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Mohammad Yaghoub Abdollahzadeh Jamalabadi (abdollahzadeh@ikifp.edu.pl)

Research article

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A parametric study of crack propagation in paintings caused by temperature and relative humidity cycles based on irreversible cohesive zone model

Mohammad Yaghoub Abdollahzadeh Jamalabadi

Jerzy Haber Institute of Catalysis and Surface Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences, 30-239, Krakow, Poland and
Email: abdollahzadeh@ikifp.edu.pl

Abstract: The current paper aims to use an irreversible cohesive zone model to investigate the effects of temperature and relative humidity cycles on multilayer thin-film paintings crack pattern. The homogenous one-dimensional paint layers composed of alkyd and acrylic gesso over a canvas foundation (support) with known constant thicknesses are considered as the mechanical model of painting. Experimental data used for mathematical modeling of canvas as a linear elastic material and paint as a viscoelastic material with the Prony series. Fatigue damage parameters such as crack initiation time and maximum loads are calculated by an irreversible cohesive zone model used to control the interface separation. With the increase of the painting thickness and/or the initial crack length, the value of the maximum force increases. Moreover, by increasing the relative humidity (RH) and the temperature difference at loading by one cycle per day, the values of initiation time of delamination decrease. It is shown that the thickness of painting layers is the most important parameter in crack initiation times and crack growth rate in historical paintings in museums and conservation settings.

Keywords: Life prediction; fracture mechanics; irreversible cohesive zone model; low-cycle fatigue; Prony series; historical paintings

1. Introduction

A painting structure consists of support (wood panel and canvas), glue sizing, ground, and paint film (binding media and pigments). Different mechanical properties of the various layers (support, ground, and paint) through aging can lead to craquelure in paintings. Environmental changes such as humidity caused stress in the different paint layers which sometimes leads to strains larger than 1% (restrained layers) and produces a stress-rise in the painting or shrinkage of the glue size during dryness. Accumulation of such failures in cyclic load results in fatigue, plastic deformation (ductile failure), and brittle failure.

The interface between various materials, for example, the interface between a solid gravity dam and the bedrock, is constantly a powerless connection, advancing split initiation and prompting break even under administration loads [1]. The irreversible cohesive zone model is an appropriate system to investigate and assess the potential crack at a bi-material interface [2]. In light of the irreversible cohesive zone model, some interfacial crack parameters, let's say, crack and break durability were explored through exploratory and numerical studies [3-4]. The exploratory examinations showed that the greatness of interfacial unpleasantness would affect the previously mentioned interfacial crack parameters, driving analysts to contemplate its impact by researching examples with smooth interfaces and false notching interfaces [5]. The problem of stress analysis of a plate having an elliptical hole (\(\sigma_{yy}(c, 0) = \sigma_L(1 + 2c/b)\)) is the first case in this field. For the
first time, Griffith (based on thermodynamics, \( U = U_{\text{strain, bending}} + U_{\text{strain, tensile}} + U_{\text{surface}} - W_{\text{load}} \)) proposed the energy-balance concept of fracture (\( dU/dc = 0 \)). Figure 1 presents the schematic of the 2D plane stress problem of a plate having an elliptical hole.

![Figure 1](image)

**Figure 1.** Schematic of 2D plane stress problem of a plate having the elliptical hole.

Historical paintings in museums are one of the materials that suffer various low-stress cycles which can cause the initiation of a crack or accelerate the crack growth rate [6]. For semi-weak materials, the fracture propagation zone lies before the split-tip and pulls in huge concerns when considering the nonlinear reaction of a designing structure built with semi-brittle materials during the crack propagation [7]. The impact of the fracture propagation zone on the crack parameters of cement, as a sort of semi-brittle material, has been widely examined over the most recent couple of decades [8-10]. The size impact of the crack was observed to be connected with the fracture propagation zone properties [11, 12], showing that the fracture propagation zone length specifically diminishes quickly when the split causes near the top surface of an example [13]. Thusly, the locality crack was observed to be not consistent during the entire crack propagation and rather diminished with the decrease of the fracture propagation zone length [14]. Consolidating the hypothetical and exploratory investigations, a bilinear model on neighborhood crack vitality conveyance was proposed to ascertain the genuine explicit break energy [15].

