

FATIGUE CRACK GROWTH OF DAMAGED AIRCRAFT STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS WITH OVERLOAD UNDER SPECTRUM LOADING

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Abstract: Fatigue crack closure is the most used mechanism to explain load cycle interactions such as delays in or arrests of the crack growth after overloads. Load cycle interactions can have a very significant effect to residual fatigue life estimation in fatigue crack growth under variable amplitude loading. For many fatigue critical parts of aircraft structures, fatigue crack growth under service conditions generally involves random or variable amplitude, rather than constant amplitude loading conditions. Due to the random nature of variable loading, significant accelerations and/or retardations in crack growth rate can occur. Thus, an accurate prediction of fatigue life requires an adequate evaluation of these load interaction effects. This work is focused to developing computation procedure for residual fatigue life of damaged aircraft structural components. These interactions, which are highly dependent upon the loading sequence, make the prediction of fatigue life under variable amplitude loading more complex than under constant amplitude loading. In this work efficient computation models have been considered to predict the fatigue life of components under variable amplitude loading, which try to correctly evaluate the load interaction effects in crack growth behavior. The results show that the predicted results agree well with the experimental tests.

Keywords: aircraft, spectrum loading, overload effects, residual fatigue life estimation

1. INTRODUCTION

Aircraft structural components are generally exposed to the variable amplitude loading. The method of fatigue life estimation of aircraft structural components under VA loading becomes very complex and complicated if one aims for an accurate assessment. Introduction of features related with the VA loadings in the models such as like interaction (retardation and acceleration), plastic zone formation and crack closure make the prediction very accurate, but on the expense of complexity and complicated algorithms.

Overloads are known to retard crack growth, while underloads generally accelerate crack growth relatively to the baseline crack growth rate. These interactions, which are highly dependent upon the loading sequence, make the prediction of fatigue life under variable amplitude loading more complex than under constant amplitude loading. Many models have been developed to predict the fatigue life of components under variable amplitude loading, which try to correctly evaluate the load interaction effects in crack growth propagation (Wheeler¹ 1972; Willemborg² 1971; Elber³ 1972; Newman⁴ 1981).

It is well known that when structural elements are loaded with cyclic loads of variable amplitude, there are a number of phenomena that cannot be described by conventional laws of crack propagation. Most engineering structures, especially aircraft, are under the action of cyclic loads of variable amplitude⁵⁻⁷. Neglecting the effects of the interaction between individual cycles within the load spectrum leads to certain errors in the estimate of the century itself. It was observed that in structural elements with initial cracks under the action of the load spectrum of variable amplitude, when after a cyclic load of constant amplitude one positive single cycle (positive peak-"overload") appears whose amplitude has a higher value than the previous one (Fig. 1). until a slowdown¹⁶ of crack propagation occurs.

This phenomenon is explained by the appearance of plasticization that occurs around the crack tip when a positive peak appears within the load spectrum. The opposite effect occurs when a negative peak ("underload") occurs after a cyclic load of constant amplitude. This means that when a single positive peak (positive overload) appears, the crack propagation slows down, and when a single

negative peak (negative overload) appears, the crack propagation accelerates. Several computational models⁵³⁻⁵⁵ have been developed with the aim of including the effects of peaks within the load spectrum. However, it cannot be assessed that a model has been developed that describes all the important effects related to the effects of deceleration or acceleration of crack propagation at the appearance of peaks in the load spectrum. More successful models used to describe the effects of crack propagation retardation at the occurrence of load peaks are the Wohler⁵⁷ and Willenborg models⁵⁸. These two models are based on the theory related to the increased zone of plasticization around the crack tip that is formed under the action of the peak. When it comes to negative peaks within the spectrum that occur immediately after a positive load peak then Wohler's⁵⁷ model does not give satisfactory results. To describe these effects (occurrence of first positive and then immediately negative peak) corrections of the basic Wohler model were made. In these cases, there is first a deceleration and then an acceleration of crack propagation. The subject of consideration in this chapter is focused on the analysis of the effects of positive peaks, ie on the cases of overload that lead to the slowing down of crack propagation.

