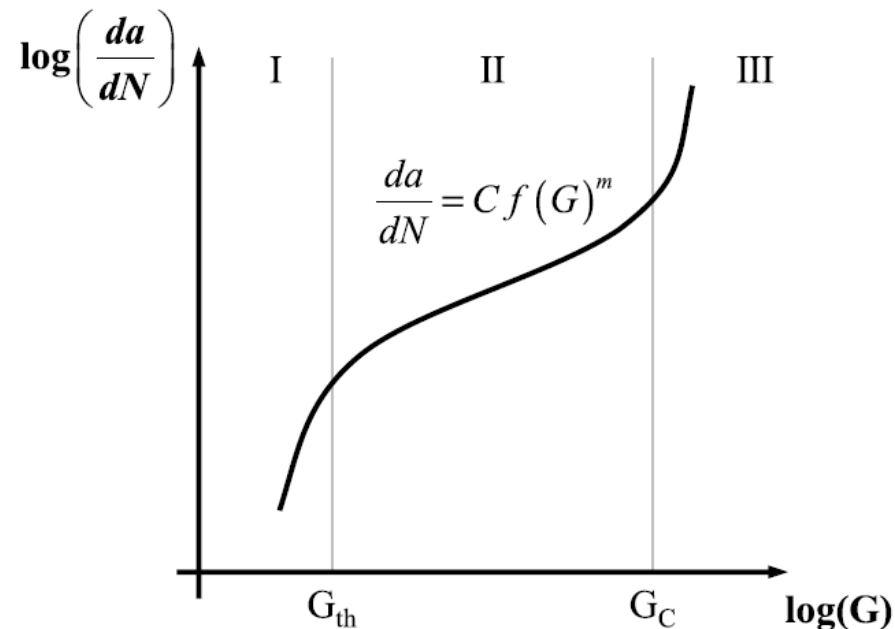
# THE BENCHMARK: THE DIRECT CYCLIC (DC) ALGORITHM



Load history is approximated via a Fourier series

Suitable for low cycle fatigue (plasticity)

VCCT can be used with DC for crack propagation predictions



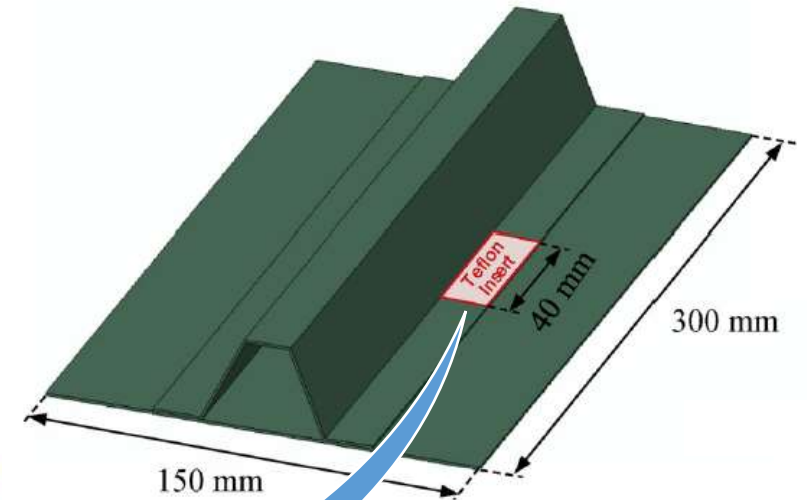
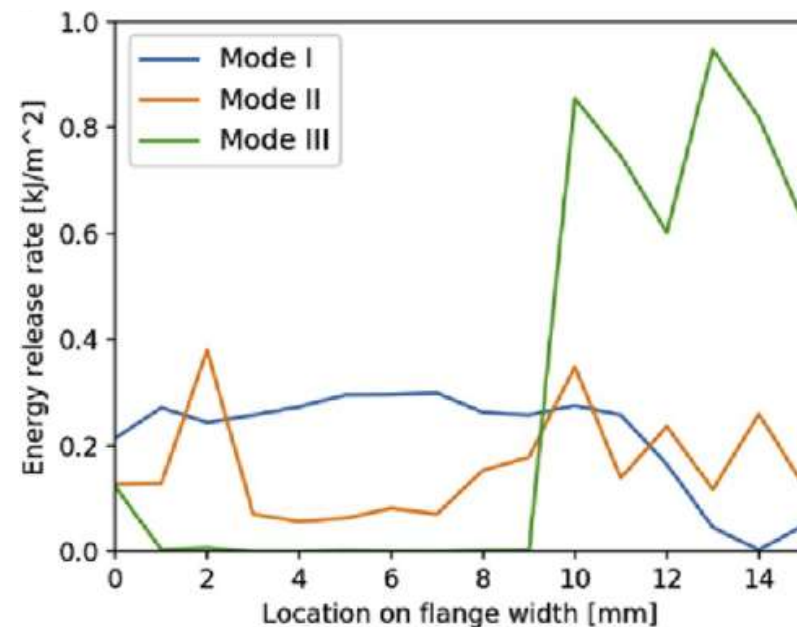
# THE BENCHMARK: THE DIRECT CYCLIC (DC) ALGORITHM

- Highly inefficient: from 2 to 15 more computationally expensive than cohesive zone models [1]
- Input limited to a single set of Paris parameters [1,2]

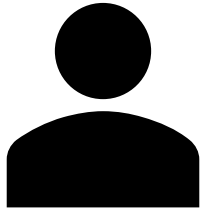
$$\frac{da}{dN} = C G^m$$

[1] Pirondi et al. (2014)

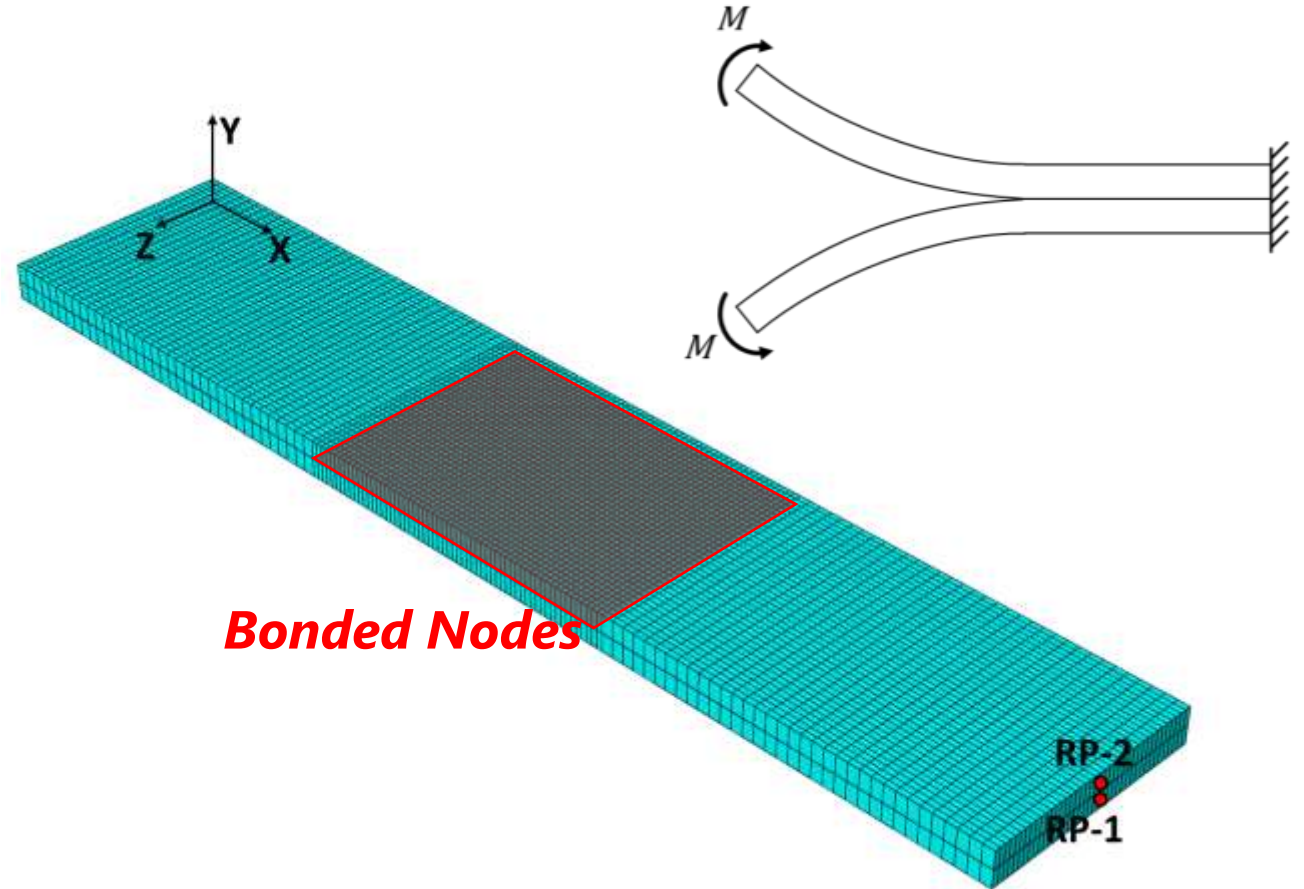
[2] Raimondo et al. (2020)



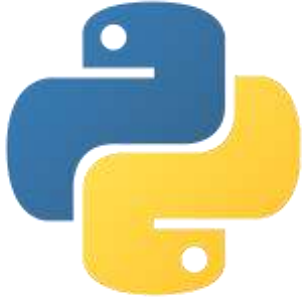
# OUR APPROACH: SEQUENTIAL-STATIC FATIGUE (SSF)



