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description of the problem. The kinematic variables are independent of the number of layers or imperfect interfaces and equal to four. The problem is solved in closed form on varying the interfacial stiffness between zero and infinite, which are the limiting values used to describe unbonded layers (traction-free interfacial sliding) and fully bonded layers (no sliding). The model accurately predicts global and local fields in highly anisotropic, simply supported, thick plates; some limitations are observed and discussed in the presence of in-plane material discontinuities and clamped supports. The model is applicable to study the elastic response of layered composites with adhesives interlayers or composite assemblies fastened by uniformly distributed mechanical connectors.

Keywords (separated by '-') Structural theory - Laminated plate - Homogenization - Interface mechanics - Interlayer

Footnote Information



A homogenized structural model for shear deformable composites with compliant interlayers

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Abstract

Cylindrical bending of multilayered plates with thin compliant interlayers is studied through a homogenized structural model. The layers are homogeneous and orthotropic with principal material axes parallel and normal to the plane of bending and the interlayers are represented as sliding interfaces controlled by interfacial tractions which depend linearly on the relative displacements of the adjacent layers. The formulation is based on the zigzag theory formulated in Tessler et al. (J Compos Mater 43:1051–1081, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0021998308097730>, 2009) for fully bonded beams and the multiscale strategy in Massabò and Campi (Compos Struct 116:311–324, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compstruct.2014.04.009>, 2014), which is used to include the imperfect interfaces in the homogenized description of the problem. The kinematic variables are independent of the number of layers or imperfect interfaces and equal to four. The problem is solved in closed form on varying the interfacial stiffness between zero and infinite, which are the limiting values used to describe unbonded layers (traction-free interfacial sliding) and fully bonded layers (no sliding). The model accurately predicts global and local fields in highly anisotropic, simply supported, thick plates; some limitations are observed and discussed in the presence of in-plane material discontinuities and clamped supports. The model is applicable to study the elastic response of layered composites with adhesives interlayers or composite assemblies fastened by uniformly distributed mechanical connectors.

Keywords Structural theory · Laminated plate · Homogenization · Interface mechanics · Interlayer

1 Introduction

Layered composite structures, such as laminated and sandwich beams, plates, and shells, are largely used in aeronautical, aerospace, marine, energy, automotive, and civil applications, mostly because they can be tailored, by proper selection of materials and stacking sequences, to achieve unique properties, e.g., high strength-to-weight ratios, energy absorption, fatigue life, and environmental resistance. Typical composite laminates are made of fiber-reinforced polymer and ceramic or metallic layers; other examples of layered systems are cross-laminated timber, steel–concrete, and fiber-reinforced plastic–concrete assemblies and laminated glass.

The bonding between the plies in a layered structure may not always be strong enough to preserve the structural integrity and prevent relative displacements of the adjacent layers. This can be due to manufacturing defects, or to damage caused by in-service loads and environmental effects; or it can be a consequence of the presence of compliant elastic or inelastic interlayers. In layered wood or steel–concrete structures with layers joined by mechanical fasteners, such as nails, dowels, and screws, relative motion may occur due to elastic and inelastic mechanisms occurring within the connectors, the surrounding material, and their interface. In marine applications, bonding of the layers may weaken because of collisions with other marine vehicles or floating debris or waves slamming against the hull, or due to moisture ingress and sea-water effects (Penumadu 2018). The effective properties, global mechanical response, and local fields of layered structures are highly affected by the status of the bonding between the constitutive layers, see, for instance, (Goodman and Popov 1968; Vanderbilt et al. 1974; Foschi 1985), for experiments on layered wood beams and floors connected with mechanical fasteners, and (Jain and

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Mai 1994; Massabò et al. 1998; Cox 2005), for experiments and models on through-thickness reinforced laminates.

In this paper, a homogenized structural model is formulated for the linear static analysis of layered beams and plates in cylindrical bending with thin compliant interlayers. The model introduces zero-thickness interfaces in the zigzag theory formulated in Tessler et al. (2009) using the homogenization strategy proposed in Massabò and Campi (2014). The problem is described by a fixed number of displacement variables, independent of the number of layers, with advantages, both computational and analytical, over the most common approaches based on a discrete description of the problem. In the remaining of the “Introduction”, different modeling approaches formulated to study layered structures with imperfect bonding will be discussed, with focus on the two models which will be used in this work, and the advantages and limitations of the model proposed here will be highlighted.

Thin interlayers in a layered structure can be modeled as regular discrete layers by directly accounting for their geometry and material properties in the analysis. However, this increases the number of unknown variables in analytical modeling and makes the solution computationally expensive for structures with many layers, also in the elastic regime. Moreover, the numerical description of thin interlayers is cumbersome and very fine discretizations are required. Similar difficulties are encountered when through-thickness connectors are represented explicitly in the numerical discretization of the problem. Special finite elements, theoretical and numerical techniques, and interface models have been formulated to describe interlayers, the action of distributed connectors or damaged interphases and delaminations and incorporate their effect into the analysis (Newmark et al. 1951; Adekola 1968; Goodman and Popov 1968; Murakami 1984; Carpenter and Barsoum 1989; Edlund and Klarbring 1990; Allix and Ladevèze 1992; Girhammar and Gopu 1993; Jain and Mai 1994; Bai and Sun 1995; Hansen and Spies 1997; Massabò et al. 1998; Mi et al. 1998; Adam et al. 2000; Heuer and Adam 2000; Alfano and Crisfield 2001; Andruet et al. 2001; Girhammar and Pan 2007; Xu and Wu 2007; Campi and Monetto 2013; Lenci et al. 2015). For layered structures with one or two in-plane dimensions much larger than the thickness, models have been formulated based on a priori assumptions on the through-thickness variation of the primary variables, typically the generalized displacements, using axiomatic approaches, e.g., equivalent single layer, layerwise, and zigzag theories (Abrate and Di Sciuva 2018). Equivalent single-layer theories are computationally simple, but unable to reproduce the complex stress and displacement fields which occur in layered structures due to the inhomogeneous material structure and the presence of compliant interlayers. Layerwise theories may accurately describe the mechanical response of highly anisotropic and relatively

thick structures, also in the presence of thin interlayers or delaminations (Reddy 1987; Lu and Liu 1992; Andrews et al. 2006), at the expense of a large number of unknowns.

The zigzag theories offer a good compromise between computational simplicity and accuracy thanks to a multi-scale treatment of the problem (Di Sciuva 2015; Abrate and Di Sciuva 2018). To describe structures with perfectly bonded layers, the global displacement field of an equivalent single-layer theory is enriched by through the thickness zigzag functions to account for the effects of the local inhomogeneous material architecture (Di Sciuva 1986, 1987; Murakami 1986; Cho and Parmerter 1993; Averill 1994; Aitharaju 1999; Tessler et al. 2009). The zigzag functions are then derived as functions of the global variables by imposing continuity conditions at the layer interfaces and field equations are obtained and solved in terms of the global variables only. The zigzag theory in Tessler et al. (2009) assumes the kinematics of the Timoshenko beam theory, which is enriched by an additional global variable and a piecewise linear zigzag function. The zigzag function is defined in terms of the global variables through continuity conditions on the shear tractions at the layer interfaces. The theory improves the description of the shear strains of the original theory in Di Sciuva (1986) leading to a better description of clamped supports, and is well suited for finite-element formulation, since it requires only C^0 -continuous shape functions.

Thin interlayers can be represented in the homogenized approach of the zigzag theories as regular layers (Averill 1994) or zero-thickness interfaces. The latter approach, which was introduced in a number of papers in the literature in the 90s, was first solved in an energetically consistent way in Massabò and Campi (2014), for beams and wide plates, and in Massabò and Campi (2015), for general plates. The mechanical response of the interfaces is described through interfacial constitutive laws which relate the interfacial tractions to the relative displacements of the adjacent layers and may be used to approximate the response of thin interlayer. The models have been formulated for generally nonlinear interfacial traction laws, to describe mixed mode cohesive interfaces and delaminations. They couple a global equivalent single-layer theory and a local cohesive interface model through the introduction of zigzag functions which are piecewise linear in the thickness with discontinuities at the layer interfaces. The homogenization technique is similar to that of the classical zigzag theories and uses the assumed interfacial traction laws to equate the tractions at the layer surfaces to the interfacial tractions and relate them to the relative displacements of the layers. Models based on the homogenization strategy in Massabò and Campi (2014) have been used to accurately predicts local and global fields generated by thermo-mechanical loading in layered thick beams with continuous linear-elastic interfaces (Pelassa and Massabò 2015), to obtain approximate closed-form solutions of wave

propagation problems (Massabò 2017) and fracture mechanics solutions for beams with mode II dominant traction-free delaminations (Darban and Massabò 2017a). One limitation of this homogenized approach for plates with fully debonded interfaces is the inability to account for the contribution of the shear deformations to the global transverse compliance; this is a consequence of the assumed interfacial continuity which implies zero transverse shear strains in beams, where the interfacial tractions vanish (see discussion later in the paper); in addition, fictitious boundary layers occur, under certain conditions, at the boundaries or at the crack tip cross sections (Massabò 2014; Pelassa and Massabò 2015), which complicate the solution of the problem.

In this paper, the zigzag theory in Tessler et al. (2009) is extended to account for the presence of zero-thickness linear-elastic interfaces following the approach in Massabò and Campi (2014). The model describes the linear-elastic regime of structures with thin compliant interlayers, e.g., adhesives, offering an efficient alternative to the zigzag models which treat the compliant interlayers as regular layers (Averill 1994). More importantly, the model is applicable to layered structures joined by uniformly distributed mechanical fasteners (nails, dowels, or screws), where the actual thickness of the interfaces is zero and classical zigzag approaches would not be applicable. The model maintains the advantages of the theory in Tessler et al. (2009) in the treatment of shear deformations thereby offering a solution to the limitations of the homogenized models which are based on the original zigzag functions, e.g., Di Sciuva's zigzag function, see list in Massabò and Campi (2014). The model yields closed-form solutions, in terms of four global displacement variables, for the asymptotic limit of fully debonded layers, which describes very compliant or fully damaged interlayers or the absence of mechanical connectors. The interfacial mechanisms are described by a single parameter, namely, the stiffness of the interfacial traction law; this allows to easily investigate and understand the effects of the status of the bonding on global and local fields and to define a global measure of the action developed by the interlayers/connectors which can be obtained, for instance, from in situ global measurements through the solution of an inverse problem. Some limitations of the approach in treating clamped supports and in-plane material discontinuities will be discussed in depth in the paper.

The formulation is limited to beams or plates in cylindrical bending and linear-elastic interfaces, which are assumed to be rigid against interfacial openings. It can be extended to model 2D structures and generally nonlinear interfaces following the methodology in Massabò and Campi (2015).

This paper is organized as follows. In Sect. 2, the problem is defined and the model assumptions are presented. In Sect. 3, the homogenized structural model is formulated and equilibrium equations are derived using a variational

technique. In Sect. 4, the model is applied to study simply supported and cantilevered plates with different layups and interfacial conditions and its accuracy verified through comparison with elasticity solutions and structural mechanics discrete layer models; some limitations of the model in describing plates with in-plane discontinuities, e.g., finite length imperfect interfaces, and clamped supports are discussed. Conclusions are presented in Sect. 5.