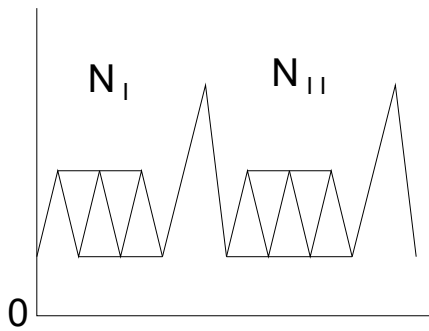


Figure 1 Load spectra with single overloads

2. MODELING THE EFFECTS OF LOAD PEAKS

As mentioned above, Wohler's⁵⁷ model has been shown to be very successful in describing the effects of slowing crack propagation when positive peaks appear in the load spectrum. This model will be used as a basis for describing the effects of peaks on crack propagation. It basically describes the reduction of the crack propagation gradient (da/dN) through the expansion of the plasticization zone that occurs during the appearance of peaks in the load spectrum. For this purpose, he introduces a deceleration parameter C_p to calculate the crack propagation gradient within the plasticization zone in the form

$$\frac{da}{dN} = C_p (C \Delta K^m) \quad (1)$$

$$C_p = \begin{cases} \left(\frac{r_y}{a_{OL} + r_{OL} - a} \right)^{n_1} & , \quad a + r_y < a_{OL} + r_{OL} \\ 1 & , \quad a + r_y \geq a_{OL} + r_{OL} \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

$$r_y = \alpha \left(\frac{K_{max}}{\sigma_y} \right)^2 \quad (3)$$

$$r_{OL} = \alpha \left(\frac{K_{OL}}{\sigma_y} \right)^2 \quad (4)$$

In the above expressions are: a - crack length, C , m - conventional dynamic characteristics of the material related to crack propagation, n_1 - ("shaping" parameter) determined experimentally, K_{max} - maximum stress intensity factor that occurs during overload (positive peak).

The individual quantities in the above expressions are defined in Fig. 2. The size of the plasticization zone around the crack tip is relatively small at a cyclic load of constant amplitude (r_y) while the plasticization zone increases significantly at the peak (r_{OL}). The ratio of crack lengths after the peak and before the appearance of the peak (a_i/a_0) is determined iteratively from the condition that at the end of the process of slowing down the spread of the crack $C_{pi} = 1$. The factor α defines the zone of plasticization around the crack tip. The most commonly used analytical solution⁶⁰ for this factor is: $\alpha = 1/2\pi$ for the flat stress state and $\alpha = 1/3\pi$ for the flat deformation state. Voorwald proposed a parametric function for defining the factor α in the form⁶¹ which takes into account the maximum stress (expressed in K_{max}), the material yield stress σ_y , the specimen thickness t :

$$\alpha = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2\pi} & , \quad \left(t \geq 2.6 \left(\frac{K_{max}}{\sigma_y} \right)^2 \right)^{1/2} \\ \frac{1}{3\pi} & , \quad \left(t \leq \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{K_{max}}{\sigma_y} \right)^2 \right)^{1/2} \\ \frac{1}{2\pi} + \frac{1}{2\pi} \left(\frac{t - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{K_{max}}{\sigma_y} \right)^2}{t - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{K_{max}}{\sigma_y} \right)^2} \right)^2 & , \quad \left(\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{K_{max}}{\sigma_y} \right)^2 \right)^{1/2} < t < 2.6 \left(\frac{K_{max}}{\sigma_y} \right)^{1/2} \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