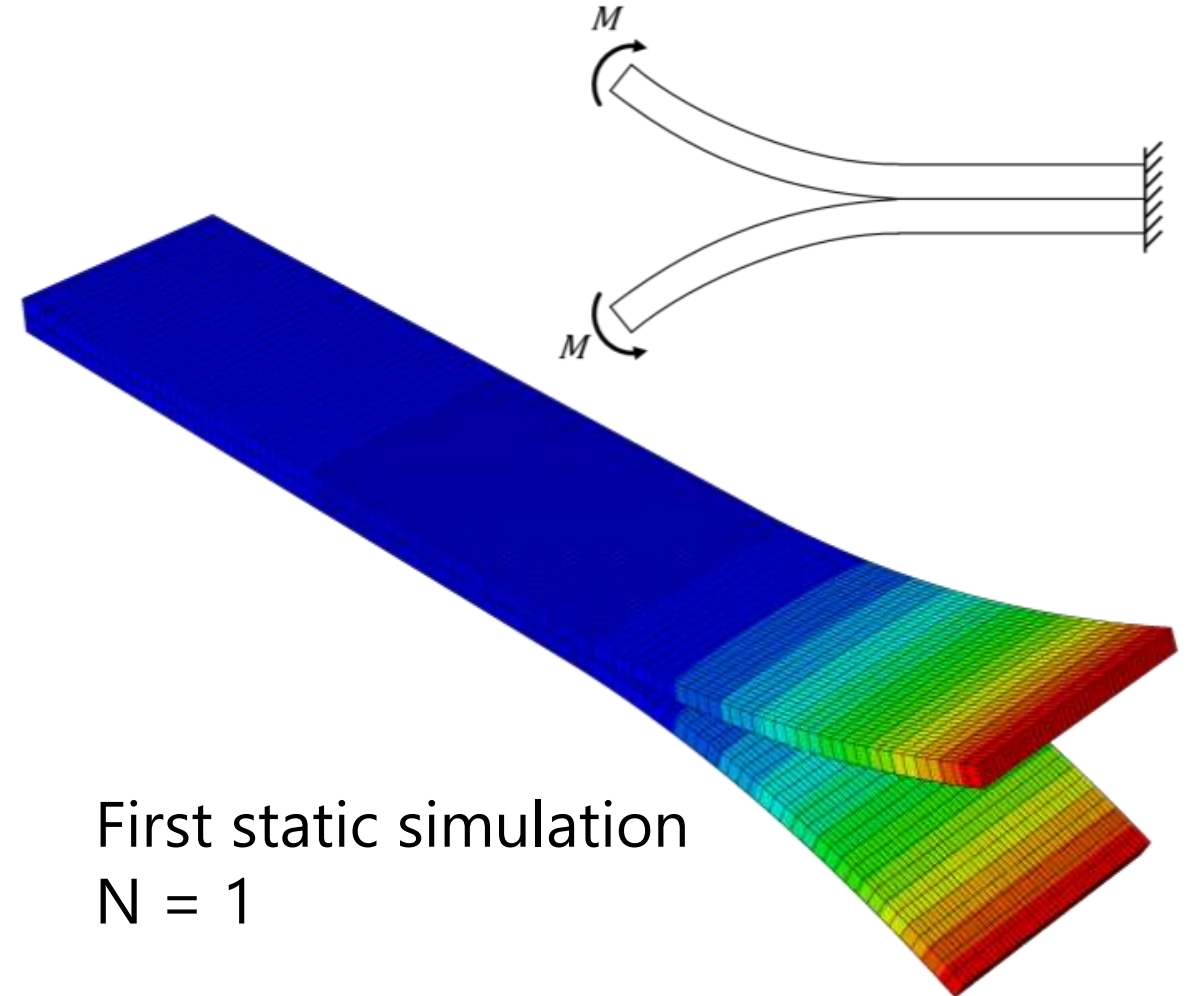
- Pre-processing



# OUR APPROACH: SEQUENTIAL-STATIC FATIGUE (SSF)



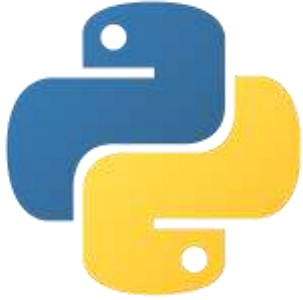
- Pre-processing
- **Launch simulation**



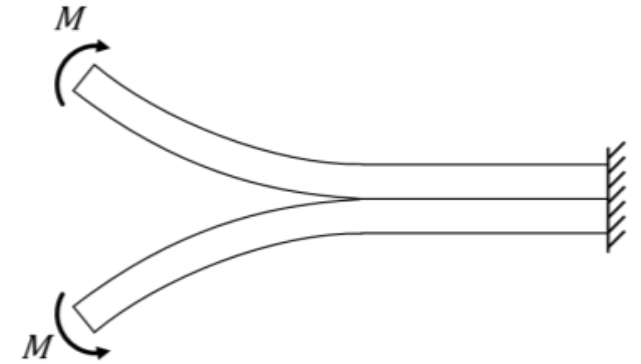
First static simulation  
 $N = 1$



# OUR APPROACH: SEQUENTIAL-STATIC FATIGUE (SSF)



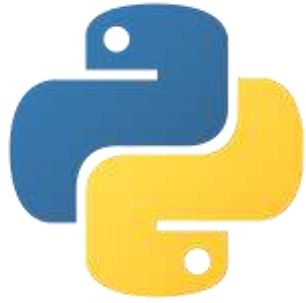
- Pre-processing
- Launch simulation
- **SERR extraction**
- **Calculation of number of cycles to release one node**



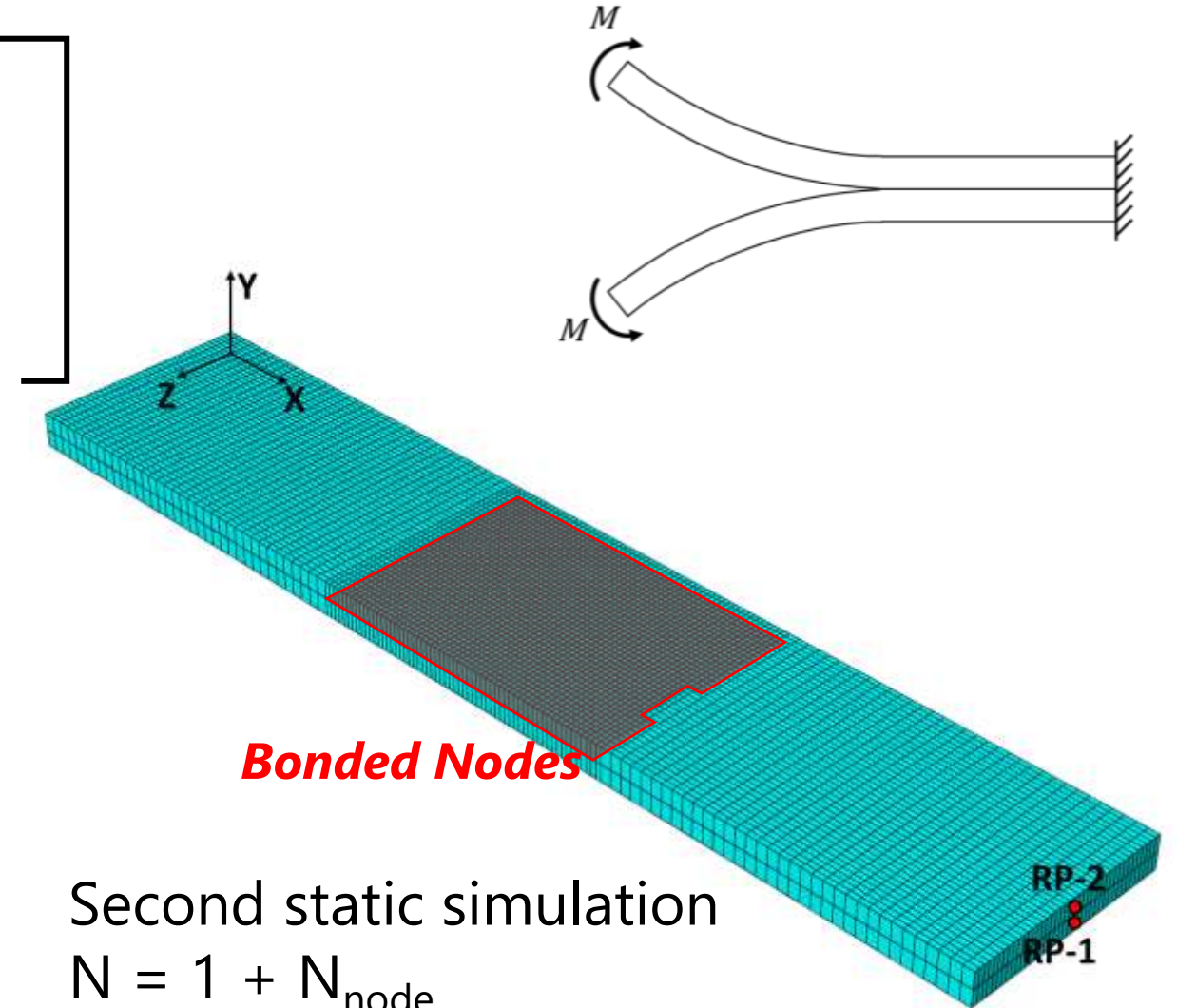
$$\frac{da}{dN} = f \left( \mathcal{G}_{\max}, \mathcal{G}_{\min}, \frac{\mathcal{G}_{II} + \mathcal{G}_{III}}{\mathcal{G}_{tot}} \right)$$

$$a = l_{el} \longrightarrow \downarrow N_{node}$$

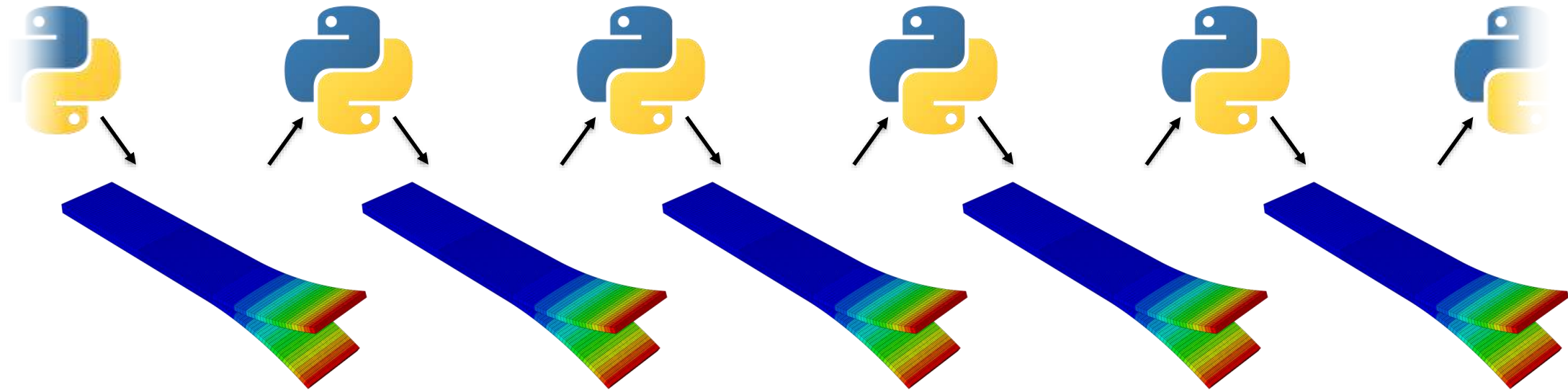
# OUR APPROACH: SEQUENTIAL-STATIC FATIGUE (SSF)



- Pre-processing
- Launch simulation
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# OUR APPROACH: SEQUENTIAL-STATIC FATIGUE (SSF)