Numerous non-linear models have been established to characterize the fatigue parameters such as size, shape, material, and, test method. The cohesive crack model used fracture energy, strength in uni-axial, and elasticity modulus [16]. As well, the crack band model also uses a width of micro-cracks [17]. More fracture-based methods have used the benefit of critical stress intensity factor and critical crack tip opening displacement such as a two-parameter fracture model [18], while the size-effect model for infinitely large test specimens uses critical effective crack length extension (at peak load). Other parameters such as the critical effective extension of crack and critical stress intensity factor (effective crack model), unstable fracture toughness and initial cracking toughness (double-k fracture model) [19], unstable fracture energy released and initiation fracture energy release (double-g fracture model) [20] are the base of other methods. The cohesive zone method is a classic and simpler method than the above-mentioned methods [16-20]. In comparison to linear elastic fracture mechanics or crack tip open displacement methods, it can forecast the un-cracked configurations manners (such as those have blunt notches), larger non-linear zone, and start without initial crack.

The huge impact of a changing fracture propagation zone on solid break attributes and the whole crack propagation has drawn in logical and building networks. The significant examinations have been brought out through test investigations [21-23] and numerical simulations [22,23]. Furthermore, as one three-dimensional impact on break investigation, a coupled break mode was found to exist in the split thick plate under shear or out-plane stacking, and the power of the coupled model was essentially affected by the thickness of the plate in the three-dimensional limited component analysis [24-26]. Be that as it may, the examination on the development of the fracture propagation zone during the total crack propagation at a stone solid interface has been minimally detailed. As to shake concrete interfacial crack, it is beneficial to bring up that the determined
break energy dependent on crack length without considering the fracture propagation zone is not as much as that dependent on nonlinear crack mechanics [28] by 83%. Along these lines, it is huge to join the investigation of the fracture propagation zone development at the stone solid interface when investigating the crack system and evaluating the nonlinear reaction of a solid structure developed on bedrock [29]. In the interim, the split engendering criteria in numerical strategies have been generally examined, which show the component of break development in semi-brittle materials like cement. Determination of the fracture energy of mortar and concrete using three-point bend tests on notched beams is performed by numerous specialists [30-31]. Considering the complex stress distribution at the notch tip under mixed-mode loading, a strain energy density and crack zone model fracture criterion was used to predict the critical load for blunt U- and V-notched brittle specimens [32].

Artists’ paintings are composed of polymeric layers. One of the main problems in the polymeric coating materials is to endure mechanical fractures over a continued loading. Painting on canvas made the use of binder for the pigmented paint layers [33]. The pigment material provides the color, the binding medium a substance that guarantees that the colored material remains in the applied place. Common paint binders are Steam-pressed linseed oil, Acrylic Resins, and Alkyd resins. The impacts of temperature and changes in the vapor content of air on the mechanical properties of the painting layers in artwork have been examined in many works [34]. In painting, which is made of various layers, delamination growth is likely to occur under mixed-mode loading. Delamination between an alkyd configuration layer and acrylic prepared canvas because of cyclic changes in RH has recently been explored [35]. Common environmental control specifications for galleries and museums are relative humidity at 50 or 55 ± 5% relative humidity (RH) and temperature in winter at 19 ± 1 °C and summer at 24 ± 1 °C [36]. The work executes the irreversible firm zone model in a limited component examination to display the interface between alkyd paint and prepared the canvas, which results in an alteration to the footing detachment law to represent fatigue failure. Mecklenburg [37] demonstrated that the constituents show diverse dimensional and stress-strain reactions relying upon the ecological conditions. A straightforward order of splits in other works of literature was first efficiently connected by Keck [38]. Recently, the type of separation in the interfacial interaction of modern paint layers has been distinguished by Young [39]. Craquelure and interfacial splits have likewise been distinguished, and poor bond characteristics featured when blended-media paints are utilized on canvas for example in a blend of acrylic and alkyd paint layers. Inverse analysis can be employed to optimize the coating design [40-41].

Creep [42] and fracture [43] are classic topics that initially manipulated by linear theories. The nonlinear models of pre-existent crack propagation are developed for the first time by Dugdale [44] and later by Barenblatt [45].

In the present study, a two-layer painting is simulated in 3D stress conditions with the finite element method. This simulation has been carried out in steady-state, isothermal, and single-phase and the effect of temperature variations, layer thickness, and initial crack length on the crack propagation time and the maximum load of the painting are investigated. As well, the distribution of the stress in the painting regions have been studied and evaluated.