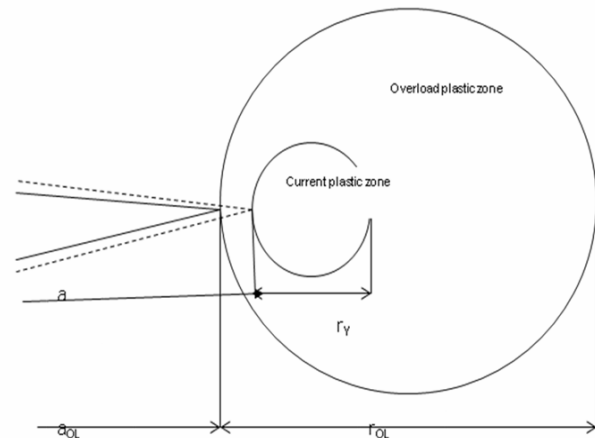


Figure 2 Plasticization zones around the crack tip in case of positive peaks

It should be noted that the Wohler model can be successfully used to retardation crack growth under positive single or periodic overload peaks within the load spectrum. This model cannot be used in this form for crack propagation for negative peaks within the load spectrum or for cases of combined peaks (positive peak and immediately afterwards negative peak).

3. NUMERICAL EXAMPLES FOR SIMULATION OF CRACK GROWTH UNDER LOAD SPECTRA WITH SINGLE OVERLOADS

In order to consider the influence of the shape of the spectrum with peaks within the load spectrum, numerical examples are included. An example of a formwork field

with an initial crack is considered, whose geometric and material characteristics are given in Fig. 3, under the action of the peak load spectrum. Table 1 shows the load spectra for which the calculated estimates were performed, as well as the effects of individual overload peaks on the retardation of crack growth for the spectra (M-12 and M-13) in relation to the cyclic loads of constant amplitude (M-CA).

For precise determination stress intensity factors special

singular finite elements⁸ around crack tip are used. Crack growth analysis can use dynamic or low cyclic material properties.

Low cyclic material properties of aluminum alloy 2219-T851 are: $\sigma_f' = 613 \text{ MPa}$; $\epsilon_f' = 0.35$; $n' = 0.121$; $k' = 710 \text{ MPa}$; $S_y' = 334 \text{ MPa}$; $E = 71 \cdot 10^3 \text{ MPa}$; $\Delta K_{th0} = 30$; $I_n' = 3.067$; $\psi = 0.95152$, $K_c = 71.5 \text{ MPa} \sqrt{\text{m}}$.

