

Simulation of damage propagation in materials and structures by using peridynamics

Greta Ongaro - 34th Cycle

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- Research background
- Project objectives
- Work methodologies and tools
 - Peridynamic theory
 - Classical continuum mechanics-peridynamics coupling strategy
- Tasks completed throughout the three years of the PhD Course
- Study of the in-house CCM-PD coupling software
- Modelling of high specific stiffness materials properties
- Final remarks and possible future developments
- List of publications

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Research background



Need to develop lighter and more efficient components for aircraft structures ↓ Composite and nanocomposite materials ↓ They exhibit enhanced mechanical, thermal, and barrier properties

BENEFITS: Reduction of airplane mass and fuel consumption, downturn in costs and in carbon emissions

MAIN PROBLEM: Unavoidable presence of cracks in aeronautical and aerospace structures





Example of a crack in an aircraft fuselage

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- I. Study of **CCM-PD coupling methods**: equipping of CCM-based models with the capability to simulate crack formation and propagation
- II. Improvement of in-house CCM-PD coupling software: study of tools for FEM analysis, analysis of structural equilibrium and convergence issues to reduce coupling errors
- III. Development of a **PD-based method** for the numerical modelling of the **mechanical properties** of polymer-based **nanocomposites**
- IV. Validation of numerical simulations through **experimental activities**

CCM = Classical continuum mechanics **PD** = Peridynamics





Peridynamic theory

Nonlocal reformulation of classical continuum mechanics (CCM) based on integro-differential equations

Two versions of the theory \rightarrow bond-based (BB) version and state-based (SB) version



Each point \mathbf{x} in the body interacts with all the points located within its neighbourhood $\mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{x}}$ through bonds

The state-based PD equation of motion for any material point $x \in B$ is given by:

$$p(\mathbf{x})\ddot{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{x},t) = \int_{\mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{x}}} \{\underline{\mathbf{T}}[\mathbf{x},t] \langle \mathbf{x}' - \mathbf{x} \rangle - \underline{\mathbf{T}}[\mathbf{x}',t] \langle \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}' \rangle \} d\mathbf{V}_{\mathbf{x}'} + \mathbf{b}(\mathbf{x},t), \qquad \mathbf{x}' \in \mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{x}}$$

where:

- p is the mass density
- x is a material point of the domain B
- H_x is the finite neighbourhood centred at point x
- $\boldsymbol{\delta}$ is the horizon radius
- u is the displacement vector field
- b is a prescribed body force density field
- $\underline{T}[x,t]\langle x'-x\rangle$ is the force density vector that point **x'** exerts on point **x**

The relation between SB-PD models and BB-PD models is given by:

$$\underline{\mathbf{T}}\left[\mathbf{x},t\right]\left\langle \boldsymbol{\xi}\right\rangle =\frac{1}{2}\mathbf{f}(\boldsymbol{\eta},\boldsymbol{\xi})$$





PD numerical discretization

The domain is discretized into a grid of points called nodes, each with a known volume (V) in the reference configuration

The method is meshfree \rightarrow no geometrical connections between the nodes



Representation of a generic horizon in a discretized form. Δx is the grid spacing of the discretized model. $m = \delta / \Delta x = 3$ in the figure [1]

The discretized form of the SB-PD and BB-PD equation of motion can be written as:

$$\ddot{\boldsymbol{u}}_{i}^{n} = \begin{cases} \sum_{j} \{\underline{\boldsymbol{T}}[\boldsymbol{x}_{i}^{n}]\langle\boldsymbol{x}_{j}^{n}-\boldsymbol{x}_{i}^{n}\rangle - \underline{\boldsymbol{T}}[\boldsymbol{x}_{j}^{n}]\langle\boldsymbol{x}_{i}^{n}-\boldsymbol{x}_{j}^{n}\rangle\}\beta(\boldsymbol{\xi})\boldsymbol{V}_{j} + \boldsymbol{b}_{i}^{n}, \text{ for } OSB - PD \\ \sum_{j} f(\boldsymbol{u}_{j}^{n}-\boldsymbol{u}_{i}^{n},\boldsymbol{x}_{j}-\boldsymbol{x}_{i})\beta(\boldsymbol{\xi})\boldsymbol{V}_{j} + \boldsymbol{b}_{i}^{n}, \text{ for } BB - PD \end{cases}, \forall \boldsymbol{x}_{j} \in H(\boldsymbol{x}_{i})$$

where:

