# Tough Cementitious Mortar-Silicone Multi-Material Composite Enabled by Automated Multi-Material Additive Manufacturing

## Aimane Najmeddine, Ph.D. Associate Research Scholar



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#### **Mechanics-Manufacturing-Design Synergy**



Advanced Manufacturing can Enable New Designs of Architected Material

Displacement

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#### **Nature Provides Numerous Examples of Purposeful Designs with Unique Mechanisms**







Improving Toughness by Design





#### Hypothesis: engineered multi-material systems display improved mechanical performance







#### How can toughness be improved based on design?

Layered Hard (mortar)-Soft (silicone) Multi-Material Architectures Enabled by Additive Manufacturing







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[1] PNAS 112 (2015) 4976–4981

[2] Mechanics of Materials 140 (2020) 103243



Advanced Manufacturing can Enable Architected Materials Across Scale and Help Study them



#### Single-material extrusion





- **T0** PLA filament extruder
- T1 Alternative filament extruder
- T2 Cement paste extruder (Hyrel)
- T3 Silicon extruder (Hyrel)

Multi-material extrusion

### Additive manufacturing of hard(mortar)-soft(silicone) multi-material system



Multi-material extrusion for layered mortar-silicone multi-material composite

Silicone layer extrusion



#### Mortar layer extrusion





#### Fracture toughness was investigated experimentally for monolithic and layered systems





J-integral was used to quantify toughness (i.e., material resistance to crack extension)



The J-integral is an integral equation that gives the amount of energy released in advancing a crack surface by a unit area.

$$J = \int_{\Gamma} (Wdy - T\frac{\partial \boldsymbol{u}}{\partial x}ds)$$

- $\Gamma$ : Curve surrounding the notch tip
- W: Strain-energy density
- **T**: Traction vector defined according to outward normal along  $\Gamma$
- **u:** Displacement vector

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Flat surfaced notched in twodimensional deformation field (all stresses depend only on xand y).  $\Gamma$  is any curve surrounding the notch tip;  $\Gamma_t$ denotes the curved notch tip [1]



#### **Compliance based method to calculate J-integral**

✤ J-integral is given by:

$$J = J_{init} + J_{prop}$$

initiation propagation

For plane-strain notched bend test

$$J_{init} = \frac{K_{lc}^2(1-v^2)}{E} , \quad J_{pl_i} = \left[ J_{pl_{i-1}} + \left(\frac{\eta_i}{W-a_i}\right) \left(\frac{A_{pl_i} - A_{pl_{i-1}}}{B}\right) \right]$$
[1]

$$K_{IC} = \left(\frac{PS}{BW^{\frac{3}{2}}}\right) f(a_0/W) \quad \text{where} \quad f(x) = \frac{3(x)^{\frac{1}{2}} [1.99 - x(1-x)(2.15 - 3.93x + 2.7x^2)]}{2(1+2x)(1-x)^{\frac{3}{2}}}$$

and  $A_{pl_i}$  is the post-peak area under the notched load-displacement curve

• Crack Extension, 
$$a_i = \frac{C_i}{C_0} a_0 \frac{V(\frac{a_0}{W})}{V(\frac{a_i}{W})}$$
  $V(x) = 0.8 - 1.7(x) + 2.4x^2 + \frac{0.66}{1 - x^2}$  [2]

where,  $C_n$  is the instantaneous compliance of sample





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[1] ASTM E1820-24 - Standard Test Method for Measurement of Fracture Toughness [2] Banthia and Sheng (1995) Two Parameter Fracture Model for Concrete

#### Layered multi-material shows pronounced toughening compared to monolithic and cast





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#### Layered multi-material shows pronounced toughening compared to monolithic and cast



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#### Enhanced ductility was achieved for layered multi-material compared to monolithic and cast





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#### Vastly varying crack propagation mechanism responsible for toughening observed