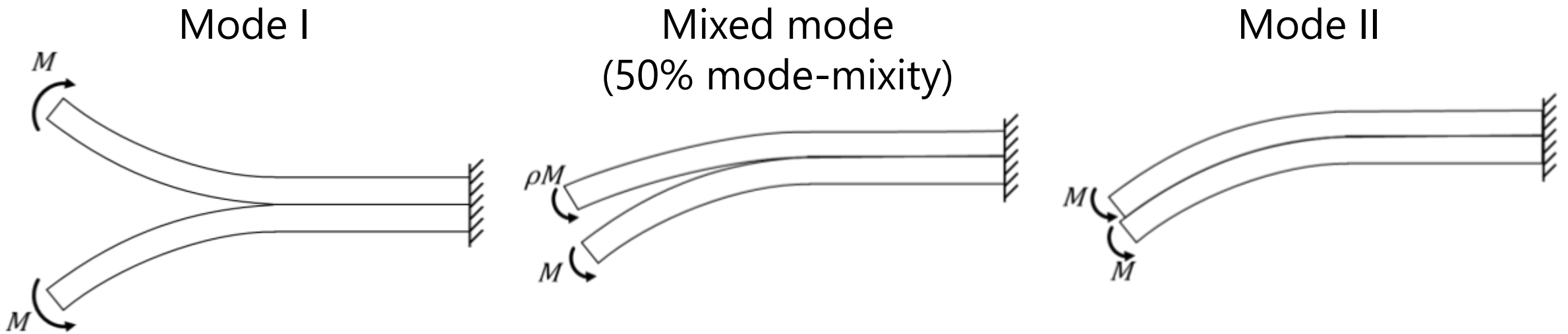


Fatigue load history is simulated via a series of static simulations

The algorithm uses the VCCT already implemented in Abaqus

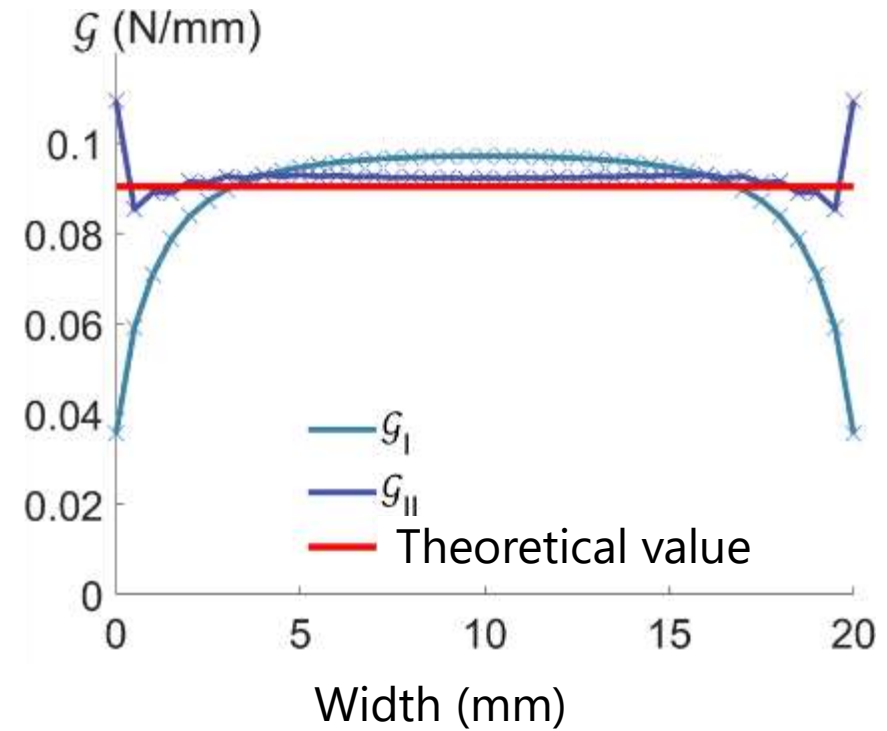
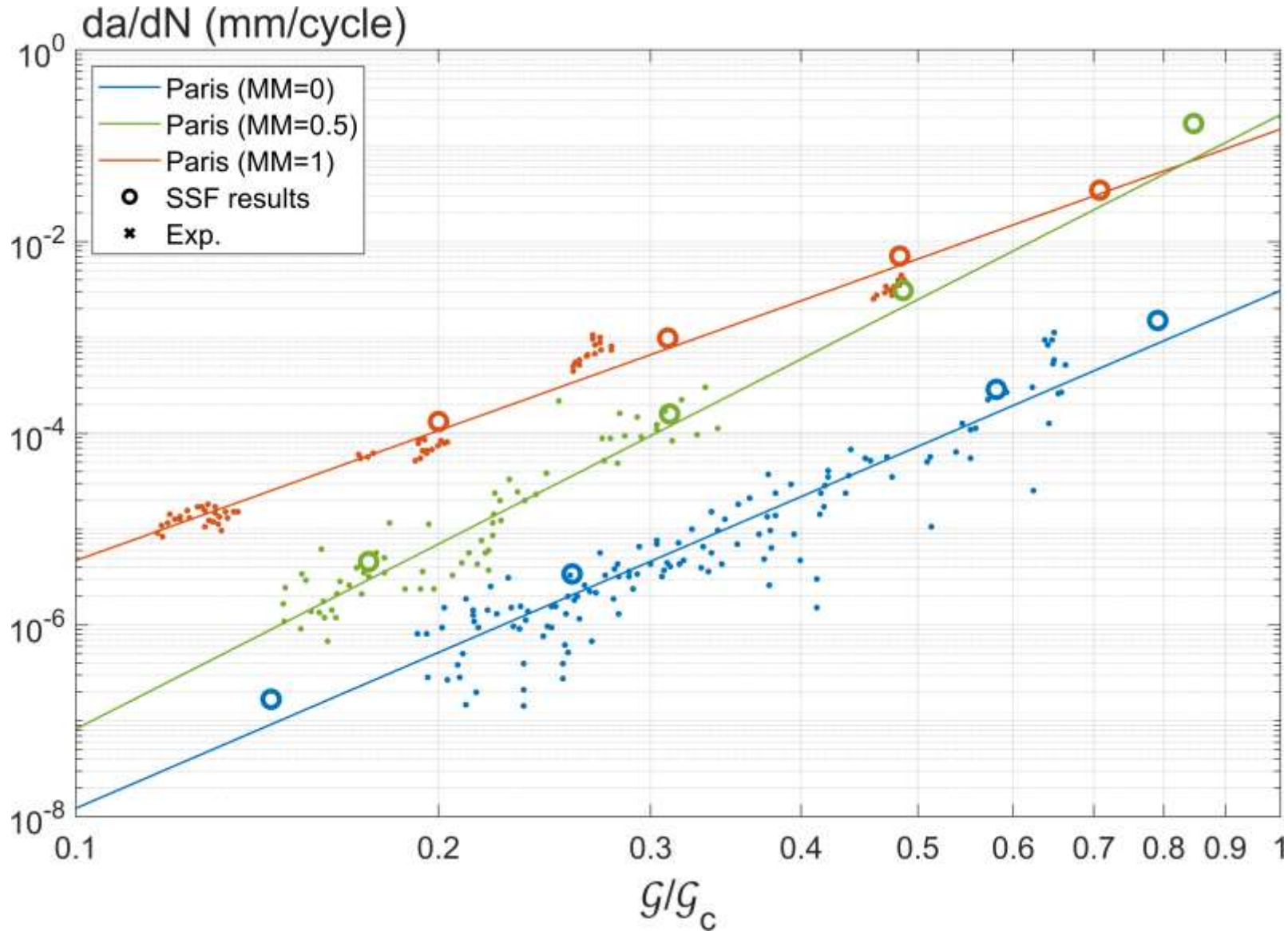
# SSF VALIDATION

Experimental data from Asp et al. (2001)

