



Local damage in a 5-harness satin weave composite under static tension: Part II – Meso-FE modelling

S. Daggumati^{a,*}, W. Van Paepegem^a, J. Degrieck^a, J. Xu^b, S.V. Lomov^b, I. Verpoest^b

^a Ghent University, Department of Materials Science and Engineering, Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 41, 9000 Gent, Belgium

^b Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Department of Metallurgy and Materials Engineering, Kasteelpark Arenberg 44, B-3001 Leuven, Belgium

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ABSTRACT

This study forms the second part of a paper on the local damage analysis in a thermo-plastic 5-harness satin weave composite under uni-axial static tensile load. The experimental observations of Part I are confronted with the meso-FE simulations. Part II describes the following steps regarding the unit cell meso-FE modelling starting from: (1) construction of the unit cell geometrical model; (2) estimation of the homogenized elastic constants of the unit cell using different boundary conditions; (3) evaluation of the local stress and damage behavior of the unit cell using meso-FE simulations. The aim of the numerical analysis is to investigate the dependency of local ply stress and damage profiles on the adjacent layers of the laminate.

In order to reflect the constraints posed by the surrounding plies, depending on the ply placement in the laminate (inside/surface), different unit cell geometrical models with suitable boundary conditions were used for the FE analysis. From the numerical simulations it is observed that: (a) the homogenized elastic constants of the unit cell vary considerably depending on the boundary conditions used for the unit cell FE analysis; (b) intra-yarn stress and damage profiles are sensitive to the unit cell model as well as the boundary conditions used for the FE analysis.

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1. Introduction

In order to estimate the homogenized elastic constants of textile composites using unit cell meso-FE simulations, a numerical procedure is firmly established [1,2]. However, the meso-FE procedure still needs to be improved for analysis of the local stress and damage behavior of the composite using the unit cell FE simulations [3,4]. The majority of the published numerical work regarding the analysis of local structural behavior in the textile composite is based on the single unit cell FE simulation with 3D periodic boundary conditions (PBC). The underlying principle in the application of 3D PBCs is that the unit cell is chosen from the middle of the laminate [5–8], which represents the entire stress/strain fields in the composite.

However, recent publications [9–11] on the meso-FE analysis of the unit cell have emphasized the effect of free surface and free edges on local stress behavior. Moreover, the influence of internal yarn shifting on the local stress behavior of the unit cell has been highlighted. In order to investigate the effect of local fabric geometries on the damage behavior, Le Page et al. [12] developed two dimensional plane strain FE models of woven composite with in-

phase, out-of-phase and staggered nested unit cell models. The above mentioned work concluded that the strain energy release rate associated with the crack formation is influenced significantly by the crack location. In addition, the formation of a crack is associated with the local bending deformation, and the energy release rate increases with the degree of bending. According to Adams et al. [13], the modelling approaches assume idealized textile architecture and generally consider a single unit cell. Due to the randomness of textile architecture produced using conventional processing techniques, the experimental data obtained has shown limited use for verifying the accuracy of these numerical models.

In the above context, Part I of this paper described the experimental observations of the sequence of damage events in different layers of the 5-harness satin weave carbon-PPS laminate, which are influenced by the local fabric geometries. Weft yarn transverse damage is initiated in the inner layers of the laminate, followed by damage on the surface layers. The sequence of damage events in different layers implies that the damage initiation may have been influenced by the local constraints imposed by the surrounding plies. In Part II of this paper, the above experimental observation is verified using the unit cell as well as laminate level 3D meso-FE simulations. The work presented here is conducted in the view of obtaining extensive knowledge on the mechanics of the local structural behavior of a satin weave composite.

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +32 92 64 33 17; fax: +32 92 64 35 87.
E-mail address: Subbareddy.Daggumati@ugent.be (S. Daggumati).

2. Estimation of the homogenized elastic constants

2.1. Construction of the unit cell FE model

In order to begin with the homogenization of elastic constants and the simulation of the local structural behavior on the meso scale, the textile reinforcement under consideration should be accurately constructed and translated to the FE software. The micro-CT technique is employed to investigate the variability of the internal yarn dimensions in a processed composite. To quantify the variation of the internal yarn dimensions in multiple composite samples at the same time, three laminates were taped together each with the dimensions of $10.4 \times 10.4 \times 2.5$ mm and this stack was used for the micro-CT analysis. The size of the composite samples used for the micro-CT is determined according to the optimum dimensions of the unit cell. The output micro-CT images were reconstructed and used for the measurement of the textile parameters.

The textile information required for the construction of unit cell geometry such as the spacing, width and thickness of the yarns are measured at 20 different locations in both the warp and weft directions of the micro-CT images. The averaged values are shown in Table 1. Using the data from Table 1, the unit cell geometric model of the 5-harness satin weave reinforcement is generated using the 'WiseTex' software [14,15]. Later, the 'WiseTex' generated textile reinforcement is transferred into FE mesh and filled with the matrix using the 'MeshTex' software [5]. Finally, the 'MeshTex' output in the form of nodal and elemental information is transferred to the ABAQUS software.

