

# Study of a novel curved single lap joint concept with non-uniform adhesive thickness

Dia Mundial dos Materiais 2023

08/11/2023

V.D.C. Pires<sup>1,2</sup>, R.J.C. Carbas<sup>2,3</sup>, E.A.S. Marques<sup>3</sup>, L.F.M. da Silva<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Chair of Designing Plastics and Composite Materials, Department of Polymer Engineering and Science, Montanuniversitaet Leoben, Otto Glöckel-Straße 2, Leoben, 8700, Austria

<sup>2</sup> Institute of Science and Innovation in Mechanical and Industrial Engineering (INEGI), Rua Dr. Roberto Frias, 4200-465 Porto, Portugal

<sup>3</sup> Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal

# CONTENT

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. Background and motivation
- 1.2. The curved joint concept

## 2. Experimental procedure

- 2.1. SLJ manufacturing
- 2.2. SLJ testing

## 3. Numerical details

- 3.1. Metal SLJ
- 3.2. Composite SLJ

## 4. Results

- 4.1. Metal SLJ
- 4.2. Composite SLJ

## 5. Conclusions

- 5.1. Conclusions
- 2.2. Scientific output

# 1.

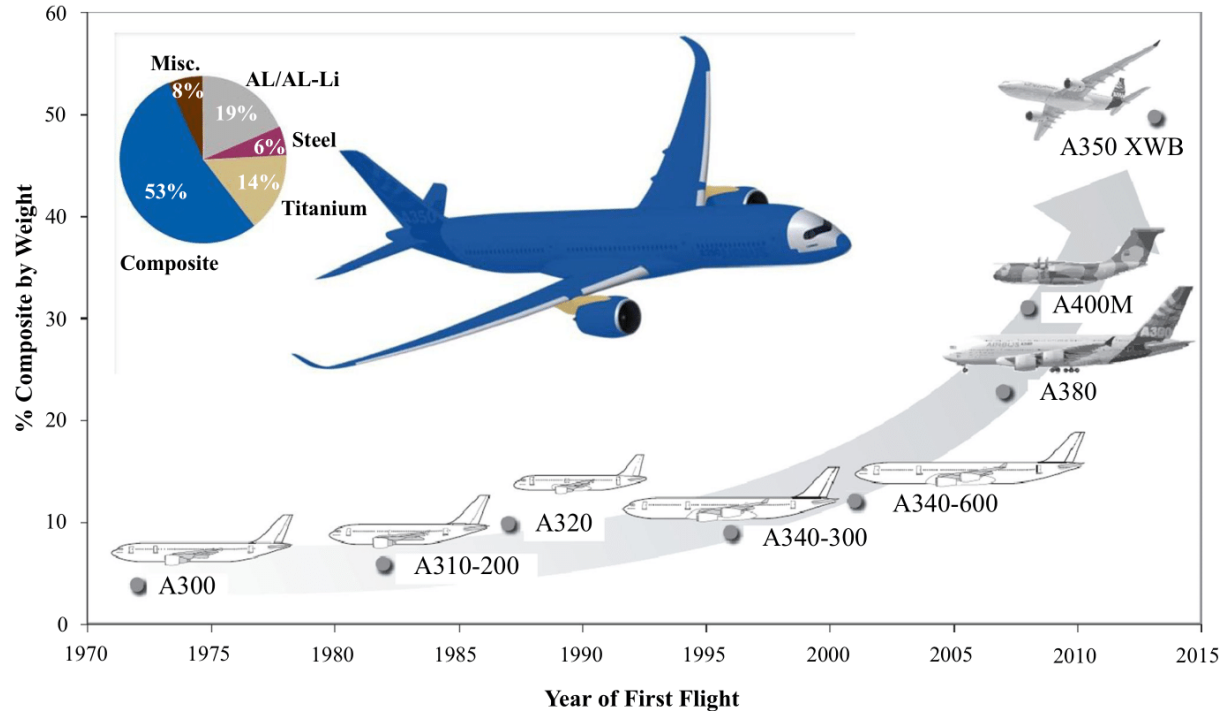
---

## Introduction

- 1.1. Background and motivation
- 1.2. The curved joint concept

# 1.1. Background and motivation

## Composite materials in the aeronautical industry



### 1 Introduction

#### Background and motivation

The curved joint concept

2 Exp. procedure

3 Num. details

4 Results

5 Conclusions

Figure 1 – Trends in the use of composite materials in commercial aircrafts [Xu et al., 2018].

## 1.1. Background and motivation

### Regulatory hurdles regarding adhesive bonding

**Non-destructive testing** limitations and **delamination** caused are key barriers to the widespread adoption of adhesive bonding in aircraft structures.

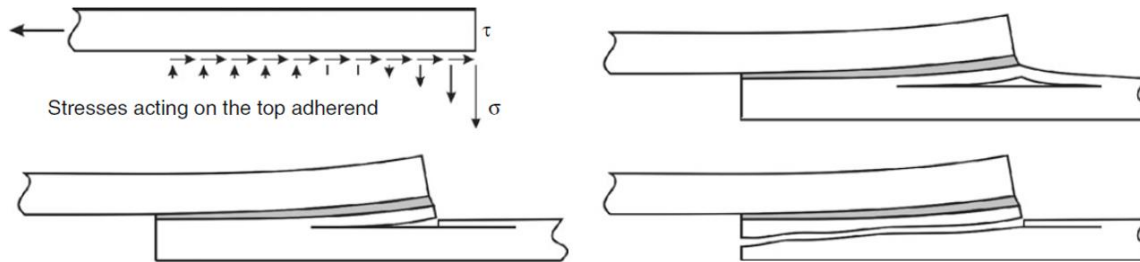


Figure 2 – Peel stress failure in adhesively bonded composite adherends [Hart Smith, 1973].



(a)



(b)

Figure 3 – Most prominent aviation regulatory bodies. (a) EASA in EU. (b) FAA in the US.

### 1 Introduction

#### Background and motivation

The curved joint concept

2 Exp. procedure

3 Num. details

4 Results

5 Conclusions

## 1.2. The curved joint concept

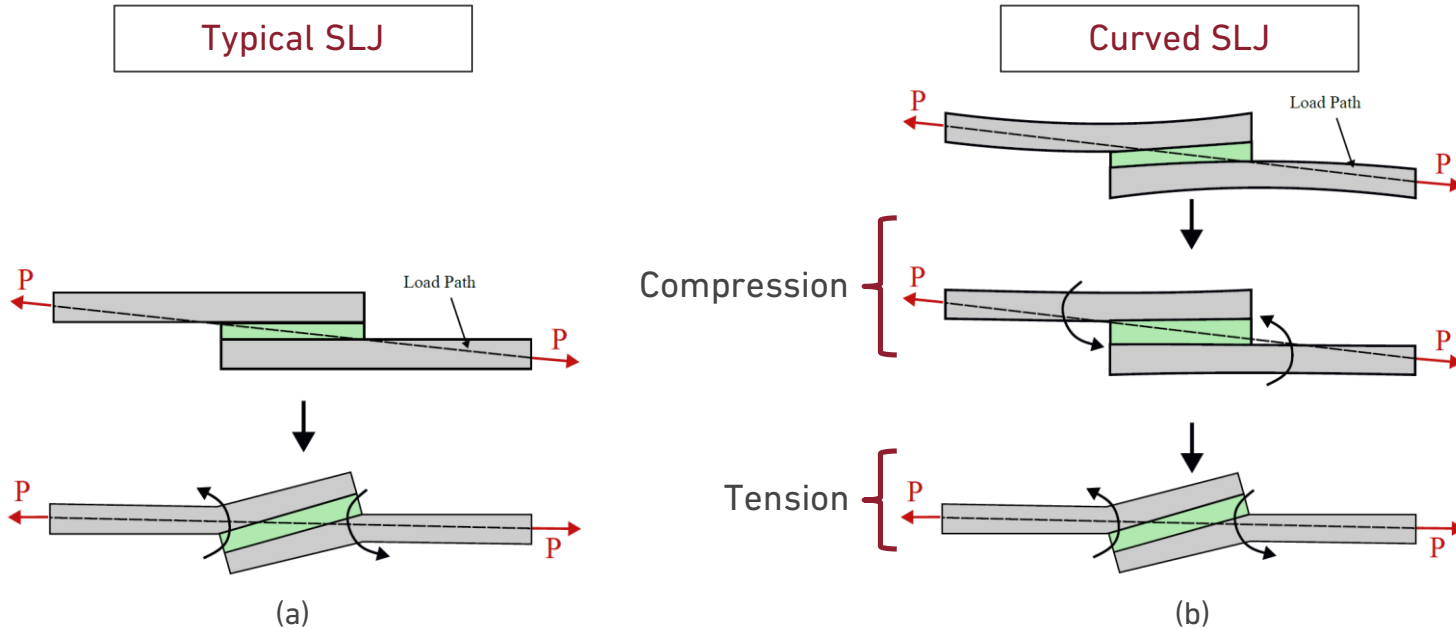


Figure 4 – Behaviour of SLJ under traction. (a) Planar SLJ. (b) Curved SLJ..

### 1 Introduction

Background and motivation

**The curved joint concept**

2 Exp. procedure

3 Num. details

4 Results

5 Conclusions

# 2.

---

## Experimental procedures

- 2.1. SLJ manufacturing
- 2.2. SLJ testing



## 2.1. SLJ manufacturing

### SLJ configurations and geometry

1 Introduction

2 **Exp. Procedure**

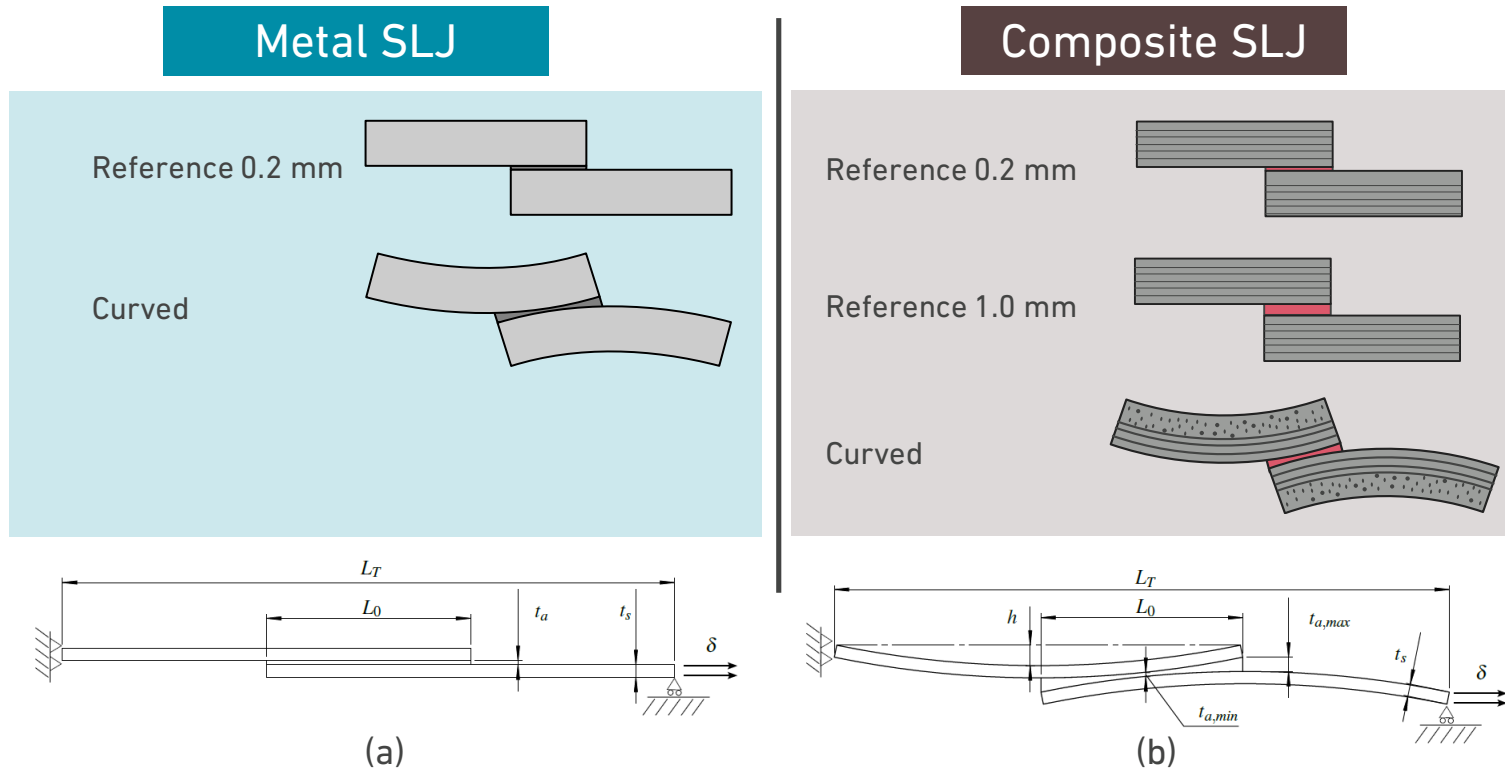
SLJ manufacturing

SLJ testing

3 Num. Details

4 Results

5 Conclusions



**Figure 5** – SLJ specimen geometry. (a) Planar SLJ. (b) Curved SLJ.



## 2.2. SLJ testing

All tests were performed in an Instron® 3832 (Norwood, MA, USA) **quasi-static machine**.

