









FAA Sponsored Project Information



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RESEARCH APPROACH: THREE PHASE PROGRAM



- PHASE I: Identification and initial
 assessment of candidate test methodologies
- PHASE II: Selection and optimization of best
 suited Mode I and Mode II test methods
- PHASE III: Development of draft ASTM standards



INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF CANDIDATE TEST METHODOLOGIES



- Identify candidate Mode I and Mode II test methodologies
 - Literature review
 - Modifications from adhesive and composite laminate tests
 - Original concepts
- Assessment of candidate test configurations using finite element analysis
- Preliminary testing of promising configurations









SELECTED MODE I CONFIGURATION: PLATE-SUPPORTED SINGLE CANTILEVER BEAM (SCB)



- Elimination of bending of sandwich specimen
 - Minimal Mode II component (less than 5%)
 - No significant bending stresses in core
- No crack "kinking" observed







EVALUATION OF MODE II SANDWICH COMPOSITE TEST CONFIGURATIONS



- Three-point End Notch Flexure (3ENF)
- Mixed Mode Bending (MMB)
 - End Load Split (ELS)
 - Four-point delamination test
 - Cracked Sandwich Beam (CSB) with hinge
- Modified CSB with hinge
 - Facesheet delamination test
 - DCB with uneven bending moments
 - Three-point cantilever
 - Double sandwich test



CHALLENGES IN DEVELOPING A SUITABLE MODE II TEST



- Maintaining Mode II dominated crack growth with increasing crack lengths
- Obtaining crack opening during loading
- Obtaining stable crack growth along facesheet/core interface



Mixed Mode Bend (MMB) Configuration







DEVELOPMENT OF TEST FIXTURING: MODE I TESTING



Plate-Supported Single Cantilever Beam (SCB)





Ability to test 1 in. to 3 in. wide sandwich specimens Edge clamp restraints at base eliminates adhesive bonding Translating fixture base maintains vertical loading





DEVELOPMENT OF TEST FIXTURING: MODE II TESTING



Cracked Sandwich Beam (CSB)



Modified three-point flexure fixture Support top facesheet without need of core removal Elimination of bonded aluminum block







- Determination of Acceptable Ranges of Specimen Parameters
 - Facesheet parameters
 - Thickness, flexural stiffness, flexural strength
 - Core parameters
 - Thickness, density, stiffness, strength
 - Specimen and delamination geometry
- Use of three different core materials (12-14 mm thickness)
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Mode I dominant over range of facesheet thicknesses and crack lengths considered

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MODE I SENSITIVITY STUDY: CORE MATERIAL EFFECTS



Mode I dominant over range of cores considered Minimal variability among materials and crack lengths Test appears suitable for a wide range of common

core materials





MODE II SENSITIVITY STUDY: CORE MATERIAL EFFECTS





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CURRENT ACTIVITIES:

Further Development of Mode I and Mode II Test Methods



Evaluation of Improved Mode I and Mode II Test and Analysis Methodologies

Selection of Test and Analysis Methodologies for Standardization

Validation of Selected Mode I and Mode II Test and Analysis Methodologies

Preparation of Draft ASTM Standards