2.2. Homogenization of the elastic constants

In order to start the unit cell FE analysis, the micro-mechanical (UD) material properties of the carbon-PPS representing the homogenized material properties of the impregnated yarn are derived from the individual elastic properties of the carbon fibre and PPS matrix (Table 2) using the analytical Chamis [16] homogenization formulas. The intra-yarn volume fraction (ϕ_f) used for the calculation of the homogenized material properties (Table 3) is 70% (constant through out the yarn sections), which is obtained from the 'WiseTex' software. The analytical homogenized elastic constants of the impregnated yarn are compared with the CCA [17] and shows good correlation. The calculated homogenized micro-mechanical material properties are assigned to the yarn cross sections in their local co-ordinate system to account for the yarn crimp in the FE model. Moreover, perfect bonding is assumed at the interface between the yarns and matrix of the unit cell: i.e. the yarn and the matrix share common node at the interface, which has been justified by Gerlach et al. [18].

Table 1

Textile parameters obtained from the micro-CT measurements.

Property	5-Harness satin weave warp	5-Harness satin weave weft
<i>WiseTex input data at fabric level</i>		
Yarn		198 tex
Number of measurements	20	20
Yarn width (mm)	1.31 ± 0.01	1.32 ± 0.08
Yarn thickness (mm)	0.162 ± 0.01	0.161 ± 0.06
Yarn spacing (mm)	1.50 ± 0.04	1.49 ± 0.07
<i>WiseTex input data at fibre level</i>		
Tex (g/km)		198
Yarn filament count		3000
Filament diameter (mm)		0.007
Carbon fibre density (g/cm ³)		1.75

Table 2

T300 JB carbon fibre, PPS elastic and strength properties.

T300 JB carbon fibre	PPS (polyphenylene sulphide)		
<i>Elastic properties [5,34]</i>			
Longitudinal modulus E_{11} (GPa)	231	Modulus of elasticity E (GPa)	3.8
Transverse modulus E_{22} (GPa)	28	Shear modulus G (GPa)	1.38
In-plane shear modulus G_{12} (GPa)	24	Poisson's ratio ν	0.37
Transverse shear modulus G_{23} (GPa)	10.7		
In-plane Poisson's ratio ν_{12}	0.26		
Transverse Poisson's ratio ν_{23}	0.39		
<i>Strength properties</i>			
Tensile strength (MPa)	4210	Tensile strength (MPa)	90
Compressive strength (MPa)	2616	Compressive strength (MPa)	148
Shear strength (MPa)	NA	Shear strength (MPa)	63

Note: T300 JB carbon material strength properties are taken from TORAYCA technical data sheet no. CFA-002.

PPS material properties are taken from TECHTRON & RYTRON PPS data sheet.

Table 3

Homogenized elastic properties of the carbon-PPS impregnated yarn.

$\phi_f = 0.7$	E_{11} (GPa)	E_{22} (GPa)	G_{12} (GPa)	G_{23} (GPa)	ν_{12}	ν_{23}
Chamis micro-mechanical homogenization	162.60	13.70	6.50	5.07	0.29	0.35
Concentric cylindrical assemblage (CCA) [17]	162.20	15.0	6.20	–	0.28	0.40

The effective elastic constants of the textile composite on the scale of a single unit cell are calculated using the numerical meso-mechanical homogenization procedure. Initially, the elastic constants of the composite on the meso scale are estimated by applying the Dirichlet boundary conditions to the unit cell. The procedure involved in the estimation of elastic constants using the Dirichlet boundary conditions is explained in [19,20]. In order to calculate the homogenized elastic constants of the unit cell, FE analysis is started by solving six independent unit load cases (three normal $\epsilon_x, \epsilon_y, \epsilon_z$ and three shear $\gamma_{xy}, \gamma_{xz}, \gamma_{yz}$ strains), thereby calculating the [AD] parts of the [ABD] stiffness matrix. By inverting the [AD] stiffness matrix, the compliance components of the unit cell were obtained. From this, nine homogenized elastic constants of the unit cell are computed (Table 4).

The other procedure used for the evaluation of the homogenized elastic constants of the unit cell is periodic boundary conditions (PBCs) [5,21–23] along with the volume averaging technique. By applying the 3D PBC, the above mentioned six independent unit

Table 4

Computed homogenized elastic constants of the carbon-PPS satin weave unit cell.