- *n* is the time step

ρ

- subscripts *i*, *j* denote the node number (e.g., $u_i^n = u(x_i, t_n)$)
- $\beta(\xi)$ is a partial volume correction factor used to evaluate the portion of V_i that falls within the neighborhood of the source node x_i

[1] Shojaei, A., Mossaiby, F., Zaccariotto, M., & Galvanetto, U. (2018). An adaptive multi-grid peridynamic method for dynamic fracture analysis. International Journal of Mechanical Sciences, 144, 600-617.

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CCM-PD coupling

Weak points of peridynamic numerical methods

PD is a nonlocal theory ↓ Bandwidth of the stiffness matrix in PD is bigger than that in CCM ↓ PD is computationally very expensive

In nonlocal theories the boundaries are fuzzy Defining boundary conditions introduces some difficulties

Coupling of peridynamics and classical continuum mechanics







In-house CCM-PD coupling strategy





This 1D coupled model produces the following system of equations:

											1	
1	-l	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	:	<i>u</i> ₁		F_1
-l	2 <i>l</i>	-l	0	0	0	0	0	0	:	<i>u</i> ₂		<i>F</i> ₂
0	-l	21	-l	0	0	0	0	0	:	<i>u</i> ₃		F_3
0	0	-l	21	-l	0	0	0	0	:	<i>u</i> ₄		F_4
0	0	$-\frac{1}{4}p$	-p	$\frac{5}{2}p$	- <i>p</i>	$-\frac{1}{4}p$	0	0	:	<i>u</i> 5	=	<i>F</i> ₅
0	0	0	$-\frac{1}{4}p$	-p	$\frac{5}{2}p$	- <i>p</i>	$-\frac{1}{4}p$	0	:	:		:
0	0	0	0	$-\frac{1}{4}p$	- <i>p</i>	$\frac{5}{2}p$	-p	$-\frac{1}{4}p$:	:		:
0	0	0	0				۰.	:	:	:		:
								٠.	:	u_N		F_N

- $l \coloneqq EA/\Delta x, p \coloneqq cA^2 \Delta x$

- *EA* = product between Young's modulus *E* and cross-sectional area *A*
- Δx = grid spacing of the discretized numerical model
- N = total number of nodes
- $\{u_i\}_{i=1,...,N}$ = nodal displacements, $\{F_i\}_{i=1,...,N}$ = external nodal forces
- c = micromodulus constant



Tasks completed throughout the three years of the PhD Course



TASK 1: Bibliographic research on peridynamics and polymer/clay nanocomposites State of Art

- TASK 2: In-depth study and extension of the in-house CCM-PD coupling software
- TASK 3: Further development of the coupling method: theoretical and numerical analyses of overall static equilibrium issues
- TASK 4: Development of peridynamics-based computational tools for nanocomposite mechanical properties prediction
- > TASK 5: Writing of PhD thesis and reports throughout the PhD course
 - > TASK 6: National and international collaborations

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Experimental characterization of nanocomposite properties





Consistency between linear BB-PD and CCM models

Often-overlooked issue in the use of **coupled computational methods** \rightarrow **lack of overall static equilibrium**







Out-of-balance analysis in CCM-PD coupling

Theoretical formulations and supporting numerical simulations show that

 $\mathbf{1}$

The **main reason** for the existence of **out-of-balance forces** is a **lack of balance** between the **local** and **nonlocal tractions** at the **coupling interface**

