Pre-conference workshop in honor of Z.P. Bažant

Probabilistic Scaling of Fracture of Quasi-Brittle Materials

M. Salviato

William E. Boeing Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics



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Motivation



Max tolerable failure probability

Extreme value statistics problem:

To guarantee safety, the cumulative probability distribution (cdf) of structural strength must be known down to the low probability tail!!



Reliability of ductile structures

In ductile structures, failure occurs by extensive plastic deformation of the cross section



Failure load is the sum of the *random strengths* of several Representative Unit Elements (RVE)

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Central limit theorem: Gauss distribution

$$P_f(\sigma) = 1/\sqrt{2\pi} \int_0^\sigma \exp[-(t-\mu)^2/2\delta^2] dt$$



Reliability of brittle structures

In brittle structures, failure is highly localized: failure of one RVE = failure of the structure

Failure load is reached when the weakest element of the structure reaches its random strength

Stability postulate (Fréchet): Weibull distribution

$$P_f(\sigma) = 1 - \exp[-\sigma^m / \sigma_0]$$

What about quasi-brittle structures?

The fracture behavior of quasi-brittle materials transitions from ductile to brittle increasing the structure size. This does affect the statistics too!

Quasi-brittle

The extent of the Fracture Process Zone is not negligible compared to structure size

Concrete

Can we use known distributions anyway?

Different distributions have extremely different probability tails even if the mean and the CoV are the same!

A Multi-Scale Probabilistic Model for Quasi-Brittle Materials: I) Strength

Fracture Mechanics of a Nano-Structure

From <u>Transition-Rate Theory</u> (Kramer's formula), the <u>frequency</u> of crack jumps is:

$$f_b = v_a \left(e^{-(Q_0 - \Delta Q/2)/kT} - e^{-(Q_0 + \Delta Q/2)/kT} \right) \sim \tau^2$$

Probability $P_f \sim \text{Frequency} f_b$

How can we scale the CDF to the macroscale?

SERIES COUPLING

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PARALLEL COUPLING

Once one element fails, the system fails! Strain Localization

Once one element fails, the stresses get redistributed. The system fails when all the elements fail!!!

Strain Compatibility

Parallel coupling

Assumptions:

- Same deformation for all the elements;
- Radially affine stress-strain constitutive law for each element.
- Power law tail σ^ρ for all the elements.
 - In parallel couplings the tail exponents are added.
 - Parallel coupling produces Gaussian core.
 - Parallel coupling shortens the power law tail.

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Series coupling

Assumption:

• Power law tail σ^p for all the elements.

ZP Bažant, SD Pang (2007). J. of the Mechanics and Physics of Solids 55, 91-134. J-L Le et al. (2011). J. of the Mechanics and Physics of Solids 59, 1291-1321.

• In series couplings, exponents are preserved.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} P_{f} = 1 - (1 - P_{f1})^{N} & P_{f1} = & \text{CDF of one element} \\ P_{f} \rightarrow 0 & & & P_{f} = NP_{f1} = N\sigma^{p} \end{array}$$

•From simulations, series coupling extends the power law tail.

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ZP Bažant, SD Pang (2007). J. of the Mechanics and Physics of Solids 55, 91-134. J-L Le et al. (2011). J. of the Mechanics and Physics of Solids 59, 1291-1321.

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Gauss-Weibull distribution of strength for one RVE

$$\begin{aligned} P_1(\sigma) &= 1 - \exp(-\langle \sigma \rangle^m / b_0^m) & \text{for } \sigma < \sigma_{gr} \\ P_1(\sigma) &= P_{gr} + \frac{r_f}{\sqrt{2\pi}\delta_G} \int_{\sigma_{gr}}^{\sigma} e^{-(\sigma' - \mu_G)^2 / 2\delta_G^2} d\sigma' & \text{for } \sigma \ge \sigma_{gr} \end{aligned}$$

- $P_{gr} =$ Grafting prob.
- $\sigma_{gr}=~$ Grafting strength
 - m = Weibull modulus
 - $b_0 =$ Weibull scale parameter
 - $\mu_G =$ Mean of the Gauss distr.
 - $\delta_G = \text{Stand.} \text{ dev of the Gauss distr.}$

Only 4 free parameters!!

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J-L Le et al. (2011). J. of the Mechanics and Physics of Solids 59, 1291-1321.