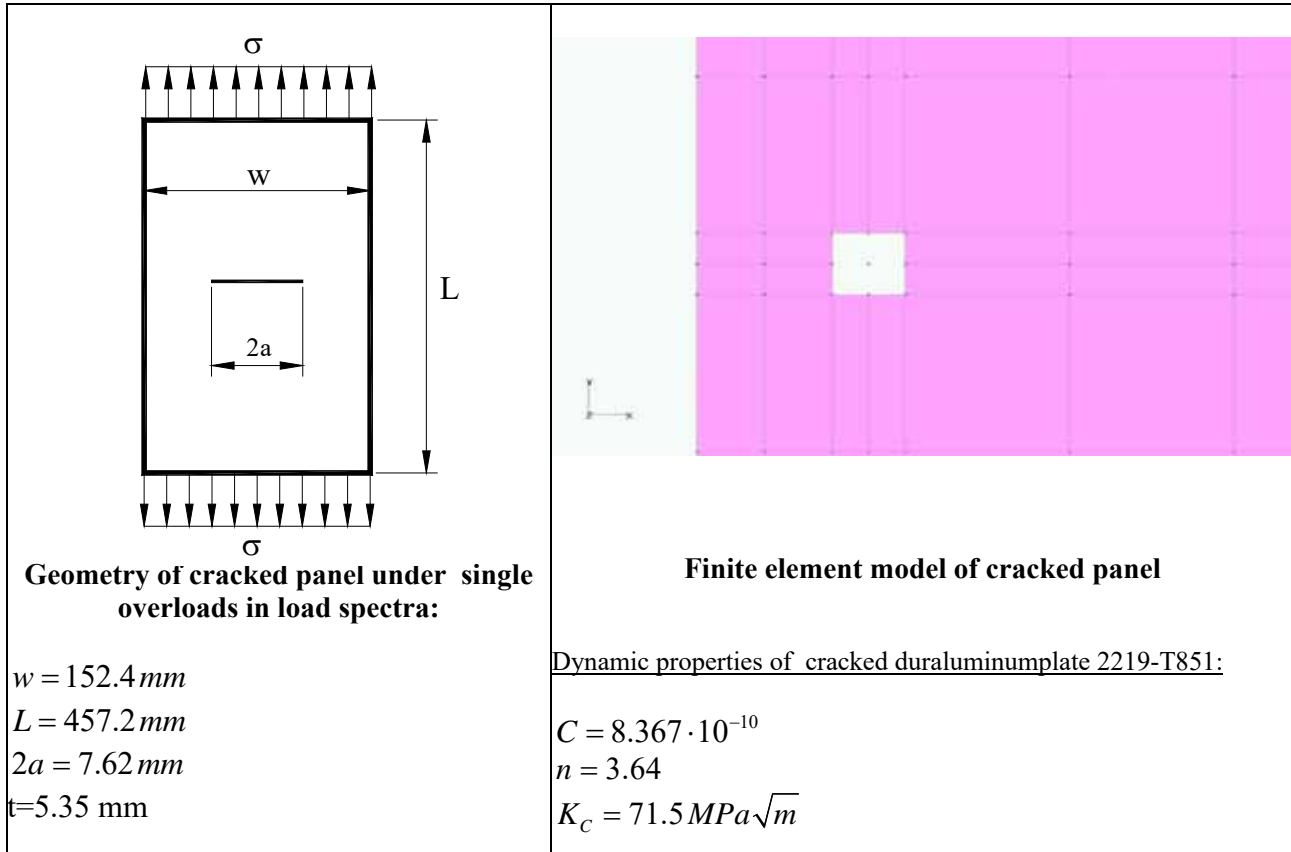


Figure 3 Model of skin/panel with initial crack under single overloads in load spectra

Table 1. Comparisons computation crack growth model under load spectrum with single or periodic overload with experiments⁹

PanelNo.	Loading profil	σ_{\max}^I [MPa]	σ_{\min}^I [MPa]	σ_{\max}^{II} [MPa]	σ_{\min}^{II} [MPa]	N_I ciklusa	N_{II} ciklusa	N_f^{exp}	Present numerical solution
M-11		137.9	0	206.85	0	2500	до лома	15182	15000
M-12		137.9	0	206.85	0	2500	2500	16623	16350
M-13		137.9	0	313.78		2500	2500	49600	47500
M-CA		137.9	0						12500

Table 3 Complete crack growth results for R_{OL} overload = 1.5 (M-12 overload case)