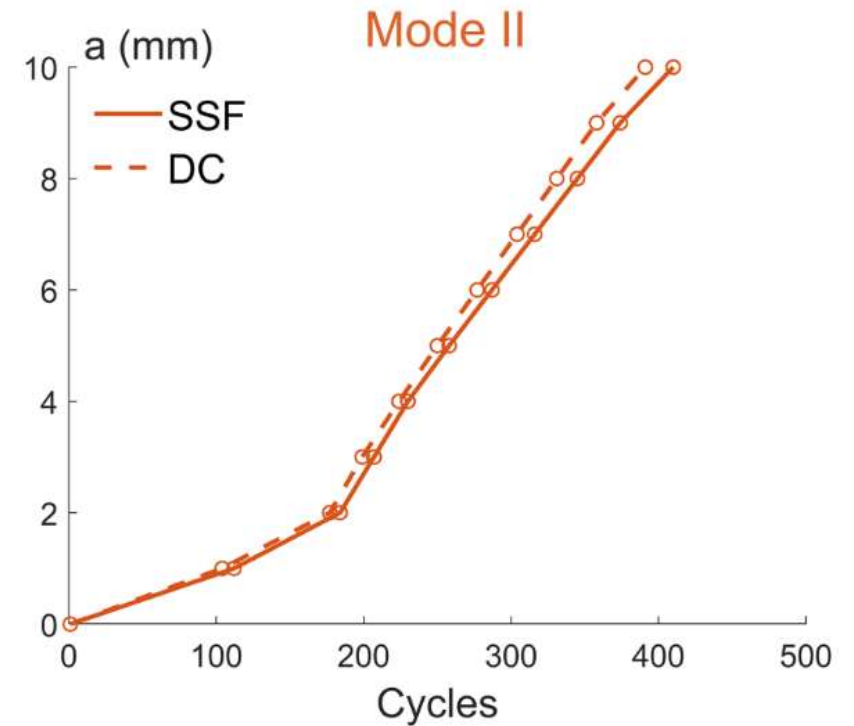
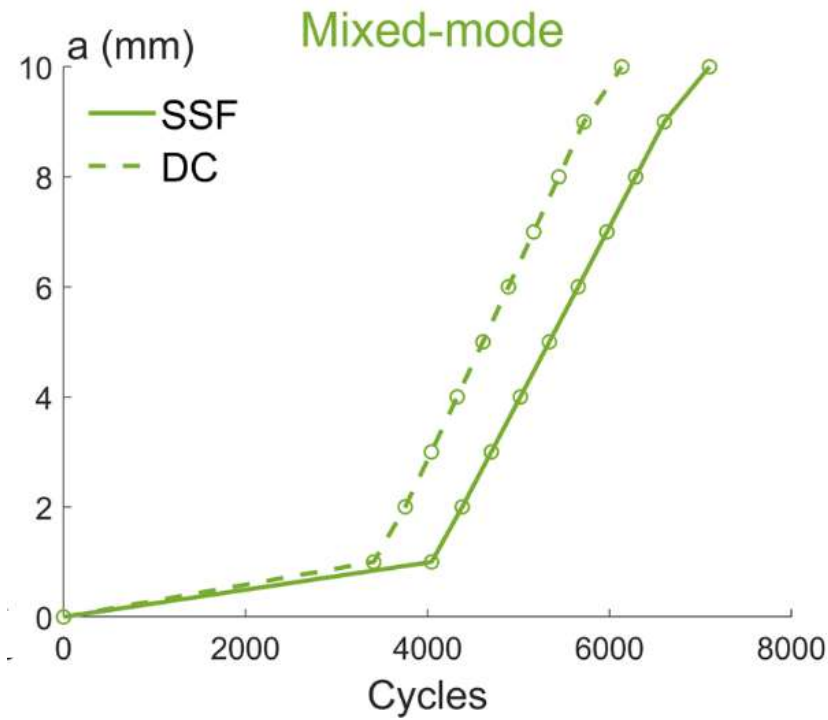
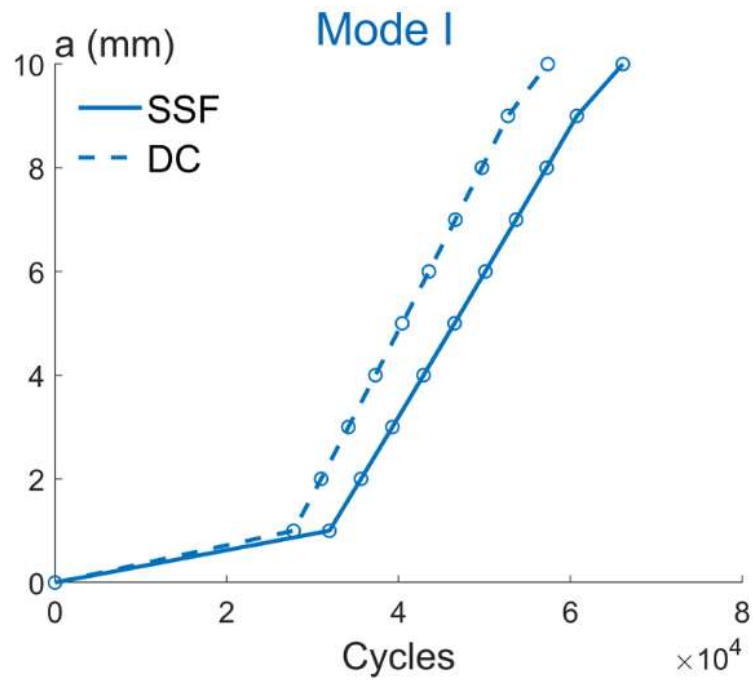
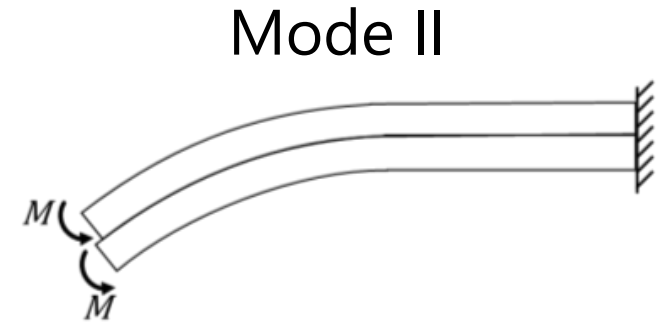
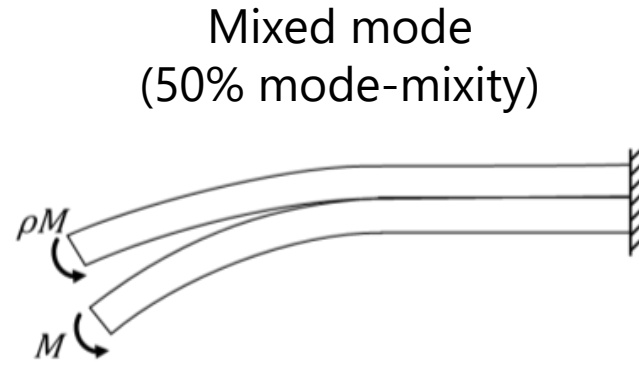
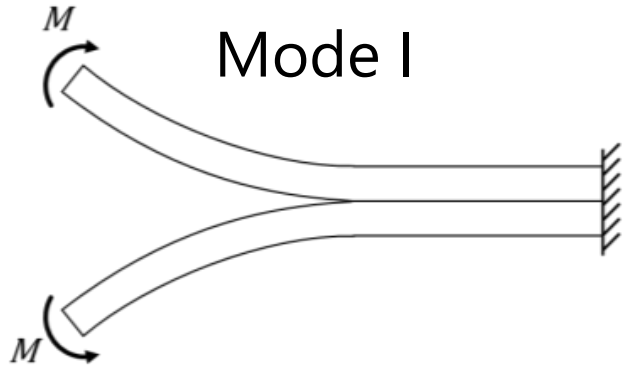


Applied moment  $\rightarrow$  Constant propagation speed

# SSF PERFORMANCE



# SSF AND DC COMPARISON



# SSF AND DC COMPARISON

<b>Simulation</b>	<b>DC Time</b>	<b>SSF Time</b>	<b>Reduction factor</b>
<b>Finer mesh – mode I 0.5 mm propagation</b>	<b>39 h, 58 m, 54 s</b>		

# SSF AND DC COMPARISON

<b>Simulation</b>	<b>DC Time</b>	<b>SSF Time</b>	<b>Reduction factor</b>
<b>Finer mesh – mode I 0.5 mm propagation</b>	<b>39 h, 58 m, 54 s</b>		
<b>Coarse mesh – mode I 10 mm propagation</b>	<b>86 h, 42 m, 45 s</b>		
<b>Coarse mesh – mixed mode 10 mm propagation</b>	<b>76 h, 3 m, 15 s</b>		
<b>Coarse mesh – mode II 10 mm propagation</b>	<b>52 h, 43 m, 48 s</b>		



# SSF AND DC COMPARISON

<b>Simulation</b>	<b>DC Time</b>	<b>SSF Time</b>	<b>Reduction factor</b>
<b>Finer mesh – mode I 0.5 mm propagation</b>	<b>39 h, 58 m, 54 s</b>	<b>2 m, 46 s</b>	<b>867</b>
<b>Coarse mesh – mode I 10 mm propagation</b>	<b>86 h, 42 m, 45 s</b>	<b>8 m, 29 s</b>	<b>613</b>
<b>Coarse mesh – mixed mode 10 mm propagation</b>	<b>76 h, 3 m, 15 s</b>	<b>9 m, 46 s</b>	<b>305</b>
<b>Coarse mesh – mode II 10 mm propagation</b>	<b>52 h, 43 m, 48 s</b>	<b>14 m, 56 s</b>	<b>212</b>

# PROBLEMS

Composite Structures 210 (2019) 932–941

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Composite Structures

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/compstruct](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/compstruct)



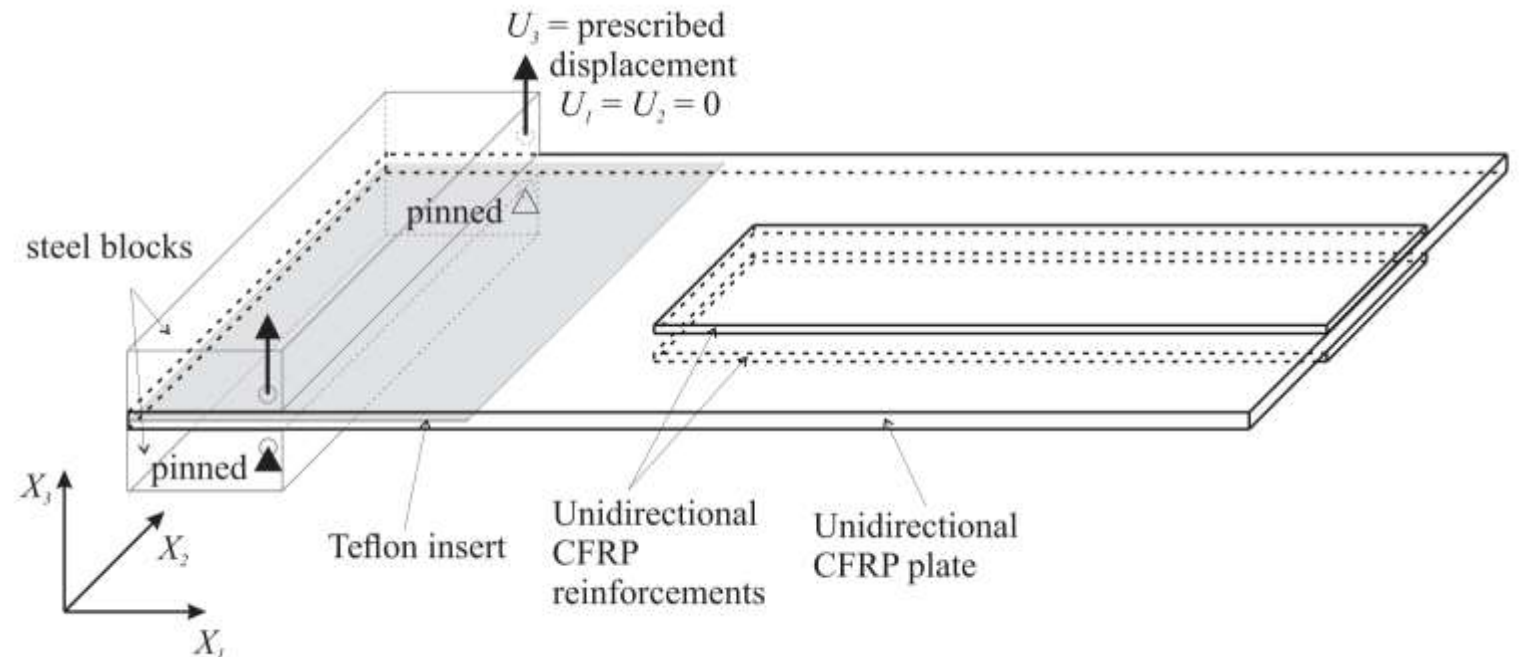
## A benchmark test for validating 3D simulation methods for delamination growth under quasi-static and fatigue loading

L. Carreras<sup>a,\*</sup>, J. Renart<sup>a</sup>, A. Turon<sup>a</sup>, J. Costa<sup>a</sup>, B.L.V. Bak<sup>b</sup>, E. Lina<sup>c</sup>,  
F. Martin de la Escalera<sup>c</sup>, Y. Essa<sup>c</sup>

