# Multiscale Variational Modeling and Characterization of Materials and Structures



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Part I: Multiscale Constitutive Models of Brittle and Ductile Materials

Part II: Experimental Investigations on Recycled Plastic Fiber Reinforced Concretes and Mortars Part I: Multiscale Constitutive Models of Brittle and Ductile Materials



Elsayed, Mota, Fraternali, Ortiz, J BIOMECH, 2008; COMPUT METHOD APPL M, 2008; COMP MECH. 2009; Schmidt, Fraternali, Ortiz, MULTISCALE MODEL SIM, 2009; Fraternali, Negri, Ortiz, . INT J FRACTURE, 2010; Blesgen, Fraternali, Raney, Daraio, MULTISCALE MODEL SIM, 2013; Fraternali, Carpentieri, Amendola, J MECH PHYS SOLIDS, 2014.

## **Motivation**

- Development of a variational framework including viscoelastic, elastic-plastic and brittle/cohesive models in finite strain kinematics for use in stress analysis, and damage prediction /simulation.
- Covered effects:
  - finite deformation kinematics
    shear damage via deviatoric plasticity
    volumetric damage by porous plasticity
    viscous and strain-rate effects
    brittle and cohesive fracture
- Response at the meso-scale informed by quasi-continuum simulations
- Constitutive relations discretized in time by recourse to variational updates
- Fracture and shear band damage via mesh-independent localization elements and variational material erosion





### **Finite Strain Kinematics**

Multiple multiplicative decomposition of the deformation gradient into elastic-plastic and viscoelastic components

$$\boldsymbol{F} = \boldsymbol{F}^e \boldsymbol{F}^p = \boldsymbol{F}_1^e \boldsymbol{F}_1^v = \ldots = \boldsymbol{F}_M^e \boldsymbol{F}_M^v$$

*M* := *number* of (*Maxwell-type*) viscous mechanisms

Plastic flow ruleinternal variablesViscous flow-rules
$$Z^p = \{\theta^p, e^p\}$$
 $Z_i^v = \{\theta_i^v, e_{i,1}^v, e_{i,2}^v, e_{i,3}^v\}$  $\dot{F}^p F^{p-1} = \dot{\theta}^p N + \dot{e}^p M$  $\dot{F}_i^v F_i^{v-1} = \frac{\dot{\theta}_i^v}{3} I + \sum_{j=1}^3 \dot{e}_{i,j}^v M_{i,j}^v \ (i = 1, ...M)$  $\dot{e}^p \ge 0, \ \dot{\theta}^p \ge 0$  $M_{i,j}^v \in Sym, \ M_{i,j}^v \cdot M_{i,h}^v = \delta_{jh}$ 

Free energy

$$A(F, F^{p}, Z^{p}, F^{v}_{i}, Z^{v}_{i}, T) = W^{e}(FF^{p-1}, T) + W^{p}(Z^{p}, T) + \sum_{i=1}^{M} W^{e}_{i}(FF^{v-1}_{i}, T) + \rho_{0}C_{v}T(1 - \log \frac{T}{T_{0}})$$

# First Piola-Kirchhoff stress tensor and thermodynamic forces

$$\boldsymbol{P} = \frac{\partial A}{\partial \boldsymbol{F}}$$
$$\boldsymbol{T}^{p} = -\frac{\partial A}{\partial \boldsymbol{F}_{p}} \quad , \quad \boldsymbol{Y}^{p} = -\frac{DA}{D\boldsymbol{Z}^{p}}$$
$$\boldsymbol{T}^{v}_{i} = -\frac{\partial A}{\partial \boldsymbol{F}^{i}} \quad , \quad \boldsymbol{Y}^{v}_{i} = -\frac{DA}{D\boldsymbol{Z}^{v}_{i}}$$

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#### Volumetric plastic damage

Volumetric damage is related to the plastic expansion of spherical voids in a plastically incompressible matrix (N: number of voids per unit volume; a: void radius)