	PBC and Volume averaging	Dirichlet BC's and Surface reactions	Method of Inclusions (Analytical)	Experiment
E_{11} , GPa	56.49	59.5	61.7	57 ± 1
E_{22} , GPa	56.41	59.5	61.7	-NA-
E_{33} , GPa	10.53	10.55	10.56	-NA-
ν_{12}	0.08	0.057	0.053	0.05 ± 0.02
ν_{13}	0.41	0.41	0.44	-NA-
ν_{23}	0.41	0.41	0.44	-NA-
G_{12} MPa	4280	4305	4297	4175 [35]
G_{13} MPa	3048	3286	3375	-NA-
G_{23} MPa	3045	3286	3375	-NA-

load cases are solved. Later, by the application of the volume averaging technique [1,5,24], the homogenized elastic constants of the unit cell are estimated (Table 4). Finally, the elastic constants computed using different boundary conditions are compared to the analytical (method of inclusions [25]) and with the experimental elastic constants (Table 4).

The difference in the estimated values of the homogenized elastic constants between the periodic and Dirichlet boundary conditions has been explained by Terada et al. [2]. In correlation with the observations of the current work, the homogenized elastic properties estimated using Dirichlet boundary conditions have higher predicted values than those of the periodic boundary conditions. From the elastic constants computed with different procedures, it is evident that the periodic boundary conditions along with the volume averaging technique predict better results compared to the experimental results.

3. Unit cell FE analysis

To start with the meso-FE damage analysis, along with the micro-mechanical elastic properties, the strength properties of the carbon-PPS UD (Table 5) are derived from the individual strength properties of the carbon fibre and PPS matrix (Table 2) using the Chamis analytical strength homogenization formulas [16]. Once the transverse isotropic strength properties to the yarns and the isotropic material properties of the matrix are assigned, for the damage analysis of the unit cell the following approach is employed.

Initially, the occurrence of damage in the unit cell element is detected using the Hoffmann failure criteria [26]. However, this criterion cannot indicate the type of damage mode in the yarns, where the architecture of the fibre arrangement plays an important role. The modes of the damage are classified into four different types (Table 6) [27]. The mode *L* represents the fibre breaking, *T* and *Z* modes represent the transverse and shear cracking. As shown in Table 6, by calculating the corresponding stress-to-

strength ratios for the different modes, we consider that the damage mode that is taking place is the one whose stress-to-strength ratio has the maximum value. The above mentioned failure criteria and the damage model is implemented into the commercial FE software ABAQUS using UMAT Fortran routines, which enable us to simulate the damage in the unit cell.

The results obtained from the FE modelling are compared with the experimental observations as follows:

1. Validation of the FE damage initiation strain with the damage initiation strain obtained from the experimental acoustic emission technique (Part I).
2. Finding the FE damage initiation location in the unit cell, which could be verified with the microscopically observed damage initiation location on the quasi-static tensile tested composite specimen (Part I).

Finally, the local stress profiles are plotted for various unit cell models to analyze the effect of unit cell stacking and the applied boundary conditions.

3.1. Case I: (FE simulation of the damage in the laminate inner layers)

In order to simulate the stress and damage behavior inside the laminate, FE analysis is started with a single unit cell by applying 3D PBCs [5,22], which corresponds to the unit cell located in the middle of the laminate. During the loading process, at (0.2%) of the applied average tensile strain in the warp direction (Fig. 1 X-direction), the damage initiation is detected at the edges of the weft yarn at the yarn crimp location by Hoffmann criteria (Fig. 1c). Once the Hoffmann criteria detect the damage initiation in the element, for the direction of the damage, individual stress-to-strength ratios are calculated using the formulas shown in Table 6. And the values are listed below for the damaged elements.

$$\text{Mode L} \left(\frac{\sigma_L^2}{F_L^t F_L^c} \right) = \text{Negligible} \quad \text{Mode T} \left(\frac{\sigma_T^2}{F_T^t F_T^c} \right) = 0.23$$

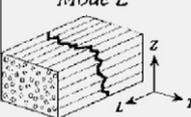
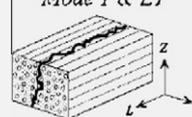
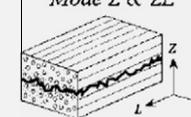
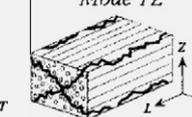
$$\text{Mode Z} \left(\frac{\sigma_Z^2}{F_Z^t F_Z^c} \right) = 0.08 \quad \text{Mode TZ} \left(\frac{\tau_{TZ}}{F_{TZ}^s} \right)^2 = 0.16$$

Based on the individual stress-to-strength ratios shown above, the local transverse damage (meso level) in a satin weave weft yarn is a combination of the micro level transverse damage mode in combination with the out-of-plane shear damage mode. The predicted FE micro level damage modes are in correlation with the theory of Cox and Flanagan [28] on the satin weave composite architecture. Cox reported that the asymmetric satin weave fabric

Table 5
Homogenized strength properties of the carbon-PPS impregnated yarn.

Mechanical property	Carbon-PPS impregnated yarn ($\varphi_f = 0.7$)
Tensile strength (MPa)	$F_L^t = 2947$ $F_T^t = 80$ $F_Z^t = 80$
Compressive strength (MPa)	$F_L^c = 1832$ $F_T^c = 130$ $F_Z^c = 130$
Shear strength (MPa)	$F_{TZ}^s = 56$ $F_{ZL}^s = 56$ $F_{LT}^s = 56$

Table 6
The characteristics of anisotropic damage model for fibre bundle and isotropic damage model for matrix [27].