a0 ac w	2500	C Paris	0.000000008367	n	0.6	q	0.3	SigmaMax1	20	Finoca stampe: <div>800</div> <div>Brisi</div> <div>Izracunaj</div>
	0.15	m Paris	3.64	Gama	0.9	DeltaKt	1.65	SigmaMin1	0	
	1.8	C GED	4.4755474E-9	Beta	2	Kc	65	SigmaMax2	30	
	6	m GED	2	Rcut+	0.75	SigmaMin2	0			
	Izaberite:	M12	Paris		Rcut-	0.99	SigmaY	48		
	N	DeltaSigma	Kmax	a		DeltaA		Fi	ty	Korektivna
▶	800	20	14.2694196586243	0.160042692430526		1.33232058972081E-05		1	0.0140653414021317	1.00623989455383
	1600	20	14.7730116735999	0.171397201465526		1.51160067871834E-05		1	0.015075639332529	1.00665672078455
	2400	20	15.3274128852904	0.184330413427065		1.72852795031816E-05		1	0.0162283875224068	1.00713059526555
	3200	20	15.6622108399117	0.19234998057592		9.29247319014618E-06	0.496931340		0.0169450864523824	1.00742459938861
	4000	20	15.9833634887635	0.200205430345901		1.03776022697429E-05	0.515436407		0.0176471269207576	1.0077123328569
	4800	20	16.4858378552724	0.212807579372233		2.25348097868386E-05			0.0187741249964121	1.00817411282872
	5600	20	16.9434420762914	0.224580981565681		1.23652334271968E-05	0.496668449		0.0198308322794256	1.00860746626891
	6400	20	17.3430748251085	0.235119712170604		1.40376529326792E-05	0.517971346		0.0207773354986256	1.00899638465185
	7200	20	18.0487776626767	0.254300533488997		3.13357246884998E-05	1		0.0225026283217936	1.00970844031572
	8000	20	18.7009547286144	0.272622395865552		1.77053836708997E-05	0.496536773		0.0241582357276839	1.01039731813198
	8800	20	19.2287293429678	0.287898034365538		2.0600562914606E-05	0.522070536		0.0255410548587774	1.01097832170697
	9600	20	20.2907521548986	0.319818279489099		4.79882619565491E-05	1		0.0284402853279079	1.012218237516
	10400	20	21.2904336647472	0.351205310870825		2.83945961892977E-05	0.496677309		0.03131170179595	1.01348329612128
	11200	20	22.0950789687853	0.3774063572336		6.54343210378194E-05	1		0.0337231996028291	1.01458090741174
	12000	20	23.8544584857116	0.437661519845478		8.64814525327862E-05	1		0.039307622927726	1.01727497366374
	12800	20	25.6223406280196	0.501724421459909		5.58270899409599E-05	0.497625683		0.0453497876537463	1.02048214742196
	13600	20	27.3935330409849	0.569266973112359		0.00014308979616978	1		0.0518362712301678	1.0243295718793
	14400	20	30.9386196574136	0.711950410681038		0.000222840008834299	1		0.0661210168703178	1.03452051336984
	15200	20	35.7867768772585	0.914989930962593		0.000191018296340204	0.504608993		0.0884673112316919	1.05549172717033
	16000	20	45.405611030136	1.29783245245038		0.000900426852145243	1		0.142415318584634	1.12472405867934
	16050	20	46.7208205656208	1.34528334137154		0.000999051439229242	1		0.150785152792178	1.1367369264846
	16100	20	48.2355848933816	1.39825328176833		0.00112208988510598	1		0.1607210477649	1.15118208585256
	16150	20	50.0157128908456	1.45821560722241		0.00128031636156434	1		0.172802723719237	1.16891087660222
	16200	20	52.1635764332956	1.52735408844076		0.00149206230503259	1		0.18796300366926	1.19125516133171
	16250	20	54.849579060295	1.60911779620377		0.00179131307529526	1		0.207821394247971	1.2204481021906
	16300	20	58.3888770039556	1.70945755057048		0.00224911372066726	1		0.235503790677684	1.26061339157571
	16350	20	63.4483717164162	1.84009346959068		0.00304354915768701	1		0.278085676061859	1.32055067081402
*										

Table 4. Complete crack growth results for R_{OL} overload = 2.25 (M-13 overload case)

