#### Effect of Stress Singularity on Scaling of Quasibrittle Fracture

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# Overview of Quasibrittle Structures

#### Brittle heterogenous (quasibrittle) materials











concrete composites ceramics

rock

poly-Si



Size-dependent failure behavior: small size limit: quasi-plastic

large size limit: perfectly brittle

# Two Types Scaling Laws of Quasibrittle Fracture



 $\log(D/D_0)$ 

Bažant 2005

#### Engineering Structures with Weak Stress Singularities

1. Weak stress singularities caused by geometry



2. Weak stress singularities caused by material mismatch





# **Theoretical Framework**

## Statistical Size Effect — Structures without Stress Singularities

Structures of positive geometry: peak load is reached once one representative volume element (RVE) is fully damaged — Weakest link statistical model.



## Multiscale Statistical Model for RVE Strength



$$P_{1}(\sigma) = 1 - \exp\left[-(\sigma/s_{0})^{m}\right] \qquad (\sigma < \sigma_{gr})$$
$$P_{1}(\sigma) = P_{gr} + \frac{r_{f}}{\sqrt{2\pi}\delta_{G}} \int_{\sigma_{gr}}^{\sigma} e^{-(\sigma'-\mu_{G})^{2}/2\delta_{G}^{2}} d\sigma' \qquad (\sigma \ge \sigma_{gr})$$

Bažant and Pang 2007, Bažant et al. 2009, Le et al. 2011

## Mean Size Effect Behavior

Mean structural strength:

$$\bar{\sigma}_N = \int_0^1 \sigma_N \mathrm{d}P_f = \int_0^\infty [1 - P_f(\sigma_N)] \mathrm{d}\sigma_N$$



## Statistical SE — Experimental Validation

Size effect tests on both strength histograms and mean strength of asphalt mixture at low temperature (T =  $-24^{\circ}$ C) (*Le et al., 2013*).



## Energetic Size Effect — Structures with Strong Stress Singularities



1) Large-size limit:

Near-tip stress field:  $\sigma_{ij} = Hr^{\lambda} f_{ij}(\theta)$ 

Stress intensity factor:  $H = \sigma D^{-\lambda} h$ 

At the large-size limit, the FPZ can be replaced by an LEFM crack (Equiv. LEFM) (*Liu and Fleck, IJF, 1997*):

$$K = aHl_c^{\lambda + 1/2}$$



## Energetic Size Effect — Structures with Strong Stress Singularities

At the peak load, the FPZ is fully developed, i.e. the equiv. crack starts to propagate. This leads to a power-law scaling relation:

$$\sigma_N \propto D^{\lambda}$$

#### 2) Small-size limit:

The entire ligament behaves as a crack filled by a plastic glue – No size effect

Asymptotic Matching:

$$\sigma_N = \sigma_s \left[ 1 + \left( D/D_{0\gamma} \right)^{1/\beta_\gamma} \right]^{\lambda\beta_\gamma}$$

#### Scaling Equation for Structures with Weak Stress Singularities — Generalized Weakest Link Model



Weakest link model:  $P_f = 1 - (1 - P_{f,V_I}) (1 - P_{f,V_{II}})$   $P_{f,V_I}(\sigma_N) = 1 - \prod_{i=1}^{N_1} \{1 - P_1[\mu(D)\sigma_N s(\boldsymbol{x}_i)]\}$ where:  $\mu(D) = [1 + (D/D_{0\gamma})^{1/\beta_{\gamma}}]^{-\lambda\beta_{\gamma}}$  $P_{f,V_{II}}(\sigma_N) = 1 - \prod_{i=1}^{N_2} \{1 - P_1[\sigma_N s(\boldsymbol{x}_i)]\}$ 

Le, IJF, 2012

#### Generalized Weakest Link Model

RVE strength distribution:

$$P_{1}(\sigma) = 1 - \exp\left[-(\sigma/s_{0})^{m}\right] \qquad (\sigma < \sigma_{gr})$$
$$P_{1}(\sigma) = P_{gr} + \frac{r_{f}}{\sqrt{2\pi}\delta_{G}} \int_{\sigma_{gr}}^{\sigma} e^{-(\sigma'-\mu_{G})^{2}/2\delta_{G}^{2}} d\sigma' \qquad (\sigma \ge \sigma_{gr})$$

Mean structural strength:

$$\bar{\sigma}_N = \int_0^1 \sigma_N(P_f) dP_f = \int_0^\infty (1 - P_f) d\sigma_N$$

Closed-form expression of  $\bar{\sigma}_N(D)$  is impossible – Approximate equation via asymptotic matching