Testing speed: 1 mm/min

Standards followed:

1. ASTM D5868 (Composite SLJ)
2. ASTM D1002 (Metal SLJ)

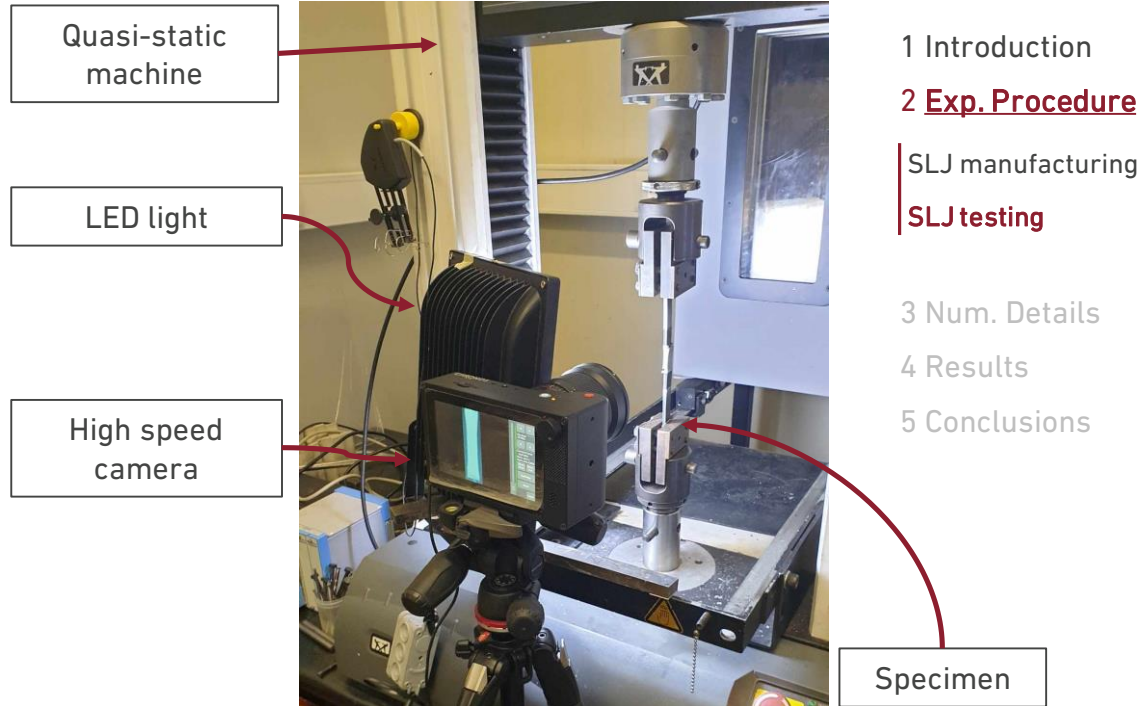


Figure 6 – Experimental setup.

1 Introduction

2 **Exp. Procedure**

SLJ manufacturing

**SLJ testing**

3 Num. Details

4 Results

5 Conclusions

# 3.

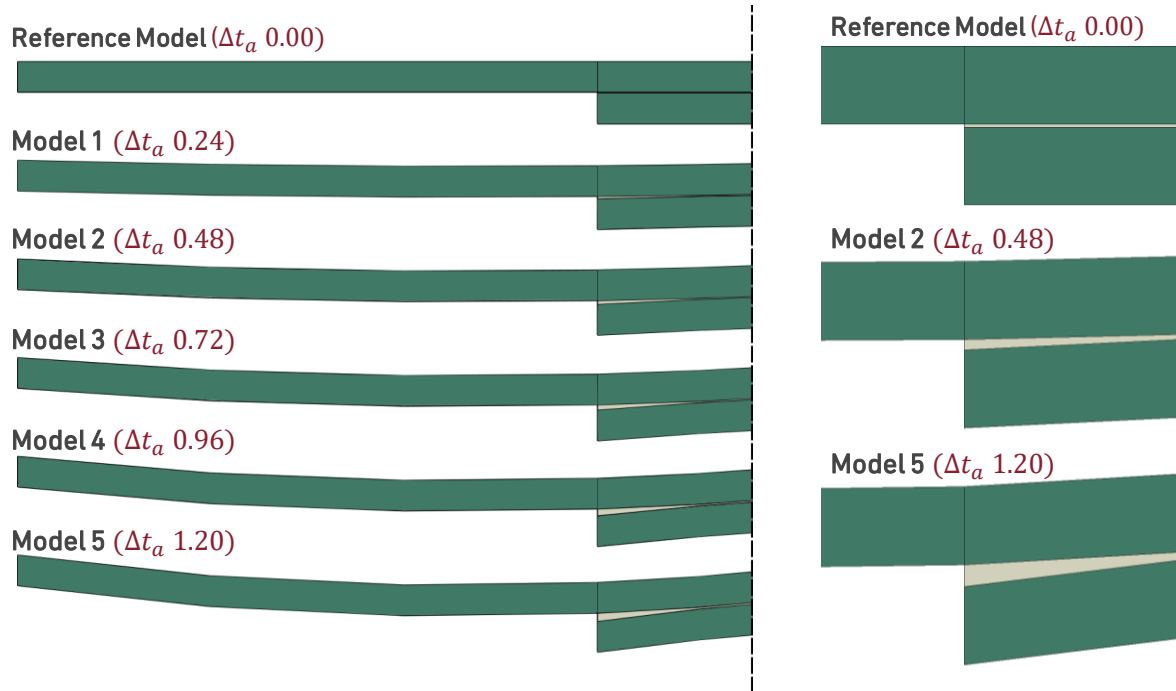
## Numerical details

- 3.1. Metal SLJ
- 3.2. Composite SLJ

## 3.1. Metal SLJ

### Parametric elasto-plastic models

**Nomenclature:**  $\Delta t_a X$ , refers to the model with  $X$ mm of extra maximum thickness relative to the reference



**Fig.7** – Parametric study with varying curvatures and maximum adhesive thicknesses. 2D static analysis in ABAQUS® software CPE4R elements (Plane Strain) were used for the elastic model

## 3.1. Metal SLJ

### CZM Models

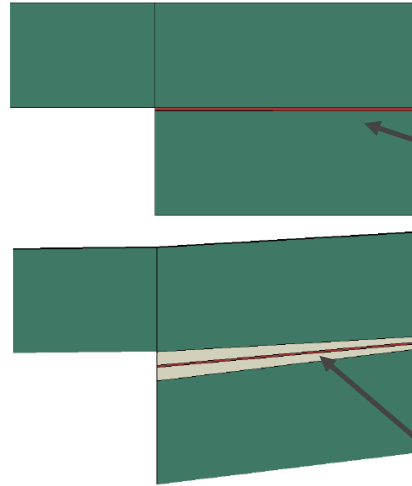
Aluminium (Elasto-plastic)



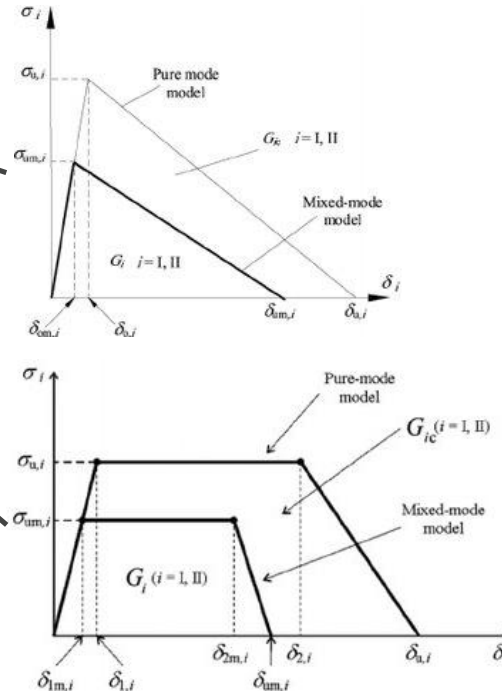
Adhesive (Elastic)



Adhesive (Cohesive)



- 2D static analysis in ABAQUS® software
- **CPE4 elements** (Plane Strain) for the elastic sections
- **COH2D4 elements** (Cohesive) for the cohesive section



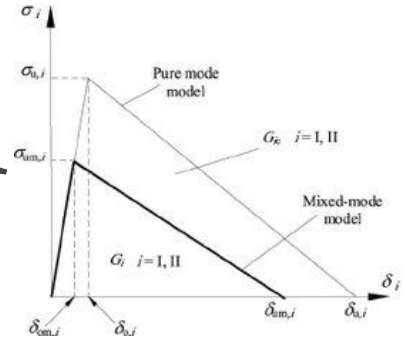
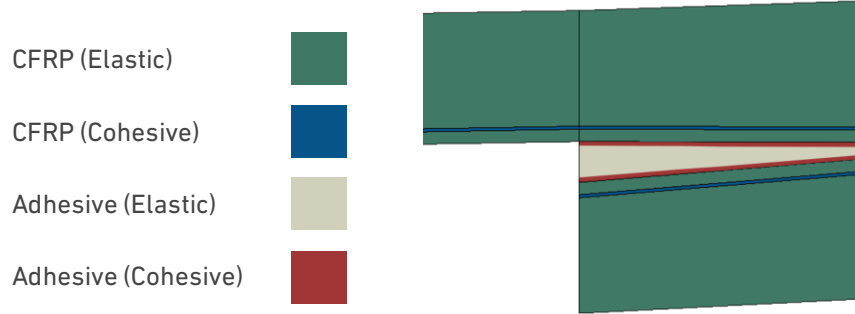
- 1 Introduction
- 2 Exp. Procedure
- 3 Num. Details**
- 4 Results
- 5 Conclusions

### Metal SLJ

### Composite SLJ

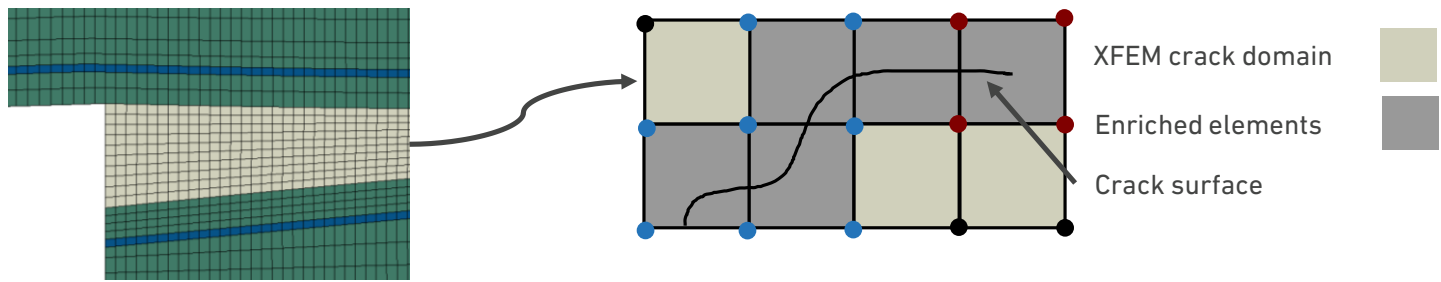
## 3.2. Composite SLJ

### CZM and XFEM models



- 2D static analysis in ABAQUS® software
- **CPE4 elements** (Plane Strain) for the elastic sections
- **COH2D4 elements** (Cohesive) for the cohesive section

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Exp. Procedure
- 3 Num. Details**
  - Metal SLJ
  - Composite SLJ**
- 4 Results
- 5 Conclusions



# 4.

## Results

- 4.1. Metal SLJ
- 4.2. Composite SLJ

## 4.1. Metal SLJ

### Stress distributions

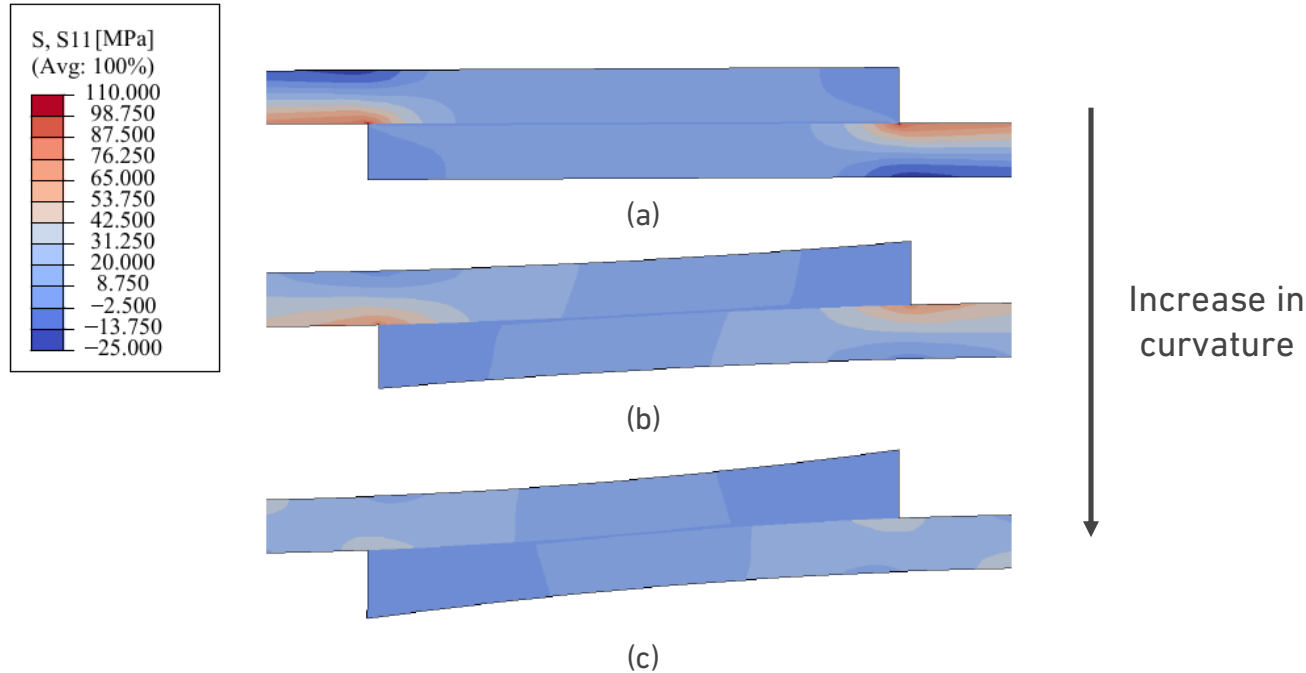


Fig.8 – Longitudinal stresses in MPa along the overlap length for the elastic models.  
(a) Reference. (b) Model 3. (c) Model 5.