2. Model details and validation

In this study, a single support canvas with a paint membrane is modeled in two dimensions and isothermal. The schematic of the computational region, including the paint membrane, the canvas layer, and the interface, is illustrated in Fig. 2a. Forces are applied to the top edges at the cracked end and the center of the test specimen. In this figure, the upper part of the geometry is the painting and the lower part is the canvas. In this figure, the crack of composite structures develops as delamination between plies. As the geometry of the problem is shown in Figure 2a, the layers cracked along a ply interface, and the test specimen is supported at the outermost bottom edges. Because of the symmetry, just half of the test specimen is considered and a symmetry boundary condition is applied. The experimental setup of loading is plotted in Figure 2b. Table 1 shows the geometry parameters of the experimental setup in [27].
Table 1. Geometry and main physical parameters [27].

| symbol | value | unit | description |
|--------|-------|------|-------------|
| $l_b$  | 102   | mm   | Length      |
| $w_b$  | 25.4  | mm   | Width       |
| $h_b$  | 3.12  | mm   | Thickness   |
| $c_i$  | 34.1  | mm   | Initial crack length |
| $K_p$  | $10^6$| N/mm$^3$| Penalty Stiffness |
| $N_{strength}$  | 80 | MPa | Normal Tensile Strength |
| $S_{strength}$  | 100  | MPa | Shear Strength |
| $G_{IIc}$  | 0.969 | kJ/m$^2$ | Mode I critical energy release |
| $G_{Ic}$  | 1.719 | kJ/m$^2$ | Mode II critical energy release |
| $\eta$  | 2.284 | - | Exponent of Benzeggagh and Kenane (B-K) criterion |
| $\delta$ | 0  | mm | Initial Displacement parameter |
| $\mu$  | 0.5  | - | Mode mixity ratio |
| $E_X$  | 122.7 | GPa | Young’s modulus, along fibers |
| $E_Y,E_Z$  | 10.1  | GPa | Young’s modulus, across fibers |
| $v_{YZ}$  | 0.45  | - | Poisson’s ratio, along fibers |
| $v_{XY}=v_{XZ}$  | 0.25  | - | Poisson’s ratio, across fibers |
| $G_{YZ}$  | 3.7  | GPa | Shear modulus, along fibers |
| $G_{XX},G_{XZ}$  | 5.5  | GPa | Shear modulus, across fibers |
The main parameters in FEA modeling of the current system are stress \( \sigma = \frac{P L}{L_0 A_0} \) and strain \( \varepsilon = \ln \frac{L}{L_0} \). The properties of unidirectional laminates composite AS4/PEEK (APC2) which is a carbon fiber reinforced composite used for experimental setup [27]. Correspondingly, the geometric, material properties of the laminate composite, and physical properties of the fracture modeling and validation are summarized in Table 1. This specification is derived from the experimental study by Camanho et al. [27]. The orthotropic linear elastic properties assume that the longitudinal direction is alongside the global longitudinal direction. The experimental tests are performed by applying different loads in the middle and at the end of the test specimen. The experimental results relate the load to the displacement of the point of application of the load in the lever (load-point displacement). The lever is not simulated here. In numerical modeling, the cohesive zone elements divided into two groups point and continuous cohesive zone elements. Here to calculate delamination onset and growth surface elements used for cohesive zone elements. The initial crack length is \( c_0 \). Traction (obey bilinear traction-separation law) linearly increases (with a stiffness \( K_p \)) in anticipation of the ultimate displacement jump \( (u_0) \) where opening crack reaches a failure initiation. After that the stiffness reductions by an increase of the damage (material softens irreversibly) till the failure at zero stiffness \( (u_f) \). In mode I separation displacement is normal to an interface while on mode II and III separation displacement is tangential.

The crack stress modes are:

- **Mode I (opening mode):** the displacements of the crack surfaces are perpendicular to the plane of the crack.
- **Mode II (sliding mode):** the displacements of the crack surfaces are in the plane of the crack and perpendicular to the leading edge of the crack.
- **Mode III (tearing mode):** the crack surface displacements are in the plane of the crack and parallel to the leading edge of the crack.

For the current study the mixed-mode mode I, mode II, and mode III separation displacement are included then a combination of separation displacement is used as modeled by Kenane and Benzeggagh [38]. Note that for mode I, damage only accumulates positive normal separation, while in shear loading, damage occurs for both shear displacement directions.

**Table 2.** The relative difference with benchmark solution for nine different numbers of meshes.

| Number of elements | Percent of Relative difference with benchmark solution |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 56                 | 86.4455                                             |
| 128                | 46.2721                                             |
| 312                | 35.8311                                             |
| 1230               | 23.6714                                             |
| 2480               | 10.8400                                             |
| 3247               | 9.1650                                              |
| 5896               | 3.7453                                              |
| 12364              | 2.8912                                              |
| 29928              | -                                                   |

