

# Mechanical behavior of oxide/oxide ceramic matrix composite bolted joints

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In order to fulfill the current economic and environmental requirements, the use of new materials in the aeronautical structures is necessary. Thanks to their thermo-mechanical properties, ceramic matrix composites are considered to be introduced in hot sections on aircraft engines. At intermediate temperatures (750 °C), oxide/oxide CMC are particularly interesting compared to the carbide based CMC. They do not suffer from oxidation issue, and their fabric is less expansive and faster [1]. In this context, IRT Saint-Exupéry and Institute Clément Ader in collaboration with SAFRAN Ceramics have started a research project to study bolted junction between oxide/oxide CMC plates. The aim of this work is to characterize and to model the damage development in junctions undergoing a bearing load.

The studied material consists in a highly porous alumina matrix reinforced with alumina fibers. The use of a weak matrix allows crack deflection at the fiber/matrix interface, improving the CMC damage tolerance [2-3].

An experimental campaign on bearing specimens was conducted to define the damage chronology. The damage observed experimentally are similar to those usually seen in organic matrix composites: fiber buckling, matrix breakage, ply delamination and shear bands (Fig. 1) [4-5].

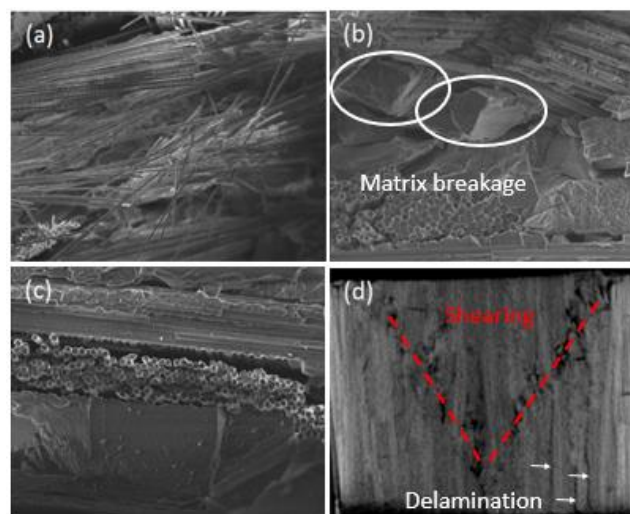


Fig. 1 : Bearing damage: (a) fiber buckling, (b) matrix breakage, (c) ply delamination, (d) shear bands

Numerical simulations have been run to model the damage. Constitutive laws describe damage evolution at the ply level by degrading the composite elastic properties. These laws are based on

damage functions which are coupled to define damage variables. The simulation results show a good correlation between the experimental and the numerical study [6].

This work will be pursued with a study on the influence of several parameters such as the specimen geometry, the stacking sequence, the applied torque and the fit between the drilling and the bolt. An optimal design will be obtained through an experimental design and studied with an experimental campaign and the associated modelling (Fig. 2).

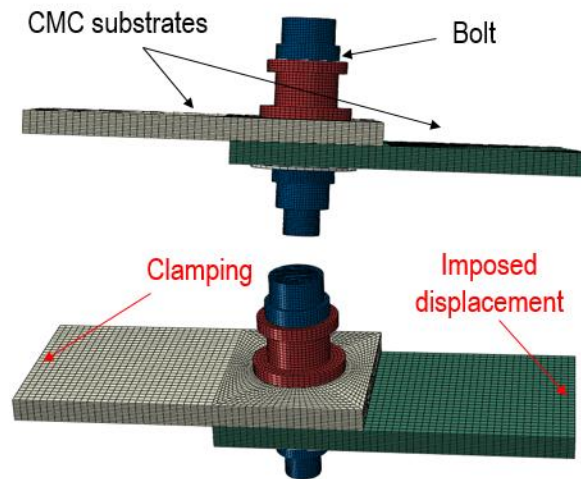


Fig. 2 : Model of the CMC bolted junction

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