REVERSE ENGINEERING OF BIOLOGICAL STRUCTURES

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ASCE-ASME-SES Conference on Mechanics and Materials

6/26/09

REFERENCES

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"Secrets in the Shell," American Scientist, 2007.

"Fracture Mechanisms of the *Strombus gigas* Conch Shell: II Micromechanics Analyses of Multiple Cracking and Large Scale Crack Bridging," *Acta Materialia*, 2004.

"Structural Basis for the Fracture Toughness of the Shell of the Conch Strombus Gigas," *Nature*, 2000.

"A Biomimetic Example of Brittle Toughening: Steady State Multiple Cracking," *Computational Materials Science*, 1996.

What is an ideal composite?

- It should be comprised of readily available and inexpensive materials.
- It should be strong, tough and light.
- It should be capable of self-healing.
- It should not require prohibitive manufacturing processes.









Figure 6. Damage Mechanisms Observed During the Impact and Penetration of a Composite.

Let's turn to Nature for inspiration.



Figure 2. Example of the Composite Integral Armor Developed under the CAV Program.



Figure 6. Damage Mechanisms Observed During the Impact and Penetration of a Composite.



Figure 5. Modeling Ballistic Impacts into Composite Armor Has Evolved Significantly in Recent Years.

Let's consider:

Avoiding *inappropriate* use of reductionism because it could reduce our understanding of such complex systems (as per theoretical biologist Robert Rosen).

That we may learn something by studying the biological structure despite not being able to achieve the original pie in the sky; *aim low and shoot high*.



STROMBUS GIGAS: WHY IS IT SO TOUGH?



$\uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \sigma$	$\sigma(x) = \frac{H}{m}$ $\frac{2\gamma}{Eb_o}$ $\frac{\sigma_{th}}{E}$ $\frac{\sigma_f}{E} = \frac{1}{L}$	$\frac{E}{-n} \begin{bmatrix} \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ $	$\frac{\left(\frac{b_o}{x}\right)^n}{\frac{1}{n-1}(n)}$	$\frac{b_{o}}{m} - \left(\frac{b_{o}}{x}\right)^{m}$ $\frac{m}{(m-n)}$	$\sigma_f \approx c$	$a(a/h)\sqrt{\frac{E}{a}}$	<u>y</u>
Aragonite is brittle (flaw- sensitive), but available.	$\sigma_{th} \sqrt{2}$ Bond type	π (n	n/m)' M	σ_{th}/E	$-1)(m-1) \sqrt{\frac{a}{b_o} \frac{\sigma_f}{\sigma_{th}}}$	$\frac{2\gamma}{Eb_o}$	
	Metallic	4	7	0.0677	1.96	0.0556	
	Ionic	2	10	0.0677	2.82	0.111	
	Covalent	8	12	0.0370	1.74	0.0130	



PREDATORS



Spiny Lobster



Southern Stingray



Loggerhead Turtle







Porcupine Fish

Blue Crab

Octopus



MATERIAL SELECTION CHARTS AND MATERIAL INDICES

M. Ashby, *Materials Selection in Mechanical Design*: Pergamon, 1992

Design	Tie in tension	Beam in Flexure	Plate in Flexure
Strength to weight	$\sigma_{_f}/ ho$	$\sigma_{_f}^{_{_{2/3}}}/ ho$	$\sigma_{_f}^{_{_{f}}}$ / $ ho$
Stiffness to weight	E/ ho	$E^{\scriptscriptstyle 1/2}$ / $ ho$	$E^{\scriptscriptstyle 1/3}$ / $ ho$
Large recoverable deformation	$\sigma_{_f}/E$	$\sigma_{_f}$ / E	$\sigma_{_f}/E$
Strain energy per volume	$\sigma_{_f}^{_2}/E$	$\sigma_{_f}^{_2}/E$	$\sigma_{_f}^{_2}/E$

Material	E GPa	ρ Mg/m ³	E/ ho GPa/Mg/m ³	$\frac{E^{^{1/2}}/\rho}{\text{GPa}^{1/2}/\text{Mg/m}^3}$	$\frac{E^{1/3}/\rho}{\text{GPa}^{1/2}/\text{Mg/m}^3}$
Palm	3.5	0.15	23	12.5	(10.1)
Mild steel	210	7.9	27	1.8	(0.8)
Balsa wood (LD)	2.0	0.1	20	14.1	(12.6)