(a)
To test the independence of results from the mesh, nine different meshes of a structured type have been produced and the results are compared with each other. Here meshes with several refinement degrees are used. Table 2 shows the results of different meshes. From really coarse mesh (only 56 elements) to finer mesh (29928 elements). It is well known that the process zone size is a fraction of this characteristic length, therefore one should not provide calculations for mesh sizes that are larger than 1/10 or 1/20 of this characteristic length. Although it is nonsense to use such coarse meshes (only 56 elements) regarding the cohesive zone characteristic length, its results could be used as an initial guess for finer cases. Considering the characteristic length of the cohesive zone model, the largest mesh size with 29928 elements is less than 1/200 of characteristic length of the cohesive zone model and all the presented calculations are meaningful accordingly. Percent of relative difference with benchmark solution is the average of percent of the solution with the solution of the 29928 elements case. To check the precision of different meshes, a bi-linear irreversible traction-separation curve is obtained for each mesh; the relative error shown in table 2 presents the average difference of traction-separation achieved from numerical simulation of a sample mesh and traction-separation from an experimental study by Caminho et al. [27]. As shown in Table 2, the results are close to each other for the 12364 and 29928 meshes, and finally the mesh number has been selected 29928. Figure 3 reveals multi-grid mesh for two layers from the top view, right view, front view, an isometric view. The finer grid is used in the crack growth region. To
increase the accuracy of simulation, given that the damage occurs in the midline of the domain, the mesh of this
section is finer, and a multi-grid method is used for meshing (see Fig. 3). Results using irregular meshes are
same as regular meshes and irregular meshes are presented in Figure 3 (c).
For validation, a numerical study has been used from the experimental work of Camanho et al, which is
shown in Fig. 4. As can be seen, there is an acceptable agreement between the empirical work of [27] and
numerical simulation presented here. Although figure 5 does not provide a comparison of data concerning crack
propagation, it compares the linear elastic part of the curve for which no crack propagation occurs. As well the
start stage of crack propagation is calculated perfectly. As shown material resistance to crack extension firstly is
a linear and continuous balance between consumed energy and released energy is maintained during slow stable
crack growth. Because of slow stable crack extension, finally, the rising shape is observed (it is flat for truly
brittle material).

![Graph showing numerical and experimental comparison](image)

**Figure 4.** Comparison between the numerical simulation results and the experimental study by Camanho et al [27].

### 3. Governing equations

The stress-strain formula for homogeneous materials is as follows.

\[
\begin{align*}
\{\varepsilon_x\} &= \frac{1}{E} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -\nu & -\nu \\ -\nu & 1 & -\nu \\ -\nu & -\nu & 1 \end{bmatrix} \{\sigma_x\} + \{0\} \\
\{\varepsilon_y\} &= \frac{1}{E} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -\nu & -\nu \\ -\nu & 1 & -\nu \\ -\nu & -\nu & 1 \end{bmatrix} \{\sigma_y\} + \{0\} \\
\{\varepsilon_z\} &= \frac{1}{E} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -\nu & -\nu \\ -\nu & 1 & -\nu \\ -\nu & -\nu & 1 \end{bmatrix} \{\sigma_z\} + \{0\}
\end{align*}
\]

(1)

\[
\begin{align*}
\{\varepsilon_x\} &= \frac{1}{E} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -\nu & -\nu \\ -\nu & 1 & -\nu \\ -\nu & -\nu & 1 \end{bmatrix} \frac{E}{E_s} \{\sigma_x\} + \{0\} \\
\{\varepsilon_y\} &= \frac{1}{E} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -\nu & -\nu \\ -\nu & 1 & -\nu \\ -\nu & -\nu & 1 \end{bmatrix} \frac{E}{E_s} \{\sigma_y\} + \{0\} \\
\{\varepsilon_z\} &= \frac{1}{E} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -\nu & -\nu \\ -\nu & 1 & -\nu \\ -\nu & -\nu & 1 \end{bmatrix} \frac{E}{E_s} \{\sigma_z\} + \{0\}
\end{align*}
\]

(2)

where \(\varepsilon_x, \varepsilon_y, \) and \(\varepsilon_z\) are the principal strains, \(\sigma_x, \sigma_y, \) and \(\sigma_z\) are the principal stresses, \(\varepsilon_f\) (\(\varepsilon_f = \frac{\delta_f}{h_c}\)) is the fracture strain by the opening of the micro cracks, \(E\) is Young’s elastic modulus, \(\nu\) is its

Poisson’s ratio, \(h_c\) is the width of the fracture front, \(\delta_f\) is the crack displacement, \(\varepsilon_0\) is the strain at the end of
strain-softening at which the micro-cracks coalesce into a continuous crack and \(\sigma_c\) vanishes. The 2nd