2 Model assumptions

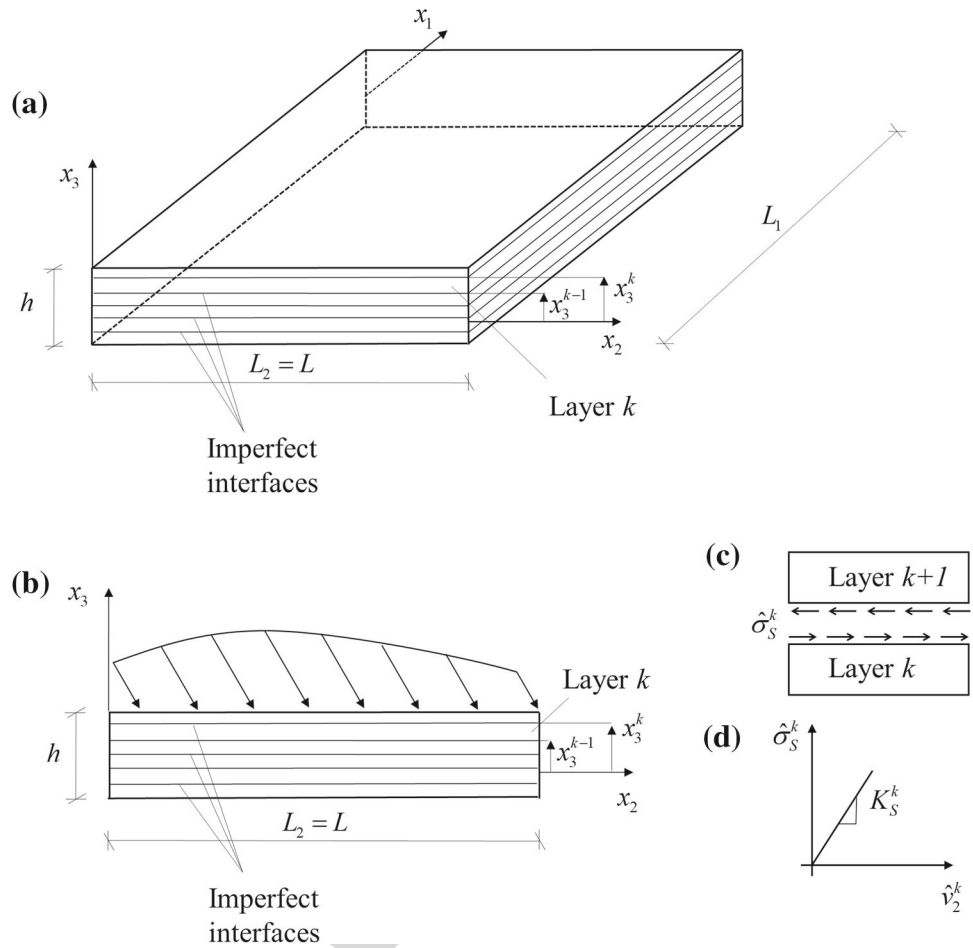
A multilayered wide plate is illustrated in Fig. 1a, with x_1 - x_2 - x_3 a system of Cartesian coordinates. The reference surface, S , is defined by the plane $x_3 = 0$ and the dimensions along x_1 , x_2 and x_3 are L_1 , $L_2 = L$ with $L_1 \gg L_2$, and h . The plate is subjected to static loads, which are independent of x_1 and act on the upper, S^+ , lower, S^- , and lateral, B (with normal parallel to x_2) bounding surfaces. It is composed of n linearly elastic, homogenous, and orthotropic layers with principal material axes aligned along the coordinate axes. The layer k , with $k = 1, \dots, n$ numbered from bottom to top, has thickness ${}^{(k)}h$ and lower and upper surfaces, ${}^{(k)}S^-$ and ${}^{(k)}S^+$, at the coordinates $x_3 = x_3^{k-1}$ and $x_3 = x_3^k$ [the superscripts (k) on the left and k on the right of a quantity show association with the layer k and with the interface between layers k and $k + 1$, respectively]. The layers are joined by $n - 1$ interfaces, which are zero-thickness mathematical surfaces, where the material properties and displacements may be discontinuous. The interfaces approximate the behavior of thin elastic interlayers or the elastic action of mechanical fasteners used to join individual layers. The plate deforms in cylindrical bending parallel to the plane x_2 - x_3 , Fig. 1b.

The layers are assumed to be incompressible in the thickness direction and the transverse normal stresses, ${}^{(k)}\sigma_{33}$, to be negligible compared to the other stress components. These assumptions are acceptable if the response is studied in regions far from boundaries, concentrated loads, or geometric discontinuities. The constitutive equations of the layer k are derived by particularizing the 3D constitutive equations to plane strain and imposing ${}^{(k)}\sigma_{33} = 0$. This yields, for $k = 1, \dots, n$:

$$\begin{aligned} {}^{(k)}\sigma_{22} &= {}^{(k)}\bar{C}_{22} {}^{(k)}\varepsilon_{22}, \\ {}^{(k)}\sigma_{23} &= {}^{(k)}C_{44} 2 {}^{(k)}\varepsilon_{23}, \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

with ${}^{(k)}\sigma_{ij}$ and ${}^{(k)}\varepsilon_{ij}$, for $i, j = 2, 3$, the stress and strain components, and ${}^{(k)}\bar{C}_{22} = {}^{(k)}(C_{22} - C_{23}C_{32}/C_{33})$, where ${}^{(k)}C_{ij}$ for $i, j = 2, 3, 4$ are the coefficients of the stiffness matrix. The model presented in this paper is applicable to beams by replacing ${}^{(k)}\bar{C}_{22}$ with the Young's modulus in the x_2 direction and referring to the load acting per unit width.

Fig. 1 **a** Multilayered wide plate with continuous imperfect or fully debonded interfaces. **b** Cross section in the plane x_2 - x_3 with applied loads. **c** Interfacial tangential tractions $\hat{\sigma}_S^k$ acting on the surfaces of layers k and $k + 1$. **d** Interfacial traction law



256 The mechanical behavior of the interface between the layers k and $k + 1$ is described by a linear-elastic interfacial traction law, which relates the interfacial tangential tractions (Fig. 1c), $\hat{\sigma}_S^k(x_2)$, to the interfacial sliding jump:

$$260 \hat{v}_2^k(x_2, x_3 = x_3^k) = {}^{(k+1)}v_2(x_2, x_3 = x_3^k) - {}^{(k)}v_2(x_2, x_3 = x_3^k), \quad (2)$$

262 through

$$263 \hat{\sigma}_S^k(x_2) = K_S^k \hat{v}_2^k(x_2), \quad (3)$$

265 with K_S^k the interfacial tangential stiffness, Fig. 1d, and ${}^{(k)}v_2(x_2, x_3)$ the component of the displacement vector along the x_2 -axis. The law with $K_S^k = 0$, which results in $\hat{\sigma}_S^k = 0$, describes fully debonded layers, and with $1/K_S^k = 0$, which results in $\hat{v}_2^k = 0$, represents fully bonded layers.

270 The assumed traction law well describes the response to shear loading of thin elastic interlayers, such as adhesive layers, in the absence of residual stresses. For a thin interlayer of thickness \bar{h} and shear rigidity, ${}^{(k)}C_{44}$, the interfacial stiffness is $K_S = {}^{(k)}C_{44}/\bar{h}$. If the traction law in Eq. (3) is used to describe the initial elastic response of uniformly distributed

276 mechanical fasteners, the interface stiffness depends on the geometrical and material properties of the connectors, the surrounding material and their interface. It can be determined experimentally, e.g., (Goodman and Popov 1968; Vanderbilt et al. 1974; Oehlers and Coughlan 1986), or through micromechanics modeling, as in Gelfi et al. (2002) for a stud embedded in a concrete-wood beam or in Cox (2005) for a through-thickness reinforcement embedded in a polymeric laminate. The linear-elastic law in Eq. (3) does not describe the nonlinear mechanisms related to damage and fracture of the interlayers or the nonlinear behavior of the connectors. To extend the model to describe nonlinear interfaces, the methodology formulated in Massabò and Campi (2014), which introduces piecewise linear cohesive traction laws, can be applied.

291 The interfaces are assumed to be rigid against relative opening displacements and the transverse displacements of the adjacent layers coincide at the interface, ${}^{(k)}v_3(x_3^k) = {}^{(k+1)}v_3(x_3^k)$. This assumption has been previously used in the literature, e.g., (Schmidt and Librescu 1996; Di Sciuva 1997; Di Sciuva et al. 2002), and is acceptable when the relative opening displacements at the interface are zero, due, for instance, to emissymmetric conditions, or negligible

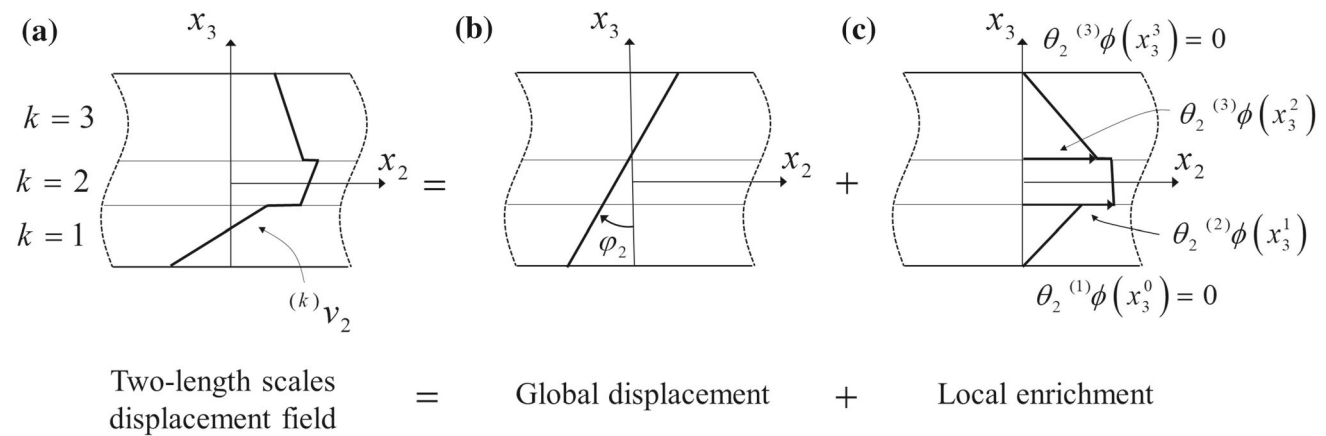


Fig. 2 Schematic description of the assumed displacement field in a three-layer laminate (a), global displacement (b), and local enrichment (c)

with respect to the sliding displacements due, for instance, to special loading/geometrical conditions. The assumption is acceptable when dealing with practical applications of laminated and composite plates, which often involve compressive transverse loads, for example, the hulls of marine vehicles.