N1	2500	C Paris	0.000000008367	n	0.6	q	0.3	SigmaMax1	20	Finoca stampe: 2200 Brisi Izracunaj	
a0	0.15	m Paris	3.64	Gama	1.1	DeltaKt	1.65	SigmaMin1	0		
ac	1.8	C GED	4.4755474E-9	Beta	2	Kc	65	SigmaMax2	45		
w	6	m GED	2	Rcut+	0.75	Rcut-	0.99	SigmaMin2	0		
Izaberite:	M13	Paris						SigmaY	48		
	N	DeltaSigma	Kmax	a	DeltaA		Fi		ty	Korektivna	
▶	2200	20	15.1835921147341	0.180931864	1.67021758892942E-05		1		0.0159252666925552	1.007006127294	
	4400	20	15.6604869520547	0.192302190	3.25731694715064E-06		0.174260556291879		0.016941356478183	1.007423070113	
	6600	20	15.975818063106	0.200006446	3.48682233713314E-06		0.17349130855693		0.0176299476944903	1.007705293648	
	8800	20	16.3089045831376	0.208313758	3.74126962563461E-06		0.172672428364448		0.0183733031442318	1.008009864017	
	11000	20	16.6623017295675	0.212797333	4.02443486203981E-06		0.171798652452726		0.0191781912917631	1.008339745868	
	13200	20	17.0378990210589	0.227042821	4.34084687693359E-06		0.170863898790743		0.0200525595930623	1.008698492707	
	15400	20	17.438159991548	0.237651126	4.69597815655651E-06		0.169861089104976		0.0210057877405344	1.009090408297	
	17600	20	17.8659605370646	0.249242009	5.09649588887662E-06		0.168781919277938		0.0220490761631829	1.009520765529	
	19800	20	18.299303721302	0.261265306	5.86334819451184E-06		0.177934419028205		0.0231332436221949	1.009970076427	
	22000	20	18.7875054410295	0.275089187	6.42104204586946E-06		0.177072920498647		0.0243823687803	1.010491107007	
	24200	20	19.3134756666879	0.290372813	7.0623643748141E-06		0.176136094320686		0.025766683943516	1.011073691568	
	26400	20	19.8833062693399	0.307360809	7.80523133465291E-06		0.175112641235961		0.0273095699457665	1.011730724519	
	28600	20	20.5036705814898	0.326356804	8.67276749872781E-06		0.173988624084797		0.0290402859450536	1.012479219514	
	30800	20	21.1828368149552	0.347742916	9.69530193808259E-06		0.172746545310803		0.0309960175446784	1.013342125041	
	33000	20	21.931227249091	0.372007818	1.09133563049281E-05		0.171363957005238		0.0332248880119554	1.014351182648	
	35200	20	22.7622541462262	0.399788360	1.23822585234019E-05		0.169811274896538		0.0357905352191265	1.015551586473	
	37400	20	23.6442761530262	0.430205736	1.54607612349927E-05		0.184628346576154		0.038617993310289	1.016923984709	
	39600	20	24.6785052998464	0.467037745	1.79872902941772E-05		0.183804166744222		0.0420702760276574	1.018699963214	
	41800	20	25.86177507537	0.510629216	2.12233426434098E-05		0.18288062386047		0.0462013129359484	1.020962037041	
	44000	20	27.2389509150972	0.563145255	2.54884853374951E-05		0.181836593407649		0.0512528961421753	1.023964874072	
	46200	20	28.879749475754	0.627888852	3.13291737896082E-05		0.180642160376206		0.0576135319274619	1.028153452939	
	47050	20	29.5881031237406	0.656462079	3.60923944986304E-05		0.19053711998786		0.0604744467981705	1.030194694340	
	47100	20	29.6327696173692	0.658274823	3.64118009929092E-05		0.191170739981316		0.0606571702628328	1.030328472957	
	47150	20	29.6778017616153	0.660103664	3.67361906498699E-05		0.191810711227487		0.0608416685724883	1.030463968863	
	47200	20	29.72305277167	0.661948854	3.70656771570088E-05		0.192457144118983		0.0610279720432894	1.030601216978	
	47250	20	29.768980190449	0.663810650	3.74003776536468E-05		0.193110151820752		0.0612161117439794	1.030740253191	
	47300	20	29.8151499808342	0.665689318	3.77404128626589E-05		0.193769850361753		0.0614061195205688	1.030881114390	
	47350	20	29.8617032990855	0.667585125	3.80859072282802E-05		0.194436358730409		0.0615980280220194	1.031023838502	
	47400	20	29.9086522578905	0.669498350	3.84369890603385E-05		0.195109798974028		0.0617918707269888	1.031168464527	
	47450	20	29.9560032936433	0.671429274	3.87937906852148E-05		0.195790296302369		0.0619876819716847	1.031315032578	
	47500	45	67.5084667499853	0.677153496	0.00381446626770402		1		0.314814078455615	1.031463583920	

4. CONCLUSION

This work presents computation method for residual fatigue life estimation of cracked structural elements under positive overload single peaks within load spectra. Special attention has been focused to the effects of single overloads to crack growth retardation. Computation procedure is illustrated on cracked wing skin panel. Present computation results are compared with available experimental results. Good agreement computation with experimental results is obtained. The effects single overload to crack retardation is evident. Present computation procedure with correspond software can be efficient applied in practical residual life estimations of aircraft structural components.

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