1D

If the **deformation** around the **interface** is **smooth** and **third-order** (and higher) **derivatives** of displacements are **negligible**

The nonlocal traction converges to the local traction and overall equilibrium is attained

The traction discrepancy depends upon third-order (and higher) derivatives of displacements and the leading term is of order $O(\delta^2)$

Analytical net out-of-balance force

$$\mathcal{F} = \frac{1}{12} \frac{3-\alpha}{5-\alpha} E \delta^2 \left(\frac{d^3 u}{dx^3}(x_{IL}) - \frac{d^3 u}{dx^3}(x_{IR}) \right) + \dots$$

2D

For a **straight interface** and a **smooth deformation**, if **second-order** (and higher) **derivatives** of displacements are **negligible**

The nonlocal traction converges to the local traction and overall equilibrium is attained

The traction discrepancy depends upon second-order (and higher) derivatives of displacements and the leading term is of order $O(\delta)$

Components of the analytical net out-of-balance force

$$\mathcal{F}_1 \approx -\int_{\Gamma} \frac{2E}{5\pi} \frac{6-\alpha}{7-\alpha} \delta\left(\frac{3}{2} \frac{\partial^2 u_1}{\partial x^2}(x, y_0) + \frac{\partial^2 u_2}{\partial x \partial y}(x, y_0)\right) dx + \dots$$

$$\mathcal{F}_2 \approx -\int_{\Gamma} \frac{2E}{5\pi} \frac{6-\alpha}{7-\alpha} \delta\left(\frac{\partial^2 u_1}{\partial x \partial y}(x, y_0) + \frac{\partial^2 u_2}{\partial x^2}(x, y_0)\right) dx + \dots$$

 \neq



rdin

>

Node position: _bX

> X_Q Node position: x coordinate



0.02

0.015

0.01

0.005

Out-of-balance forces in CCM-PD coupling

1D Case



2D Case u2(x,y) 0.02 0.015 0.025 0.015 0.025 0.025 0.015 0.025 0.025 0.025 0.025 0.025 0.025 0.025 0.025 0.025 0.025 0.025 0.025 0.025 0.025 0.025 0.015

0 Node position: x coordinate 23

If displacements across a straight (horizontal or vertical) coupling interface are characterized by quadratic or higher-order polynomial distributions, lack of overall equilibrium is experienced



0.005

UNIVERSITÀ DECLI STUDI DI PADOVA Study of the in-house CCM-PD coupling software



Simulation of crack propagation using the CCM-PD coupled model: three-point bending test





Modelling of high specific stiffness materials properties



Polymer/clay nanocomposites (PCNs)

Polymeric composites reinforced with nanoscale reinforcements exhibit **enhanced mechanical properties**

Clay nanoparticles are the best candidates to **strengthen polymers**, due to their **mechanical** properties, high aspect ratio (AR), high availability and low-cost of production

Three clay morphologies can be distinguished: aggregated, intercalated and exfoliated

Interphase region properties have a strong influence on the overall characteristics of the nanocomposites

Why peridynamics?

Possibility to incorporate **different materials** and to model **material junctions** without the need of any special treatments

Capability to simulate the **interphase region** between matrix and nanoplatelets, and the nanoclay **agglomeration** by tuning the properties of the PD bonds

The use of PD avoids problems related to the **high aspect** ratio of nanoplatelets, which brings FEM meshing issues due to distorted elements

Capability to model crack nucleation and propagation

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PD-based Representative Volume Element approach: Different phases of the modelling procedure

1. Characterization of the properties of the constituents

Mechanical and geometrical properties of the constituents are obtained from experimental data reported in literature Nanofiller aspect ratio, orientation and location are modelled by selecting the most suitable probability distribution functions

2. Selection and numerical modelling of a suitable RVE

The RVE contains enough inclusions for the overall moduli to be independent of the traction and displacement surface values