3 Model formulation

3.1 Global and local variables and fields

Following the zigzag theory formulated in Tessler et al. (2009) for fully bonded beams and applying the methodology developed in Massabò and Campi (2014) to account for the presence of imperfect interfaces in a homogenized description of the problem, the longitudinal and transverse displacements in the layer k of the plate are assumed as (Fig. 2)

$$\begin{aligned} {}^{(k)}v_2(x_2, x_3) &= v_{02}(x_2) + x_3\varphi_2(x_2) + \theta_2(x_2){}^{(k)}\phi(x_3), \\ {}^{(k)}v_3(x_2, x_3) &= w_0(x_2). \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

The two-length scale field is controlled by four global variables, $v_{02}(x_2)$, $\varphi_2(x_2)$, $w_0(x_2)$, and $\theta_2(x_2)$. The first three, $v_{02}(x_2)$, $\varphi_2(x_2)$, and $w_0(x_2)$, correspond to a first-order shear deformation theory, Fig. 2b; if the reference surface coincides with the bottom or top surfaces of the plate, $v_{02}(x_2)$ is the longitudinal displacement of the reference surface, $\varphi_2(x_2)$ is the rotation of the normal to the reference surface, and $w_0(x_2)$ is the transverse displacement. The fourth global variable, $\theta_2(x_2)$, defines the variation along x_2 of a local enrichment function, ${}^{(k)}\phi(x_3)$, which is introduced to account for the inhomogeneous material structure and the presence of imperfect interfaces. The function ${}^{(k)}\phi(x_3)$ is independent of x_2 and

assumed to be linear in the thickness of the layer and zero at the upper and lower surfaces of the plate (Fig. 2c):

$$\begin{aligned} {}^{(k)}\phi(x_3) &= {}^{(k)}\beta(x_3 - x_3^{k-1}) + {}^{(k)}\phi(x_3^{k-1})\frac{1}{2}, \\ {}^{(n)}\phi(x_3^n) &= {}^{(1)}\phi(x_3^0) = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

with ${}^{(k)}\beta = {}^{(k)}\phi(x_3)_{,3}$ the slope and ${}^{(k)}\phi(x_3^{k-1})$ the value at the lower surface of the layer. The enrichment functions in the n layers of the plate define a local zigzag field which is piecewise linear with discontinuities at the layer interfaces, where in general, ${}^{(k)}\phi(x_3^k) \neq {}^{(k+1)}\phi(x_3^k)$, Fig. 2c.

The displacement field in Eq. (4) is defined by $2 \times (n - 1)$ local unknowns, ${}^{(k)}\beta$ for $k = 1, \dots, n$, and ${}^{(k)}\phi(x_3^{k-1})$ for $k = 2, \dots, n - 1$, since ${}^{(1)}\phi(x_3^0) = 0$, ${}^{(n)}\phi(x_3^n) = 0$ and ${}^{(n)}\phi(x_3^{n-1}) = -{}^{(n)}\beta^{(n)}h$ after Eq. (5). The local unknowns will be defined as functions of the global variables through the imposition of continuity conditions at the layer interfaces in the next section.

The displacement field in Eq. (4) is similar to those assumed in the theories developed in Di Sciuva (1986, 1987) for fully bonded plates and in Massabò and Campi (2014) for plates with imperfect interfaces, which would be obtained by imposing the kinematic constraint $\theta_2(x_2) = \varphi_2(x_2) + w_{0,2}(x_2)$. The additional variable, $\theta_2(x_2)$, is introduced to better describe the transverse shear strains; this is useful, as it will be shown later, in problems with imperfect or fully debonded interfaces.

The strain and stress components in the layer k are derived using the displacement field in Eq. (4), linear compatibility and the constitutive Eq. (1):

$$\begin{aligned} {}^{(k)}\varepsilon_{22}(x_2, x_3) &= {}^{(k)}v_{2,2}(x_2, x_3) \\ &= v_{02,2}(x_2) + x_3\varphi_{2,2}(x_2) + \theta_{2,2}(x_2){}^{(k)}\phi(x_3), \\ 2{}^{(k)}\varepsilon_{23}(x_2, x_3) &= {}^{(k)}v_{2,3}(x_2, x_3) + {}^{(k)}v_{3,2}(x_2, x_3) \\ &= \varphi_2(x_2) + w_{0,2}(x_2) + \theta_2(x_2){}^{(k)}\beta. \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 {}^{(k)}\sigma_{22}(x_2, x_3) &= {}^{(k)}\bar{C}_{22}[v_{02,2}(x_2) + x_3\varphi_{2,2}(x_2) \\
 &\quad + \theta_{2,2}(x_2){}^{(k)}\phi(x_3)], \\
 {}^{(k)}\sigma_{23}(x_2, x_3) &= {}^{(k)}C_{44}[\varphi_2(x_2) + w_{0,2}(x_2) + \theta_2(x_2){}^{(k)}\beta].
 \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

The bending strains and stresses are piecewise linear through the thickness and discontinuous at the interfaces. The transverse shear strains and stresses are piecewise constant; the strains depend on a global contribution, $\varphi_2 + w_{0,2}$, which is constant through the thickness and a local contribution, $\theta_2{}^{(k)}\beta$, which may differ in each layer. The transverse shear stresses can be rewritten as

$${}^{(k)}\sigma_{23} = {}^{(k)}C_{44}[(\varphi_2 + w_{0,2})(1 + {}^{(k)}\beta) + {}^{(k)}\beta(\theta_2 - \varphi_2 - w_{0,2})] \tag{8}$$

which will prove useful in the following derivation.

The interfacial sliding jump at the interface k , $\hat{v}_2^k(x_2)$ in Eq. (2) is obtained from the displacement field in Eq. (4) as

$$\hat{v}_2^k(x_2, x_3^k) = \theta_2(x_2)[{}^{(k+1)}\phi(x_3^k) - {}^{(k)}\phi(x_3^k)]. \tag{9}$$

Equation (9) shows that when the layers are perfectly bonded to each other and $\hat{v}_2^k(x_2) = 0$, then ${}^{(k+1)}\phi(x_3^k) = {}^{(k)}\phi(x_3^k)$ and the zigzag contribution is C^0 continuous through the thickness. In this case, the displacement field is C^0 continuous, with discontinuous first derivatives and coincides with that of the original zigzag theory proposed in Tessler et al. (2009) for fully bonded beams. In the presence of imperfect interfaces, $\hat{v}_2^k(x_2) \neq 0$, ${}^{(k+1)}\phi(x_3^k) \neq {}^{(k)}\phi(x_3^k)$, and the displacement field is discontinuous at the interfaces.

Imposing the kinematic constraint $\theta_2(x_2) = \varphi_2(x_2) + w_{0,2}(x_2)$, the transverse shear stresses and relative displacements in Eqs. (8) and (9) would modify as

$$\begin{aligned}
 {}^{(k)}\sigma_{23}(x_2, x_3) &= {}^{(k)}C_{44}(\varphi_2 + w_{0,2})(1 + {}^{(k)}\beta) \\
 \hat{v}_2^k(x_2) &= (\varphi_2 + w_{0,2})[{}^{(k+1)}\phi(x_3^k) - {}^{(k)}\phi(x_3^k)] \quad \text{for } \theta_2 = \varphi_2 + w_{0,2},
 \end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

and coincide with the transverse shear stresses and relative displacements assumed in Massabò and Campi (2014).

3.2 Derivation of the enrichment functions

The local variables in Eqs. (4) and (5), ${}^{(k)}\beta$ for $k = 1, \dots, n$, and ${}^{(k)}\phi(x_3^{k-1})$ for $k = 2, \dots, n - 1$, are defined in terms of the global variables following the procedure formulated in Tessler et al. (2009) for beams with fully bonded layers. The procedure is briefly recalled below and it will be extended later to plates with imperfect interfaces to describe layered structures with thin compliant interlayers.

3.2.1 Fully bonded layers

A continuity condition is first applied on the shear traction vectors acting at the upper and lower surfaces of the layer k and $k + 1$ which are related to the shear stresses in Eq. (10). This implies equating only the part of the traction vectors which is related to the first term of the shear stresses in Eq. (8) and yields

$${}^{(k+1)}C_{44}(1 + {}^{(k+1)}\beta) = {}^{(k)}C_{44}(1 + {}^{(k)}\beta). \tag{11}$$

Imposing the same condition at each interface shows that

$${}^{(k)}C_{44}(1 + {}^{(k)}\beta) = G, \tag{12}$$

for $k = 1, \dots, n - 1$, with G a constant, which describes the homogenized shear rigidity of the plate. The constant G is derived by imposing a continuity condition on the longitudinal displacement at the layer interfaces, namely, ${}^{(k+1)}v_2(x_3^k) = {}^{(k)}v_2(x_3^k)$ for $k = 1, \dots, n - 1$. This and Eq. (9) yield ${}^{(k+1)}\phi(x_3^k) = {}^{(k)}\phi(x_3^k)$. Since ${}^{(k)}\beta^{(k)}h = {}^{(k)}\phi(x_3^k) - {}^{(k)}\phi(x_3^{k-1})$, from Eq. (5), integration on both sides over the thickness yields $\sum_{k=1}^n {}^{(k)}\beta^{(k)}h = {}^{(n)}\phi(x_3^n) - {}^{(1)}\phi(x_3^0) = 0$ and, by substituting ${}^{(k)}\beta = G/{}^{(k)}C_{44} - 1$, after Eq. (12):

$$G = \frac{h}{\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(i)h}{(i)C_{44}}}. \tag{13}$$

The remaining local unknowns in the displacement field of Eq. (4), ${}^{(k)}\phi(x_3^{k-1})$ for $k = 2, \dots, n - 1$, are obtained using the relations ${}^{(k)}\phi(x_3^k) - {}^{(k)}\phi(x_3^{k-1}) = {}^{(k)}\beta^{(k)}h$ and ${}^{(k+1)}\phi(x_3^k) = {}^{(k)}\phi(x_3^k)$. This yields the recursive formula, ${}^{(k+1)}\phi(x_3^k) = {}^{(k)}\beta^{(k)}h + {}^{(k)}\phi(x_3^{k-1})$, which relates the value of the zigzag function on the lower surface of the layer $k + 1$ to that on the lower surface of the layer k . Using the recursive formula to relate ${}^{(k+1)}\phi(x_3^k)$ to ${}^{(1)}\phi(x_3^0) = 0$ yields

$${}^{(k)}\phi(x_3^{k-1}) = \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} [{}^{(i)}\beta^{(i)}h], \tag{14}$$

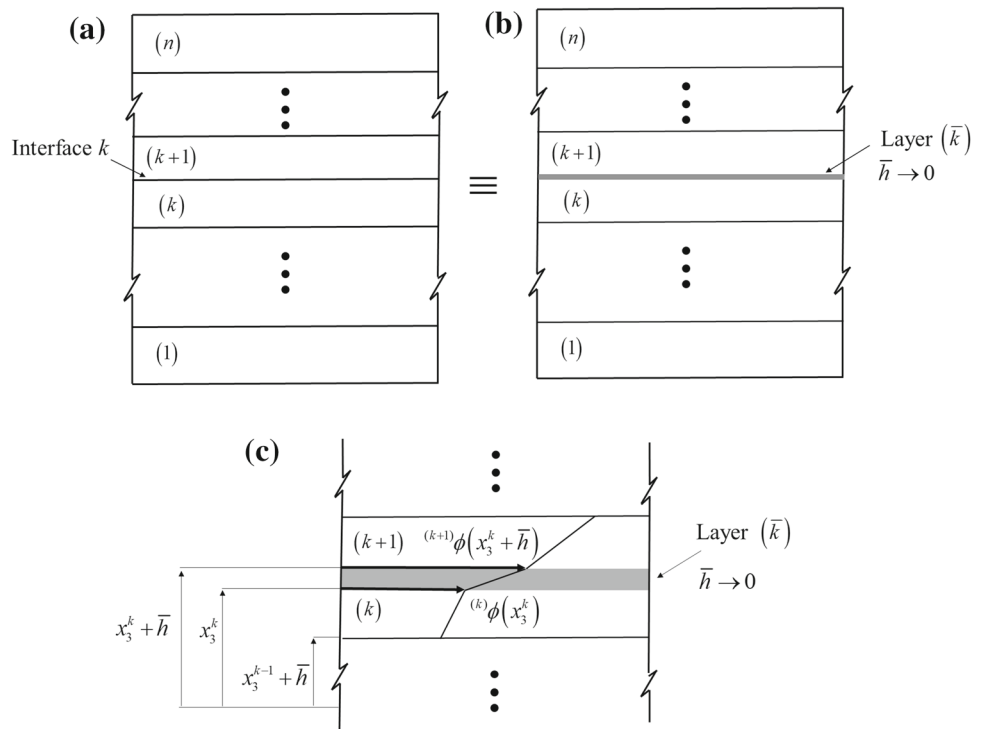
for $k = 2, \dots, n$, and the enrichment function in a plate with perfectly bonded layers is

$$\begin{aligned}
 {}^{(k)}\phi(x_3) &= \left(\frac{G}{(k)C_{44}} - 1 \right) (x_3 - x_3^{k-1}) \\
 &\quad + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \left[\left(\frac{G}{(i)C_{44}} - 1 \right) (i)h \right].
 \end{aligned} \tag{15}$$

