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Nonlocal damage modelling in clay/epoxy nanocomposites using a multiscale approach

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Abstract

 This study proposed a concurrent multiscale method for modelling damage in clay/epoxy nanocomposites. The method uses a nonlocal damage formulation to regularize the damage model. The multiscale method used is based on the Arlequin method which couples two overlapping scales using the Lagrange multipliers method. Since the method blends the energies of two scales in a so called "handshake domain", then the spurious wave reflection from the coupling region is minimum. Hence the method is appropriate for the current dynamic problem. To show the suitability and accuracy of the proposed method, a clay/epoxy nanocomposite beam under dynamic loading is simulated using two different approaches: a full fine scale model and a multiscale model were employed. Also, a comparison between the results proves that the proposed nonlocal multiscale method can accurately predict the damage phenomena inside the clay/epoxy nanocomposites with minimal computational costs. The method presented here is also applicable to a range of related physical problems.

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