## 4.1. Metal SLJ

### Peel stress distributions

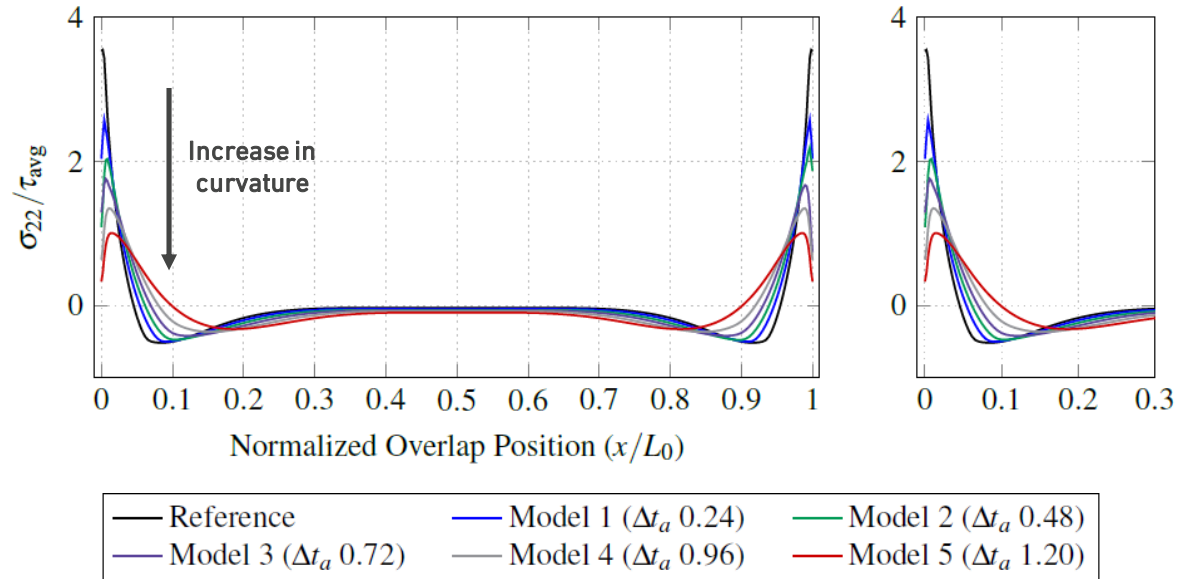
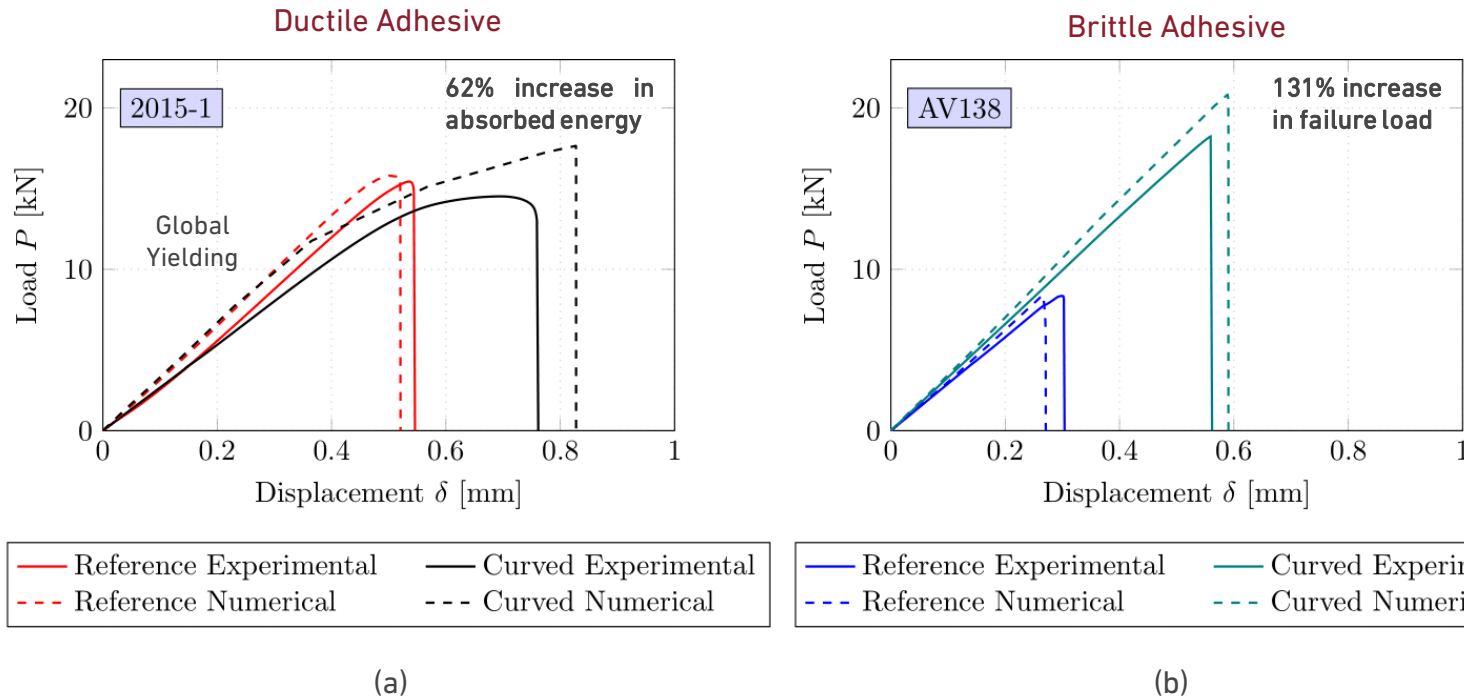


Fig.9 – Normalized peel stress distributions at the adhesive layer mid-thickness along the overlap.



## 4.1. Metal SLJ

### Joint performance

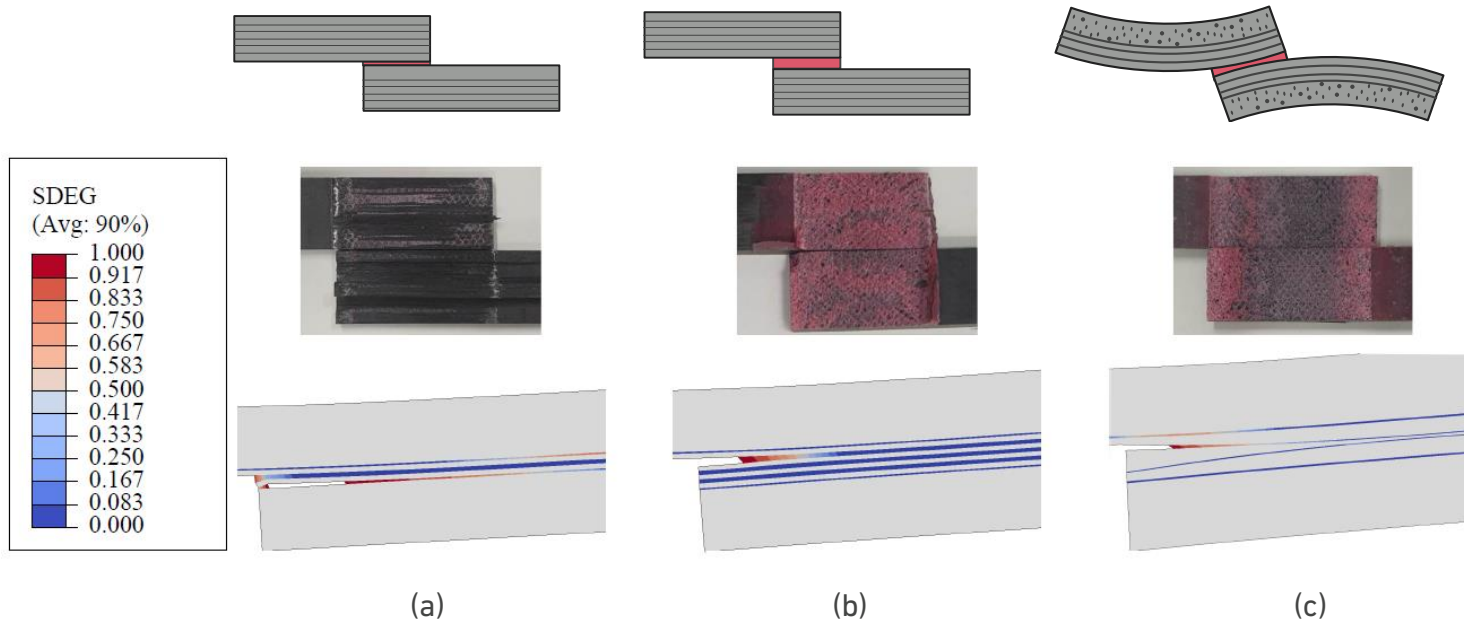


- 1 Introduction
- 2 Exp. Procedure
- 3 Num. Details
- 4 Results**
- Metal SLJ
- Composite SLJ
- 5 Conclusions

**Fig.10** –  $P - \delta$  curves obtained experimentally and numerical for both adhesives. The curved configuration corresponds to the geometry with the highest curvature. (a) 2015-1 (b) AV138.

## 4.2. Composite SLJ

### Failure mode



**Fig.11** – Experimental and numerical failure mode for the studied SLJ.  
(a) Reference 0.2. (b) Reference 1.0mm. (c) Curved.

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Exp. Procedure
- 3 Num. Details
- 4 Results**
  - Metal SLJ
  - Composite SLJ**
- 5 Conclusions

## 4.2. Composite SLJ

### Joint performance in quasi-static

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Exp. Procedure
- 3 Num. Details
- 4 Results**
- 5 Conclusions

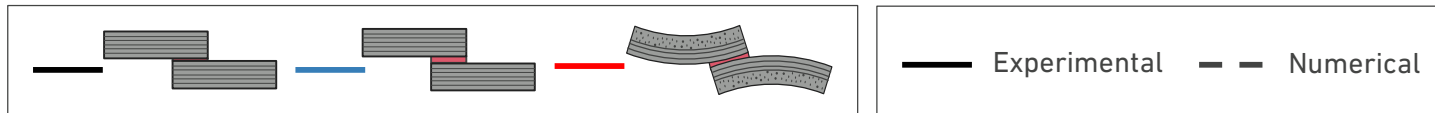
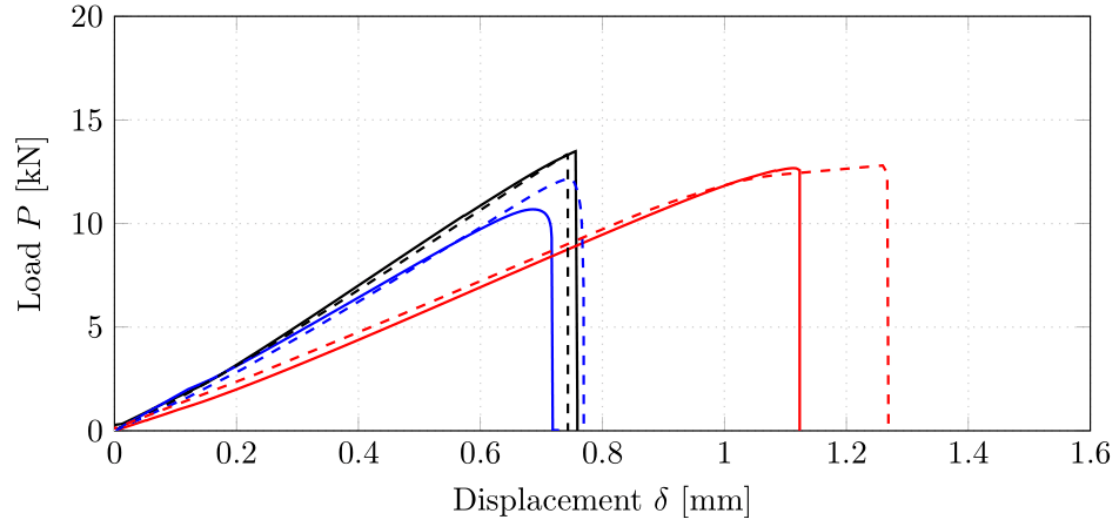
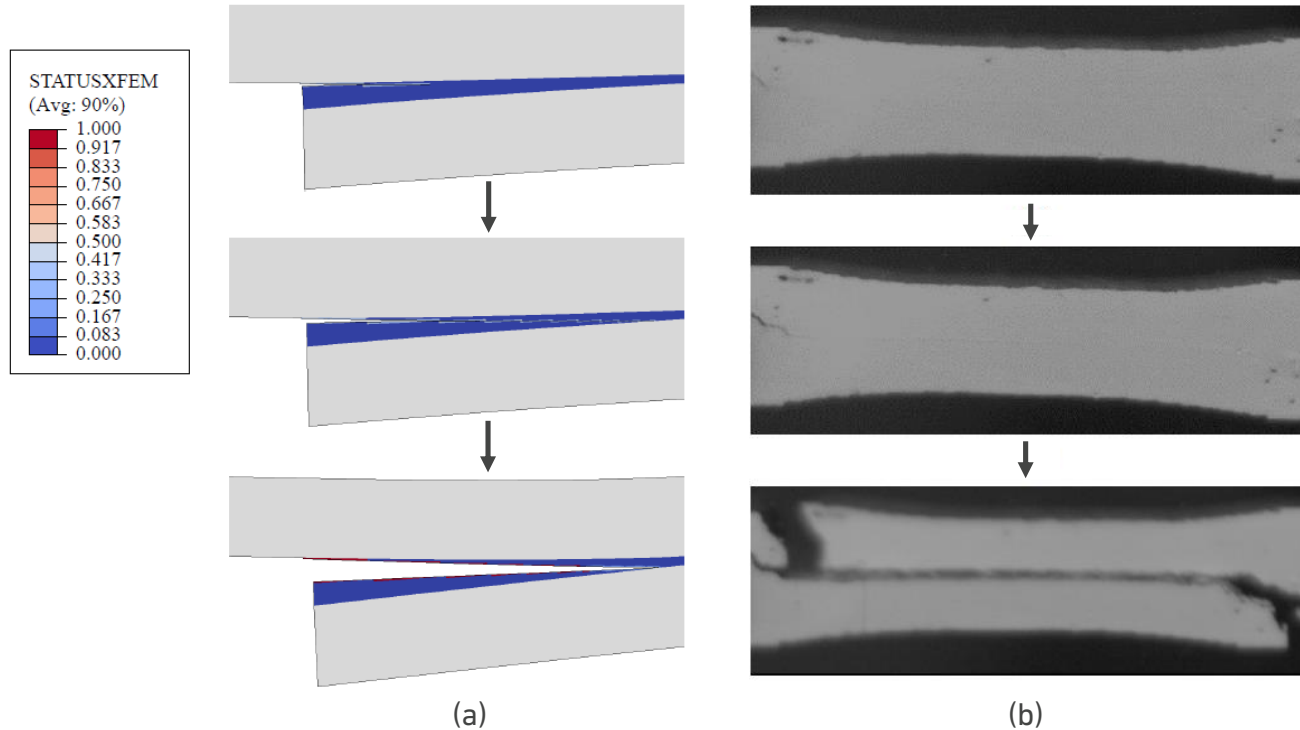


Fig.12 –  $P - \delta$  curves obtained experimentally and numerical for all configurations.