3.2.2 Layers with imperfect interfaces

To describe plates with imperfect interfaces, the method described above is applied to a plate, where $n - 1$ thin elas-

Fig. 3 **a** Layers joined by zero-thickness imperfect interfaces. **b** Layers joined by thin interlayers. **c** Zoom of the interlayer \bar{k} with schematic of the zigzag function



tic interlayers \bar{k} of thickness \bar{h} are introduced between the regular layers of the model, Fig. 3b; the thickness of the interlayers will then be made to vanish, $\bar{h} \rightarrow 0$, to describe the plate with imperfect interfaces in Fig. 3a. The plate in Fig. 3b has $2n - 1$ fully bonded layers, n regular layers and $n - 1$ thin interlayers, and thickness $h + (n - 1)\bar{h}$. The lower and upper surfaces of the layer k for $k = 2, \dots, n$, are at the coordinates $x_3^{k-1} + \bar{h}$ and x_3^k .

The constant G in Eq. (13) modifies as

$$\bar{G} = \frac{h + (n - 1)\bar{h}}{\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{^{(i)}h}{^{(i)}C_{44}} + \sum_{\bar{i}=1}^{n-1} \frac{\bar{h}}{^{(\bar{i})}C_{44}}}, \quad (16)$$

and the slopes of the enrichment functions in the layer and interlayer, k and \bar{k} , are (Fig. 3c)

$$\begin{aligned} ^{(k)}\beta &= \frac{\bar{G}}{^{(k)}C_{44}} - 1, \\ ^{(\bar{k})}\beta &= \frac{\bar{G}}{^{(\bar{k})}C_{44}} - 1, \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

where the superscript $(\bar{\bullet})$ on a quantity is used to show association with the interlayer. The imposition of the continuity condition on the longitudinal displacements at the interface between the regular layer k and the interlayer $\bar{k} - 1$,

$^{(k)}v_2(x_3^{k-1} + \bar{h}) = ^{(\bar{k}-1)}v_2(x_3^{k-1} + \bar{h})$, modifies the enrichment function in Eq. (14) as

$$^{(k)}\phi(x_3^{k-1} + \bar{h}) = \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} ^{(i)}\beta ^{(i)}h + \sum_{\bar{i}=1}^{k-1} ^{(\bar{i})}\beta \bar{h}. \quad (18)$$

In the limit for $\bar{h} \rightarrow 0$, the thin interlayer can be used to describe the zero-thickness interface, Eq. (3), by imposing that $^{(k)}\hat{v}_2 = ^{(\bar{k})}v_2(x_3^k + \bar{h}) - ^{(\bar{k})}v_2(x_3^k)$ and $K_S^k = ^{(\bar{k})}C_{44}/\bar{h}$. The constant \bar{G} in Eq. (16), then modifies in

$$G = \lim_{\bar{h} \rightarrow 0} \bar{G} = \frac{h}{\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{^{(i)}h}{^{(i)}C_{44}} + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{K_S^i}}. \quad (19)$$

If the interfaces are very stiff and $1/K_S^i = 0$, Eq. (19) describes a plate with fully bonded layers and coincides with Eq. (13). In plates with $m = 1, \dots, n - 1$ debonded interfaces, $K_S^i = K_S \rightarrow 0$, $G \rightarrow 0$, and $G/K_S \rightarrow h/m$.

The slope of the enrichment function in the layer k , $^{(k)}\beta$, is obtained by substituting G , Eq. (19), into Eq. (17):

$$^{(k)}\beta = \frac{h}{^{(k)}C_{44} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{^{(i)}h}{^{(i)}C_{44}} + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{K_S^i} \right)} - 1, \quad (20)$$

which coincides with Eq. (12) when $1/K_S^i = 0$. In plates, where at least one of the interfaces is fully debonded and $K_S^i \rightarrow 0$, $^{(k)}\beta = -1$. In plates made of layers having the

479 same elastic constants, ${}^{(k)}\beta = h / \left(h + {}^{(k)}C_{44} \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} 1 / K_S^i \right) -$
 480 1, which yields ${}^{(k)}\beta = 0$ if the layers are fully bonded.

481 The remaining local unknowns are derived by substituting
 482 ${}^{(k)}\beta$ from Eq. (17) into Eq. (18) and taking the limit as $\bar{h} \rightarrow 0$.
 483 This yields

$$484 \quad {}^{(k)}\phi(x_3^{k-1}) = \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \left[\left(\frac{G}{{}^{(i)}C_{44}} - 1 \right)^{(i)} h + \frac{G}{K_S^i} \right]. \quad (21)$$

486 Using Eqs. (17) and (21), the enrichment function, Eq. (5),
 487 becomes

$$488 \quad {}^{(k)}\phi(x_3) = \left(\frac{G}{{}^{(k)}C_{44}} - 1 \right) (x_3 - x_3^{k-1})$$

$$489 \quad + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \left[\left(\frac{G}{{}^{(i)}C_{44}} - 1 \right)^{(i)} h + \frac{G}{K_S^i} \right], \quad (22)$$

490 which coincide with Eq. (15) in a fully bonded plate when
 491 $1 / K_S^i = 0$ (Tessler et al. 2009). The particularization of the
 492 function for a plate with fully debonded layers is given in the
 493 Appendix A, where all equations related to this important
 494 special limit are presented. The procedure presented above
 495 can be used to describe plates with uniformly distributed
 496 mechanical fasteners provided K_S^i in Eqs. (19)–(22) is a mea-
 497 sure of the elastic shear stiffness provided by the connectors.

498 3.3 Displacement, strain, and stress components

499 Once the local function in the generic layer k has been
 500 derived, Eq. (22), the displacement field, Eq. (4), is defined in
 501 terms of the four global kinematic variables, $v_{02}(x_2)$, $\varphi_2(x_2)$,
 502 $w_0(x_2)$, and $\theta_2(x_2)$ by

$$503 \quad {}^{(k)}v_2(x_2, x_3) = v_{02}(x_2) + \left[\varphi_2(x_2) + \theta_2(x_2) \left(\frac{G}{{}^{(k)}C_{44}} - 1 \right) \right] x_3$$

$$504 \quad + \theta_2(x_2) \left(\sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \left[\left(\frac{G}{{}^{(i)}C_{44}} - 1 \right)^{(i)} h + \frac{G}{K_S^i} \right] \right.$$

$$505 \quad \left. - \left(\frac{G}{{}^{(k)}C_{44}} - 1 \right) x_3^{k-1} \right)$$

$$506 \quad {}^{(k)}v_3(x_2) = w_0(x_2). \quad (23)$$

505 The strain and stress components in the layer k are derived
 506 from Eqs. (6) to (7):

$$507 \quad {}^{(k)}\varepsilon_{22}(x_2, x_3) = v_{02,2}(x_2)$$

$$508 \quad + \left[\varphi_{2,2}(x_2) + \theta_{2,2}(x_2) \left(\frac{G}{{}^{(k)}C_{44}} - 1 \right) \right] x_3$$

$$509 \quad + \theta_{2,2}(x_2) \left(\sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \left[\left(\frac{G}{{}^{(i)}C_{44}} - 1 \right)^{(i)} h + \frac{G}{K_S^i} \right] \right.$$

$$510 \quad \left. - \left(\frac{G}{{}^{(k)}C_{44}} - 1 \right) x_3^{k-1} \right)$$

$$511 \quad 2^{(k)}\varepsilon_{23}(x_2, x_3) = \varphi_2(x_2) + w_{0,2}(x_2) + \theta_2(x_2) \left(\frac{G}{{}^{(k)}C_{44}} - 1 \right), \quad (24)$$

$$512 \quad {}^{(k)}\sigma_{22}(x_2, x_3) = {}^{(k)}\tilde{C}_{22} \left\{ v_{02,2}(x_2) + \left[\varphi_{2,2}(x_2) + \theta_{2,2}(x_2) \right. \right.$$

$$513 \quad \left. \left(\frac{G}{{}^{(k)}C_{44}} - 1 \right) \right] x_3$$

$$514 \quad + \theta_{2,2}(x_2) \left(\sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \left[\left(\frac{G}{{}^{(i)}C_{44}} - 1 \right)^{(i)} h + \frac{G}{K_S^i} \right] \right.$$

$$515 \quad \left. - \left(\frac{G}{{}^{(k)}C_{44}} - 1 \right) x_3^{k-1} \right\} {}^{(k)}\sigma_{23}(x_2, x_3)$$

$$516 \quad = {}^{(k)}C_{44} \left[\varphi_2(x_2) + w_{0,2}(x_2) + \theta_2(x_2) \left(\frac{G}{{}^{(k)}C_{44}} - 1 \right) \right]. \quad (25)$$

510 The through the thickness piecewise constant transverse
 511 shear stresses in Eq. (25) are an approximation of the actual
 512 field as a consequence of the first-order theory used to
 513 describe the global displacement field. Accurate predictions
 514 of the transverse shear stresses can be made a posteriori from
 515 the bending stresses in Eq. (25) by imposing local equilib-
 516 rium ${}^{(k)}\sigma_{22,2} + {}^{(k)}\sigma_{23,3}^{\text{post}} = 0$. The interfacial jump and tractions
 517 at the interface k , Eqs. (3) and (9), become

$$518 \quad \hat{v}_2^k = \frac{G}{K_S^k} \theta_2(x_2), \quad (26)$$

$$519 \quad \hat{\sigma}_S^k = G \theta_2(x_2), \quad (27)$$

520 which show that, as for the shear stresses, the interfacial trac-
 521 tions derived through compatibility are the same for each
 522 interface of the system at a fixed coordinate x_2 . Correct pre-
 523 diction of the interfacial tractions can be made a posteriori
 524 by imposing local equilibrium.
 525

526 Displacement, strain, and stress fields in a plate with fully
 527 debonded layers are given in the Appendix A, Eqs. (45) and
 528 (46).