Damage mode	Anisotropic damage model for fiber bundle				Isotropic damage model for matrix
	Mode L	Mode T & LT	Mode Z & ZL	Mode TZ	
					
Maximum stress-to-strength ratio	$\frac{\sigma_L^2}{F_L^t F_L^c}$	$\frac{\sigma_T^2}{F_T^t F_T^c}$ or $\left(\frac{\tau_{LT}}{F_{LT}^s} \right)^2$	$\frac{\sigma_Z^2}{F_Z^t F_Z^c}$ or $\left(\frac{\tau_{ZL}}{F_{ZL}^s} \right)^2$	$\left(\frac{\tau_{TZ}}{F_{TZ}^s} \right)^2$	
Damage tensor	$\begin{bmatrix} D_L & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & D_T & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & D_Z \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

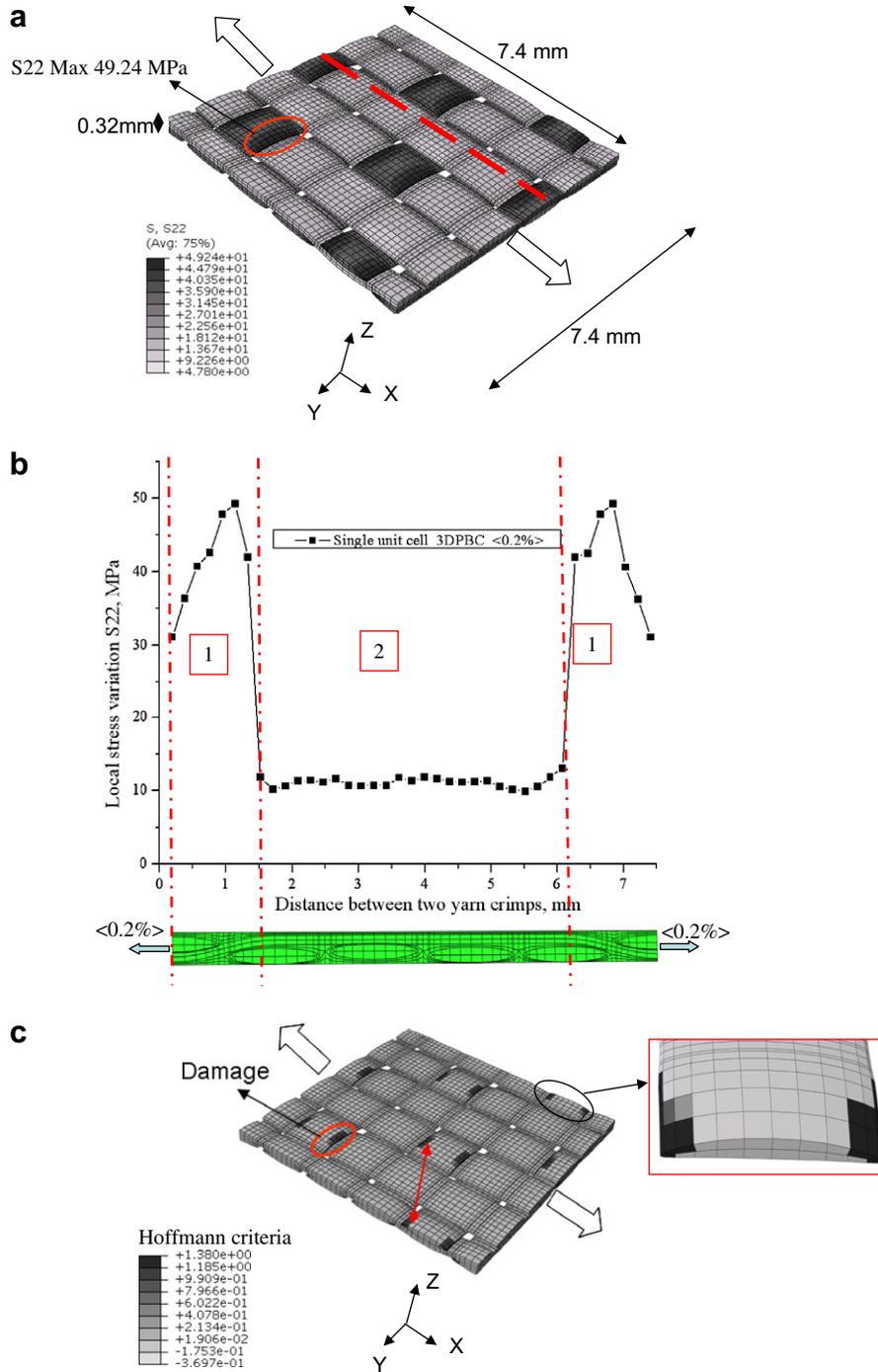


Fig. 1. Single unit cell with infinite laminate boundary conditions: (a) transverse stress distribution on the weft yarn; (b) transverse stress profile between two yarn crimp; (c) transverse damage on the weft yarn at the yarn crimp location (0.2%).

causes the coupling of bending and stretching, and there is also coupling between stretching and in-plane shear under the pure tensile load. In the present case, it is observed that the load coupling between stretching and in-plane shear is negligible compared to the load coupling between bending and stretching.