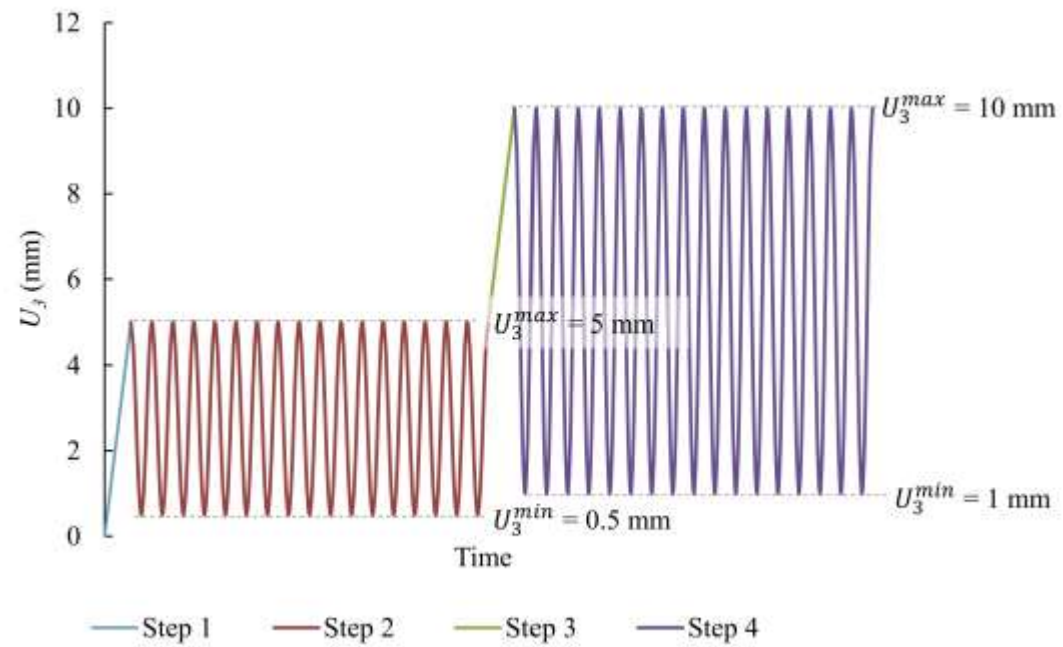
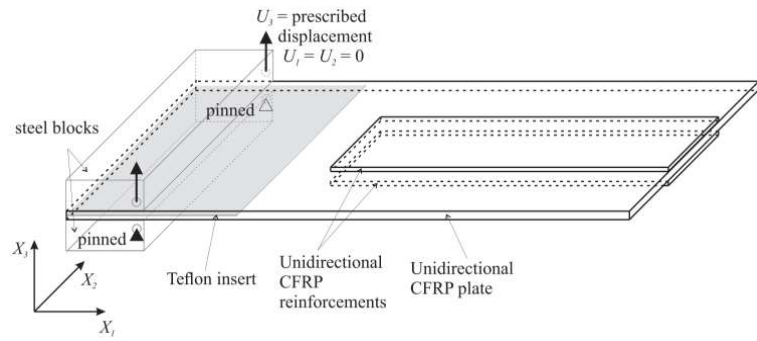
<sup>a</sup> AMADE, Polytechnic School, University of Girona, Universitat de Girona 4, E-17003 Girona, Spain

<sup>b</sup> Dept. of Materials and Production, Aalborg University, Fibigerstraede 16, DK-9220 Aalborg East, Denmark

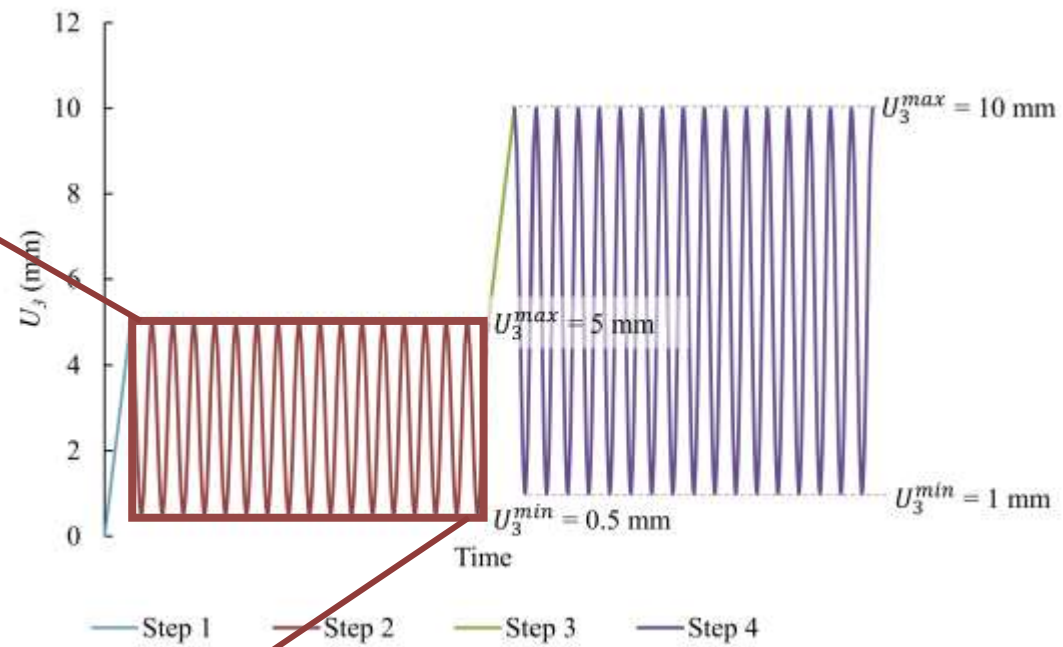
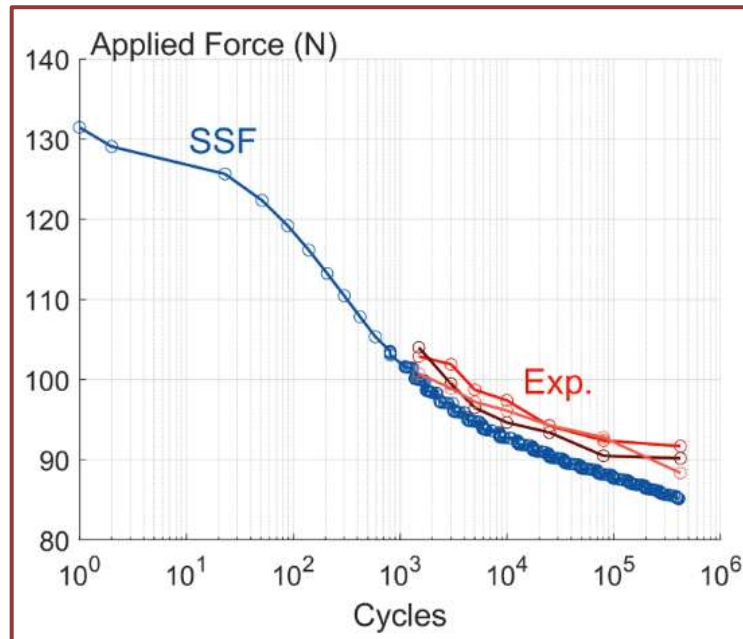
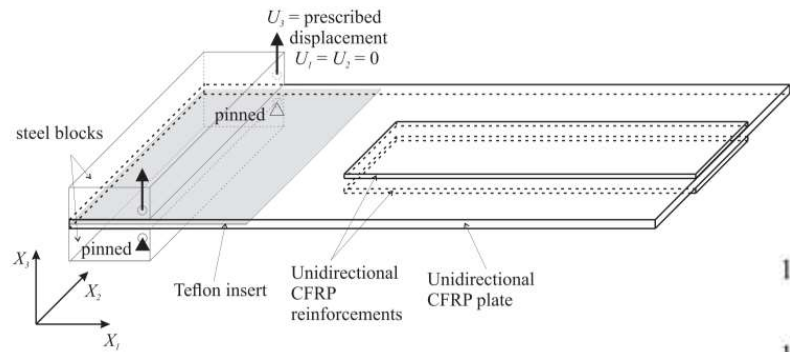
<sup>c</sup> AERNNOVA Engineering División SA, Llano Castellano Avenue 13, E-28034 Madrid, Spain



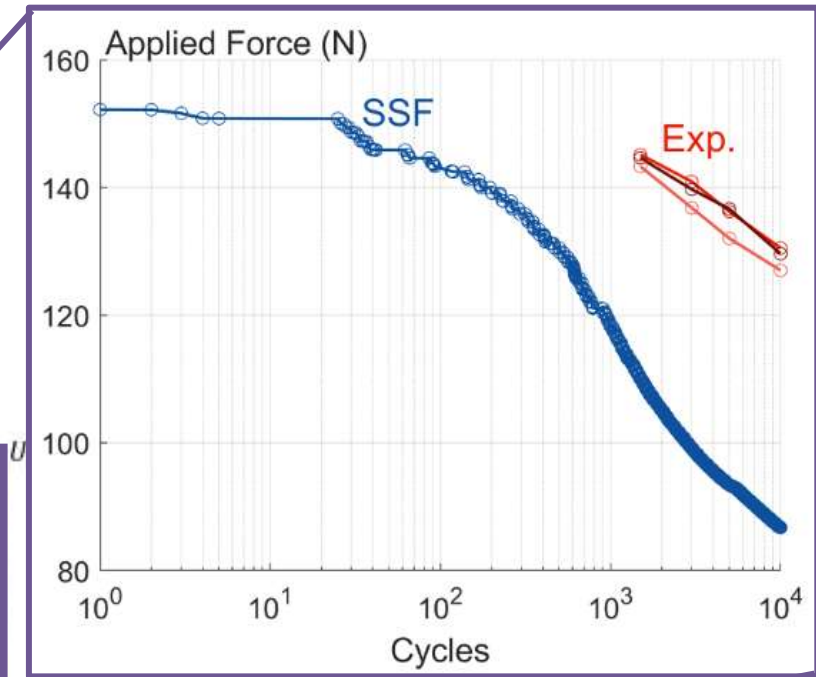
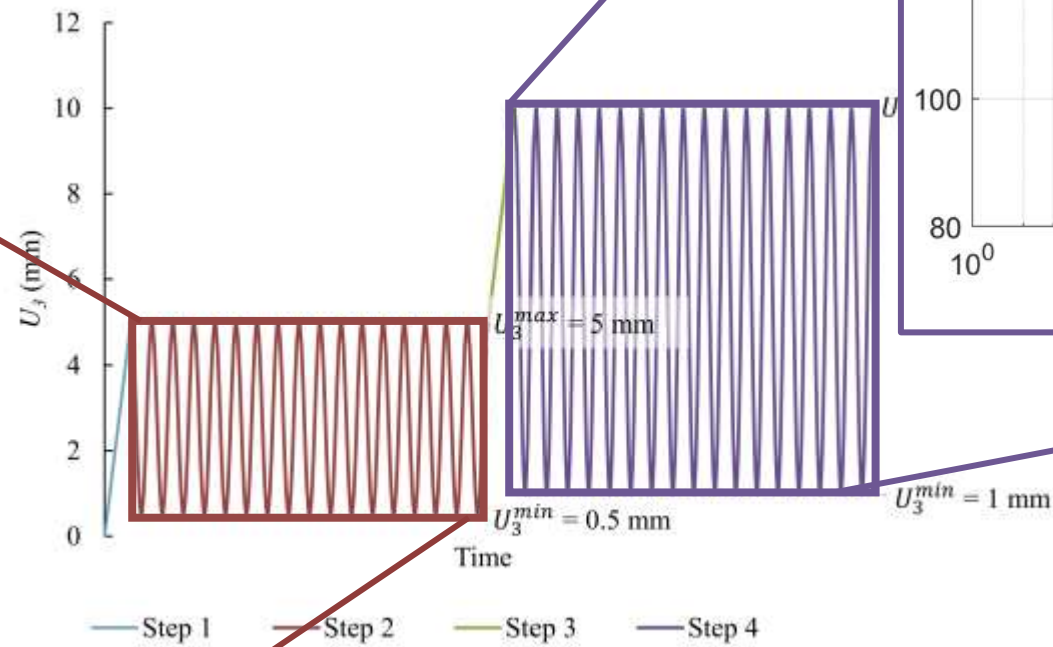
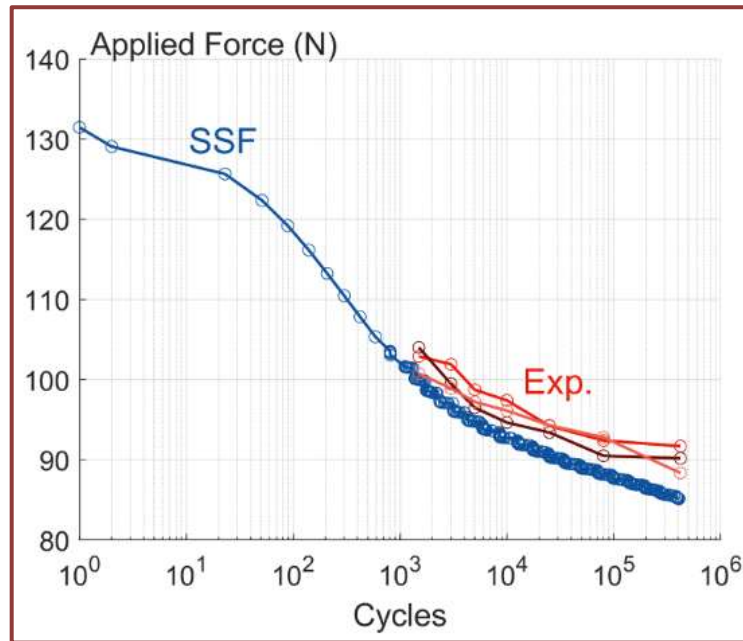
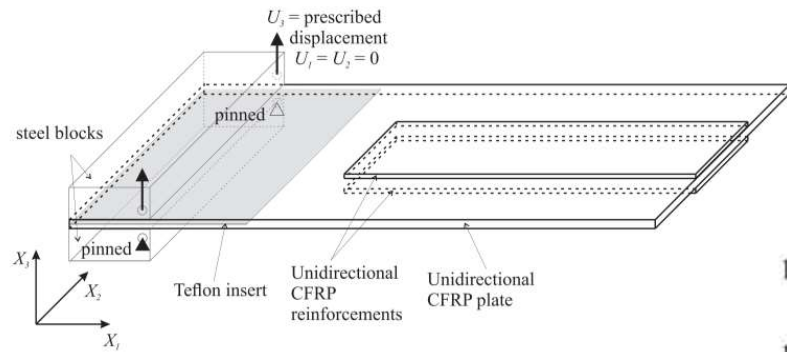
# PROBLEMS