Piola-Kirchhoff stress tensor for the material with the Poisson ratio of \(\nu\) and Young’s modulus of \(E\) is defined by
The 2nd Piola-Kirchhoff stress tensor is related to the Cauchy stress tensor through the geometric transformation of

$$\mathbf{S} = J \mathbf{F}^{-1} \mathbf{\sigma} \mathbf{F}^T$$

The dynamics of the displacement of the solid structure is

$$\rho \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{u}_s}{\partial t^2} = \nabla \cdot \left( \mathbf{J} \mathbf{\sigma} \mathbf{F}^{-T} \right) = \nabla \cdot \left( \mathbf{F}^{-T} \mathbf{F} (\mathbf{tr}(\mathbf{E}) \mathbf{I} + 2 \mathbf{\mu} \mathbf{E}) \mathbf{F}^T \right)$$

where a Rayleigh damping factor proportional to the stiffness is used for the beam and \( \mathbf{J} \) is the determinant of \( \mathbf{F} \) and the deformation gradient tensor is computed from

$$\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{I} + \nabla \mathbf{u}_s$$

and for the St. Venant-Kirchhoff material the Lagrange strain tensor \( \mathbf{E} \) is calculated by

$$\mathbf{E} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \mathbf{F}^T \mathbf{F} - \mathbf{I} \right)$$

The initial condition of the system is the stationary condition. The presented dynamic formulation in Eq. (5) would be applied to quasi-static simulations. The quasi-static solution is updated in each iteration of the dynamic solution. In a quasi-static scheme, the transient term is collect the residuals and let the unbalanced of the system to relax in longer times.

Ogden and van der Waals models are usually used in literature for uniaxial tension. Hagan et al. [29] announced that the mechanical reaction of latex paints under uniaxial stacking can be depicted utilizing the hyperelastic, van der Waals model, related to the time needy, viscoelastic Prony arrangement. They used pigments and coloring material of titanium white acrylic gesso and phthalo blue alkyd. Using the viscoelastic model, one can model the creep at constant stress [37], relaxation at a constant displacement, recovery without the stress, constant rate stress, and constant rate strain.

The boundary conditions are the supports fixed in two horizontal directions and the test are monotonic not cyclic. The time-dependent manner of the viscoelastic material is given by the Prony series as (see Table 3 for the constant of Prony Series):

$$\sigma(t) = \sigma_0 g_0 + \sum_{i=1}^{M} g_i e^{-(t-\tau)/t_i} + \frac{d \sigma_0}{ds} ds$$

where \( g_0 + \sum_{i=1}^{M} g_i = 1 \) and the stress as a function of \( \lambda \) \( (\lambda = \frac{L}{L_0}, \sigma_0 = \lambda f = \lambda \frac{dW}{d\lambda}) \) corresponding to uniaxial loading can be derived as follows:

$$\sigma_0 = \lambda \mu (1 - \lambda^{-3}) \left[ 1 - \left( \frac{\lambda^2 + 2 \lambda^{-1} - 3}{\lambda_m^2 - 3} \right)^0.5 - \alpha \left( \frac{\lambda^2 + 2 \lambda^{-1} - 3}{2} \right)^0.5 \right]$$

The strain vitality capability of the van der Waals model [31] is given by:

$$W = \mu \left\{ -\left( \lambda_m^2 - 3 \right) \left[ \ln \left( 1 - \frac{I-3}{\sqrt{\lambda_m^2-3}} \right) + \sqrt{\frac{I-3}{\lambda_m^2-3}} - \frac{2}{3} \alpha \left( \frac{I-3}{2} \right)^2 \right] \right\}$$

where \( \alpha \) is the chain interaction parameter (0.5), \( \lambda_m \) is the locking stretch (for Alkyd is 8 and for Gesso is 10), \( \mu \) is the initial shear modulus (for Alkyd is 75 MPa and for Gesso is 125 MPa) and \( I \) is the first stretch invariant which under uniaxial tension is given by:

$$I = \frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 + 2 - 3}}{\lambda}$$
\[ I = \lambda^2 + \lambda^{-1} \]  

\begin{align}(11)&
\end{align}

| \( \tau_i \) (s) | \( g_i \) (Alkyd) | \( g_i \) (Gesso) |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1.00E−01        | 0.730           | 0.727           |
| 1.00E+00        | 0.145           | 0.150           |
| 1.00E+01        | 0.050           | 0.050           |
| 1.00E+02        | 0.032           | 0.030           |
| 1.00E+03        | 0.020           | 0.022           |
| 1.00E+04        | 0.013           | 0.020           |
| \( g_e \)       | 0.01            | 0.001           |

\begin{align}
\text{Table 3. Constant of Prony Series.}
\end{align}

| symbol | value | unit | description |
|--------|-------|------|-------------|
| \( S_T \) | 8x10^7 | Pa | Normal tensile strength |
| \( \sigma_s \) | 10^8 | Pa | Shear strength |
| \( P_n \) | 10^{12} | Pa | Penalty stiffness |
| \( G_{ct} \) | 970 | J/m^2 | Critical energy release rate, tension |
| \( G_{cs} \) | 1720 | J/m^2 | Critical energy release rate, shear |
| \( \mu \) | 2.3 | - | The exponent of the Benzeggagh and Kenane (B-K) criterion |

