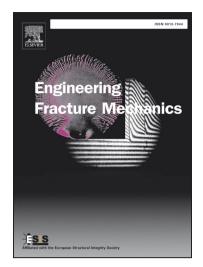
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The transition from micro- to macrocrack growth in compacted graphite iron subjected to thermo-mechanical fatigue

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Abstract

The complete fatigue process involving the growth of microstructurally small fatigue cracks prior to macrocrack initiation and the subsequent large crack propagation in notched compacted graphite iron, EN-GJV-400, specimens subjected to thermo-mechanical fatigue has been investigated. It is shown that microcracks are initiated at graphite tips within an extended volume at the notch which eventually leads to an abrupt microcrack coalescence event. As a macrocrack is generated in this way, the crack growth switches to conventional characteristics which is assessed in terms of elasto-plastic fracture mechanics parameters. Consequently, two important implications regarding lifetime assessment are identified; possible underestimation due to (i) how the stress is evaluated in view of the spacial distribution of microcracking and (ii) the crack retardation effect associated with the crack growth transition.

Keywords: Cast iron, Notches, Delta J, Crack tip opening displacement, Life prediction

1. Introduction

Due to increasing demands on sustainability exerted by the market and society, heavy-vehicle engine manufacturers are enforced to increase the

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