

Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0734-743X(15)00019-6

DOI: [10.1016/j.ijimpeng.2015.02.003](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijimpeng.2015.02.003)

Reference: IE 2471

To appear in: *International Journal of Impact Engineering*

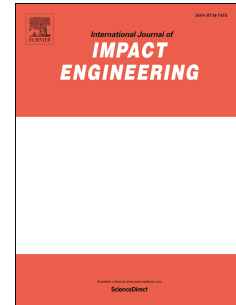
Received Date: 27 September 2014

Revised Date: 26 December 2014

Accepted Date: 8 February 2015

Please cite this article as: Choudhry RS, Hassan SF, Li S, Day R, Damage in single lap joints of woven fabric reinforced polymeric composites subjected to transverse impact loading, *International Journal of Impact Engineering* (2015), doi: 10.1016/j.ijimpeng.2015.02.003.

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1 **Damage in single lap joints of woven fabric reinforced polymeric composites subjected to**
2 **transverse impact loading**

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8 **Abstract**

9 Single lap joints of woven glass fabric reinforced phenolic composites, having four different overlap
10 widths, were impacted transversely using a hemispherical impactor with different velocities in the low
11 velocity impact range. The resulting damage was observed at various length scales (from micro to macro)
12 using transmission photography, ultrasonic c-scan and x-ray micro tomography (XMT), in support of
13 each other. These experimental observations were used for classification of damage in terms of damage
14 scale, location (i.e. ply, interfaces between plies or bond failure between the two adherends) and
15 mechanisms, with changing overlap width and impact velocity. In addition, finite element analysis was
16 used to simulate delamination and disbond failure. These simulations were used to further explain the
17 observed dependence of damage on overlap width and impact velocity. The results from these
18 experiments and simulations lead to the proposal of a concept of lower and upper characteristic overlap
19 width. These bounds relate the dominant damage pattern (i.e. scale, location and mechanism) with
20 overlap width of the joint for a given impact velocity range.

21 **Keywords:**

22 Composite Joints; Impact Damage; Disbond; Delamination Modelling; X-ray Micro Tomography

23 **1. Introduction**

24 Joints formed through adhesive bonding or co-curing of composite laminates are often used to form part
25 assemblies for various applications. An important aspect to consider when designing joints having
26 composite adherends is that the joint or bond interface can have material properties similar to the

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