\begin{align}
\text{Table 4. Material properties of the cohesive zone model interface.}
\end{align}

\begin{align}(12)&
\end{align}

\begin{align}(13)&
\end{align}

\begin{align}(14)&
\end{align}

Table 4 shows the material properties of the cohesive zone model interface. Parameters are defined in Table 4, which are not the same as those presented in Table 1 as Table 1 data is for benchmark painting. Both parameters are finally used in the CZM. Based on the analytical method vertical separation of the cantilever tip and the energy release rates for modes I and II are

\begin{align}
\Delta = \frac{P \left[ 7(a + 0.42\chi h)^3 + (L + 2\chi h)^3 \right]}{2EBh^3} \quad (12)
\end{align}

\begin{align}
G_I = \frac{3P^2(a + \chi h)^2}{EB^2h^3} \quad (13)
\end{align}

\begin{align}
G_{II} = \frac{9P^2(a + 0.42\chi h)^2}{4EB^2h^3} \quad (14)
\end{align}

where \( P \) denotes the loading force; \( E \) is Young's modulus; \( a \) is the crack length; \( B \) is the width of the beam; \( h \) is the thickness of beam; \( I \) is the second moment of area of the cantilever beam (\( I = Bh^3/12 \)); \( \chi \) is the correction parameter (\( \chi = \sqrt{\frac{E}{11G}} \left( 3 - 2 \left( \frac{1.18E/G}{1.18E/G + 1} \right)^2 \right) \)); \( G \) is the shear modulus. Cyclic loading can be described using the stress amplitude, mean stress, and stress range, respectively. Based on Paris law the fatigue crack growth rate is defined

\begin{align}
\frac{d}{dN}a = C \left( K_{\text{max}} - K_{\text{min}} \right)^n \quad (15)
\end{align}

\begin{align}
\text{The cohesive zone model assumes a linear relationship between cohesive stress response}
\end{align}

\begin{align}
\sigma = (1-D)(1-D_e)K_0\delta \quad (16)
\end{align}
and damage parameter is defined

\[ D = \frac{\delta_{\text{final}} - \delta_{\text{initial}}}{\delta(\delta_{\text{final}} - \delta_{\text{initial}})}, \text{ for } \delta > \delta_{\text{initial}} \]  

(17)

and

\[ D = 0 \text{ for } \delta \leq \delta_{\text{initial}} \]  

(18)

which the stiffness is changed with cyclic loading to \((1-D_c)\) times. The onset of delamination growth is defined as:

\[ N \geq \left( G_{\text{max}} - G_{\text{min}} \right)^{-0.1} \]  

(19)

where the energy release rate at maximum loading is larger than the \(G_{\text{threshold}}\) or one percent of critical energy release rate which is 0.8. As well as the propagation of the delamination is defined by the rate of damage is defined as:

\[ \frac{d}{dN}D = \frac{4.87 \times 10^{-6}}{L} \left( G_{\text{max}} - G_{\text{min}} \right)^{1.15} \]  

(20)

### 4. Results and discussion

General numerical solution procedure is to use a Newton-Raphson solution technique to solve the nonlinear system of equations. Other researchers [41-42] presented a Newton-Raphson solution technique to solve the nonlinear system of equations. Though, the Jacobian matrix is unsymmetrical and since is not suitable for FE. The overall procedure for static cohesive crack growth simulation is briefly shortlisted in the next steps:

1. solve the linear system of equations under the external load and calculate the external SIFs, then determine the crack growth;
2. let the damage parameter as a given constant parameter;
3. solve the nonlinear system of equilibrium Equations;
4. calculate the damage parameter under the current external loads for the present crack-tip opening; and
5. go to Step 2 and repeat the calculation for the next step. A quasi-static analysis approach is used for the current viscoelastic modeling. The accuracy of the analysis is controlled by the maximum difference between the creep strain at the beginning and the end of the increment given as

\[ \varepsilon_{cr}(t + \Delta t) - \varepsilon_{cr}(t) \leq 10^{-3} \]  

(21)