Volumetric expansion:

$$\dot{\theta}^p = \left| \frac{d}{dt} \log J^p \right|, \quad \theta^p(t) = \theta^p(0) + \int_0^t \dot{\theta}^p(\xi) \, d\xi$$

Voids fraction:

$$f_0 = N \frac{4\pi a_0^3}{3}$$
  $J^p = 1 - f_0 + N \frac{4\pi a^3}{3}$ ,  $f = \frac{f_0 + J^p - 1}{J^p}$ 



Evolution laws of internal variables: kinetic potentials

$$\dot{\boldsymbol{Z}}^{p} = rac{\partial \psi}{\partial \boldsymbol{Y}^{p}} , \ \dot{\boldsymbol{Z}}^{v}_{i} = rac{\partial \phi_{i}}{\partial \boldsymbol{Y}^{v}_{i}} \ (i = 1, ..., M)$$

$$\psi^*(\boldsymbol{F}^p, \dot{\boldsymbol{Z}}^p, T) = \sup_{\boldsymbol{Y}^p} \left\{ \boldsymbol{Y}^p \cdot \dot{\boldsymbol{Z}}^p - \psi(\boldsymbol{Y}^p, \boldsymbol{F}^p, T) \right\}$$

$$\phi_i^*(\boldsymbol{F}_i^v, \dot{\boldsymbol{Z}}_i^v, T) = \sup_{\boldsymbol{Y}_i^v} \left\{ \boldsymbol{Y}_i^v \cdot \dot{\boldsymbol{Z}}_i^v - \phi(\boldsymbol{Y}_i^v, \boldsymbol{F}_i^v, T) \right\} (i = 1, ..., M)$$

$$oldsymbol{Y}^p = rac{D\psi^*}{Doldsymbol{Z}^p} \ , \ oldsymbol{Y}^v_i = rac{D\phi^*_i}{Doldsymbol{Z}^v_i}$$

Incremental constitutive updates with variational structure

 $W_k(\boldsymbol{F}_{k+1}, T_{k+1}) =$ 

 $\min_{\boldsymbol{Z}_{k+1}^{p}, \boldsymbol{M}, \boldsymbol{N}, \boldsymbol{Z}_{i,k+1}^{v}, \boldsymbol{M}_{i,j}^{v}} D_{k}(\boldsymbol{F}_{k+1}, T_{k+1}, \boldsymbol{Z}_{k+1}^{p}, \boldsymbol{M}, \boldsymbol{N}, \boldsymbol{Z}_{i,k+1}^{v}, \boldsymbol{M}_{i,j}^{v})$ 

$$D_{k}(\mathbf{F}_{k+1}, T_{k+1}, \mathbf{Z}_{k+1}^{p}, \mathbf{M}, \mathbf{N}, \mathbf{Z}_{i,k+1}^{v}, \mathbf{M}_{i,j}^{v}) = W^{e}(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{k+1}^{e}, T_{k+1}) + W^{p}(\mathbf{Z}_{k+1}^{p}, T_{k+1}) + \sum_{i=1}^{M} W_{i}^{e}(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{i,k+1}^{e}, T_{k+1}) + \rho_{0}C_{v}T_{k+1}\left(1 - \log\frac{T_{k+1}}{T_{0}}\right) + \Delta t \left(\psi_{k+1}^{*} + \sum_{i=1}^{M} \phi_{i,k+1}^{*}\right) + \beta \Delta t^{2}B_{k+1} \quad \text{void}$$