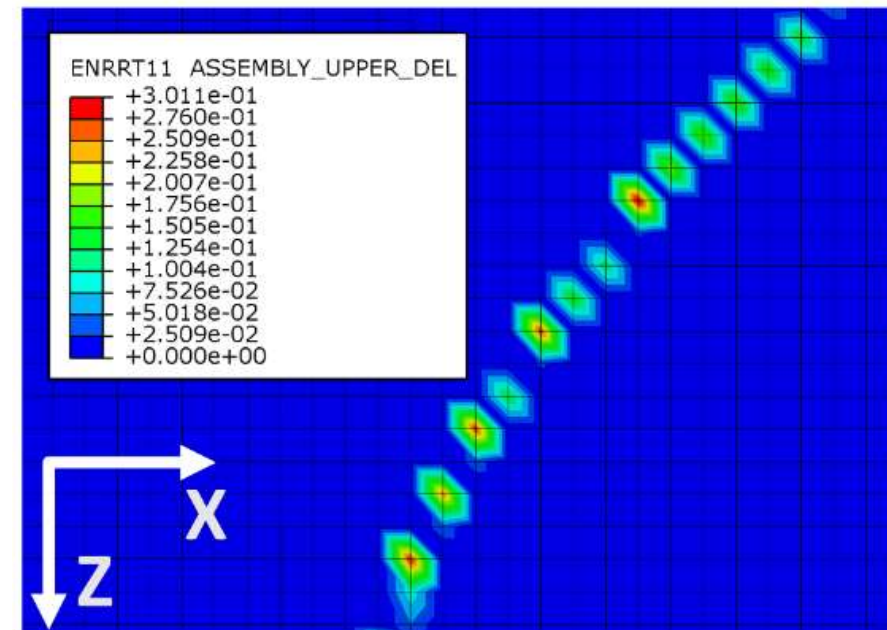
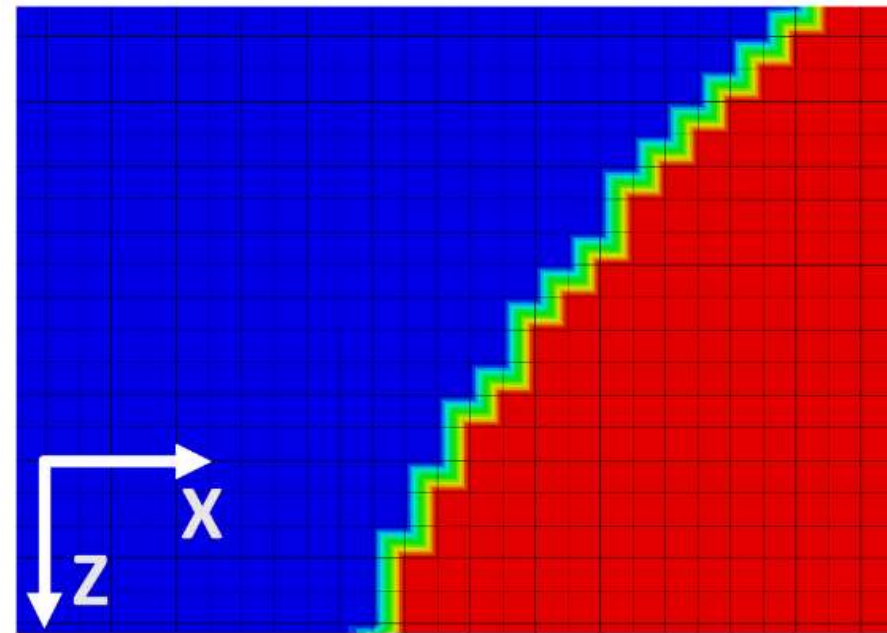
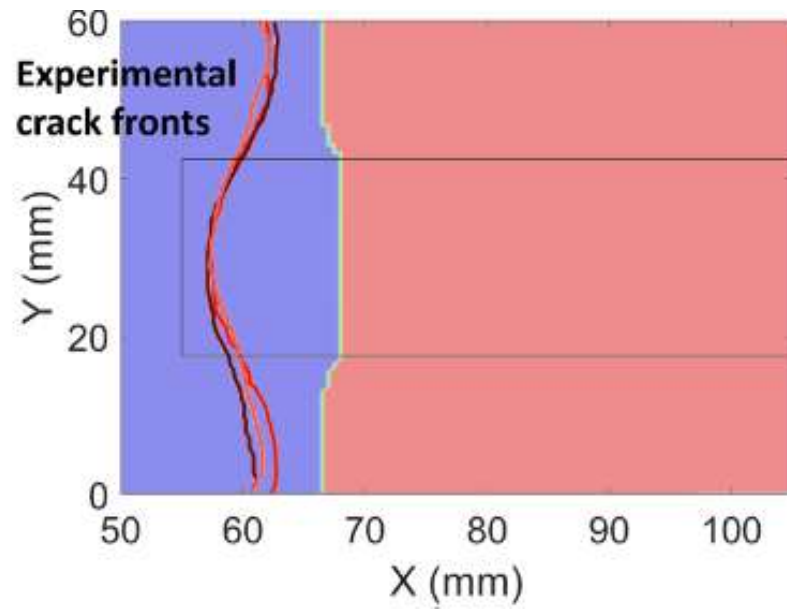
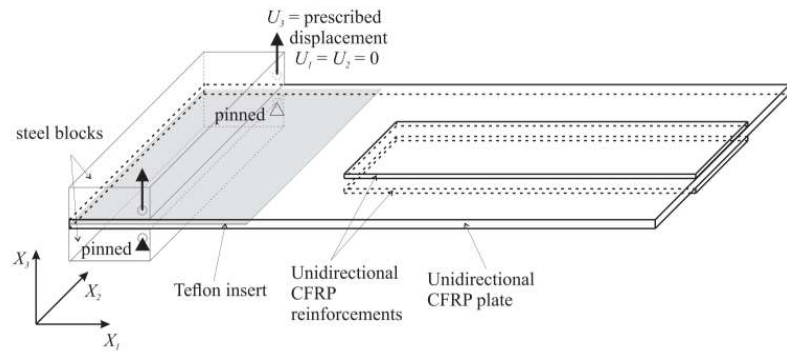
# PROBLEMS