3.4 Equilibrium equations and boundary conditions

The homogenized equilibrium equations and boundary conditions are derived using the principle of virtual works and following the methodology in Massabò and Campi (2014) to account for the energy contribution of the imperfect interfaces:

$$\sum_{k=1}^n \int_S \int_{x_3^{k-1}}^{x_3^k} {}^{(k)}\sigma_{22} \delta^{(k)} \varepsilon_{22} + 2 {}^{(k)}\sigma_{23} \delta^{(k)} \varepsilon_{23} dx_3 dS + \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \int_{(k)S^+} \hat{\sigma}_S^k \delta \hat{v}_2^k dS - \int_{S^+} F_i^{S^+} \delta^{(n)} v_i dS - \int_{S^-} F_i^{S^-} \delta^{(1)} v_i dS - \int_B F_i^B \delta v_i dB = 0, \tag{28}$$

with $i = 2, 3$ and $F_i^{S^+}$, $F_i^{S^-}$ and F_i^B the components of the external forces acting along the boundary surfaces of the plate, S^+ , S^- , and B . The symbol δ is the variational operator and the virtual displacements satisfy compatibility conditions and are independent and arbitrary. The equilibrium equations and boundary conditions are derived by substituting displacement and strain components and interfacial displacement jumps from Eqs. (23), (24), and (26) into Eq. (28) and using Green's theorem whenever necessary. The resulting equilibrium equations are:

$$\begin{aligned} \delta v_{02} : N_{22,2} + f_2 &= 0 \\ \delta \varphi_2 : M_{22,2} - Q_2 + f_{2m} &= 0 \\ \delta w_0 : Q_{2,2} + f_3 &= 0 \\ \delta \theta_2 : M_{22,2}^z - Q_2^z - \hat{\sigma}_2 &= 0, \end{aligned} \tag{29}$$

where the force and moment resultants and loading terms are

- normal force, bending moment, and shear force:

$$(N_{22}, M_{22}) = \sum_{k=1}^n \int_{x_3^{k-1}}^{x_3^k} {}^{(k)}\sigma_{22} (1, x_3) dx_3, \tag{30}$$

$$Q_2 = \sum_{k=1}^n \int_{x_3^{k-1}}^{x_3^k} {}^{(k)}\sigma_{23} dx_3, \tag{31}$$

- moment resultant and shear force associated to the enrichment field:

$$\begin{aligned} M_{22}^{zS} &= \sum_{k=1}^n \int_{x_3^{k-1}}^{x_3^k} {}^{(k)}\sigma_{22} \left\{ \left(\frac{G}{(k)C_{44}} - 1 \right) (x_3 - x_3^{k-1}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \left[\left(\frac{G}{(i)C_{44}} - 1 \right) h + \frac{G}{K_S^i} \right] \right\} dx_3, \\ Q_2^z &= \sum_{k=1}^n \int_{x_3^{k-1}}^{x_3^k} {}^{(k)}\sigma_{23} \left(\frac{G}{(k)C_{44}} - 1 \right) dx_3, \\ \hat{\sigma}_2 &= G \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \frac{\hat{\sigma}_S^k}{K_S^k} \text{ or } \hat{\sigma}_2 = \hat{A}_{44}^S \theta_2(x_2), \end{aligned} \tag{32}$$

$$\text{with } \hat{A}_{44}^S = G^2 \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{K_S^k}.$$

- distributed tangential and transverse forces and couples:

$$\begin{aligned} f_2 &= F_2^{S^+} + F_2^{S^-}, \\ f_{2m} &= F_2^{S^+} x_3^n + F_2^{S^-} x_3^0, \\ f_3 &= F_3^{S^+} + F_3^{S^-}. \end{aligned} \tag{33}$$

The form of the first three equilibrium equations in Eq. (29) is analogous to that of the first-order shear deformation theory, but the force and moment resultants differ, since they account for the effects of the local enrichment through the stresses, Eq. (25). The fourth equilibrium equation is needed to define the additional global variable.

The boundary conditions at the plate edges, $x_2 = 0, L$, with $n = \{0, \pm 1, 0\}^T$ the outward normal, are

$$\begin{aligned} \delta v_{02} : N_{22} n_2 &= \tilde{N}_2 \text{ or } v_{02} = \tilde{v}_{02} \\ \delta \varphi_2 : M_{22} n_2 &= \tilde{M}_2 \text{ or } \varphi_2 = \tilde{\varphi}_2 \\ \delta w_0 : Q_2 n_2 &= \tilde{Q}_2 \text{ or } w_0 = \tilde{w}_0 \\ \delta \theta_2 : M_{22}^z n_2 &= \tilde{M}_2^z \text{ or } \theta_2 = \tilde{\theta}_2, \end{aligned} \tag{34}$$

where the terms with the tilde define prescribed values of displacements, forces and couples:

$$\begin{aligned} (\tilde{N}_2, \tilde{Q}_2) &= \sum_{k=1}^n \int_{x_3^{k-1}}^{x_3^k} ({}^{(k)}F_2^B, {}^{(k)}F_3^B) dx_3, \\ \tilde{M}_2 &= \sum_{k=1}^n \int_{x_3^{k-1}}^{x_3^k} {}^{(k)}F_2^B x_3 dx_3, \\ \tilde{M}_2^{zS} &= \sum_{k=1}^n \int_{x_3^{k-1}}^{x_3^k} {}^{(k)}F_2^B \left\{ \left(\frac{G}{(k)C_{44}} - 1 \right) (x_3 - x_3^{k-1}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \left[\left(\frac{G}{(i)C_{44}} - 1 \right) h + \frac{G}{K_S^i} \right] \right\} dx_3. \end{aligned} \tag{35}$$

578 The homogenized constitutive equations of the plate are
579 derived by substituting the stress components from Eq. (25)
580 into the stress resultants defined in Eqs. (30)–(32):

$$581 \begin{Bmatrix} N_{22} \\ M_{22} \\ M_{22}^S \end{Bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A_{22} & B_{22} & B_{22}^S \\ B_{22} & D_{22} & D_{22}^S \\ B_{22}^S & D_{22}^S & D_{22}^{SS} \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} v_{02,2} \\ \varphi_{2,2} \\ \theta_{2,2} \end{Bmatrix}$$

$$582 \begin{Bmatrix} Q_2 \\ Q_2^z \end{Bmatrix} = k_{44} \begin{bmatrix} A_{44} & A_{44}^S \\ A_{44}^S & A_{44}^{SS} \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} \varphi_2 + w_{0,2} \\ \theta_2 \end{Bmatrix}, \quad (36)$$

583 where the homogenized (effective) elastic stiffnesses of the
584 plate are

$$[A_{22}, B_{22}, D_{22}] = \sum_{k=1}^n {}^{(k)}\bar{C}_{22} \int_{x_3^{k-1}}^{x_3^k} [1, x_3, (x_3)^2] dx_3$$

$$B_{22}^S = \sum_{k=1}^n {}^{(k)}\bar{C}_{22} \int_{x_3^{k-1}}^{x_3^k} \left\{ \left(\frac{G}{{}^{(k)}C_{44}} - 1 \right) (x_3 - x_3^{k-1}) \right.$$

$$\left. + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \left[\left(\frac{G}{{}^{(i)}C_{44}} - 1 \right) {}^{(i)}h + \frac{G}{K_S^i} \right] \right\} dx_3$$

$$D_{22}^S = \sum_{k=1}^n {}^{(k)}\bar{C}_{22} \int_{x_3^{k-1}}^{x_3^k} x_3 \left\{ \left(\frac{G}{{}^{(k)}C_{44}} - 1 \right) (x_3 - x_3^{k-1}) \right.$$

$$\left. + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \left[\left(\frac{G}{{}^{(i)}C_{44}} - 1 \right) {}^{(i)}h + \frac{G}{K_S^i} \right] \right\} dx_3$$

$$585 D_{22}^{SS} = \sum_{k=1}^n {}^{(k)}\bar{C}_{22} \int_{x_3^{k-1}}^{x_3^k} \left\{ \left(\frac{G}{{}^{(k)}C_{44}} - 1 \right) (x_3 - x_3^{k-1}) \right.$$

$$\left. + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \left[\left(\frac{G}{{}^{(i)}C_{44}} - 1 \right) {}^{(i)}h + \frac{G}{K_S^i} \right] \right\}^2 dx_3$$

$$[A_{44}, A_{44}^S, A_{44}^{SS}] = \sum_{k=1}^n {}^{(k)}C_{44} {}^{(k)}h$$

$$\times \left[1, \frac{G}{{}^{(k)}C_{44}} - 1, \left(\frac{G}{{}^{(k)}C_{44}} - 1 \right)^2 \right]$$

$$586 \hat{A}_{44}^S = G^2 \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{K_S^k}. \quad (37)$$

587 A shear correction factor, k_{44} , has been introduced in
588 Eq. (36) to improve the approximate description of the shear
589 strains of the model. In the limiting case of a fully bonded
590 and homogeneous plate, the zigzag enrichment is zero and the
591 model proposed here coincides with first-order shear deformation
592 theory, for which a shear correction factor is required
593 to match elasticity solutions. As demonstrated in Massabò
594 (2017), for the dynamic correction factor of the homogenized
595 structural model in Massabò and Campi (2014), the results
596 in Sect. 4 will show that the correction factor obtained for a

597 fully bonded homogeneous material can be applied also to
598 layered materials and in the presence of imperfect interfaces.

599 Substitution of the force and moment resultants from
600 Eq. (36) into Eqs. (29) and (34) yields the equilibrium equa-
601 tions in terms of global displacements:

$$\delta v_{02} : A_{22}v_{02,22} + B_{22}\varphi_{2,22} + B_{22}^S\theta_{2,22} + f_2 = 0$$

$$\delta \varphi_2 : B_{22}v_{02,22} + D_{22}\varphi_{2,22} + D_{22}^S\theta_{2,22}$$

$$- k_{44}A_{44}(\varphi_2 + w_{0,2}) - k_{44}A_{44}^S\theta_2 + f_{2m} = 0$$

$$\delta w_0 : k_{44}A_{44}(\varphi_{2,2} + w_{02,22}) + k_{44}A_{44}^S\theta_{2,2} + f_3 = 0$$

$$\delta \theta_2 : B_{22}^Sv_{02,22} + D_{22}^S\varphi_{2,22} + D_{22}^{SS}\theta_{2,22}$$

$$- k_{44}A_{44}^S(\varphi_2 + w_{0,2}) - (k_{44}A_{44}^{SS} + \hat{A}_{44}^S)\theta_2 = 0, \quad (38)$$

604 and the boundary conditions:

$$\delta v_{02} : (A_{22}v_{02,2} + B_{22}\varphi_{2,2} + B_{22}^S\theta_{2,2})n_2 = \tilde{N}_2 \quad \text{or} \quad v_{02} = \tilde{v}_{02}$$

$$\delta \varphi_2 : (B_{22}v_{02,2} + D_{22}\varphi_{2,2} + D_{22}^S\theta_{2,2})n_2 = \tilde{M}_2 \quad \text{or} \quad \varphi_2 = \tilde{\varphi}_2$$

$$\delta w_0 : k_{44}(A_{44}(\varphi_2 + w_{0,2}) + A_{44}^S\theta_2)n_2 = \tilde{Q}_3 \quad \text{or} \quad w_0 = \tilde{w}_0$$

$$\delta \theta_2 : (B_{22}^Sv_{02,2} + D_{22}^S\varphi_{2,2} + D_{22}^{SS}\theta_{2,2})n_2 = \tilde{M}_2^{zS} \quad \text{or} \quad \theta_2 = \tilde{\theta}_2. \quad (39)$$

605 The governing field equations (38) and (39) have order
606 VIII. They are decoupled for efficient closed-form solution
607 in Appendix B.

