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J. William Pro, Stephen Sehr, Rone Kwei Lim, Linda R. Petzold, Matthew R. Begley

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# Conditions controlling kink crack nucleation out of, and delamination along, a mixed-mode interface crack

J. William Pro

*Department of Mechanical Engineering, 117 McConnell Engineering Building, McGill University, Montréal, QC H3A 0E9, Canada*

Stephen Sehr

*Department of Mechanical Engineering, 2235C Engineering II Building, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106, USA*

Rone Kwei Lim

*Department of Computer Science, 5110 Harold Frank Hall, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106, USA*

Linda R. Petzold

*Department of Mechanical Engineering and Department of Computer Science, 5107 Harold Frank Hall, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106, USA*

Matthew R. Begley<sup>1</sup>

*Materials Department and Department of Mechanical Engineering, 2361A Engineering II Building, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106, USA*

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## Abstract

This paper analyzes the competition between kink nucleation and interface fracture for an interface crack (without a putative kink flaw) subject to mixed-mode loading. The simulations utilize a distributed cohesive zone approach that embeds cohesive elements throughout the entire mesh; dynamic crack path evolution occurs through a loss of cohesive traction associated with a critical separation between elements. The simulations identify mesh densities that lead to mesh-independent results for randomly oriented triangular meshes, and provide clear guidelines regarding parameters that recover toughness-controlled cracking (i.e. linear elastic fracture mechanics). The results demonstrate that, when the normalized bulk toughness is far from the transition between kinking and delamination, crack direction and critical loads are identical to those predicted by He and Hutchinson, who analyzed cracking from a putative flaw associated with the maximum energy

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<sup>1</sup>begley@engineering.ucsb.edu, fax:(805) 893-8486

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