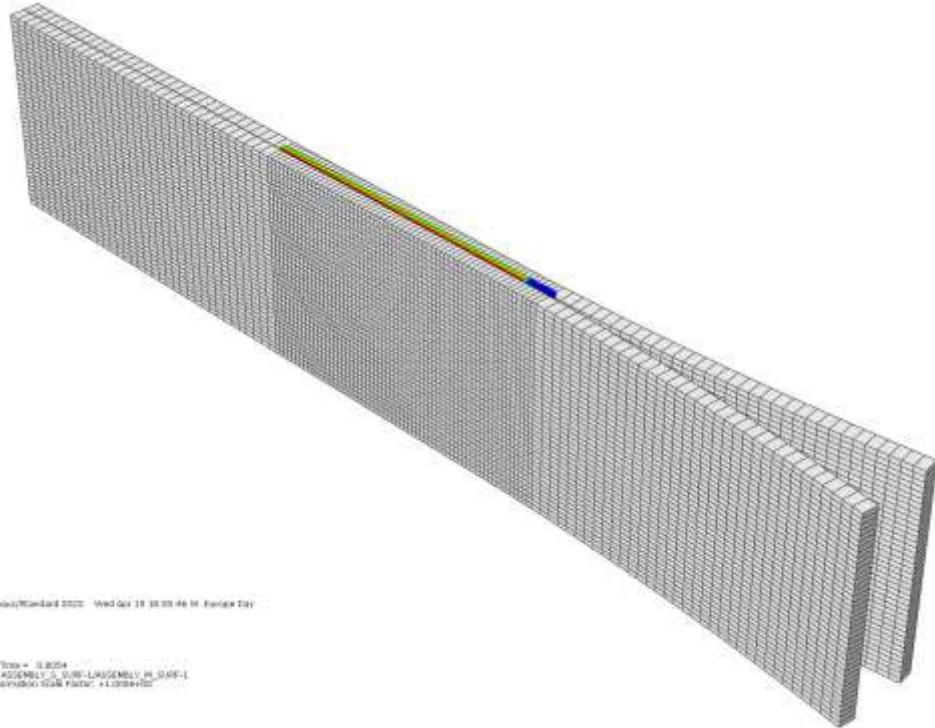
# PROBLEMS



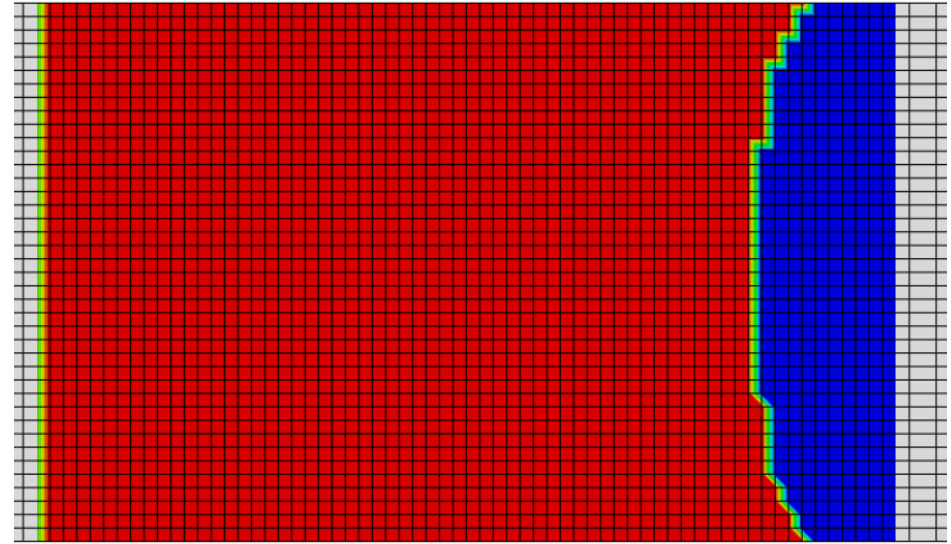
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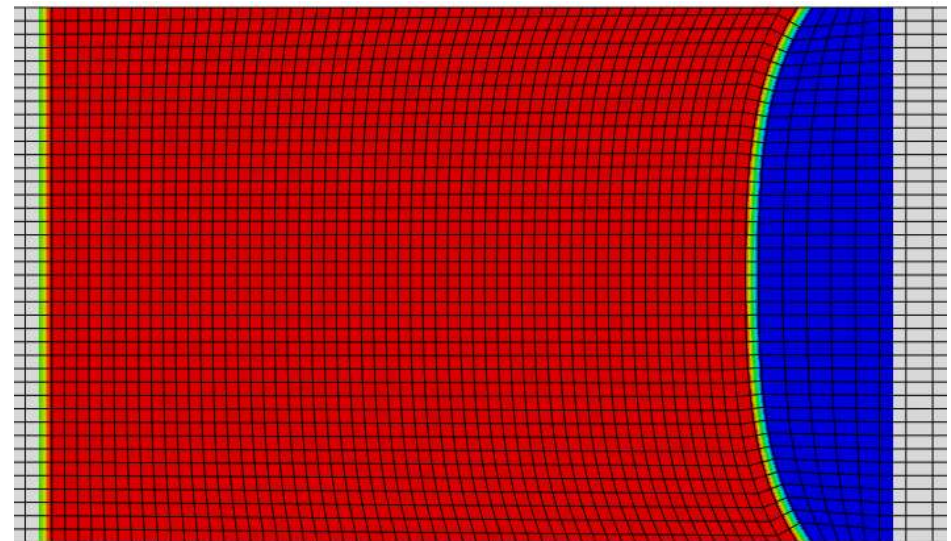
# SOLUTION UNDER DEVELOPMENT



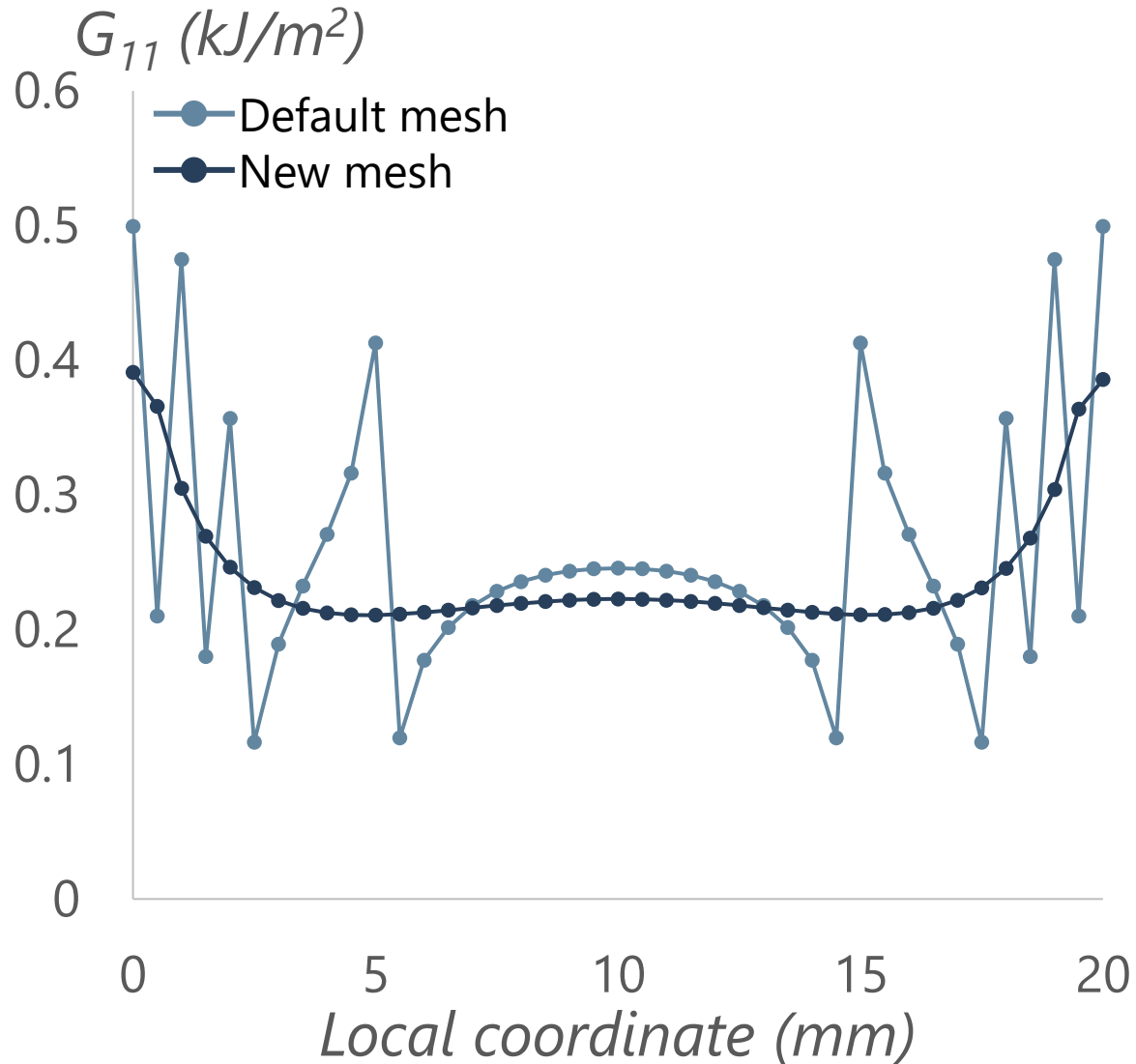
**Currently:**



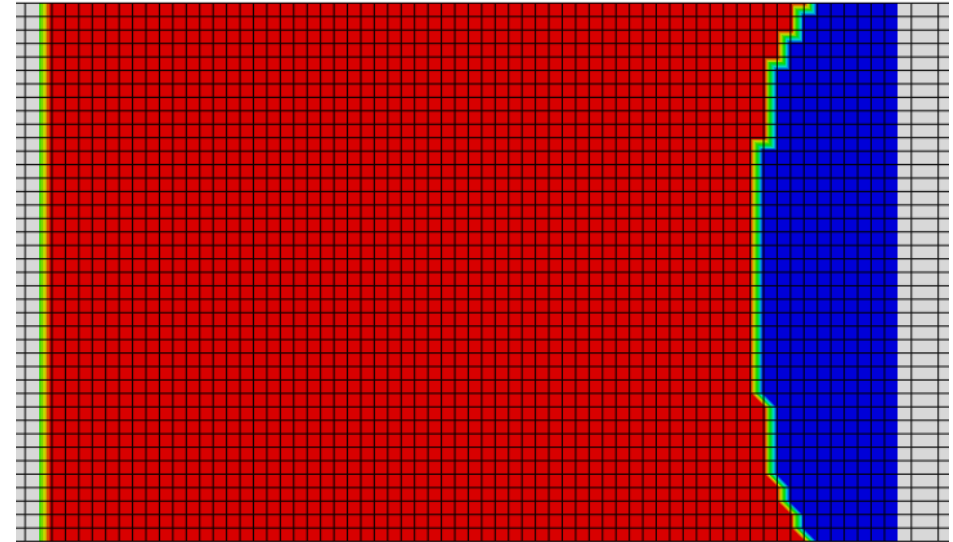
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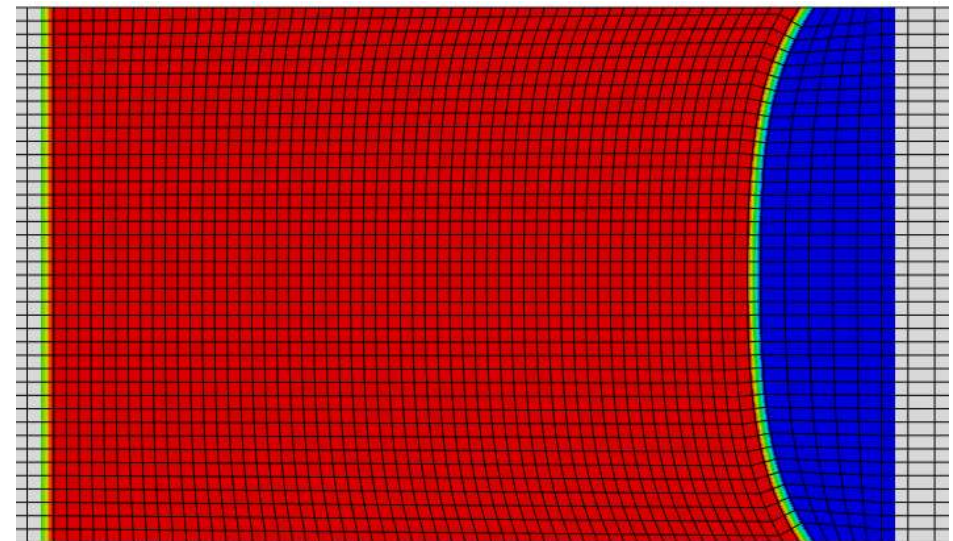
# SOLUTION UNDER DEVELOPMENT



