

Problem 1: The Westergaard stress function for a center crack located at $(|x| < a, y = 0)$ loaded by equal and opposite point loads of magnitude P located at $(x = b, y = \pm 0)$ has the form

$$Z_I(z) = \frac{A + iB}{\sqrt{z^2 - a^2}(z - b)},$$

where A and B are real coefficients. Apply the following procedure to determine A and B .

First, determine the σ_{xx} , σ_{yy} , and σ_{xy} stress components from Z_I . Apply the appropriate crack face boundary conditions to determine one of the constants. Consider a semi-circular arc around the point force on the top crack face. Set $z = b + re^{i\theta}$. To make the calculation as simple as possible, we need only to consider the limit as $r \rightarrow 0$ (but conceptually r remains finite). In this limit, $z \rightarrow b$, $z - a \rightarrow b - a$, $z + a \rightarrow b + a$, and $z - b \rightarrow re^{i\theta}$. Finally, to determine the remaining constant, use the fact that the net force in the y -direction on this arc must be equal to $-P$, i.e.,

$$F_y = \int_0^\pi (\sigma_{xy} \cos \theta + \sigma_{yy} \sin \theta) r d\theta = -P.$$

What are the values of K_I on the right and left crack tips? Does this agree with our results from class?

Problem 2: Apply the results of the Mode I weight functions for a semi-infinite crack to determine K_I for a semi-infinite crack loaded by equal and opposite point loads of magnitude P located on the crack faces at a distance b behind the crack tip. Use the results from Problem 1, and make an intelligent guess at what the Westergaard stress function is for this problem. Do your K_I values from the weight function and Westergaard stress function methods agree?

Problem 3: Show that the Mode II weight functions for a semi-infinite crack.