## 4.2. Composite SLJ Crack propagation

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Exp. Procedure
- 3 Num. Details
- 4 Results**
- Metal SLJ
- Composite SLJ**
- 5 Conclusions



**Fig.13** – Crack propagation. (a) Numerical crack prediction. (b) Experimental crack propagation.

## 4.2. Composite SLJ

### Crack propagation

---

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Exp. Procedure
- 3 Num. Details
- 4 Results**
- | Metal SLJ
- | **Composite SLJ**
- 5 Conclusions

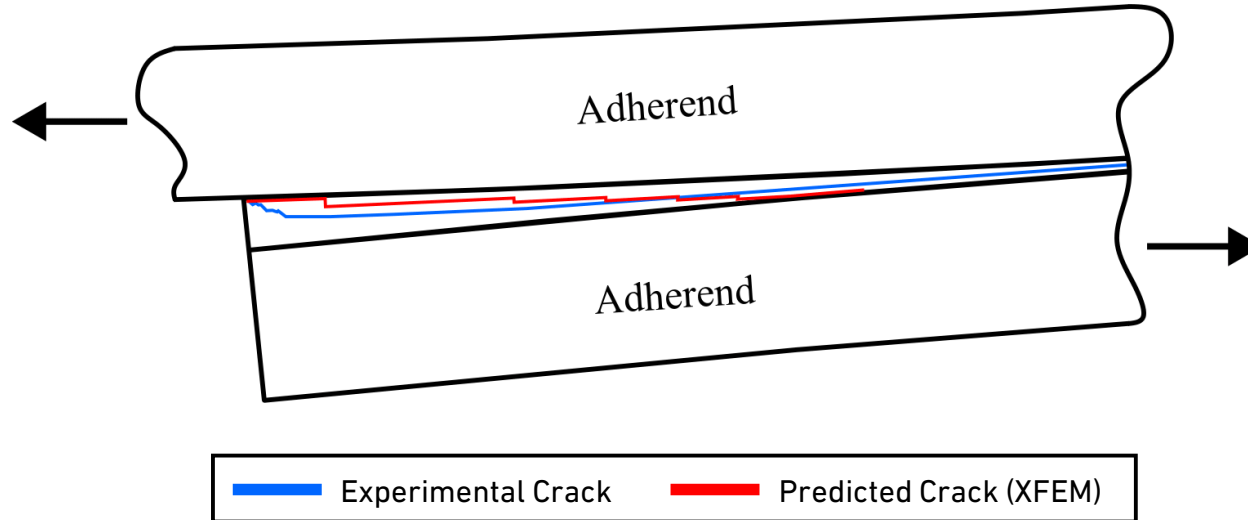


Fig.14 – Comparison between the numerical and experimental cracks.

# 5.

---

## Conclusions

- 5.1. Conclusions
- 5.2. Scientific output

## 5.1. Conclusions

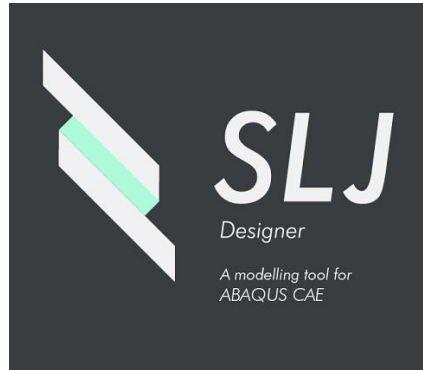
- This study showed that the use of the curved geometry significantly **decrease** the **peak stresses** in the overlap edges.
- Curved metal SLJs showed **increased energy absorption** with a ductile adhesive and significantly **improved failure load** when using with a brittle adhesive.
- The decrease of peak stresses, namely peel stresses on the overlap edges **prevented delamination**, allowing for a **cohesive** failure modes and improve performance on the composite SLJs in static and higher strain rates scenarios.
- The study demonstrated the promising characteristics of curved substrate SLJs for both metal and composite applications, offering superior failure modes and performance. Further optimization and modifications of the curved configuration are suggested for enhanced performance.

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Exp. Procedure
- 3 Num. Details
- 4 Results
- 5 Conclusions**

**Conclusions**  
Scientific output

## 5.2. Scientific output

### SLJ Designer for ABAQUS CAE



- Generation of SLJ within a costume GUI in ABAQUS CAE;
- Includes linear Elastic, Elasto-Plastic, and CZM models;
- Used by students from the Master's in Mechanical Engineering from FEUP.

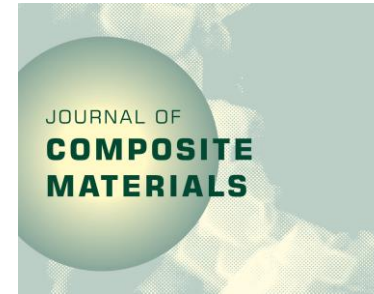


Paper I (Submitted)

**Curved Single Lap Joint Design: A Novel Approach to Mitigate Stress Concentrations in Adhesive Joints**

V.D.C.Pires, F.C.C.Ribeiro,  
R.C.J.Carbas, E.A.S.Marques,  
L.F.M. da Silva

JCM – Sage Journals



Paper II (Submitted)

**Curved Single Lap Joints: An Innovative Approach to Prevent Delamination in CFRP SLJ**

V.D.C.Pires, R.C.J.Carbas,  
E.A.S.Marques, L.F.M. da  
Silva

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Exp. Procedure
- 3 Num. Details
- 4 Results

### 5 Conclusions

Conclusions

**Scientific output**



## 5.2. Scientific output - Conferences



- Enhancing Joint Performance with Residual Stresses: An Optimization Study on Adhesively Bonded Joints using Dissimilar Joints

V.D.C.Pires, R.C.J.Carbas, E.A.S.Marques, L.F.M. da Silva

Total of 3 presentations and 4 posters in conferences

- △ Presentation
- Poster



- △ Influence of strain-rate in single-lap joints bonding different adherends with thermal residual stresses
- Influence of bent adherends in single-lap joint performance
- Optimization of dissimilar single-lap joints bonding multimaterial adherends in quasi-static conditions with thermal residual stresses

V.D.C.Pires, R.C.J.Carbas, E.A.S.Marques, L.F.M. da Silva

### IAMaC2023

2<sup>nd</sup> Ibero-American Conference on Composite Materials  
20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>th</sup> of July, 2023

- △ The study of residual thermal stresses on the performance of hybrid composite single lap joint

V.D.C.Pires, R.C.J.Carbas, E.A.S.Marques, L.F.M. da Silva



- △ The influence of bent adherends on adhesively joints strength performance

R.C.J.Carbas, V.D.C.Pires, E.A.S.Marques, L.F.M. da Silva



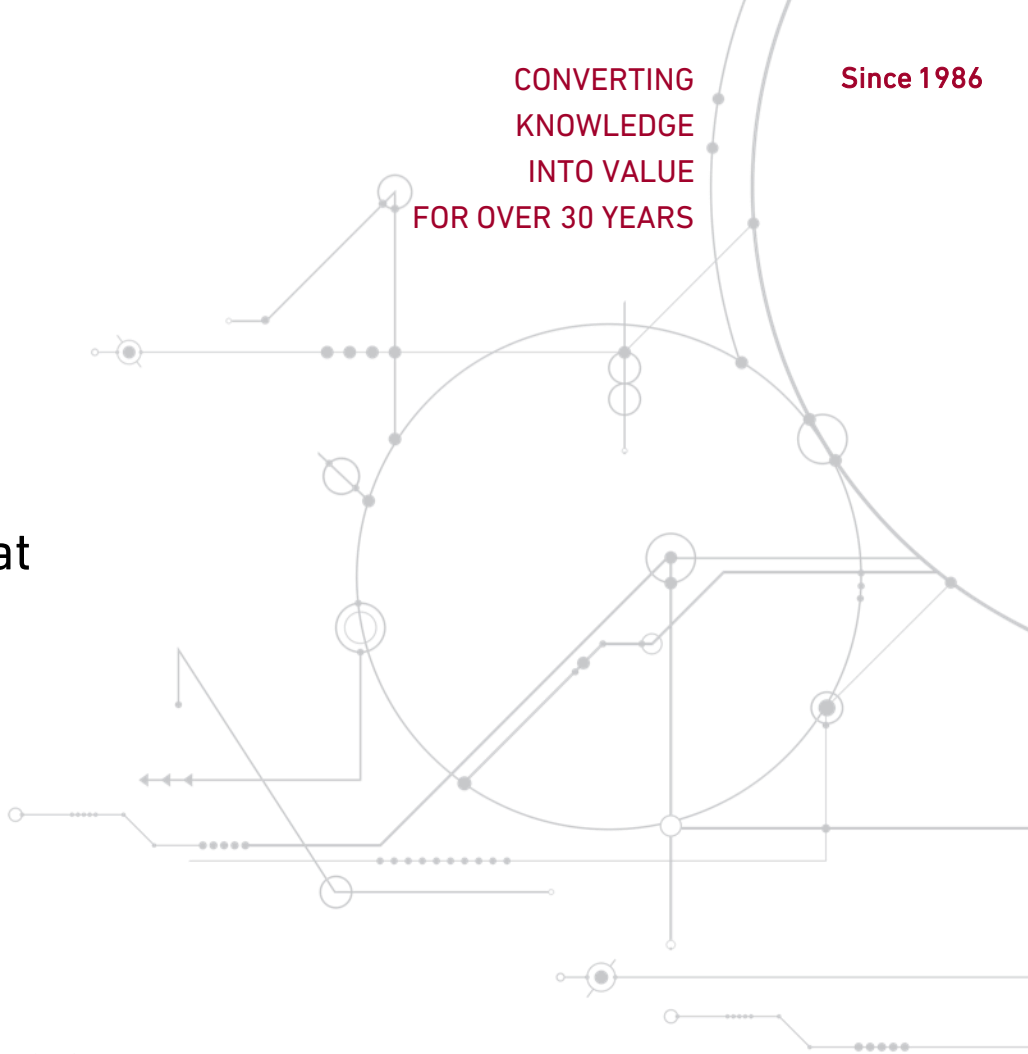
- 1 Introduction
  - 2 Exp. Procedure
  - 3 Num. Details
  - 4 Results
- 5 **Conclusions**
- Conclusions  
Scientific output

Vasco D.C Pires

vasco.castro-pires@unileoben.ac.at

INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND INNOVATION IN MECHANICAL  
AND INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING

[www.inegi.up.pt](http://www.inegi.up.pt)



# 6.

## Backup Slides SLJ Designer app

# SLJ Designer application ABAQUS python productivity

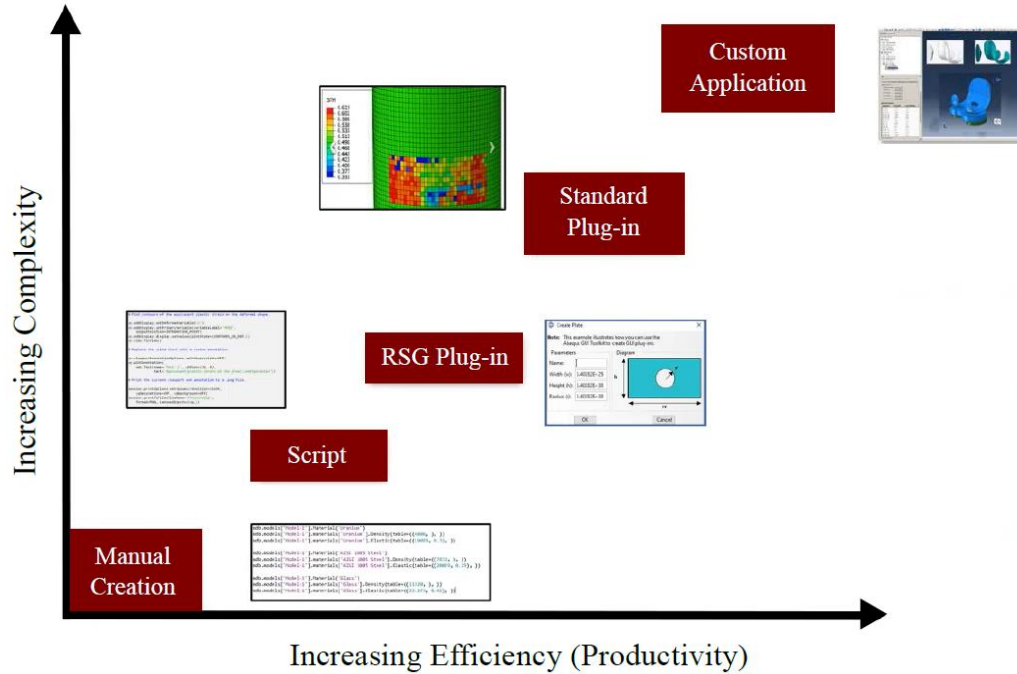


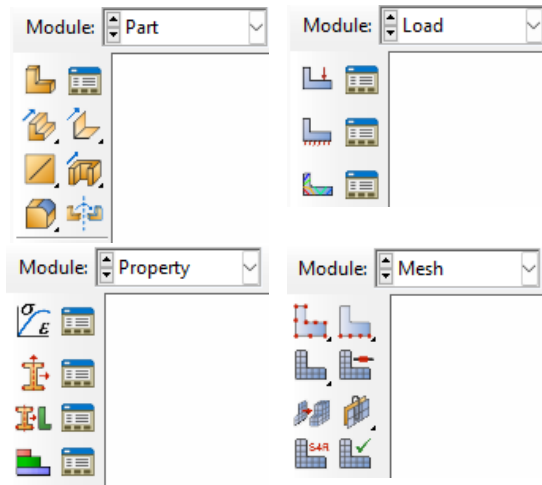
Fig.15 – Automation approaches in ABAQUS ranked by complexity and productivity of the user using Python scripting [Chakraborty, 2021].