Fatigue failures in painting take place in cyclic loading, after a definite time. It also shows evidence of through-thickness and interfacial cracks in paintings under mechanical stresses, as well as the delamination between oil and acrylic paints [32]. Here a similar geometry of the experimental setup is used (see Figure 2b). Fig. 5 shows Von mises stress, as combination of other stress (sx, sy, txy ...). In Figure 5, the stress variation in the materials is displayed. Stress contours for various displacements (0.4, 1.8, 4.5, 6 mm) are illustrated in Figure 5. The stress contour with the unit of Pa (N/m²) has the highest values at the crack edge and under the loading place in the middle. The maximum stress across the layer is 250 Pa at the lowest displacement and throughout the highest displacement is more than kPa. Although the stress has increased in both layers, the pressure drop in the painting is larger than the canvas. Since the stress in the painting layer is 2.5 times the stress in the canvas layer. As in the cohesive zone model, the strip plastic zone has cohesive traction equal to yield stress, it is clear to track it while crack propagates through the process in Figure 5.
As cohesive energy density defined by the integral of cohesive traction (or the closure stress) over displacement, the comprehensive separation of layers happens when the cohesive energy density reaches the critical value. Damage parameter defined here (see equation (17)) doesn't include the micro-damage accumulation, cracking, and deterioration on the micro-level (which is subjected to the influence of stochastic factors) and clearly shows the macroscopic fatigue crack propagation up to the final failure. In a cohesive zone model, inside the cohesive zone beyond the crack tip, it can be expected the intermolecular surface forces are constant (beyond zone is zero) or has Lennard-Jones shape. In Figure 6, the damage evolution in the materials is displayed. Damage contours for various displacements (0.4, 1.8, 4.5, 6 mm) are illustrated in Figure 6. The maximum damage across the layer is 1. Although the damage region has enlarged versus displacement, the
depth is not changed linearly. At a displacement of 0.4 mm, damage initiated while at 4.5 mm reaches the mid-plane and at 6 mm reached the final displacement.
The effect of painting layer thickness and initial crack length is revealed in Figure 7. In Figure 7 a, the painting layer thickness is shown at 20 °C. Regarding the figure, the behavior of force-displacement is similar while the values are different. In contrast to low thickness cases, the increasing behavior of curves is observed after the initial displacement and the highest at the final displacement. In Figure 7 a, the thickness of the painting system is changed from 1 mm to 1 cm. By increase of painting system's thickness, the value of maximum force increases. In Figure 7 b, the painting layer thickness is shown at 20 °C. Regarding the figure, the behavior of force-displacement is similar while the values are different. In all cases, the decreasing behavior of curves is observed after the initial displacement and the highest at the initial of damage displacement. In Figure 7 b, the initial crack length of the painting system is changed from 2 cm to 4 cm. By increase of painting system's initial crack length, the value of maximum force increases.

The curves in Fig. 7a ad 7b are not differ in character. As shown In 7a, the curves tend to increase further after minor drop, but 7b shows no such increase. As seen the delta displacement, at which point is it measured. The applied force F is similar to the applied force from Fig. 2 and calculated from the location of crack tip.
The effects of temperature and relative humidity are considered within the external uniform load applied in the FEM. Figure 8 reveals the initiation time of delamination versus loading relative humidity percent at one cycle/day and loading temperature. For polymer coatings used in disposable products or household, the designated polymer would only be anticipated to last a few years, for cars and buildings around ten years. When the RH cycles have been resolved for the works of art, it is conceivable to actualize them as limited conditions. It has been recognized that on a quiet day the RH cycle is roughly sinusoidal and has a most extreme RH of 95%RH at 06:00 in the first part of the day (min temp) and the base of 35%RH at 15:00 toward the evening (max temp). In this manner, this sinusoidal cycle will be actualized with various min and max esteem to decide the impact on split inception time. In Figure 8 a, the initiation time of delamination versus loading relative humidity percent at one cycle/day is shown at 20 °C. Regarding the figure, the behavior of life-loading is logarithmic. In Figure 8 a, the loading relative humidity percent at one cycle per day is changed from 10 % to 50 %. As illustrated by the increase of loading relative humidity percent at one cycle per day, the values of initiation time of delamination decrease.
Although the physical parameters of materials may depend on the relative humidity and temperature, but here for simplicity they assumed as constant parameters. Irreversible Cohesive Zone Model does not require a Paris Law definition (required in direct cyclic fatigue method) is appropriate for both Mode-I and Mode-II fracture problems. The crack growth rate may be augmented in the real condition because of the accumulation of other issues such as chemical damage and temperature change. In Figure 8 b, the painting time of crack initialization is shown at various temperatures loading. Total adhesive fracture energy is considered as 250 N/m. By observe on this figure, behavior of life-loading is logarithmic. Higher the strain rate, the higher the stiffness of the paints, and the higher the temperature, the lower the stiffness. In Figure 8 b, the loading temperature at one cycle per day is changed from 10 °C to 30 °C. As illustrated by the increase of loading temperature difference at one cycle per day, the values of initiation time of delamination decrease.

**Figure 8.** a) Initiation time of delamination versus loading relative humidity percent at one cycle/day, b) Initiation time of delamination versus loading temperature.