From the transverse stress contours (Fig. 1a), the maximum stress of 49 MPa is observed at the damaged elements of the weft yarn. Moreover, the transverse stress profile (Fig. 1b) is plotted on the surface elements of the weft and warp yarns between the yarn crimp locations as marked in Fig. 1a. From Fig. 1b, the variation in

local transverse stress is divided into three major parts as explained below:

- Starting from the centre of the weft yarn at the yarn crimp location, the transverse stress value increases from 30 MPa to the maximum value of 49 MPa at the edge of the weft yarn.
- The second phase of the stress profile starts at the edge of the weft yarn, and decreases to the minimum value (12 MPa) in the geometrical transition location between the crimp region to the flat position of the load carrying warp yarn.

- The third phase in the stress profile is related to the constant transverse stress of 10 MPa at the flat position of the load carrying warp yarn. In addition, the stress profile varies periodically along the unit cell geometry.

3.2. Case II: (FE simulation of the damage on the laminate surface layer)

The current section deals with the numerical simulation of the local stress and damage behavior of the unit cell on the traction free surface. In order to understand the variation in local damage

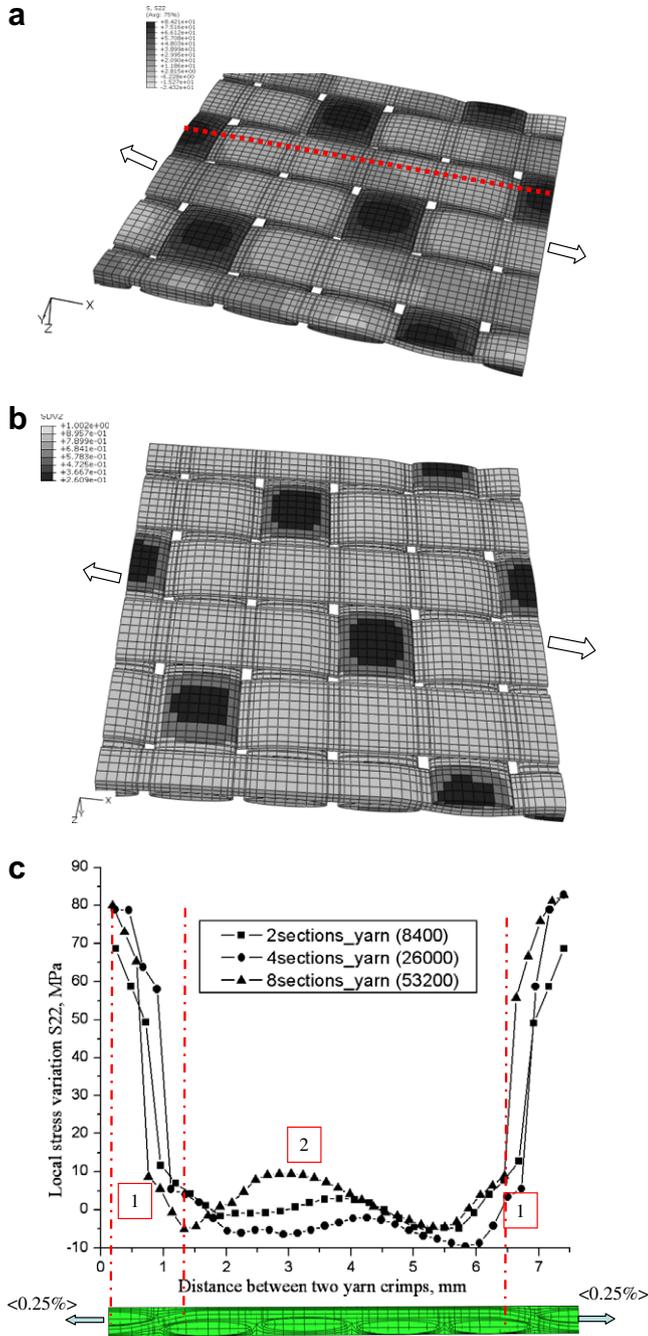


Fig. 2. Single unit cell stress and damage profiles with in-plane PBC: (a) transverse stress distribution on the weft yarn; (b) transverse damage on the weft yarn at the yarn crimp location; (c) transverse stress profiles between two yarn crimps with different mesh size.

behavior in the finite surface laminate compared to the infinite laminate, the single unit cell FE analysis with 3D PBCs is changed as explained below.