# SLJ Designer application

## Features



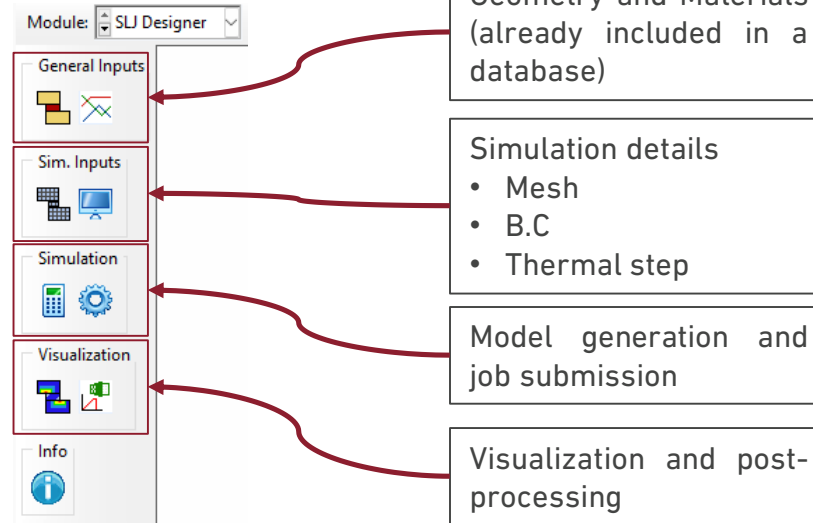
### ABAQUS CAE classical GUI



Average time to build a SLJ model:

- Beginner: 1h +
- Advanced: 5-20 mins

### SLJ Designer



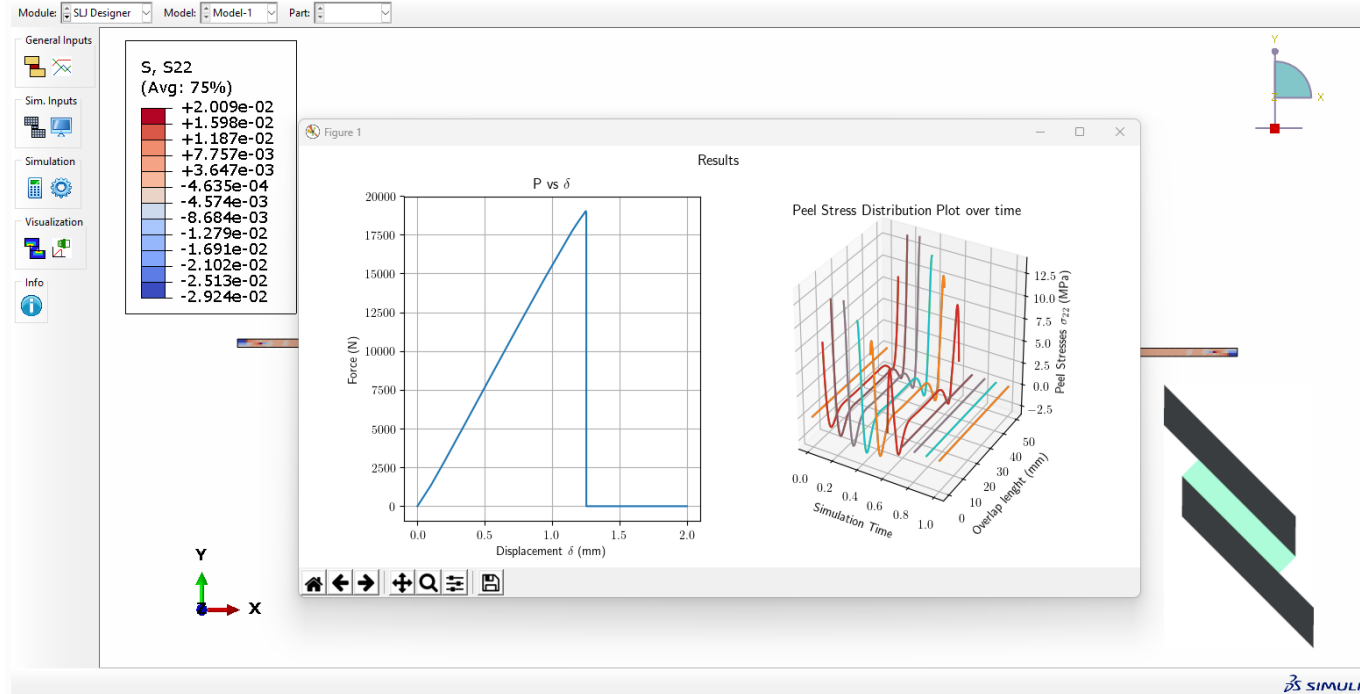
Average time to build a SLJ model:

- 1-5 mins (+ 91.6% productivity)

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Exp. Procedure
- 3 **Num. Details**
  - SLJ Designer app**
  - Metal SLJ
  - Composite SLJ
  - Mesh and B.C
- 4 Results
- 5 Conclusions

# SLJ Designer application

## Results output

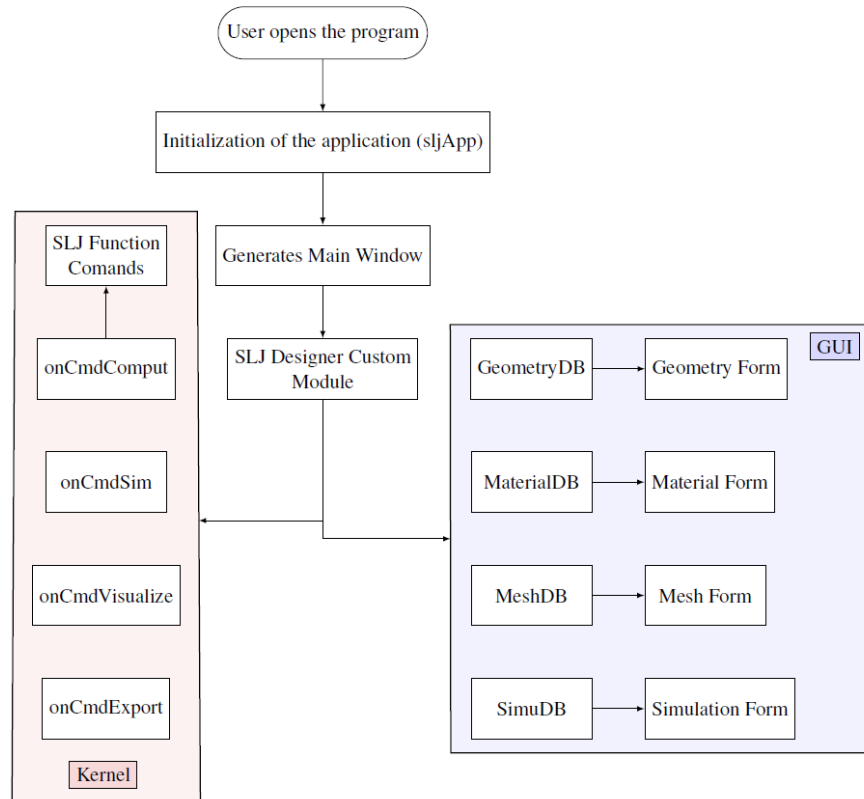


- 1 Introduction
- 2 Exp. Procedure
- 3 **Num. Details**
- SLJ Designer app**
- Metal SLJ
- Composite SLJ
- Mesh and B.C
- 4 Results
- 5 Conclusions

Fig.16 – Post-processing features of SLJ Designer.

# SLJ Designer application

## Application flowchart



**Fig.17** – Automation approaches in ABAQUS ranked by complexity and productivity of the user using Python scripting [Chakraborty, 2021].

# SLJ Designer application Forms GUI



**SLJ**  
Designer

## Geometry

**Generate Geometry**

**Properties**

Model Name:

Length (L):

Overlap:

Substrate Thickness (t<sub>sub</sub>):

Min Adhesive Thickness (t<sub>ad</sub>):

Width:

Height:

**Geometry Type**

Reference SLJ

Bent SLJ

Note: Height will be neglected if Reference SLJ is selected.

**Diagram**

## Material Selection

**Select Material**

**Material Selection**

Substrate 1:

Substrate 2:

Adhesive:

**Material Behaviour**

Substrate 1:

Substrate 2:

Adhesive:

**Notes**

In the case of curved SLJ, if cohesive zone modelling is used, high curved substrates with high adhesive thickness near the overlaps may not yield the expected results.

In the case of materials where the failure mechanism is delamination, such as CFRP or wood, it may be necessary to add cohesive elements to the substrates.

**Diagram**

## Mesh

**Select Mesh**

**Mesh Size**

Min Size:  Max Size:

**Advanced Options**

Substrate 1 Element Type

CPE4R

Substrate 2 Element Type

CPE4R

**Notes**

- The assigned mesh controls are quadrilateral elements with a structure technique (sweep in the case of CZM elements).

If the adhesive behaviour includes CZM, then the assigned element is automatically cohesive, in particular the element used is COH2D4.

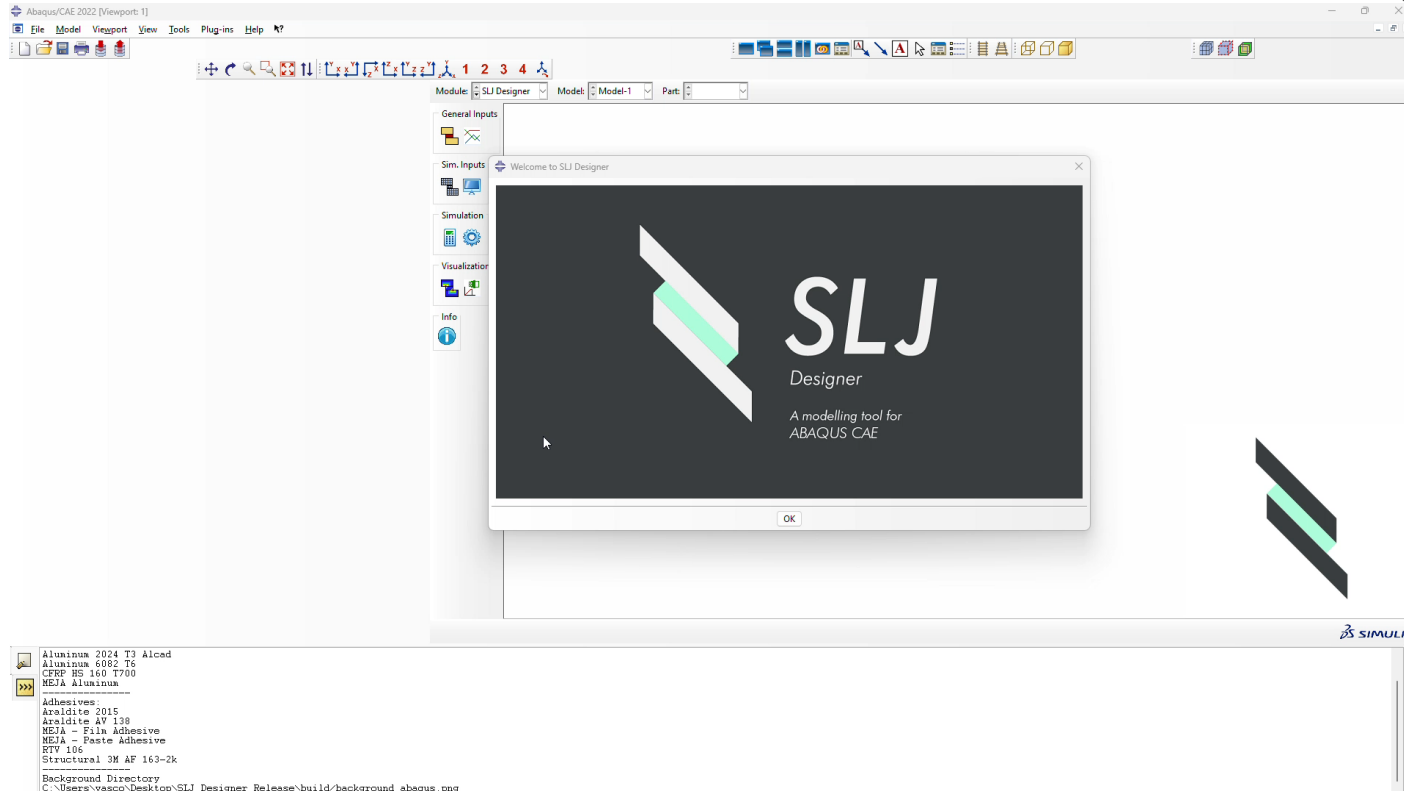
**Diagram**

Fig.18 – Some of the forms used in the SLJ application.