A Multi-Scale Probabilistic Model for Quasi-Brittle Materials: II) Residual Strength

Residual Strength of Structures

Sub-critical Crack Propagation Law

Nano-macro transition based on equality of nano- and macro-dissipation:

Evans Law: $\dot{a} = A e^{-Q_0/kT} K_1^n$

A = material constant Q_0 = activation energyT = absolute temperaturek = Boltzmann constant K_1 = Stress Intensity Factor for one RVEn = Sub-critical crack grow exponent

Degradation Law of Strength for One RVE

Static Lifetime for one RVE: $\sigma_R \rightarrow \sigma_0 \qquad \lambda = \frac{\sigma_N^{n+1}}{r(n+1)\sigma_0^n} + \frac{n\sigma_0}{r(n+1)}$

M. Salviato et al., JMPS 2014.

CDF of Residual Strength

$$P_{1R} = \operatorname{Prob}(\sigma_R \le \sigma) = \operatorname{Prob}\{\sigma_{Nf} \le [\sigma^{n+1} + f(\sigma_0, t_R)]^{1/n+1}\}$$

Composed function of the strength cdf $= \Phi_{G-W} \{ [\sigma^{n+1} + f(\sigma_0, t_R)]^{1/n+1} \}$

For one RVE, the cdf of residual strength results:

$$P_{1R}(\sigma_{R}) = 1 - \exp\{-\left[\left\langle \sigma_{R}^{n+1} + f(\sigma_{0}, t_{R}) \right\rangle / S)\right]^{m/n+1}\} \qquad (\sigma_{R} \le \sigma_{R,gr})$$

$$P_{1R}(\sigma_{R}) = P_{gr} + \frac{r_{f}}{\sqrt{2\pi}\delta_{G}} \int_{[\sigma_{R,gr}^{n+1} + f(\sigma_{0}, t_{R})]^{1/n+1}}^{[\sigma_{R,gr}^{n+1} + f(\sigma_{0}, t_{R})]^{1/n+1}} e^{-(x-\mu)^{2}/2\delta^{2}} dx \quad (\sigma_{R} > \sigma_{R,gr})$$

$$f(\sigma_{0}, t_{0}) = \sigma_{0}^{n} (n+1) (rt_{R} - \sigma_{0})$$

Note: The failures before the overload create a threshold.

Scaling from RVE to large structures

CDF of Residual Strength for Structures of any Size

3. Finite Weakest Link Theorem:

$$P_f(\sigma_N) = 1 - \prod_{i=1}^N \{1 - P_{1,R}[\langle \sigma_N s(\mathbf{x}_i) \rangle\}$$

- $P_f =$ Structural cumulative probability of failure
- $P_1 =$ Cumulative probability of failure of one RVE

 $\sigma_N = c_n P/D^2 =$ Nominal applied load

 $s(\mathbf{x}_i) = \text{Dimensionless stress field of the } i\text{-th RVE}$

Calibration and verification against experimental data: Strength

Experimental validation

VALIDATION AND CALIBRATION: Optimum fit of Weibull's (1939) tests by a finite chain with a zero threshold

Comparison with experimental data

Weibull scale

M. Salviato, Z.P. Bažant, Prob Eng Mech 2014

Histograms of Ceramics—Finite Chain, Zero Threshold

Le and Bažant, (2009), Le et al. (2011). JMPS

Calibration and verification against experimental data: Residual Strength

M. Salviato et al., JMPS 2014.

Optimum Fits of Residual Strength Histograms of Borosilicate glass

- Safe design is a problem of extreme value statistics. The knowledge of the cdf of failure down to the law probability tail is fundamental;
- For quasi-brittle structure, the cdf is different from the well-known distributions for brittle and ductile materials. Errors in the evaluation of the tails can be higher than errors in FE simulations.
- From an analysis of atomic bond ruptures at the nanoscale and then the application of a hierarchical multi-scale model, it is demonstrated that the cdf of strength is a graft of a Gauss and a Weibull distributions;
- □ The grafting point changes with the size and geometry of the structure. Increasing the structure size the Weibullian part extends, i.e. brittle behavior;
- □ From the cdf of strength, the cdf of residual strength and static lifetime can be easily derived and used for design;
- Good agreement with the existing test data on a wide range of quasi-brittle materials is demonstrated.

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Thank you!

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