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A TWO-SCALE MODEL OF STIFFNESS FOR 1D TENSILE CRACK OPENING, CLOSURE AND HEALING

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Problem Statement: Modeling Challenges

- No consensus on the definition of healing: effect on deformation, permeability, stiffness?
- Different theoretical frameworks for: crack opening (LEFM/CDM), closure (CDM), healing (DMT)
- No justification of the external and internal variables employed in coupled models (Arson et al. [4]).

Atomic Scale	Crack Scale	REV Scale	Fracture Scale
Molecular Dynamics	LEFM, DMT models	CDM	LEFM
Electronic Forces	Creep deformation	Effective Properties	Interface energy

Crack opening + healing
Wiederhorn & Townsend [2]
Wool [3]

Crack opening + closure
Chaboche [6]

Crack opening + healing
Senseny et al. [1]

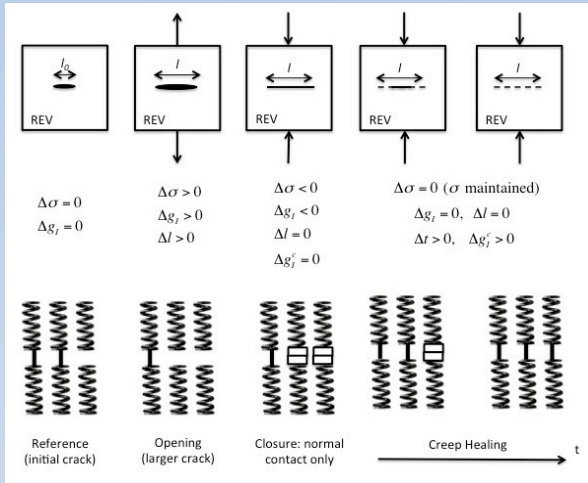
Crack opening
Mazars & Pijaudier-Cabot [5]

Crack opening + healing
Ju et al. [7]
Voyiadjis et al. [8]

Conceptual Stiffness Model

1. Reference State	$\tilde{C}(l, g_i^c) = C_{0, l=0}$	
2. Open Crack	$\tilde{C}(l, g_i^c) = C(l, g_i^c)$	
3. Closed Crack	$\tilde{C}(l, g_i^c) = C(l, g_i^c) - H(-g_i) [C_0 - C(l, g_i^c)]$	
4. Healing Crack	$\tilde{C}(l, g_i^c) = C(l, g_i^c) - H(-g_i) [C_0 - C(l, g_i^c)] + H(+g_i) [C_0 - C^*(g_i^c, l)]$	
5. Healed Crack	$\tilde{C}(l, g_i^c) = C_{0, l=0}$	

Formulation: Thermodynamic Framework



• **First Law of Thermodynamics** $\dot{W}_{ext} = \dot{U} + \dot{\Pi} + \dot{Q}$

• **Inequality of Clausius-Duhem** $\dot{W}_{ext} - \dot{\Pi} - \dot{\psi}_s \geq 0$

• **Free energy:** LEFM potential energy

$$g_I = -\frac{\partial \psi_s}{\partial l} = -\frac{\partial \Pi}{\partial l}, \quad l^c = -\frac{\partial \psi_s}{\partial g_1^c} = -\frac{\partial \Pi}{\partial g_1^c}$$

• **Complementary evolution laws**

• **Crack opening:** rate-dependent (CDM)

$$f_d(g_1, l, g_1^c) = g_1 - g_1^R(l, g_1^c), \quad g_1^R(l, g_1^c) = [g_1(l) - g_1^c]$$

• **Crack closure:** unilateral effects – stiffness model

$$\psi_s(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^c, l, g_1^c) = \frac{1}{2} \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^c : \tilde{C}(l, g_1^c) : \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^c$$

• **Crack healing:** rate-dependent (DMT): $\frac{\partial g_1^c}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 g_1^c}{\partial z^2}$

Discussion, Perspectives, Broader Impacts

- Free energy (and stiffness) accounts for crack opening, closure and healing.
- Crack length l plays the role of a rate-independent damage variable. It is the longest actual length ever reached by the crack – not the actual crack length.
- Crack closure is not governed by any complementary evolution law other than the damage criterion (unilateral effects).
- The critical energy release rate is both the healing internal variable and a damage hardening variable.
- By construction, the model does not resort to an intermediate variable commonly defined as incremental net damage (difference between damage and recovery occurring during the same load increment).

Proposed model: equivalent to a **diffuse damage model for identical parallel micro-cracks**.
Parallel tensile cracks in civil engineering: columns, flexural beams...
Use of **self-healing cement-based materials**: an alternative to member replacement...

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