# SLJ Designer application

## Demo Part 1 – Model Generation



# SLJ Designer application

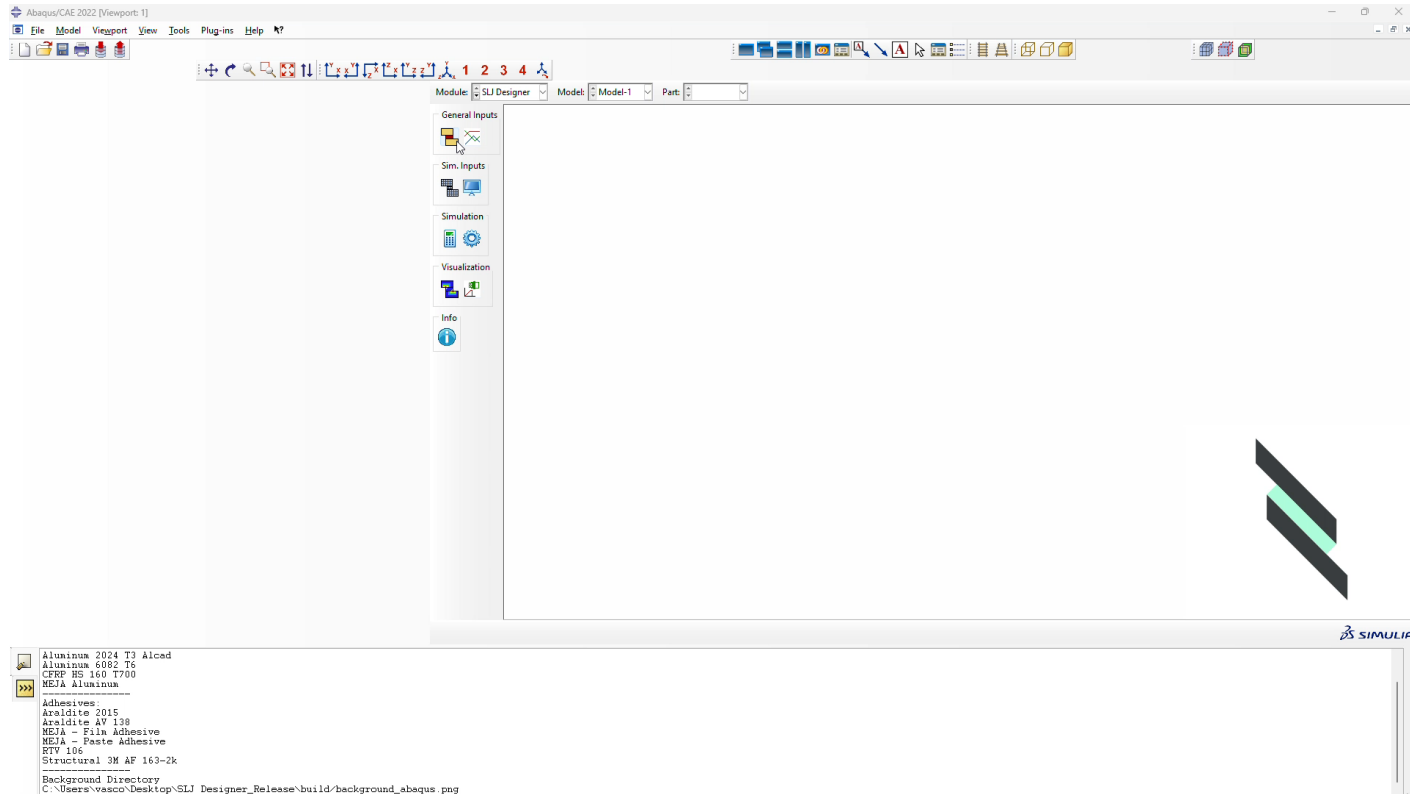
## Demo Part 2 – Post Processing



```
Length of edge = 50
Length of edge = 0.2
Length of edge = 0.2
Length of edge = 5
Length of edge = 50
9530 elements have been generated on part: SLJ
-----
Model was successfully generated
Substrate 1 Material: Aluminum 6082 T6
Substrate 2 Material: Aluminum 6082 T6
Adhesive: Araldite 2015
C:\Users\vascco\Desktop\SLJ Designer_Release\build\Job-AI_A1 odb
Job Job-AI_A1: Analysis Input File Processor completed successfully.
Job Job-AI_A1: Abaqus/Standard completed successfully.
Job Job-AI_A1 completed successfully.
```

# SLJ Designer application

## Demo Part 3 – Curved SLJ



# 7.

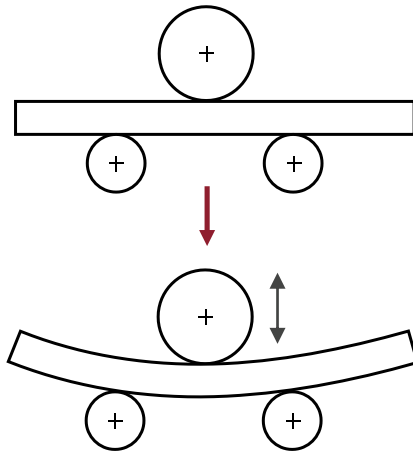
## Backup Slides

### Experimental details

# SLJ manufacturing

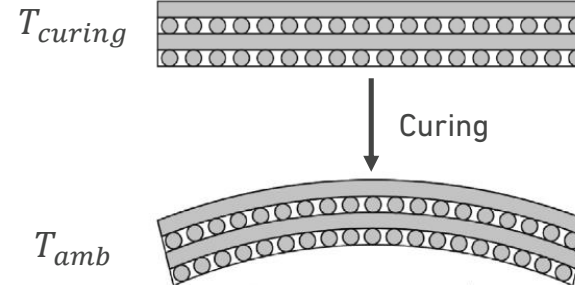
## Metal SLJ

Adherend curvature was obtained through mechanical **bending** and **plastic deformation**.



## Composite SLJ

Adherend curvature was obtained through **curing** of **asymmetric** composite layup.



1 Introduction

2 **Exp. Procedure**

Materials

**SLJ manufacturing**

SLJ testing

3 Num. Details

4 Results

5 Conclusions

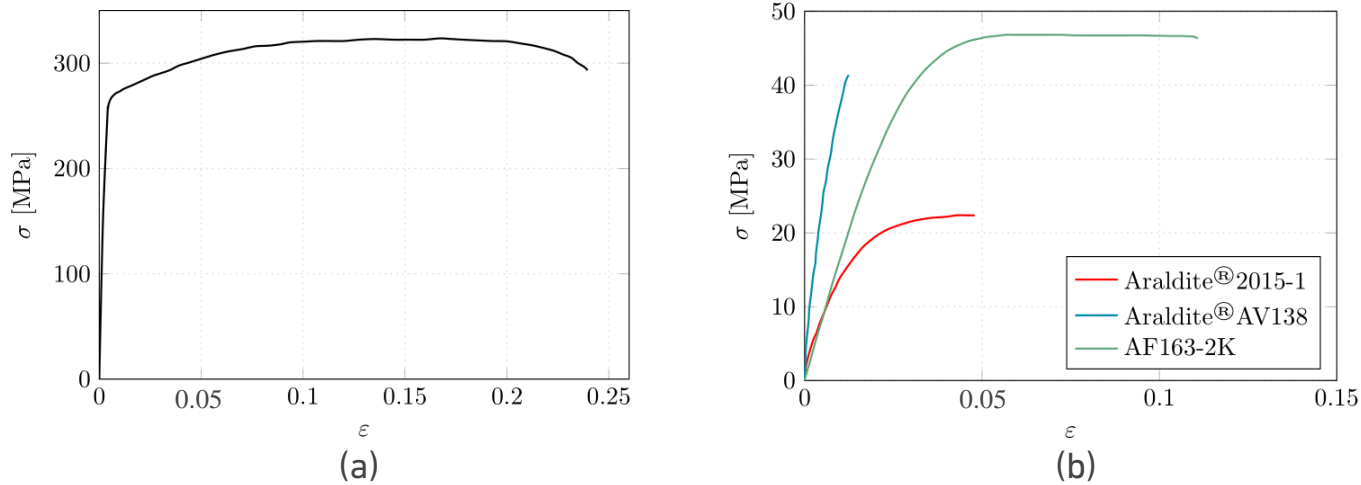


Figure 19 – Stress-strain curves. (a) Aluminum. (b) Araldite® AV138, Araldite® 2015 and AF163-2K.

Material	$E$ [GPa]	$\sigma_y$ [MPa]	$\nu$ [-]	$\alpha$ [ $\mu\text{m}/\text{mK}^{-1}$ ]
AW6082 T6	67	260	0.3	23.6

Material	$E_{11}$ [GPa]	$E_{22}$ [GPa]	$G_{12}$ [GPa]	$\nu_{12}$ [-]	$\alpha_{11}$ [ $\mu\text{m}/\text{mK}^{-1}$ ]	$\alpha_{22}$ [ $\mu\text{m}/\text{mK}^{-1}$ ]
CFRP	109	8819	4.315	0.342	-0.1	26

1 Introduction

2 Exp. Procedure

Materials

SLJ manufacturing

SLJ testing

3 Num. Details

4 Results

5 Conclusions

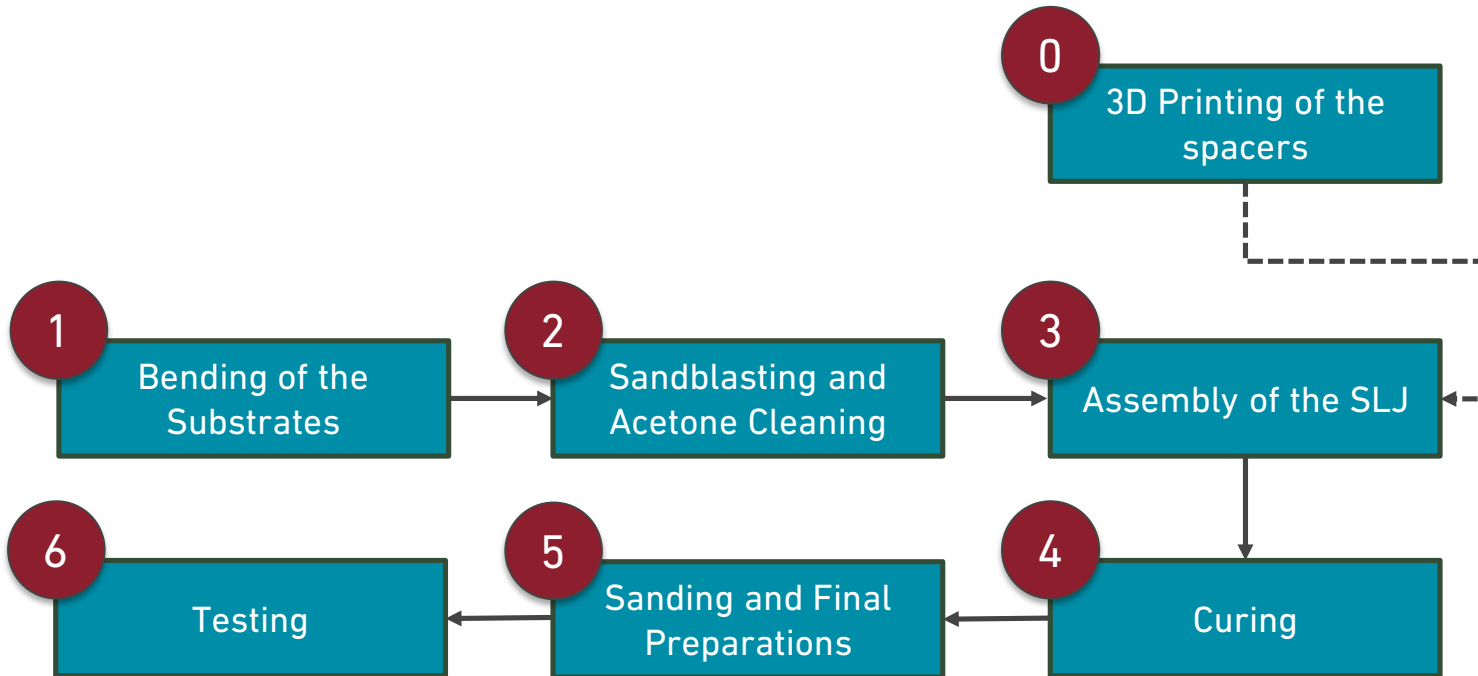
## Adhesive material properties

**Table 2** – Properties of the adhesives AV138, 2015-1 and AF 163-2 K.

Property	AV138	2015-1	AF163-2K
Young's modulus, $E$ [MPa]	4890	1850	1520
Poisson's ratio, $\nu$ [-]	0.35	0.33	0.34
Shear modulus, $G$ [MPa]	1560	560	565
Tensile failure strength, $t_n^0$ [MPa]	39.5	21.6	46.9
Shear failure strength, $t_s^0$ [MPa]	30.2	17.9	46.9
Toughness in tension, $G_{IC}$ [MPa]	0.20	0.43	4.05
Toughness in shear, $G_{IIC}$ [MPa]	0.38	4.70	9.77
CTE, $\alpha$ [ $\mu\text{m}/\text{mK}^{-1}$ ]	67	120	90

# Metal SLJ manufacturing

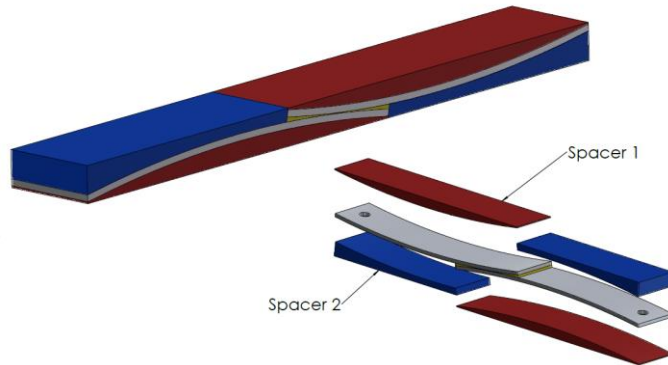
## Manufacturing process flowchart



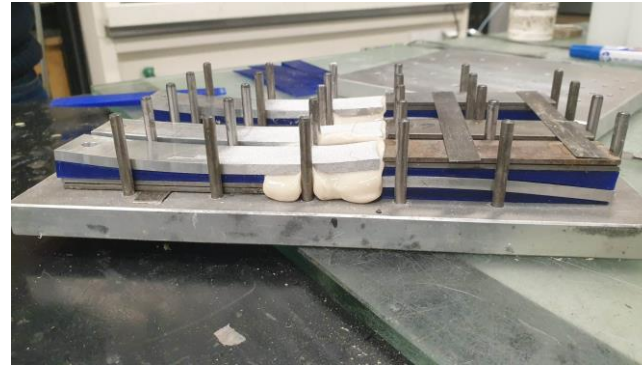


# Metal SLJ manufacturing

## Manufacturing details



(a)



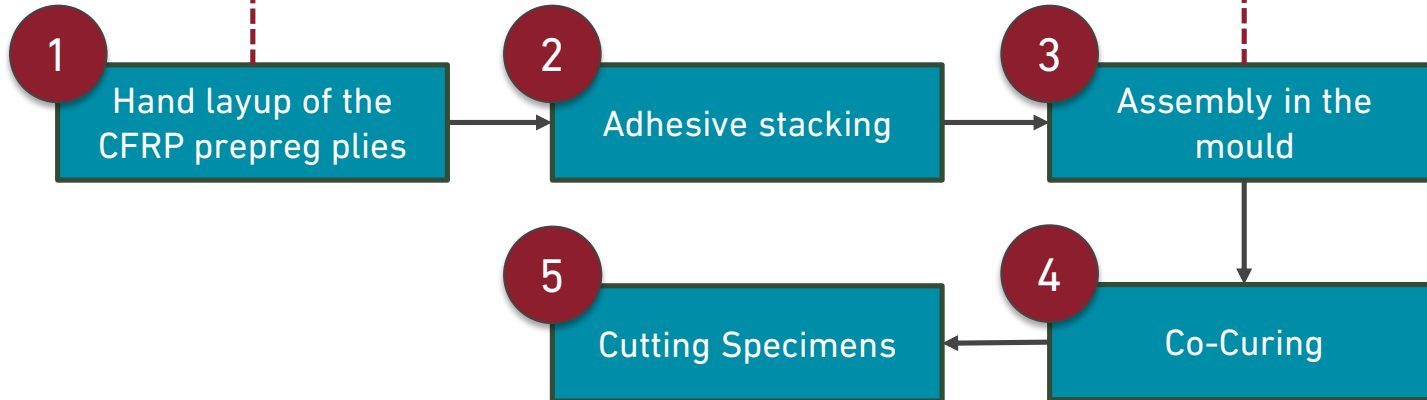
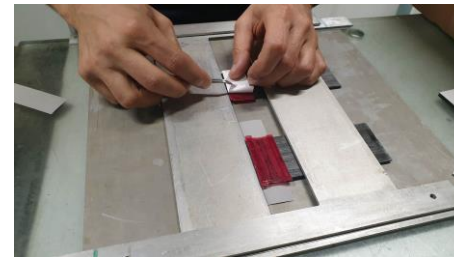
(b)

Figure 20 – (a) CAD of the SLJ. (b) Final assembly of the SLJs before curing.