Initially, the surface stress analysis is performed using the single unit cell with in-plane PBCs. The top and bottom surfaces of the unit cell (Fig. 2a) are free to deform in the out-of-plane direction. Under the above specified constraints, at $\langle 0.25\% \rangle$ of the applied average strain in the warp yarn direction, weft yarn damage is detected at the yarn crimp location (Fig. 2b). From the local stress analysis, it is observed that the maximum tensile stress (80 MPa) occurs at the centre of the weft yarn (Fig. 2a). Due to the absence of textile reinforcement or supporting boundary conditions in the out-of-plane direction, the flat part of the warp yarn adjacent to the yarn crimp location is slightly compressed in the transverse direction (Fig. 2c).

Comparison of the experimental $\langle 0.6\% \rangle$ and numerical $\langle 0.25\% \rangle$ surface damage initiation strains underline the necessity for improvement in the unit cell model used for the surface stress analysis. To capture the effect of underlying layers on the surface stress profile, it is necessary to create a unit cell stack for the FE analysis. However, producing the unit cell stack with the same mesh size as single unit cell is computationally expensive. In this regard, comparison of the numerical local strain profiles with different mesh densities to the experimentally measured strains by Lomov et al. [29] lead to the conclusion that, the effect of mesh size is minimal on the local strain variation. In the current work, to study the effect of mesh size on the local stress behavior, Fig. 2c compares the local transverse stress profiles on the traction free surface with different unit cell mesh densities. The unit cell model

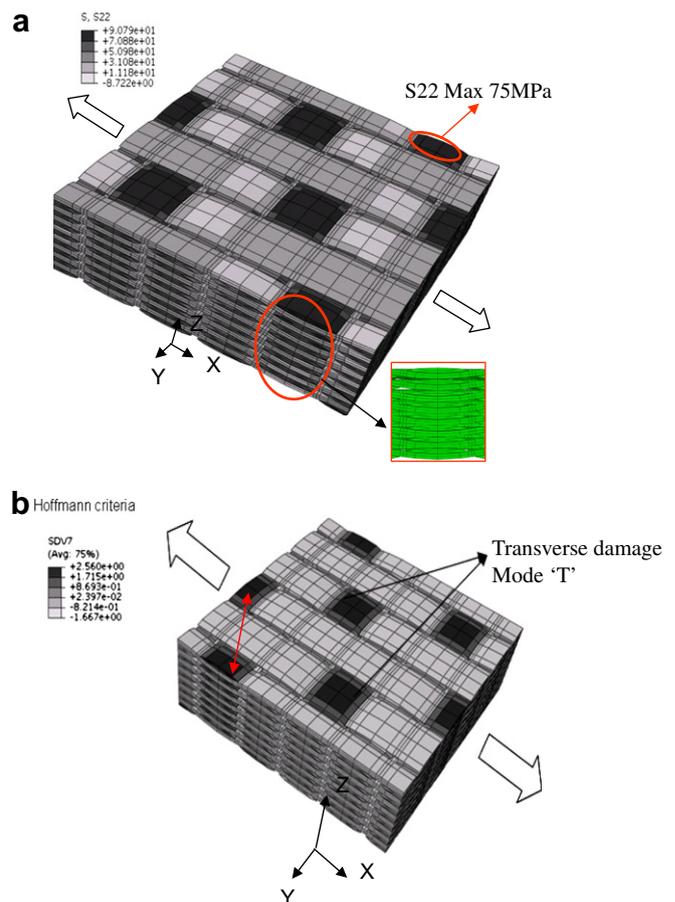


Fig. 3. Eight unit cell stack FE analysis: (a) transverse stress distribution on the weft yarn; (b) transverse damage locations on the weft yarn at the yarn crimp location $\langle 0.44\% \rangle$ with the eight unit cell in-phase stack, in-plane PBC.

with a coarse mesh has 8400 elements, and the fine mesh has 53,200 elements. From the local stress curves (Fig. 2c), it is evident that the maximum and minimum stress locations are the same. Further, there is a difference of approximately 10 MPa stress between the fine and coarse mesh at the yarn crimp location.

In the process of improving the unit cell FE analysis, eight unit cells are stacked such that all the yarn crimp locations are in the same phase (Fig. 3a). In-plane PBCs are applied to the edges of the unit cell, while the top and bottom surfaces are free to deform. With the aforementioned loading conditions, at (0.44%) of the global tensile strain in the warp yarn direction, transverse damage is detected at the weft yarn centre in the surface layer of the unit cell (Fig. 3b). In addition, the transverse stress of 75 MPa is observed in the damaged elements (Fig. 3a).