#### Generalized Weakest Link Model

Large size limit:

$$P_{f}(\sigma_{N}) = 1 - \exp\left\{-\int_{V_{I}} \frac{\mu^{m}(D)\sigma_{N}^{m}\langle s(\boldsymbol{x})\rangle^{m}}{s_{0}^{m}} \frac{\mathrm{d}V(\boldsymbol{x})}{l_{0}^{2}} - \int_{V_{II}} \frac{\sigma_{N}^{m}\langle s(\boldsymbol{x})\rangle^{m}}{s_{0}^{m}} \frac{\mathrm{d}V(\boldsymbol{x})}{l_{0}^{2}}\right\}$$
$$\bar{\sigma}_{N} = s_{0}[\mu^{m}(D)\Psi_{1} + \Psi_{2}]^{-1/m}\Gamma\left(1 + \frac{1}{m}\right)\left(\frac{l_{0}}{D}\right)^{2/m}$$

Small size limit:

For structures without stress singularities:  $\bar{\sigma}_N \propto (D/D_b)^{-1/r}$ 

For structures with weak stress singularities:  $\bar{\sigma}_N \propto [\mu(D)]^{-1} (D/D_b)^{-1/r}$ 

#### Generalized Weakest Link Model

Asymptotic matching:

$$\bar{\sigma}_N = \sigma_0 \left\{ C_1 \left[ \mu^m(D) \Psi_1 + \Psi_2 \right]^{-r/m} \left( \frac{D+l_s}{l_0} \right)^{-2r/m} \exp\left[ -(\lambda/\lambda_1)^2 \right] + \frac{\mu^{-r}(D) D_b}{\exp\left[ -(\lambda/\lambda_2)^2 \right] D + l_p} \right\}^{1/r}$$



Le, IJF, 2012

**Computational Studies** 

# Case 1 — Concrete Beams with a V-Notch



 $\gamma = 0^{\circ}, 90^{\circ}, 120^{\circ}, 135^{\circ}, 170^{\circ}$ 

 $\lambda = -0.5, -0.4555, -0.3843, -0.3264, -0.0916$ 

#### Deterministic calculations:

 Size effect for structures with strong stress singularities
 Size effect in the small and intermediate size ranges for structures with weak/zero stress singularities
 Damage-plasticity model with crack band model

Le et al., JEM, 2014

#### Simulation Results — I. Load-Deflection Curves



Le et al., JEM, 2014

Simulation Results —II. Stress Profile and Size Effect

#### Stress profile along the ligament

Size effect surface

 $\ln D$ 



Transition from ductile failure to brittle failure

Le et al., JEM, 2014

#### Comparison Between Analytical Model and Numerical Simulation



#### Comparison Between Analytical Model – and Numerical Simulation



# Case 2 — Bimaterial Hybrid Beams



A bimaterial corner may exhibit
1) complex stress singularities;
2) two real stress singularities;
3) one real stress singularities

Assuming weak interface, we consider failure always initiates from the interface though the failure location is random for the case of weak stress singularities.

$$\bar{\sigma}_N = \sigma_0 \left\{ C_1 [\mu^m(D) \Psi_1 + \Psi_2]^{-r/m} \left( \frac{D+l_s}{l_0} \right)^{-r/m} \exp[-(\lambda/\lambda_1)^2] + \frac{\mu^{-r}(D)D_b}{\exp[-(\lambda/\lambda_2)^2]D + l_p} \right\}^{1/r}$$
$$\mu(D) = \left\{ 1 + \left[ (D/D_1)^{-2\lambda_1} + (D/D_2)^{-2\lambda_2} + (D/D_3)^{-\lambda_1 - \lambda_2} \right]^{\beta} \right\}^{1/2\beta}$$

#### Stochastic Simulation of Fracture of Bimaterial Hybrid Beam



Steel/unidirectional carbon-epoxy composite

Weak interface — stochastic mixed-mode cohesive model

$$B_i(x) = \zeta(x)\bar{B}_i$$





#### Comparison Between Analytical Model and Numerical Simulation



Le and Xue., EFM, 2013

# Conclusions

- 1. For structures with strong stress singularities, the size effect is energetic (deterministic). The large-size asymptote is governed by the order of the dominant stress singularity.
- 2. For structures without stress singularities, the size effect can be explained by the weakest link statistical model.
- 3. For structures with weak stress singularities, the size effect consists of both energetic and statistical components.
- 4. Some open problems: influence of stress singularities on scaling of reliability indices? general scaling law of fatigue lifetime?...