Name	Type	Curing Conditions
2015-1	Ductile	8h @ $T_{Room}$
AV138	Brittle	24h @ $T_{Room}$

# CFRP SLJ manufacturing

## Manufacturing process flowchart



# CFRP SLJ manufacturing

## Co-curing mechanism (1 step)

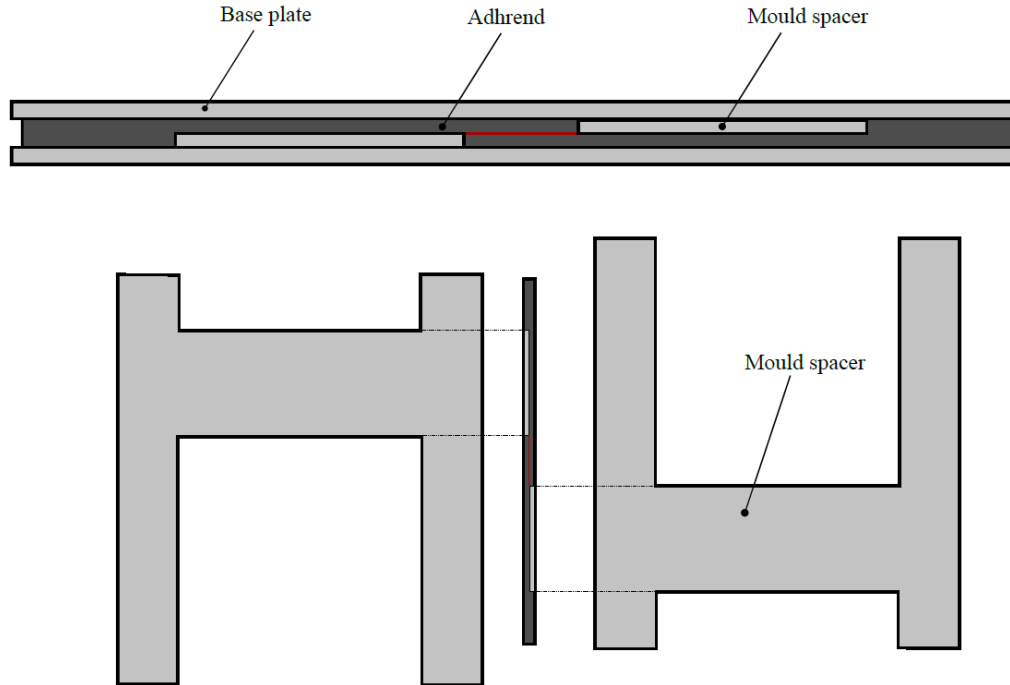


Fig.21 – Manufacturing mould scheme for co-curing.

# CFRP SLJ manufacturing

## Co-curing mechanism (1 step)

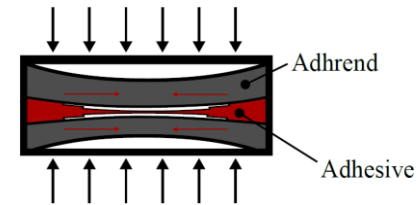
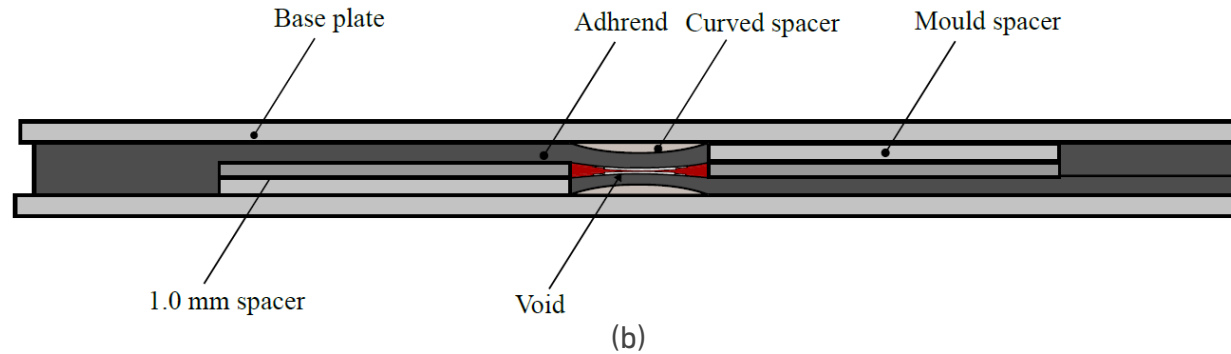
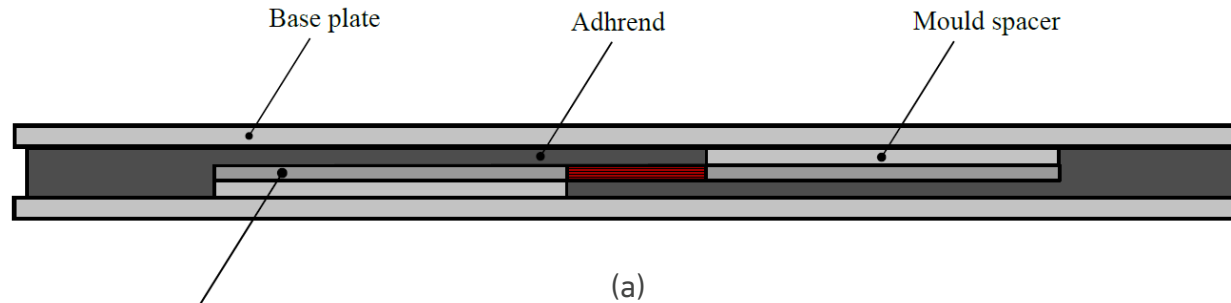


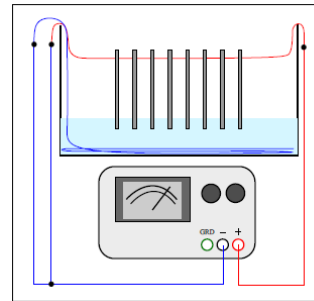
Fig.22 – Manufacturing mould scheme for co-curing of the (a) reference 1.0mm and (b) curved SLJs.

# Surface treatments performed

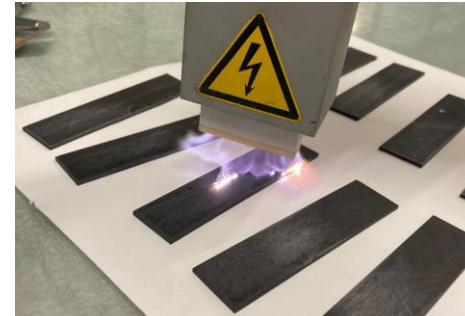
## Sandblasting



## Phosphoric acid anodization (PAA)



## Atmospheric plasma treatment (APT)



# Warpage measurement of composite plates

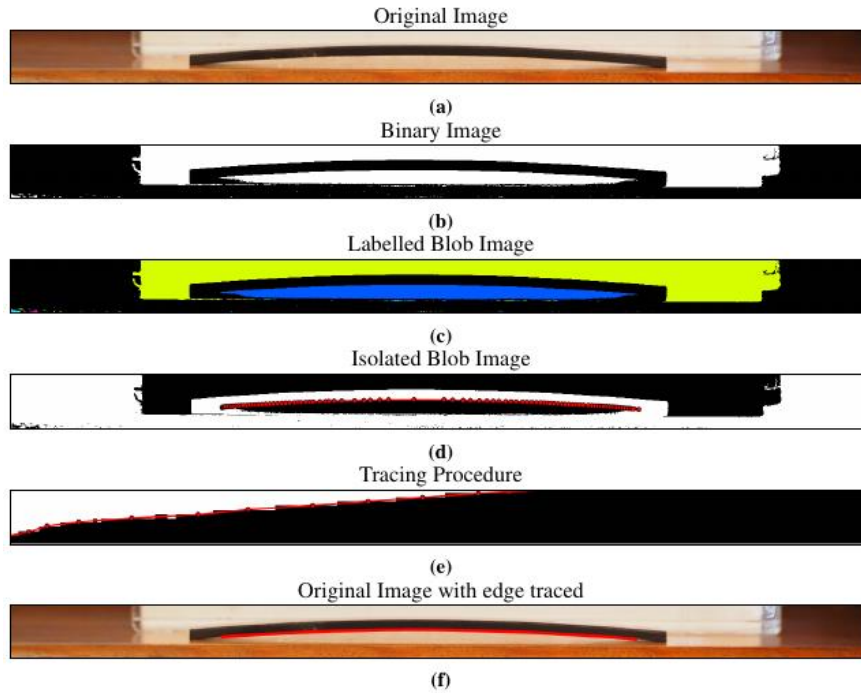


Fig.23 – (a) Original image. (b)-(d) Image processing procedure. (f) Final result where the edge is correctly traced.

# 8.

## Backup Slides

Numerical details and results

# Mesh and boundary conditions

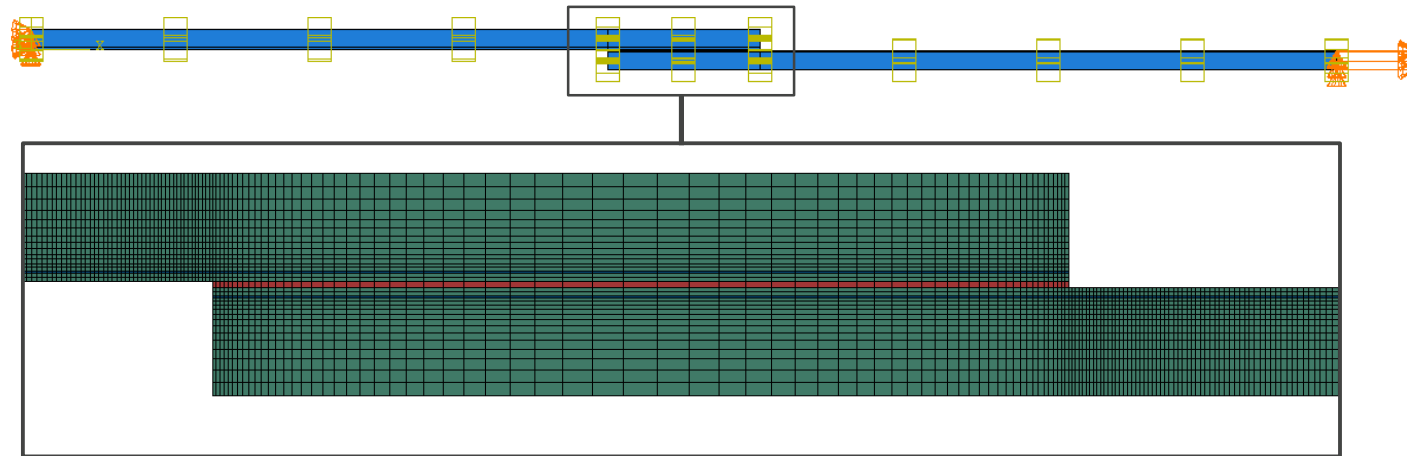


Fig.12 – Boundary conditions and mesh used for the SLJs numerical models.

- **ABAQUS Standard** is used for the quasi-static analysis
- **ABAQUS Explicit** used for the intermediate and impact analysis

### Thermal step

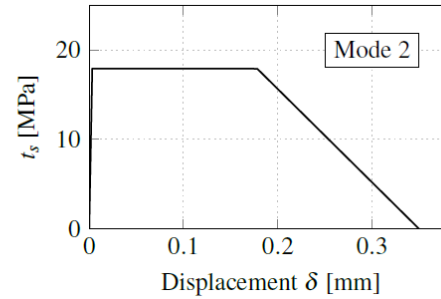
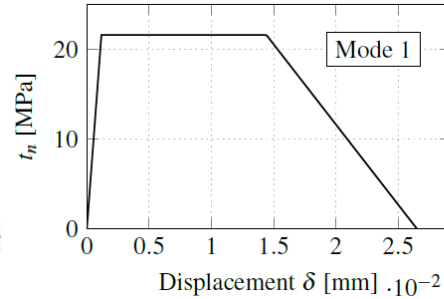
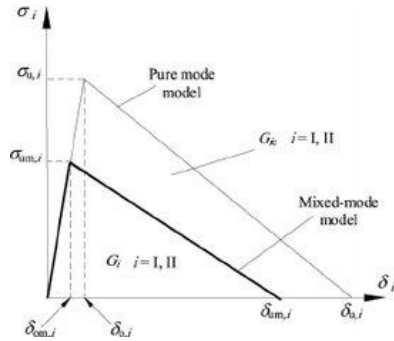
- Initial  $T$  [°C]: 110
- Final  $T$  [°C]: 0

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Exp. Procedure
- 3 **Num. Details**
  - Metal SLJ
  - Composite SLJ
  - Mesh and B.C**
- 4 Results
- 5 Conclusions



# Parameters and methods used for the numerical simulations

## CZM models



Trapezoidal CZM laws used in the modelling of Araldite®2015-1 for Mode 1 and Mode 2.