4. Results and discussion

In this section, comparison between the experimental (Part I) and numerical damage analysis is presented. This section is later extended to the analysis of unit cell local stress behavior at different locations of the laminate. The experimental acoustic emission (AE) technique predicts the weft yarn damage in the laminate inner layers around (0.1–0.2%) of the global tensile strain in the warp yarn direction. Simulation of the single unit cell with 3D PBCs predicts the weft yarn damage around (0.2%) of the global tensile strain, which proves to be a good correlation with the experimental results considering the fact that the computational model did not consider the thermal stress in the composite. In a sense, the damage initiation strain obtained from the FE simulations is a deterministic maximum value, which is within the limits of the experimental prediction. Moreover, the damage initiation location obtained from the FE simulation at the edge of the weft yarn (Case I) shows a good correlation with the observed microscopic damage locations.

On the traction free surface, the single unit cell with in-plane PBCs and the eight unit cell in-phase stack predict the weft yarn damage at around (0.25%) and (0.44%) of the global tensile strain respectively. Comparison of the numerical damage initiation strain with the microscopically observed damage initiation strain on the surface (around (0.6%)) proves that the FE simulations predict the early damage initiation strain. In correlation with the experimental damage location, the numerical simulations predict the damage at the centre of the weft yarn. Based on the comparison of the experimental and numerical results, it is evident that without the presence of internal yarn shifting (nesting), by in-phase stacking of the

yarn crimp locations, the maximum out-of-plane deformation in the surface layers is reached earlier than in the experimental counterpart (with the internal yarn nesting) and hence causes the early damage initiation [4,30].

In addition to the local damage analysis, the unit cell local stress analysis provides insight into the active stress components and their variations depending on the lamina position in the laminate.

Table 7
Local stress distribution on the weft yarn cross sections at the damage initiation strain.

	In-plane transverse stress, MPa (edge/centre of the yarn)	Normal out-of-plane stress, MPa (edge/centre of the yarn)	Out-of-plane shear stress, MPa (edge/centre of the yarn)
Case I (inside the laminate)	49/31	14/14	22/2
Case II-single unit cell-2D PBC (on the surface)	49/78	Negligible	16/7
Case II-8 unit cell stack (on the surface)	62/75	Negligible	4/18
Case II-8 unit cell stack (inside the laminate)	55/60	8/12	15/15

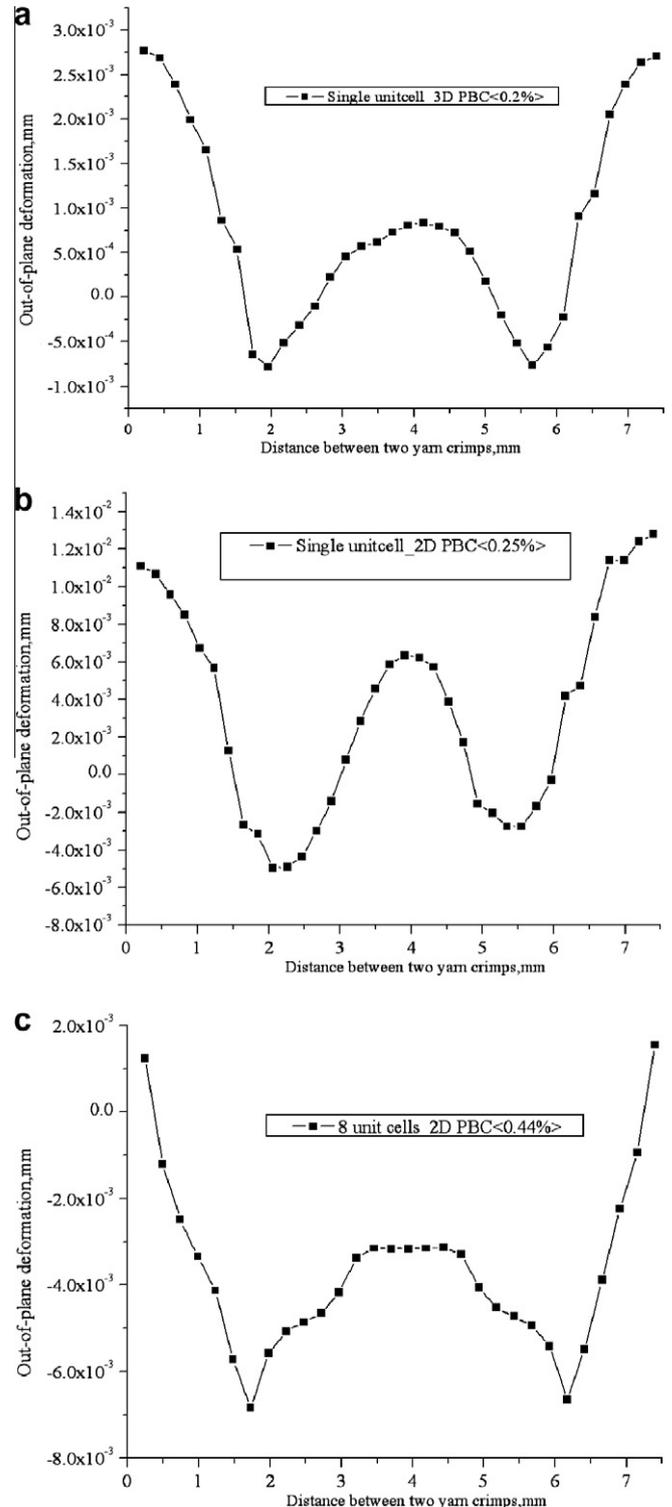


Fig. 4. Out-of-plane deformation of the unit cells: (a) single unit cell with 3D PBC (0.2%); (b) single unit cell with 2D PBC (0.25%); (c) eight unit cell stack with 2D PBC (0.44%).