The statistical properties of the material are computed by constructing many RVEs and by aggregating their results

3. Static analysis implementation

4. Computation of the elastic constants to obtain the effective material properties

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Modelling of high specific stiffness materials properties



Experimental analysis of epoxy/clay nanocomposites

Transmission Electron Microscopy



Tensile tests on dog-bone specimens (ISO 527-2)

The nanomodification resulted in a slight decrease in the elastic modulus of the resin. The lowest elastic moduli were related to the presence of large agglomerated clay stacks and to the inhomogeneous distribution of nanoclays



Examples of dog-bone specimens with different clay contents



Extension of the study to nanocomposite fracture properties prediction



Mode I fracture tests on compact tension specimens (ASTM D5045-14)





Crack path of a CT specimen with 5% wt of clay content

The specimen fractured along the initial crack plane

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Final remarks

- The out-of-balance forces are related to the order of the derivatives of displacements in the coupling zone
- The relative **out-of-balance error** is a fraction of a percent and **reduces** as $\delta \rightarrow 0$
- It is possible to reduce the out-of-balance error by moving the coupling interface away from regions of high gradients of displacements
- The proper location and shape of the coupling interface in a computational problem can be defined by using an adaptive approach to convert FEM nodes into PD nodes
- The study confirms that the quality of nanofiller dispersion and distribution has a strong influence on the interphase properties and, therefore, on the tensile performance of nanocomposites
- The PD-based method can model randomly distributed nanofillers with different sizes, shapes, and orientations, and can simulate interphase regions with different properties and nanofiller agglomeration phenomena
- The properties of nanocomposites with various characteristics can be accurately reproduced by the proposed approach

Possible future developments

- Further extension of the out-of-balance analysis in CCM–PD coupled models to control the relative out-of-balance error by optimizing the shape of the interface between the PD and CCM portions of the domain
- Further development of the PD-based strategy to predict nanocomposite fracture toughness and to model crack nucleation and propagation

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List of publications



Journal Papers:

Greta Ongaro, Pablo Seleson, Ugo Galvanetto, Tao Ni, and Mirco Zaccariotto. Overall equilibrium in the coupling of peridynamics and classical continuum mechanics. Computer Methods in Applied Mechanics and Engineering, 381:113515, 2021.

Conference Proceedings:

Greta Ongaro, Roberta Bertani, Ugo Galvanetto, and Mirco Zaccariotto. Peridynamic modelling and experimental verification of nanocomposite properties. In: Proceedings of the XXVI AIDAA International Congress of Aeronautics and Astronautics, *In Press*, Persiani Editore, 2021.

Mirco Zaccariotto, Greta Ongaro, Tao Ni, Pablo Seleson, and Ugo Galvanetto. Computational methods coupling peridynamics with classical mechanics: out-of-balance forces in overall structural equilibrium. In: Proceedings of the XXV AIDAA International Congress of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Persiani Editore, 2021.

Selected Conference Abstracts:

Greta Ongaro, Roberta Bertani, Ugo Galvanetto, and Mirco Zaccariotto. Peridynamic modelling and experimental characterization of polymer/clay nanocomposites. XVI International Conference on Computational Plasticity. Fundamentals and Applications (COMPLAS 2021), Barcelona, Spain, September 7 - 10, 2021.

Greta Ongaro, Roberta Bertani, Ugo Galvanetto, and Mirco Zaccariotto. Peridynamic modelling and experimental verification of nanocomposites properties. Italian Association of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIDAA) XXVI International Congress, On-line event hosted by the Tuscany AIDAA Section in Pisa, August 31 - September 3, 2021.

Greta Ongaro, Pablo Seleson, Ugo Galvanetto, Tao Ni, and Mirco Zaccariotto. Overall Equilibrium in the Coupling of Peridynamics and Classical Continuum Mechanics. 16th U.S. National Congress on Computational Mechanics (USNCCM16), Chicago, Illinois, USA, July 25 - 29, 2021.