608 In a plate, where the interfaces are fully bonded, the equi-
609 librium equations are obtained by setting $1/K_S^i = 0$ in the
610 coefficients in Eq. (37); this yields $\hat{A}_{44}^S = 0$. If in addition
611 the plate is composed of layers having the same material
612 properties, e.g., a unidirectionally reinforced laminate, the
613 coefficients with superscript S , namely, $B_{22}^S, D_{22}^S, D_{22}^{SS}, A_{44}^S,$
614 and A_{44}^{SS} , become zero, since $G = C_{44}$. The terms of the
615 equations multiplying θ_2 vanish and the order of the equations
616 reduce to VI; the fourth equilibrium equation and boundary
617 condition become identities and the model coincides with the
618 first-order shear deformation theory:
619

$$\bar{C}_{22}h v_{02,22} = 0$$

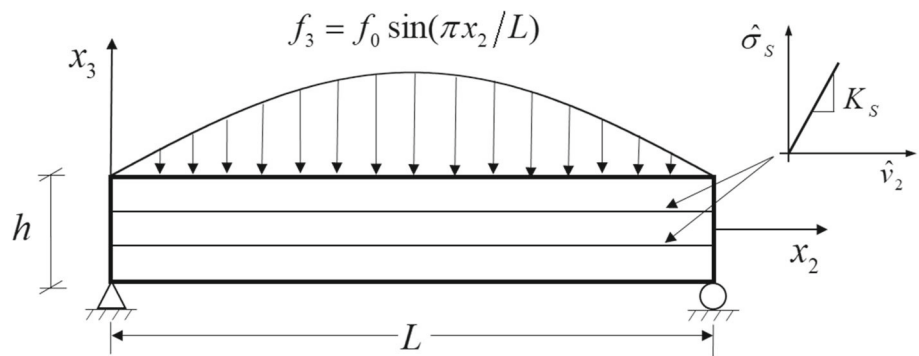
$$w_{0,2222} + \frac{1}{k_{44}C_{44}h} f_{3,22} - \frac{1}{\frac{1}{12}\bar{C}_{22}h^3} f_3 = 0$$

$$\varphi_{2,2} = -w_{0,22} - \frac{1}{k_{44}C_{44}h} f_3, \quad (40)$$

622 where the classical shear correction factor is required.

623 In a plate made of layers having the same thickness,
624 h/n , and elastic constants and where the interfaces are fully
625

Fig. 4 Three-layer wide plate with linear-elastic interfaces subjected to sinusoidal transverse loading



debonded, Eq. (38) along with Eq. (48) in Appendix A for a coordinate system placed at the mid-thickness, yields

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{C}_{22} \frac{h}{n} v_{02,22} &= 0 \\ w_{0,2222} + \frac{1}{k_{44} C_{44} \frac{h}{n}} \left(\frac{f_3}{n} \right)_{,22} - \frac{1}{\frac{1}{12} \bar{C}_{22} \left(\frac{h}{n} \right)^3} \left(\frac{f_3}{n} \right) &= 0 \\ (\varphi_2 - \theta_2)_{,2} &= -w_{0,22} - \frac{1}{k_{44} C_{44} \left(\frac{h}{n} \right)} \left(\frac{f_3}{n} \right) \\ \theta_{2,22} &= -\frac{n-1}{n} (\varphi_2 - \theta_2)_{,22}. \end{aligned} \tag{41}$$

Comparing the first three equations in Eqs. (40) and (41) shows that the plate with fully debonded layers behaves like a stack of layers of thickness, h/n , free to slide along each other and whose behavior is described by the first-order shear deformation theory and require the use of the classical shear correction factor. The fourth equation in (41) is used to define the variable θ_2 which provides the effects of the local field, including the jump at the interfaces, $\hat{v}_2^i = h\theta_2/(n-1)$ for $i = 1, \dots, n-1$, Eq. (26).

4 Applications

In this section, some applications are presented to verify the accuracy of the model, through comparison with 2D elasticity solutions, and highlight improvements/limitations with respect to other structural models based on a similar homogenized approach. In all applications, the shear correction factor has been assumed as $k_{44} = 5/6$, which is the value obtained by matching the shear elastic energy of a fully bonded homogeneous plate under constant transverse shear to that of 2D elasticity (Jourawsky approximation).

4.1 Simply supported plate

The simply supported wide plate with imperfect interfaces subjected to sinusoidal transverse loading, $f_3 = f_0 \sin(\pi x_2/L)$, acting on the upper surface of the plate is

considered first, Fig. 4. The plate has length-to-thickness ratio $L/h = 4$ and is made by three orthotropic layers with elastic constants $E_T/E_L = 1/25$, $G_{LT}/E_L = 1/50$, $G_{TT}/E_L = 1/125$, and $\nu_{LT} = \nu_{TT} = 0.25$, and principal material directions along the coordinate axes; the assumed ratios could represent a graphite–epoxy composite (L and T indicate directions parallel and transverse to the fibers). The layers are connected by linear-elastic interfaces with the same interfacial stiffness, K_S .

The problem is solved using the decoupled equations (40), (41), and (49) and imposing the boundary conditions (34), which particularize to

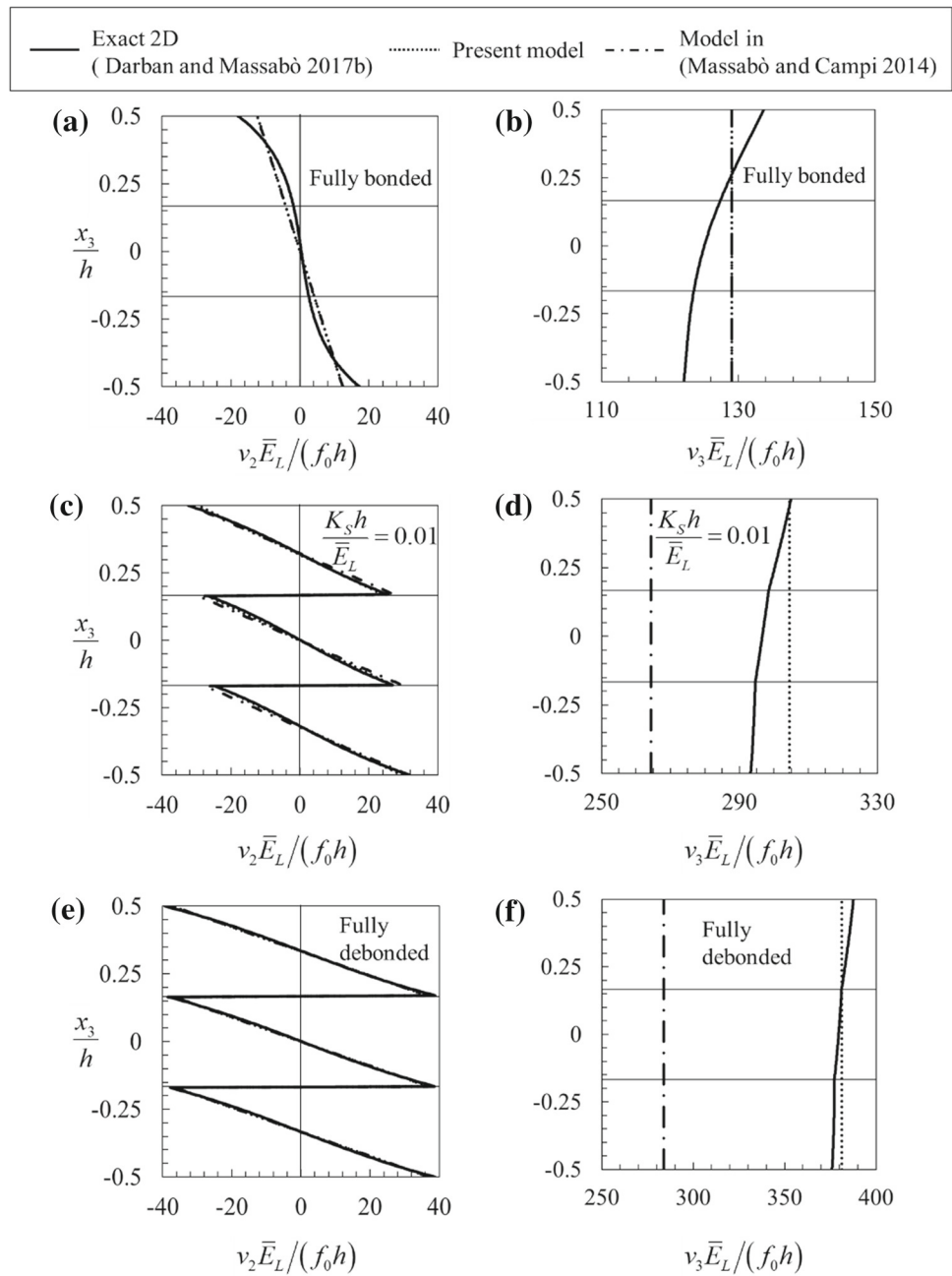
$$\begin{aligned} x_2 = 0 : \tilde{w}_0 = \tilde{v}_{02} = \tilde{M}_2 = \tilde{M}_2^{z^S} &= 0 \\ x_2 = L : \tilde{w}_0 = \tilde{N}_2 = \tilde{M}_2 = \tilde{M}_2^{z^S} &= 0. \end{aligned} \tag{42}$$

The variable θ_2 is set to zero at the mid-span for the symmetry of the problem. Once the global variables $v_{02}(x_2)$, $\varphi_2(x_2)$, $w_0(x_2)$, and $\theta_2(x_2)$ are obtained, local displacements, bending stresses, interfacial tractions, and jumps are defined through Eqs. (23) and (25)–(27). The transverse shear stresses are derived from the bending stresses imposing local equilibrium. The results will be compared with the explicit 2D elasticity solutions in Darban and Massabò (2017b).

4.1.1 Unidirectionally reinforced plate with imperfect interfaces

In this application, the layers are assumed to have stacking sequence (0, 0, 0). This example allows to focus on the effects of the presence of imperfect interfaces on the local and global responses of the plate. The through-thickness variation of the longitudinal displacements at $x_2 = 0$ and the transverse displacements at $x_2 = L/2$ are shown in Fig. 5. Results for the bending stresses at $x_2 = L/2$ and transverse shear stresses at $x_2 = 0$ are shown through the thickness in Fig. 6. Three cases are analyzed: perfectly bonded interfaces, with $1/K_S = 0$, interfaces with intermediate stiffness, with $K_S h/\bar{E}_L = 0.01$, and fully debonded interfaces, with $K_S = 0$.