The major local stress components observed in the weft yarn at the yarn crimp location are the in-plane transverse stress (σ_{22}), the out-of-plane normal stress (σ_{33}) and the out-of-plane shear stress (σ_{23}) components for the applied global tensile strain in the warp yarn direction. The local weft yarn stress values at the yarn crimp location for the single unit cell as well as the laminate are listed in Table 7. Comparison of the stress components inside the laminate (Case I) with the surface weft yarn stresses (Case II) shows that the restriction of the yarn crimp inside the laminate causes a higher out-of-plane shear (σ_{23}) as well as out-of-plane normal stress (σ_{33}) compared to the surface layers. The stress pattern observed above is in correlation with the research output of Lee et al. [31] on the local strain behavior of a plain weave composite. The authors reported that the tension/in-plane shear and tension/bending coupling effects at the yarn crimp inside the laminate are restricted by the surrounding plies. In contrast, the unrestricted yarn crimp on the surface layers of the laminate caused weft yarn damage due to the maximum transverse and shear stress.

Apart from the local stress and damage analysis, studying the deformation behavior of the unit cell under the external load provides knowledge on the effect of stacking and the applied boundary conditions for the unit cell FE analysis. The literature [27,32,33] has shown that the tensile load applied to the unit cell causes the straightening of the yarn in the loading direction (warp). This straightening effect imposes the out-of-plane deformation on the perpendicular weft yarn. When the weft yarn deformation reaches its maximum value, damage will occur on the surface of the weft yarn. Based on the above statement, the out-of-plane deformation is plotted on the surface of the unit cell in the positive z -direction between two yarn crimp locations (dotted line in Fig. 1a) at the moment of damage initiation. Considering the absolute difference from maximum to minimum deformation, as expected, the out-of-plane deformation is restricted with 3D PBCs (Fig. 4a) causing an almost flat deformation starting from one yarn crimp to the other (peak points in the curves represent the yarn crossover position). In contrast, the single unit cell with in-plane PBC predicts a large difference in the out-of-plane deformation (Fig. 4b) between the yarn crimp and the flat yarn position. Moreover, the absolute difference in the out-of-plane deformation value for the eight unit cell stack (Fig. 4c) at (0.44%) of the global strain is approximately twice the value of the infinite laminate at (0.2%). The aforementioned statement shows that, by increasing the number of unit cells in the stack, the out-of-plane deformation at the yarn crimp of the finite surface unit cell stack approaches the infinite laminate deformation [9].

5. Conclusions

Part I of this paper introduced an experimental procedure for analyzing the damage initiation and the history of the damage in a 5-harness satin weave composite. The experimental procedure provided the qualitative as well as quantitative knowledge about the damage. In order to understand the stress behavior and the mechanics of damage, the current paper deals with the satin weave unit cell computational model. Numerical simulations provided insight into the mesoscopic damage locations and the stress behavior. Comparison of the experimental and simulation results lead to the following conclusions:

- The predicted FE damage initiation strain and location for the inner layers of the laminate are within the limits of the experimental observation. On the other hand, the single unit cell with 2D PBC and in-phase stacking of an eight unit cell laminate predict the early damage initiation strain of (0.25%) and (0.44%) on the surface layers, compared to the experimental damage initiation

of (0.6%). This early damage initiation strain in the FE simulation can be attributed to the absence of internal yarn shifting in the computational model.

- The local damage initiation trend obtained from the numerical simulations demonstrates that the infinite laminate predicts early damage initiation at the edges of the weft yarn. In contrast, the free surface unit cells predict damage in the later stage.
- In correlation with the experimental observations, the different weft yarn damage initiation strains at different locations of the laminate suggest that the transverse weft yarn damage in a textile composite is a sequential process.
- In conclusion, the effect of internal yarn shifting (nesting) on the local structural response cannot be neglected and can not be captured by the infinite laminate FE analysis.

The essence of the two parts of the current local damage analysis is summarized as follows. By observing the experimental microscopic damage phenomena on the scale of the laminate at the end of the loading process, formation of cracks in the weft yarn at different locations appear to be completely stochastic in nature. However, by segregating the entire damage mechanism at different length scales, analyzing the factors contributing to the damage on the relevant scale, following the history of the damage and using the numerical simulations, the failure mechanism in textile composites can be understood in a certain deterministic way.

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