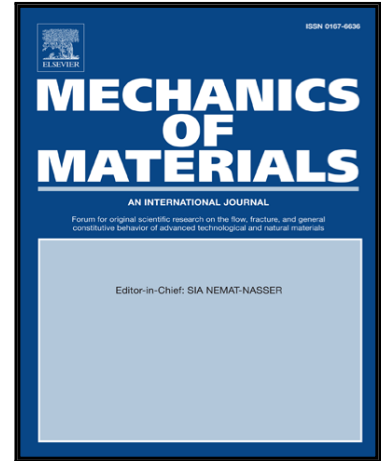


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Crack growth and splitting failure of silicon nitride ceramic balls under cyclic pressure loads

Katsuyuki Kida , Junnosuke Koga , Edson Costa Santos

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Highlights

- A HIP-Si₃N₄ ball is divided into two parts under a cyclic pressure load.
- Threshold limits of the initial $K_{I\max}$ values of the pre-cracked Si₃N₄ balls increase with the increase of the stress ratios.
 - It is difficult to predict whether cracks will grow or not based on their initial $K_{I\max}$ values alone.
 - Equivalent stress intensity factor range ΔK_{eq} can predict whether the crack will grow or not.
 - The threshold limit of ΔK_{eq} , $\Delta K_{eq\ th}$ is 2.1 MPam^{1/2}.

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