Fig. 9 which shows the force magnitude versus crack extension for various thickness and initial length assesses the geometrical effects. Each data point is obtained by recording the force when the cohesive element at the current crack tip is fully damaged; the crack is then considered to be extended by one element length.
After the initiation, the relationship of the crack extension versus time is found to be approximately linear with a constant extension rate. This is small, highlighting that damage propagation in works of art is likely to be a slow process. Non-destructive inspections could reveal damage and timely corrective action could be taken to allow conservation of fine-art paintings.

Figure 9 shows the effect of crack length on maximum components of stress in numerical modeling of delamination. As shown the maximum stress happens in normal stress and shear stress is not important in this case. The shear stress in this test is lower than normal stress by two orders of magnitude. As the applied load made the system to bend, the produced stress field is anticipated. As shown normal stress (in beam axial direction) is in order of von misses stress.

Figure 9. Comparison of various components of stress.

5. Conclusions

In this research, by use of the irreversible cohesive zone model, the effect of temperature and relative humidity cycles on multilayer thin-film paintings is investigated. Tensile and delamination properties of the paints are used for the finite element simulation of the fatigue life prediction model. The homogenous one-dimensional paint layers composed of alkyd and acrylic gesso over a canvas foundation (support) with known constant thicknesses are considered as the mechanical model of painting. Experimental data used for mathematical modeling of canvas as a linear elastic material and paint as a viscoelastic material with the Prony series. Two types of crack through the length and width of the paint layers are modeled by cyclic mechanical loadings. The three-dimensional modeling of the system is solved by the finite element method in a plane strain formulation. Fatigue damage parameters such as crack initiation time and maximum loads are calculated by an irreversible cohesive zone model under low-cycle fatigue caused by temperature and relative humidity cycles.

As shown:
- By increase of painting system's thickness, the value of maximum force increases.
- By increase of painting system's initial crack length, the value of maximum force increases.
- By increase of loading relative humidity percent at one cycle per day, the values of initiation time of delamination decrease.
- By increase of loading temperature difference at one cycle per day, the values of initiation time of delamination decrease.

The advantages of the present work is to calculate the crack length propagation in painting layers and limitation is constant coefficients. To continue this research the author suggests making accelerated fatigue delamination by humidity and temperature-controlled chamber. The material age, anisotropic behavior of the canvas, are also other parameters that are neglected in the current paper. Finally, the inverse analysis can be employed to optimize the coating design.

Nomenclature
A peel arm cross-sectional area
A\textsubscript{0} sample's original cross-sectional area
a crack length
b peel arm width
C experimental constant for Paris’ Law equation
D damage parameter
E Young’s elastic modulus
f nominal stress-stretch function
G energy release rate
G\textsubscript{c} cohesive fracture energy of a peel arm
G\textsubscript{p} local plastic/viscoelastic work done per unit area
g Prony series non-dimensional parameter
g\textsubscript{e} Prony series equilibrium term
h peel arm thickness
h\textsubscript{c} width of the fracture front
I first stretch invariant
K stress intensity factor
L element characteristic length
L\textsubscript{0} sample’s original length
m experimental constant for Paris’ Law equation
M number of terms in Prony series
P applied load
T temperature
\tau\textsubscript{n} normalized time
W strain energy potential
\alpha chain interaction parameter in van der Waals time-independent material parameters
\beta\textsubscript{eff} hygrothermal expansion coefficient
\delta crack displacement, separation, displacement parameter
\varepsilon\textsubscript{xy,z} principal strains
\[ \lambda \] stretch ratio

\[ \lambda_m \] locking stretch

\[ \mu \] initial Shear Modulus

\[ \sigma_{x,y,z} \] principal stress

\[ \nu \] Poisson’s ratio

Competing interests

The author declares that they have no competing interests.

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Figures

Figure 1

Schematic of 2D plane stress problem of a plate having the elliptical hole.
Figure 2

a) schematic of the computational domain and boundary conditions. b) Schematic of the experimental
Figure 3

Multi-grid mesh for two layers (a) top view, right view, and front view (b) isometric view (c) irregular meshes.
Figure 4

Comparison between the numerical simulation results and the experimental study by Camanho et al [27].
Figure 5

Von mises stress contours of a) 0.4, b) 1.8, c) 4.5, d) 6 displacement (mm).
Figure 6

Damage evolution surface of a) 0.4, b)1.8, c)4.5, d) 6 displacement (mm).
Figure 7

a) The effect of painting layer thickness, b) The effect of initial crack length
Figure 8

a) Initiation time of delamination versus loading relative humidity percent at one cycle/day, b) Initiation time of delamination versus loading temperature.
Figure 9

Comparison of various components of stress.