Fig. 5 Longitudinal, at $x_2 = 0$, and transverse, at $x_2 = L/2$, displacements shown through the thickness in a simply supported wide plate with $L/h = 4$, stacking sequence (0, 0, 0), transverse loading $f_3 = f_0 \sin(\pi x_2/L)$. Elastic constants: $E_T/E_L = 1/25$, $G_{LT}/E_L = 1/50$, $G_{TT}/E_L = 1/125$ and $\nu_{LT} = \nu_{TT} = 0.25$, and $\bar{E}_L = \bar{C}_{22} = E_L/(1 - \nu_{LT}\nu_{TL})$

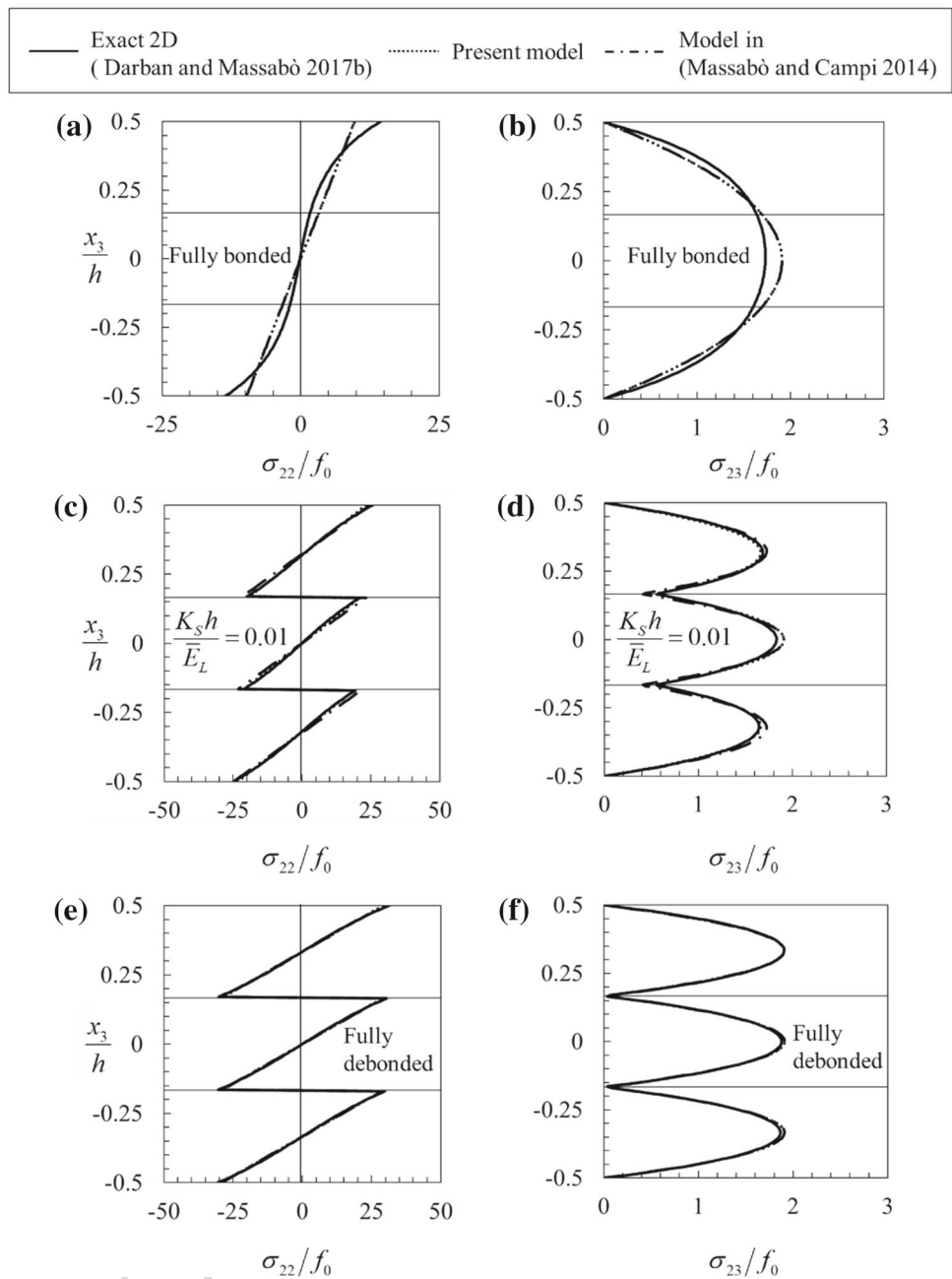


688 The structural theory accurately captures the interfacial
 689 displacement jumps due to the presence of the imperfect
 690 interfaces; longitudinal displacements, bending, and transverse
 691 shear stresses are accurate for all cases examined. The
 692 transverse displacement of the fully bonded case slightly
 693 overestimates the average transverse displacement of the 2D
 694 elasticity solution due to the use of a shear correction factor
 695 which has been derived for constant transverse shear,
 696 $k_{44} = 5/6 = 0.833$. If the shear elastic energy was matched
 697 to the 2D elasticity solution (Darban and Massabò 2017b)
 698 for the loading conditions assumed in this problem, a correction
 699 factor equal to 0.936 would be obtained, which would

700 improve predictions. The accuracy in the prediction of the
 701 transverse displacements improves on decreasing the interfacial
 702 stiffness, since the three layers progressively behave
 703 as individual thinner plates. For plates with higher length-
 704 to-thickness ratios, e.g., $L/h \geq 10$, the difference between
 705 the predictions of the model and exact solution significantly
 706 reduces for all interfacial stiffness values (not shown).

707 The results obtained using the homogenized model in
 708 Massabò and Campi (2014) are also shown in Figs. 5 and
 709 6. The solutions of the two structural models virtually coincide
 710 but for the mid-span deflection when the interfaces are
 711 imperfect or fully debonded; for these cases, the model for-

Fig. 6 Bending at $x_2 = L/2$ and transverse shear at $x_2 = 0$ stresses through the thickness in a simply supported three-layer, unidirectionally reinforced wide plate $(0, 0, 0), L/h = 4$, transverse loading $f_3 = f_0 \sin(\pi x_2/L)$. Elastic constants: $E_T/E_L = 1/25$, $G_{LT}/E_L = 1/50$, $G_{TT}/E_L = 1/125$ and $\nu_{LT} = \nu_{TT} = 0.25$, and $\bar{E}_L = \bar{C}_{22} = E_L/(1 - \nu_{LT}\nu_{TL})$. Transverse shear stresses are calculated a posteriori from bending stresses

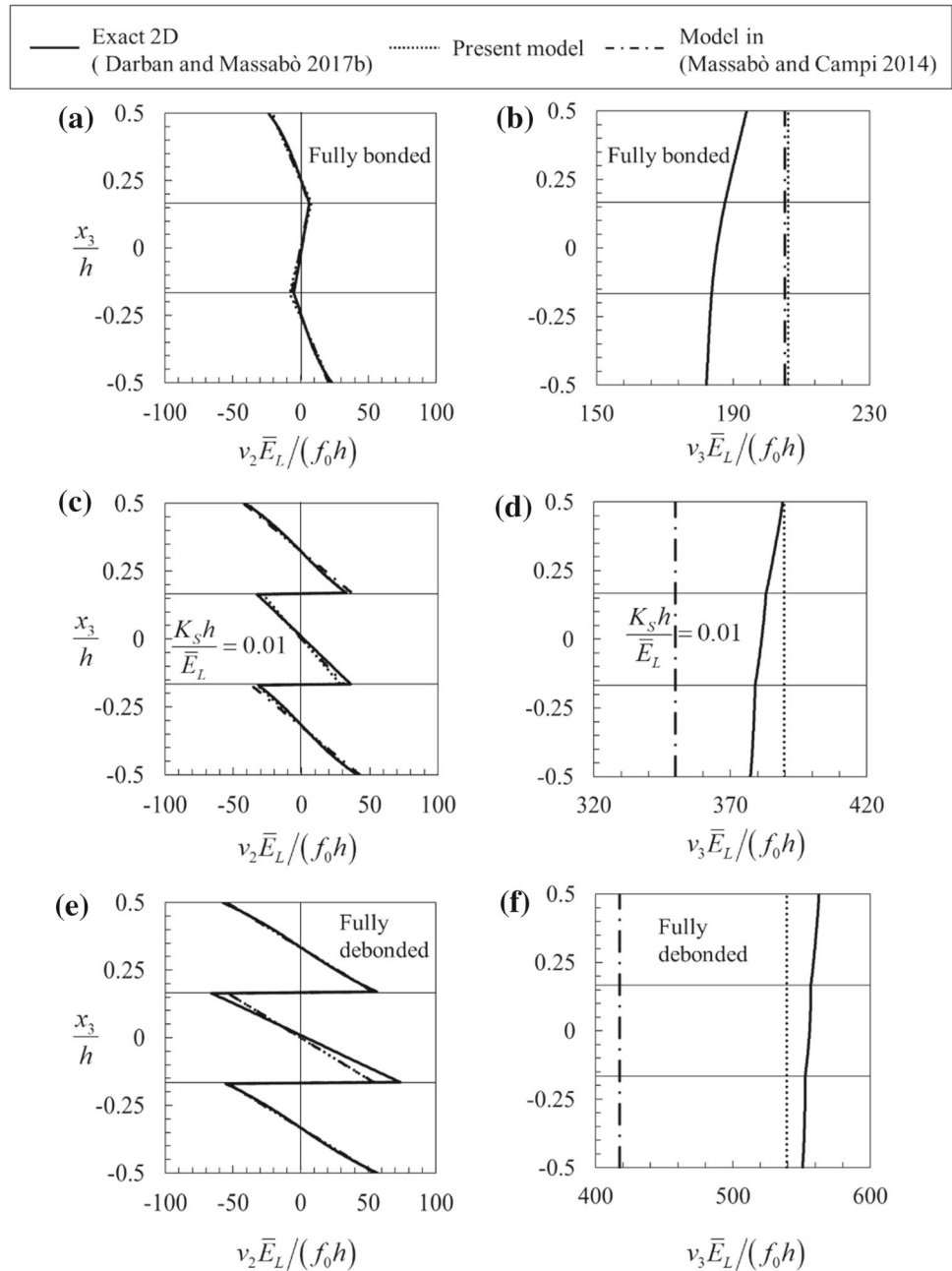


712 mulated here performs better due to a better description of the
 713 shear deformations. The highest improvement in the solution
 714 is for the case of fully debonded layers for which the model in
 715 Massabò and Campi (2014) fully neglects the contribution of
 716 the shear deformations to the transverse compliance as a conse-
 717 quence of the continuity imposed between the transverse
 718 tractions at the layer surfaces and the interfacial tractions.
 719 Solutions obtained by other models using a similar zigzag
 720 homogenization are not shown, because they are affected by
 721 energy inconsistencies which yield important inaccuracies
 722 [see discussion in Massabò and Campi (2015)].

4.1.2 Multilayered plate with imperfect interfaces

723
 724 In this section, the plate in Fig. 4 is studied assuming a
 725 stacking sequence of $(0, 90, 0)$. This problem provides a
 726 challenging case to assess the predictive capabilities of the
 727 approximate model due to the highly anisotropic layup of the
 728 thick plate. The through-thickness variation of the longitudi-
 729 nal and transverse displacements, and bending and transverse
 730 shear stresses at different cross sections of the plate are shown
 731 in Figs. 7 and 8. Results are presented on varying the inter-
 732 facial stiffness.