#### Step-wise cracking responsible for significant sequential energy dissipation across layers





## How do we numerically investigate fracture in hardsoft multi-material assemblies?

#### Coupled phase-field CZM model developed to numerically investigate crack prop in MMs





## Park-Paulino-Roesler (PPR) [1] used to capture dissipated energy at interfacial zones

User-Element Subroutine (UEL) for Abaqus • Normal traction force

$$T_n(\Delta \mathbf{u}_n, \Delta \mathbf{u}_t) = \frac{\Gamma_n}{\delta_n} \left[ m \left( 1 - \frac{\Delta \mathbf{u}_n}{\delta_n} \right)^{\alpha} \left( \frac{m}{\alpha} + \frac{\Delta \mathbf{u}_n}{\delta_n} \right)^{m-1} - \alpha \left( 1 - \frac{\Delta \mathbf{u}_n}{\delta_n} \right)^{\alpha-1} \left( \frac{m}{\alpha} + \frac{\Delta \mathbf{u}_n}{\delta_n} \right)^m \right] \mathbf{x}$$
  
$$(\mathbf{u}_n, \mathbf{u}_n, \mathbf{u}_n) = \sigma_{max} \left[ \Gamma_t \left( 1 - \frac{|\Delta \mathbf{u}_t|}{\delta_t} \right)^{\beta} \left( \frac{n}{\beta} + \frac{|\Delta \mathbf{u}_t|}{\delta_t} \right)^n + \langle G_c^{int} - G_c^{int} \rangle \right]$$

Tangential traction force

proce  

$$T_{t}(\Delta \mathbf{u}_{n}, \Delta \mathbf{u}_{t}) = \frac{\Gamma_{t}}{\delta_{t}} \left[ n \left( 1 - \frac{|\Delta \mathbf{u}_{t}|}{\delta_{t}} \right)^{\beta} \left( \frac{n}{\beta} + \frac{|\Delta \mathbf{u}_{t}|}{\delta_{t}} \right)^{n-1} - \beta \left( 1 - \frac{|\Delta \mathbf{u}_{t}|}{\delta_{t}} \right)^{\beta-1} \left( \frac{n}{\beta} + \frac{|\Delta \mathbf{u}_{t}|}{\delta_{t}} \right)^{\beta-1} \left( \frac{n}{\beta} + \frac{|\Delta \mathbf{u}_{t}|}{\delta_{t}} \right)^{\alpha} \left( \frac{n}{\beta} + \frac{\Delta \mathbf{u}_{n}}{\delta_{n}} \right)^{\alpha} + \left\langle G_{c}^{int}{}_{t} - G_{c}^{int}{}_{n} \right\rangle \right] \left( \frac{\Delta \mathbf{u}_{t}}{|\Delta \mathbf{u}_{t}|} \right)$$

#### Updated crack surface energy

$$\int_{\Gamma_0} G^i dA = \int_{\Gamma_0} (\Delta \mathbf{u})^T \left\{ \mathbf{T} \right\} dA \text{ where } \left\{ \Delta \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}_1 - \mathbf{u}_2 \right\} \text{ and } \left\{ \mathbf{T} = (T_n, T_t) \right\}$$







 $\alpha, \beta$ : shape parameters

 $T_n(\delta_{nc})$ 

#### Zero-thickness cohesive elements used for interface - 4-node quadrilateral plane strain elements used for bulk





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#### Material properties were determined using specific mechanical characterization tests





#### Crack propagation mechanism in tri-layer hard-soft-hard composite



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#### Effect of thickness on overall performance





#### Hardened cement-PVS composite show significant increase in toughness vs. monolithic





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### **Conclusions and outlook**

- Concrete can be re-imagined as a composite material
- Engineering new constitutive properties in concrete materials is possible using advanced manufacturing
- Substantial improvement in toughness achieved for layered hard(mortar)soft(silicone) multi-material systems compared to their monolithic and cast counterparts
- Numerical investigation of fracture can help further explain toughening mechanisms observed in such multi-material systems









#### Thank you for your attention! Questions?