$$\Delta t = t_{k+1} - t_{k}$$

#### Variational theory of fracture

Fracture as a free discontinuity problem

$$\begin{split} \min_{(\boldsymbol{\varphi},K) \in A(\bar{\boldsymbol{\varphi}}(t))} & \left\{ E(t) \left( \boldsymbol{\varphi}, \ \boldsymbol{K} \right) = \int_{\Omega \setminus K} W(\boldsymbol{X}, \nabla \boldsymbol{\varphi}(\boldsymbol{X})) \ d\boldsymbol{X} \\ & - \int_{\Omega \setminus K} F(t, \boldsymbol{X}, \boldsymbol{\varphi}(\boldsymbol{X})) \ d\boldsymbol{X} - \int_{\partial_S \Omega} G(t, \boldsymbol{X}, \boldsymbol{\varphi}(\boldsymbol{X})) \ d\mathcal{H}^{n-1}(\boldsymbol{X}) \right\} \\ & + \int_K \vartheta \left( \boldsymbol{X}, \delta\left( \llbracket \boldsymbol{\varphi} \rrbracket(\boldsymbol{X}), \boldsymbol{\nu}(\boldsymbol{X}) \right) \right) \ d\mathcal{H}^{n-1}(\boldsymbol{X}) \Big\} \end{split}$$

Weak formulation in SBV spaces

$$\min_{\boldsymbol{\varphi} \in \mathcal{A}(\bar{\boldsymbol{\varphi}}(t))} \{ I(t)(\boldsymbol{\varphi}) = E(t)(\boldsymbol{\varphi}, J_{\boldsymbol{\varphi}}) \}$$

### **Eigenfracture model**

Use of mesh-independent, variational fracture models («Eigenfracture», cf. *Schmidt, B,* **Fraternali, F.,** *Ortiz, M. Eigenfracture: An Eigendeformation Approach to Variational Fracture. MULTISCALE MODELING & SIMULATION, 7* (3), 1237-1266, 2009) to predict time-evolution of fracture damage in brittle and cohesive solids, with special attention to masonry structures.



*Correction of mesh dependency* 

### Quasi-static fracture simulation

Mixed modes I-II:



#### material erosion along the crack path

#### Prediction of fracture damage in masonry structures

![](_page_12_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_12_Picture_2.jpeg)

Real-scale model

![](_page_12_Picture_4.jpeg)

Experimental crack pattern

![](_page_12_Figure_6.jpeg)

Eigenfracture prediction

#### Prediction of collapse mechanisms of unreinforced and reinforced masonry structures

![](_page_13_Figure_1.jpeg)

masonry

 $\lambda_{c} = 3.9827$ 

 $\lambda_{c} = 6.2945$ 

flitched beams

reinforced masonry

 $\lambda_{c} = 9.2505$ 

Part II: Experimental Investigations on Recycled Plastic Fiber Reinforced Concretes and Mortars

![](_page_14_Picture_1.jpeg)

Fraternali, Ciancia, Chechile, Rizzano, Feo, Incarnato, COMPOS STRUCT, 2011; Fraternali, Farina, Polzone, Pagliuca, Feo, COMPOS PART B-ENG, 2013; Fraternali, Spadea, Berardi, CONSTR BUILD MATER, 2014; Spadea, Farina, Berardi, Dentale, Fraternali, ING SISM, 2014.

### **Motivation**

Building trades are great contributors to environmental degradation.

Reduce the environmental impact of the construction process.

Innovative materials.

Concrete reinforcement with aggregates and/or fibers obtained from waste plastics

# Concrete/mortar reinforcement with recycled plastic fibers

![](_page_16_Figure_1.jpeg)

## **Materials**

#### Recycling post-consumer PET bottles

Plastic fibers were produced by mean a of R-PET flake extrusion lines available in the plants of the Techno Plastic (TP) S.r.l. of Castelfranco Emilia (Modena, Italy) and FHP S.a.s. – Plastic Division of Roncello (Milan, Italy), two world leader companies in the sector of plastic monofilament extrusion. The production process comprises the following phases: crystallization, drying, pneumatic transportation, dosing, extrusion, filtering, spinning, stretching, stabilization, winding, polywrapping, and fiber cutting.