Material	$\sigma_{_{f}}$	ρ	$\sigma_{_f}/ ho$	$\sigma_{\scriptscriptstyle f}^{\scriptscriptstyle \scriptscriptstyle 2/3}/ ho$	$\sigma_{_f}^{_{_{f}}}/ ho$
	MPa	Mg/m ³	MPa/Mg/m ³	MPa ^{2/3} /Mg/m ³	MPa ^{1/2} /Mg/m ³
Single silk fibre	2000	1.3	1500	120	(35)
Single carbon fibre	2200	2.0	1100	85	(24)
Mild steel	400	7.9	51	6.9	2.5
Balsa wood (LD)	16	0.1	160	64	(40.0)

Material		ρ	$\sigma_{_{f}}$	$\sigma_{_f}^{_2}/E$	$\sigma_{_f}/E$
	MPa	Mg/m ³	MPa	MJ/m ³	5
Single silk fibre	20000	1.3	1500	113	0.08
Cartilage	5	1.3	11	24.2	2.2
Skin	20	1.2	11	6.1	0.55
Leather	45	0.9	45	45.0	1.0
Spring steel	210000	7.5	2000	19.0	0.01
Soft butyl rubber	10	1.0	14	19.6	1.4

CRACK TIP PARAMETERS



Material	E GPa	$(EJ_{c})^{1/2}$ MPa-m ^{1/2}	J kJ/m ²	$(J_{_c}/E)^{^{1/2}}$ mm ^{1/2}
Antler	10	7.1	5.0	0.7
Mollusc shell	60	9.5	1.5	0.4
Mild steel	210	90	40	0.4
Skin	0.01	0.4	15.0	38.7

If a material contains an inherent crack

Load carrying capacity ~ $(EJ_c)^{1/2}$

Impact energy absorption ~ J_c

Displacement capacity ~ $(J_c/E)^{1/2}$

Microstructure

CROSSED-LAMELLAR MICROARCHITECTURE

Fracture surface showing crossed lamellar microstructure

Higher Magnification SEM Images

TEM MICROGRAPH OF THE INTERFACE BETWEEN SINGLE CRYSTALS OF ARAGONITE

REVERSE ENGINEERING

Microstructure

D 0.3 mm

Dominant fracture mechanisms Tunnel cracking Crack bridging

Modeling

Steady-state tunneling

Crack bridging

Typical Load-displacement curve of an unnotched bend bar at Room Temperature.

Length: 48 to 62 mm, width: 5 to 10 mm, thickness: 5 to 10 mm.

IN SITU SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPY

Environmental SEM

Four point bend test Inner and outer spans: 15 and 30 mm

NOTCHED SAMPLE RESULTS

Nominal fracture toughness

inner layer: 0.46 ± 0.15 MPa $m^{1/2}$ (Use 0.6 in calculations) middle layer: 2.26 ± 0.77 MPa $m^{1/2}$

Show video

Multiple cracking of weak interfaces

 $\frac{\text{Crack energy balance}}{\text{strain energy}} : \frac{\sigma^2}{c \cdot a \times \frac{\sigma^2}{E}} \sim c \times \gamma \quad \leftarrow \text{surface energy}$

$$\sigma_{c} \sim \left(\frac{\gamma E}{a}\right)^{1/2} \sim \frac{K_{c}}{a^{1/2}} \gg \frac{K_{c}}{c^{1/2}}$$

Cracking conditions

System of basic equations

Crack density evolution in the weak layer

 $\begin{array}{ll} \text{large flaws} & U_{\text{surface}}(n) + U_{\text{strain}}(n,\varepsilon) = \text{Min}(n) \\ \text{small flaws} & \sigma_{\text{surface}}(\varepsilon,n) = \sigma_{\text{c}} = \text{const} \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} n = n(\varepsilon) \\ \sigma = \sigma(\varepsilon) \end{array}$

Failure criterion of the strong layer

•bending \rightarrow tension

•2 uniform layers with fracture toughness $K_{c1} > K_{c2}$

•failure at $K_I = K_{c1} = (2\gamma_1 E / (1 - v^2))^{1/2}$

•plane strain

Shape function determination

$$f(n) = \frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \frac{1}{1 + 2 \cdot |f'(0)| \cdot n} \right)$$

$$k(n) = \left(\frac{1+pn}{1+qn+sn^2}\right)^{1/2}$$

Analysis

- ? crack density evolution
- ? stress-strain curve
- ? failure stress and strain
- ? work of fracture

 $n=n(\varepsilon)$ $\sigma = \sigma(\varepsilon)$ $\sigma_{\text{failure}}, \epsilon_{\text{failure}}$ W_{fracture}