Damage initiation: QUADS

$$\left\{ \frac{\langle t_n \rangle}{t_n^0} \right\}^2 + \left\{ \frac{t_s}{t_s^0} \right\}^2 = 1$$

Mixed mode behaviour: Power law ( $\beta = 1$ )

$$\left\{ \frac{G_n}{G_n^c} \right\}^\beta + \left\{ \frac{G_{s1}}{G_s^c} \right\}^\beta = 1$$

## Parameters and methods used for the numerical simulations

### Influence of the damage initiation criteria in crack propagation

Stress-based criteria are more **sensible to stress concentrations** [Campilho, et al., 2011], underpredicting the failure load. Hence, strain based criteria are the most suitable ones.

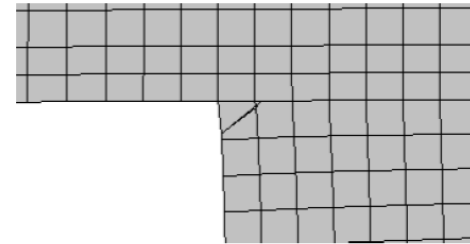
Damage initiation: QUADE

$$f = \left\{ \frac{\langle \varepsilon_n \rangle}{\varepsilon_n^0} \right\}^2 + \left\{ \frac{\varepsilon_s}{\varepsilon_s^0} \right\}^2$$

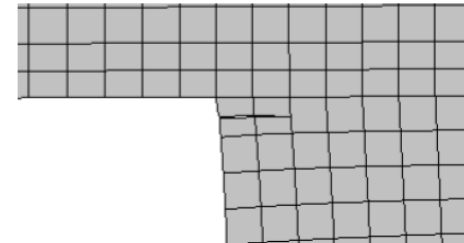
Mixed mode behaviour:  
Power law ( $\beta = 1$ )

$$\left\{ \frac{G_n}{G_n^c} \right\}^\beta + \left\{ \frac{G_{s1}}{G_s^c} \right\}^\beta = 1$$

QUAD (quadratic nominal strain)



MAXE (maximum nominal strain)



## Parameters and methods used for the numerical simulations

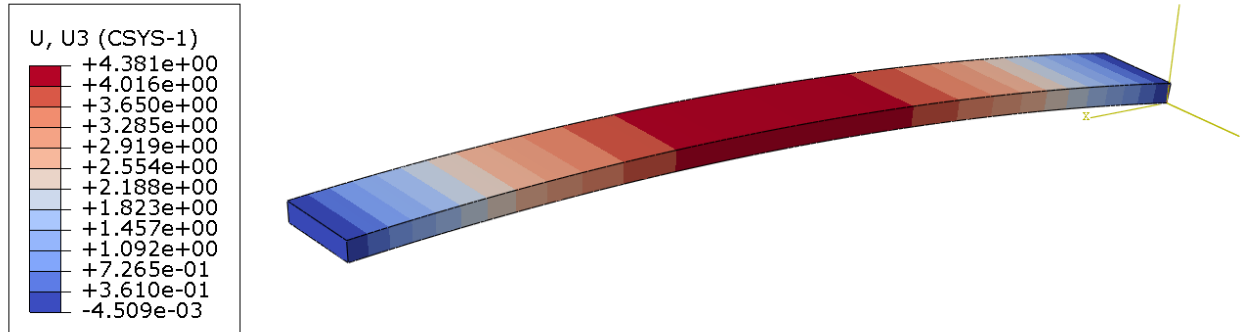


Fig.24 – Numerical simulation results of the composite warpage.

Table 3 – Numerical and experimental results of the observed maximum warpage of the asymmetric composite plates.

Layup	Numerical (mm)	Experimental (mm)	Error (%)
[0°/90°/0°/90°] [LIU et al., 2022]	11.35	11.06	2.6
This study (L5)	3.49	3.51	0.76

## Parameters and methods used for the numerical simulations

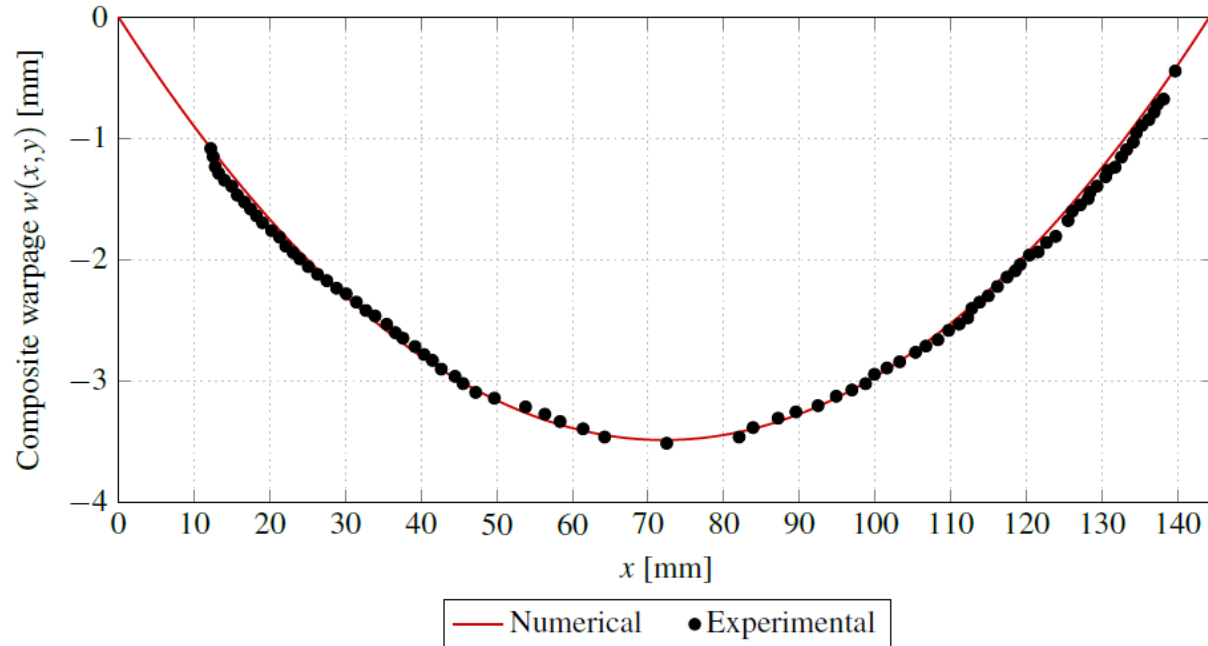


Fig.25 – Warpage of the composite adherend L5 due to thermal stresses.

# 9.

## Backup Slides

### Aeronautical application

# Aeronautical application of the curved SLJ

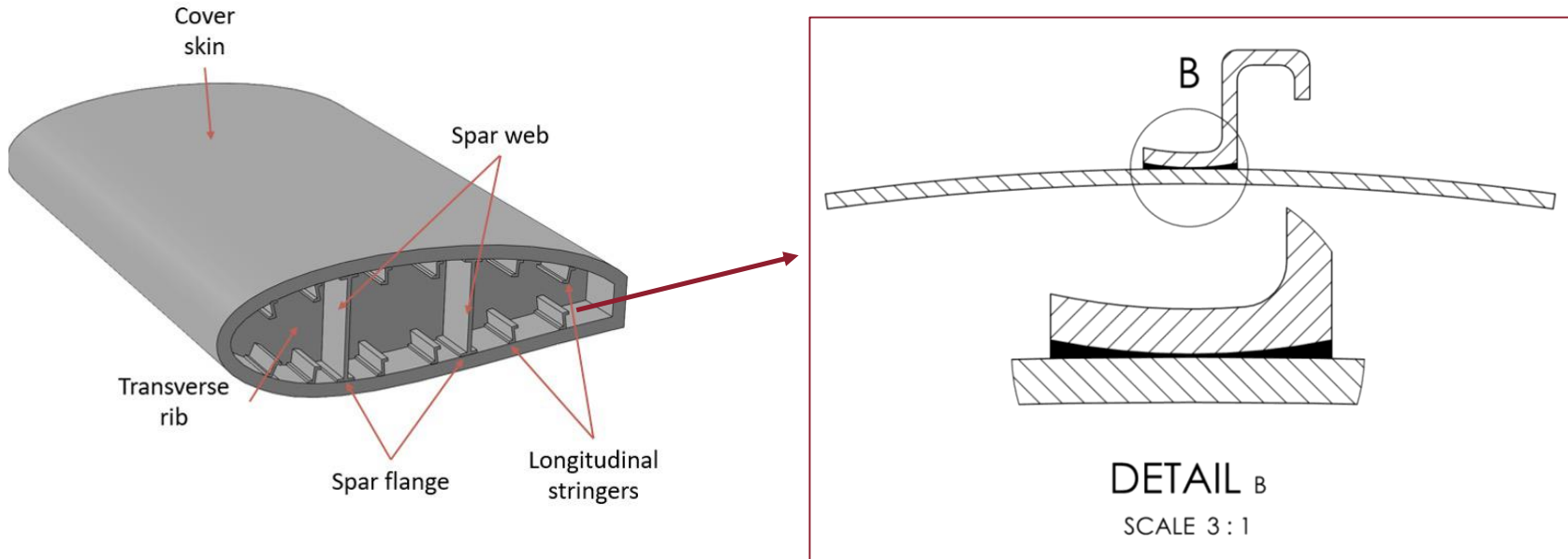


Fig.26 – Example of an aeronautical application of the curved SLJ.

# 10.

## Backup Slides

Other techniques that improve joint strength in composite joints

# Techniques that improve joint strength in composite joints

## Surface toughening techniques

---

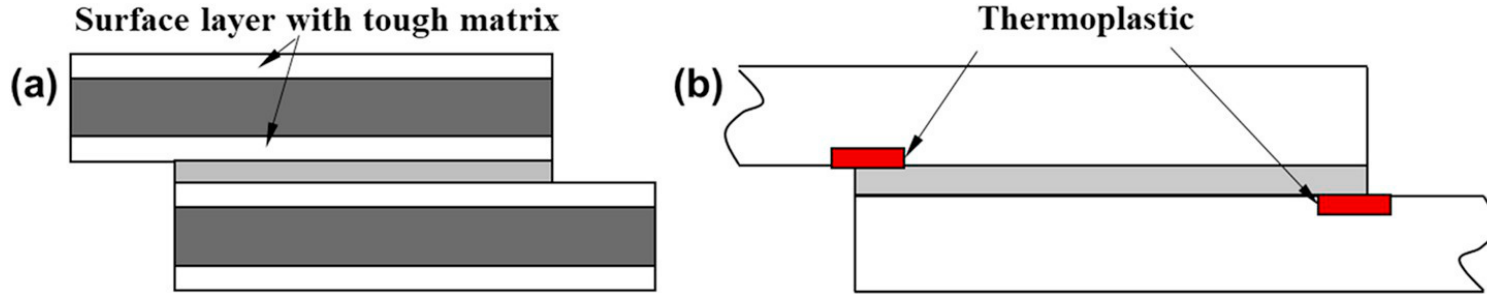


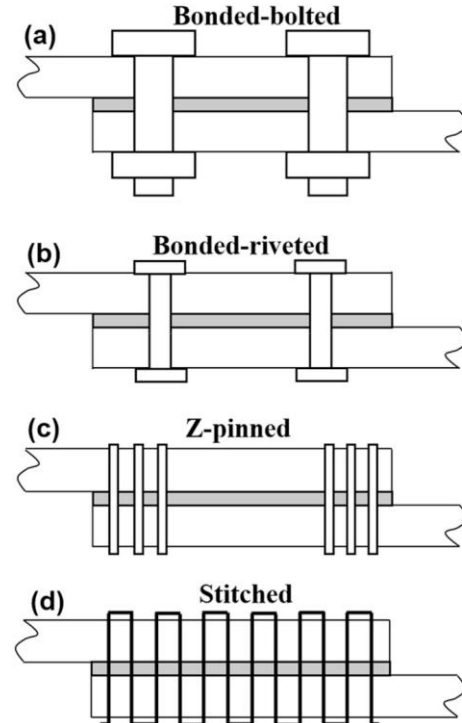
Fig.27 – Schematic of surface toughening techniques [Shang, et al., 2019].



# Techniques that improve joint strength in composite joints

## Transverse connection

### Through adherend reinforcement



### Superficial reinforcement

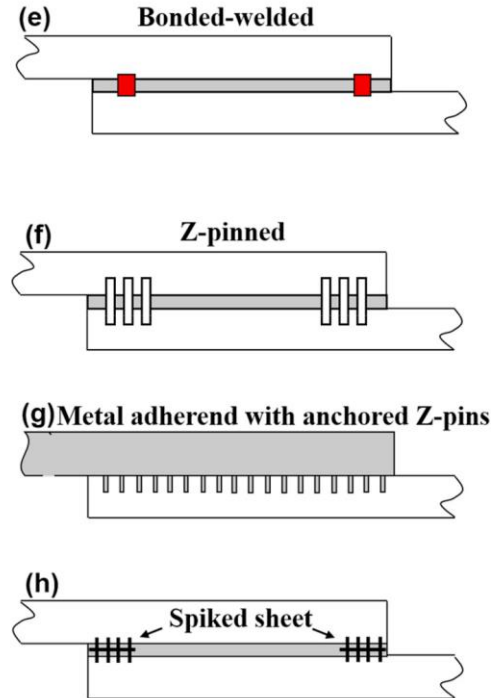


Fig.28 – Schematic representation of transverse connection of adherends [Shang, et al., 2019].