![](_page_17_Picture_3.jpeg)

### **Materials**

Recycled PET fibers and concrete mix-design

![](_page_18_Picture_2.jpeg)

Component				Dosage (Kg/m <sup>3</sup> )		
Pozzolanic Cement CEM IV/B 32.5 R				340		
Water/Cement r	Water/Cement ratio (%)			53		
Property	PET/ a	PE' b	<b>T/</b>	PET/ c	PP	
Specific gravity	1.34	1.3	84	1.34	0.90	
Cross section	Circu lar	Circu lar		Circu lar	Oval	
Aspect	Strai ght	Str gh	ai 1t	Crim ped	Embo ssed	
Diameter ( <i>mm</i> )	1.10	0.7	0	0.70	0.80 × 1.30	
Lenght (mm)	40	52	2	52	47	
Tensile strenght (MPa)	550.0 0	263	.72	274.29	250.0 0	
Ultimate strain (%)	27	20	5	19	29	

![](_page_19_Picture_0.jpeg)

#### • Fiber mixing

![](_page_19_Picture_2.jpeg)

# Experimental results - 1

Thermal conductivity

Material	k (W/mK)	95% CI (W/mK)	FRR (%)
UNRC	0.967	0.284	0.0
RPETFRC/a	0.793	0.251	-18.0
PPFRC	0.756	0.139	-21.8

#### Compressive strength

![](_page_20_Figure_4.jpeg)

## **Experimental Results - 2**

• First crack strength and ductility indices

![](_page_21_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Picture_4.jpeg)

bridging effect

### **Experimental Results - 3**

#### ■ Force-CTOD plots

![](_page_22_Figure_2.jpeg)

# Seawater curing of RPETFRC

![](_page_23_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_23_Picture_2.jpeg)

(a) 20000 -RPETFRC/a-Lab-1 18000 -RPETFRC/a-Lab-2 **Before seawater** 16000 RPETFRC/a-Lab-3 curing 14000 12000 2 10000 d 8000 6000 4000 2000 0 5.0 0.0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 2.5 3.0 3.5 4.0 4.5 CTODm (mm) (b) 20000 18000 -RPETFRC/a-Sea/12-1 -RPETFRC/a-Sea/12-2 16000 After seawater RPETFRC/a-Sea/12-3 14000 curing 12000 2 10000 d 8000 6000 4000 2000 0 -0.0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 2.5 3.0 3.5 4.0 4.5 5.0 CTODm (mm)

■ Force-CTOD plots

#### **R-PET reinforcement of cementitious mortars**

![](_page_24_Figure_1.jpeg)

### **R-Nylon reinforcement of cementitious mortars**

#### Recycling fish poaching nets

![](_page_25_Picture_2.jpeg)

Force-deflection plots

![](_page_25_Figure_4.jpeg)

#### ■ First-crack strength

![](_page_25_Figure_6.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Figure_7.jpeg)

# CONCLUSIONS

Marked improvements of all the examined therrmo-mechanical properties of RPETFRC in the case of a pozzolana cement based concrete with 0.53 water/cement ratio.

![](_page_26_Figure_2.jpeg)

Other observed results:

- reduction of compressive and first-crack strengths with the water/cement ratio
- high strength fibers (PET/a) are the most beneficial in the case of low water/cement ratio
- crimped fibers (PET/a) are the most beneficial in the case of low water/cement ratio
- seawater curing does not significantly affect first-crack strength, but markedly reduce the energy absorption capacity

#### FUTURE WORK: Multiscale mechanical modeling of heterogeneous materials

![](_page_27_Picture_1.jpeg)

Multiscale modeling of composite materials (such as, e.g., concretes, fibre-reinforced and particulate composites, etc.) based on the Gamma-converge of energy functionals depending on multiple scale factors; bulk energies of the different phases; and interface energies due to micro-cracking (via eigenfracture).

Study of the composite mechanic response; creep phenomena; synergic effects in hybrid fiber composites; blended binders cementitious materials for conservation practices, etc..