Crack density at failure

Large flaws

Small flaws

Stress and strain to failure

Large flaws

Small flaws

Work of fracture

Large flaws

Small flaws

LARGE SCALE BRIDGING

 $K_{\text{protein}} = K_{\text{far-field}} - K_{\text{bridging forces}} = 0.6 \text{MPa-m}^{1/2}$ $p = \beta^* u^{1/2} : \beta = 630 \text{ N/mm}^{5/2}, u_{\text{crit}} = 5 \mu \text{m}$ $J_b = \int_0^{u_{CP}} p(u) du = 150 \text{N/m}$ $J_{aragonite} = (K^2/E)_{aragonite} = 0.63 \text{N/m}$

 $J_{int} = 0.6^2/37$ GPa=9.7N/m

WORK OF FRACTURE (E-3J)

Aragonite	Protein	Notched A	Multiply Cracked
0.07	0.4	5.8	23

-120°C

 $T = -20^{\circ}C$

400-450-300 (N) 200-200-100-(N) 300-Toad (N) 150-100-0.0 0.0 0.1 0.2 0.2 0.1 (a) Disp (mm) (b) Disp. (mm) $T = 80^{\circ}C$ $T = 200^{\circ}C$ 1000 450 750 (N) 300 150 Load (N) 500-250 0.15 0.00 0.10 0.05 0.05 0.1 Disp (mm) 0.10 0.15 (c) (d) Disp. (mm)

T = -120°C, -80°C

Role of the binder

Modular Elongation Mechanism

Figure 1 Scanning and transmission electron micrographs of a freshly cleaved abalone shell, showing adhesive ligaments formed between nacre tablets. **a**, Scanning electron micrograph of a freshly cleaved abalone shell showing adhesive ligaments formed between consecutive abalone nacre tablets on exertion of mechanical stress. The tablets are ~400 nm thick. **b**, Transmission electron micrograph of another cleaved abalone shell, showing the adhesive ligaments between nacre tablets. The space between the tablets is ~600 nm. Thus the ligaments can lengthen to many times the original spacing between the tablets, which is of the order of 30 nm.

Figure 2 Consecutive force-extension curves, obtained using an atomic force microscope, from pulling on a freshly cleaved abalone nacre surface. Rupture events, with a sawtooth appearance, are visible in each of the curves. The surface was not touched between pulls, strong evidence that some refolding took place, possibly of domains in lustrin A. The approach and retract curves show hysteresis, indicating that the rupture events dissipate energy.

B.L. Smith et al., Nature, 1999

AVESTON-COOPER-KELLY LIMIT for fiber-bridged cracks

$$k \int_{0}^{L} \frac{b(t)dt}{t-x} + \sigma^{\infty} + \Im \left[\int_{x}^{L} b(t)dt \right] = 0 , \quad 0 < x < L$$
$$COD \sim \int_{x}^{L} b(t)dt$$

AVESTON-COOPER-KELLY LIMIT Under uniform tension, all ligaments remain intact as crack propagates across specimen.

Specimen width is $w \sim 10mm$ Initial notch is $c_o \sim 5mm$

$$\frac{\sigma_{cr}^{ACK}}{p_{cr}} = \left(\frac{2J_{c}^{int}}{J_{b}}\right)^{1/3} \sim 0.5$$

$$a_{m} = \frac{\pi E'}{4} \left(\frac{3J_{c}^{int}}{2}\right)^{1/3} \beta^{-4/3} \sim 1mm \sim 0.1w \longrightarrow$$

$$a_{m} < c_{o}$$

$$a_{s} = \frac{2}{\pi} \left(\frac{p_{o}}{\sigma_{cr}} \right)^{4} a_{m} \sim 20 mm >> a_{m} \longrightarrow$$

Noncatastrophic failure

- Amount of crack growth required to achieve ACK limit; bridging effects increase with increasing w/a_m
- Growth from the notch is stable

Small scale bridging length scale; ACK limit would be reached in large enough specimen, and growth is stable in notched specimen

Schematic Drawing of Conch Shell

tissue (48 hrs). A few sheets of organic matrix are arrowed.

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M

Similar aragonite aggregates on "mantle" side of regenerated tissue. Note the extensive matrix.

Aragonite aggregates within the collagenous matrix.

Collagenous matrix forms when wound repair occurs without the lid.

Cross-sectional SEM image of regenerated tissue. ~100 microns of hard tissue must form prior to establishment of crossed lamellar structure

Layer of vertical crystals (V) develop in regenerated tissue prior to the crossed lamellar structure (CL), just as in wild shell.

BIOINSPIRED MEMS COMPOSITE STRUCTURES AS MODEL SYSTEMS

Bioinspired polysilicon/polymer MEMS Structures

Bioinspired Fabrication of Composites: Synthetic Nacre

Bioinspired Self-Healing

Healing agent

Courtesy of Nancy Sottos University of Illinois

In the future the healing materials will be delivered after damage is sensed.