**Currently:**



**Remeshed:**

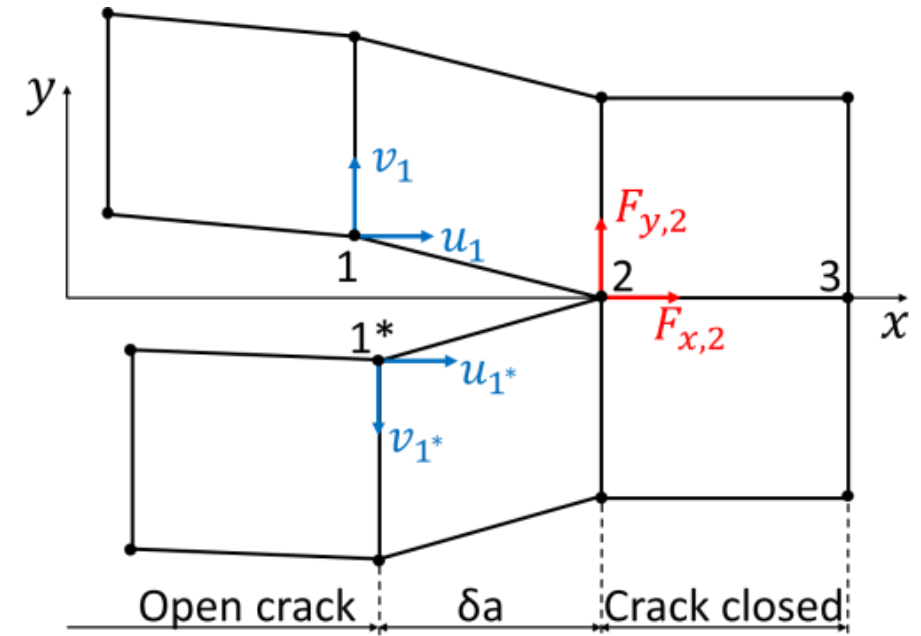




# CONCLUSIONS

Sequential-Static Fatigue algorithm:

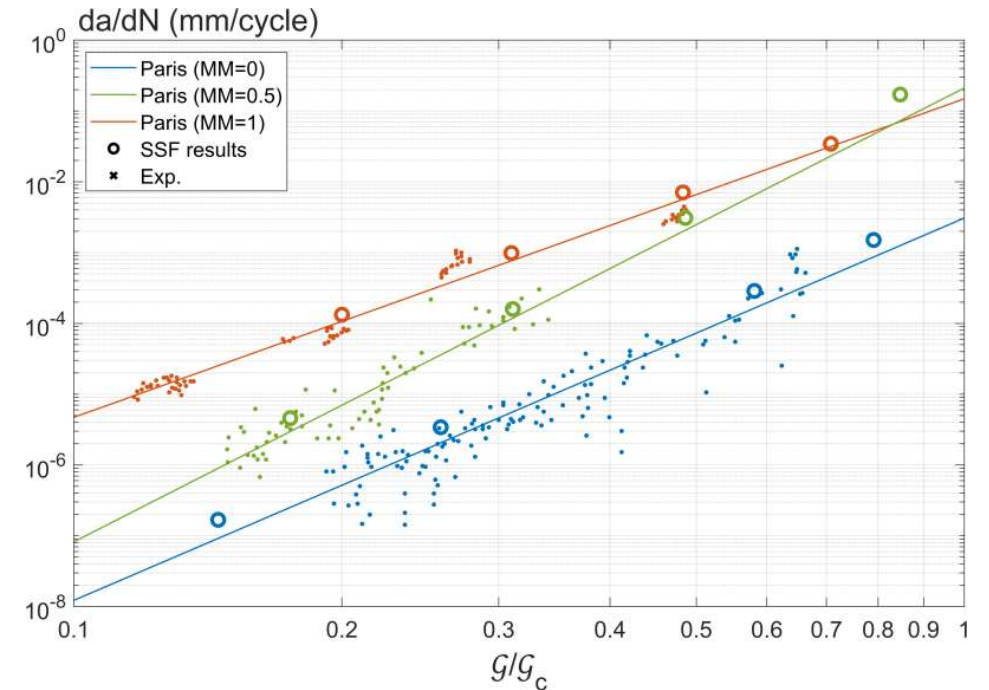
- Based on the quasi-static VCCT already implemented in Abaqus



# CONCLUSIONS

Sequential-Static Fatigue algorithm:

- Based on the quasi-static VCCT already implemented in Abaqus
- Excellent correlation with experimental data



# CONCLUSIONS

Sequential-Static Fatigue algorithm:

- Based on the quasi-static VCCT already implemented in Abaqus
- Excellent correlation with experimental data
- Significantly less computationally expensive than the benchmark

	<b>Reduction factor</b>
	<b>867</b>
	<b>613</b>
	<b>305</b>
	<b>212</b>

# PUBLICATION

International Journal of Fatigue 170 (2023) 107493



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

International Journal of Fatigue

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/ijfatigue](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ijfatigue)



An efficient and versatile use of the VCCT for composites delamination growth under fatigue loadings in 3D numerical analysis: the Sequential Static Fatigue algorithm

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## CONTACTS



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[www.mecc.polimi.it](http://www.mecc.polimi.it)

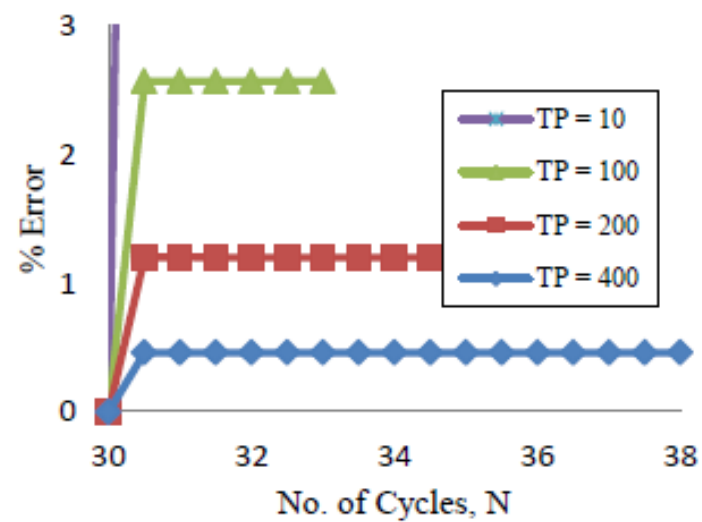
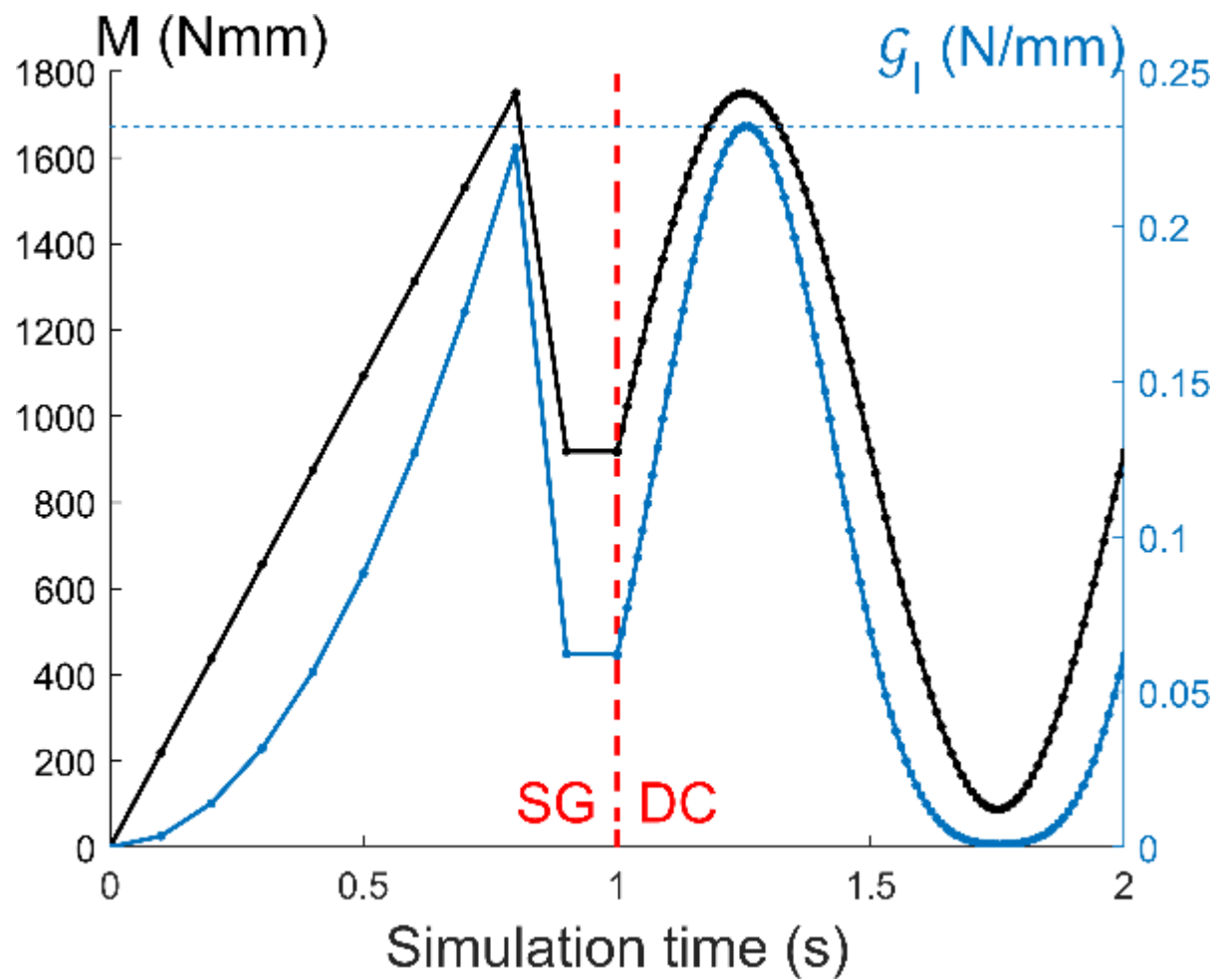


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Jamil A., PhD Thesis (2014)