Mirco Zaccariotto, Greta Ongaro, Tao Ni, Pablo Seleson, and Ugo Galvanetto. Out-of-balance forces in computational methods coupling peridynamics with classical mechanics. 14th World Congress on Computational Mechanics (WCCM XIV and ECCOMAS 2020), Virtual Congress, January 11 - 15, 2021.

Greta Ongaro, Ugo Galvanetto, Tao Ni, Pablo Seleson, and Mirco Zaccariotto. Overall Equilibrium in Coupled FEM-PD Models. International Mechanical Engineering Congress & Exposition (IMECE 2019), Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, November 10 - 14, 2019.

Tao Ni, Greta Ongaro, Pablo Seleson, Mirco Zaccariotto, and Ugo Galvanetto. Is coupling PD with FEM the way forward to solve in an efficient way crack propagation problems?. In: 2019-Sustainable Industrial Processing Summit, Vol. 7, pp. 83-84, Flogen Star Outreach, Sustainable Industrial Processing Summit & Exhibition, Paphos, Cyprus, October 23 - 27, 2019.

Ugo Galvanetto, Tao Ni, Greta Ongaro, Pablo Seleson, and Mirco Zaccariotto. Global Equilibrium in Computational Methods Coupling Peridynamics with Classical Mechanics. 15th U.S. National Congress on Computational Mechanics (USNCCM15), Austin, Texas, USA, July 28 - August 1, 2019.

Ugo Galvanetto, Tao Ni, Greta Ongaro, Pablo Seleson, and Mirco Zaccariotto. The Problem of Static Equilibrium in Computational Methods Coupling Classical Mechanics and Peridynamics. The 10th International Conference on Computational Methods (ICCM2019), Singapore, July 9 - 13, 2019.

Mirco Zaccariotto, Tao Ni, Greta Ongaro, Pablo Seleson, and Ugo Galvanetto. Overall structural equilibrium in Computational Methods Coupling Peridynamics with Classical Mechanics. VI International Conference on Computational Modeling of Fracture and Failure of Materials and Structures (CFRAC 2019), Braunschweig, Germany, June 12 - 14, 2019.

Thank you for your attention

Any questions?



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Peridynamic theory

The pairwise force function expresses the vector force of the interaction (called bond) between the material points ${\bf x}$ and ${\bf x}'$

The **Prototype Microelastic Brittle (PMB)** model for a **linear elastic** material is introduced, so that **f**, for the case of **small deformations**, is determined by:

$$\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{u}'-\mathbf{u},\mathbf{x}'-\mathbf{x},t) = \mu(\boldsymbol{\xi},t)\frac{c\omega(\boldsymbol{\xi})}{\|\boldsymbol{\xi}\|}\|\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}')-\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x})\|\mathbf{e} = \mu(\boldsymbol{\xi},t)c(\|\boldsymbol{\xi}\|)s\mathbf{e},$$

where:

- μ is a history dependent damage function that, based on the bond status, takes either the value of 0 (broken bond) or 1 (active bond)

- $c(\|\boldsymbol{\xi}\|)$ is the micromodulus function

- c is the micromodulus constant expressed in terms of material classical constants E (Young's modulus) and v (Poisson's ratio)

- ω is the influence function that specifies the degree of nonlocal interactions between material points

- s is the relative elongation of a bond defined as $s = (\|\xi + \eta\| - \|\xi\|) / \|\xi\|$

- e is the unit vector along the direction of the relative position vector in the current configuration

In the **PMB** model, the **failure** of a bond happens when *s* exceeds a predefined value s_0 which is **related to** the material's fracture energy G_0



PD bond force versus strain for the PMB model

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Backup slide:

Study of the in-house CCM-PD coupling software



Out-of-balance forces in CCM-PD coupling

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