Fig. 7 Longitudinal at $x_2 = 0$ and transverse at $x_2 = L/2$ displacements through the thickness in a simply supported three-layer wide plate $(0, 90, 0)$, $L/h = 4$, transverse loading $f_3 = f_0 \sin(\pi x_2/L)$. Elastic constants: $E_T/E_L = 1/25$, $G_{LT}/E_L = 1/50$, $G_{TT}/E_L = 1/125$ and $\nu_{LT} = \nu_{TT} = 0.25$, and $\bar{E}_L = \bar{C}_{22} = E_L/(1 - \nu_{LT}\nu_{TL})$

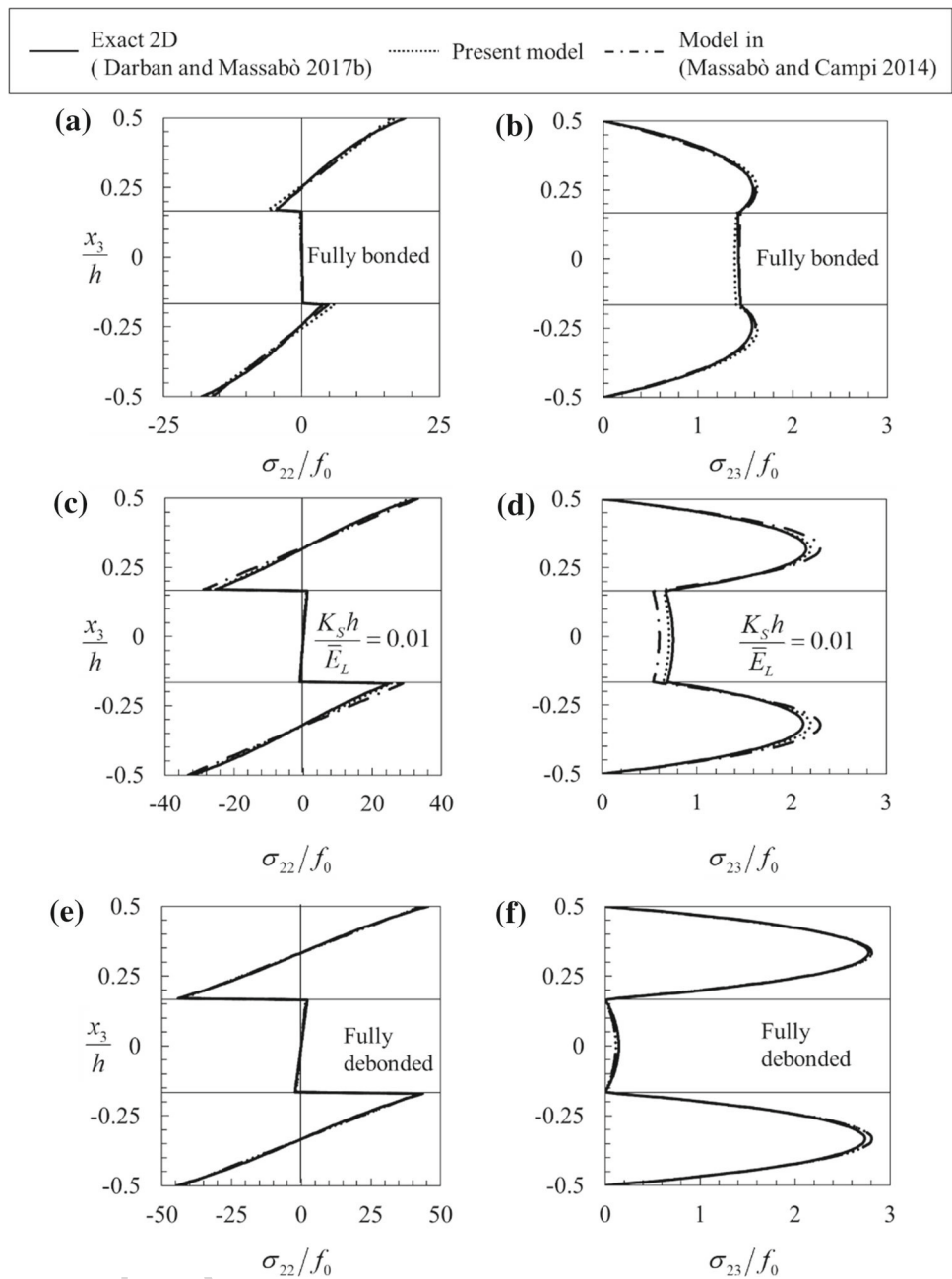


733 The structural model well captures the zigzag patterns in
 734 the longitudinal displacements of the layers and the interfacial
 735 displacement jumps. The bending and transverse shear
 736 stresses are also in good agreement with the exact 2D elasticity
 737 solutions. The transverse displacement of the fully bonded
 738 case overestimates the average transverse displacement of
 739 the 2D elasticity solution and the relative error is around
 740 11%. The predictions improve on reducing the interfacial
 741 stiffness up to the fully debonded case, since the behavior
 742 is then controlled by the response of three separate thinner
 743 layers, and the relative error reduces to 3%. Using the correction
 744 factor derived by matching the 2D elasticity shear

745 strain energy for this loading case in a homogeneous material, $k_{44} = 0.936$, instead of the value $5/6$ obtained assuming
 746 constant shear would improve the solutions in all cases and
 747 reduce the error. These results confirm what already found for
 748 the dynamic correction factor in Massabò (2017): no changes
 749 in the correction factor are needed in the homogenized structural
 750 model to account for the multilayered structure, which
 751 is already described through the multiscale treatment and the
 752 zigzag enrichment.
 753

754 As already noted for the previous example, the present
 755 model predicts the transverse displacements more accurately
 756 than the model in Massabò and Campi (2014). For plates

Fig. 8 Bending at $x_2 = L/2$ and transverse shear at $x_2 = 0$ stresses through the thickness in a simply supported three-layer wide plate $(0, 90, 0)$, $L/h = 4$, transverse loading $f_3 = f_0 \sin(\pi x_2/L)$. Elastic constants: $E_T/E_L = 1/25$, $G_{LT}/E_L = 1/50$, $G_{TT}/E_L = 1/125$ and $\nu_{LT} = \nu_{TT} = 0.25$, and $\bar{E}_L = \bar{C}_{22} = E_L/(1 - \nu_{LT}\nu_{TL})$. Transverse shear stresses are calculated a posteriori from bending stresses



757 with higher length-to-thickness ratios, e.g., $L/h \geq 10$, the
 758 solution significantly improves and the difference between
 759 the predictions of the models and the exact solutions significantly
 760 reduces for all interfacial stiffness values (not shown).
 761 To further illustrate the capability of the homogenized
 762 model to predict the transverse displacements also in plates
 763 with imperfect interfaces, the mid-span displacement is
 764 shown on varying the interfacial stiffness (decreasing inter-
 765 facial stiffness from left to right) in Fig. 9. The displacement
 766 is normalized to the thickness average 2D elasticity solution
 767 of a fully debonded plate, $(v_3)_{2D, \lim}$.

Predictions using the homogenized model in Massabò and
 Campi (2014) are also shown in Fig. 9 [solutions based on
 other homogenized approaches are not presented because of
 the energy inconsistencies discussed in Massabò and Campi
 (2015)]. As already explained in Massabò and Campi (2014)
 for a homogeneous material, this result is a consequence
 of the imposition of continuity conditions on the transverse
 shear tractions and the interfacial tractions. In thick plates
 with imperfect or fully debonded interfaces, this leads to an
 important underestimation of the shear contribution to the
 transverse compliance.

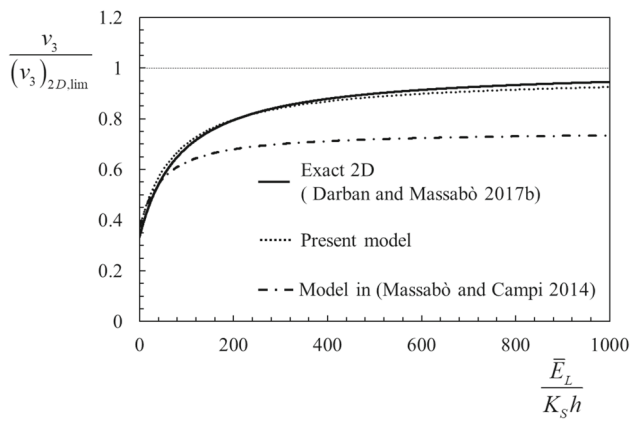


Fig. 9 Mid-thickness transverse displacements at $x_2 = L/2$ of a simply supported three-layer, unidirectionally reinforced wide plate $(0, 90, 0)$, $L/h = 4$, transverse loading $f_3 = f_0 \sin(\pi x_2/L)$; $(v_3)_{2D,lim}$ is the thickness average 2D elasticity solution of a fully debonded plate. Elastic constants: $E_T/E_L = 1/25$, $G_{LT}/E_L = 1/50$, $G_{TT}/E_L = 1/125$ and $\nu_{LT} = \nu_{TT} = 0.25$, and $\bar{E}_L = \bar{C}_{22} = E_L/(1 - \nu_{LT}\nu_{TL})$

4.2 Cantilevered wide plate

To verify the predictive capabilities of the model in problems with clamped edges, the cantilevered wide plate with $L/h = 10$ and two equal thickness layers connected by a linear-elastic interface is examined. The plate is subjected to a concentrated transverse force at the free end, Fig. 10. The elastic constants are $E_T/E_L = 1/25$, $G_{LT}/E_L = 1/50$, $G_{TT}/E_L = 1/125$ and $\nu_{LT} = \nu_{TT} = 0.25$. Two stacking sequences are examined: $(0, 0)$ and $(90, 0)$ with the 0° layer being the upper one. The boundary conditions are

$$\begin{aligned} x_2 = 0 : \tilde{w}_0 = \tilde{v}_{02} = \tilde{\varphi}_2 = \tilde{\theta}_2 = 0 \\ x_2 = L : \begin{cases} \tilde{N}_2 = \tilde{M}_2 = \tilde{M}_2^S = 0 \\ \tilde{Q}_2 = -F \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (43)$$

Figure 11a depicts the interfacial shear tractions, $\hat{\sigma}_S$, Eq. (27), along the plate length for four values of the interfacial stiffness in the plate with the $(0, 0)$ stacking sequence; the interfacial tractions coincide with those calculated a posteriori from local equilibrium. The results are compared with those of a discrete layer interface model (Andrews et al. 2009) which represents the two layers as individual plates connected by interfacial normal and tangential tractions. The interfacial shear tractions predicted by the model proposed here coincide with those obtained by the discrete layer model for any values of the interfacial stiffness. Results obtained using the model in Massabò and Campi (2014) are also shown in Fig. 11a and highlight some inaccuracies for the intermediate values of interfacial stiffness.

Figure 11b depicts interfacial tractions calculated a posteriori from local equilibrium in the plate with $(90, 0)$ layout.

As for the previous case, the interfacial tractions are in agreement with those of the discrete layer model for very large and very small values of the interfacial stiffness over the entire length of the plate except at the clamped boundary, where the tractions predicted by the present model do not vanish at the support. Some differences are observed for intermediate values of the interfacial stiffnesses which are due to the assumption of neglecting the interfacial normal tractions in the solution of the problem. A similar discrepancy would be observed in all problems, where the interfacial normal tractions are nonzero due to the lack of symmetry, e.g., in a specimen with $(0, 0)$ layout and unequal thickness layers. The results would improve by accounting for the interfacial normal tractions following, for instance, the methodology in Massabò and Campi (2014). The results have not been compared with 2D solutions and inaccuracies in the predictions, similar to those observed in Groh and Tessler (2017) for fully bonded plates, are expected at the clamped edge due to the limitations of the structural theory.

4.3 Plate with in-plane material discontinuity

The proposed model shows some limitations when applied to study plates with in-plane discontinuities, due to changes in the material properties of the layers or to the presence of regions, where the status of the interfaces changes. This behavior is controlled by the parameter G , which defines the homogenized shear rigidity of the different domains of the plate, Eq. (19). When the difference in G between two continuous domains is small the results are quite accurate, while for large differences, important inaccuracies are observed.

To illustrate this behavior the End Notched Flexural specimen in Fig. 12a, with normalized length $2L/h = 100$ and crack length $a/h = 30$ has been analyzed. The material is homogeneous and the elastic constants are $E_T/E_L = 1/25$, $G_{LT}/E_L = 1/50$, $G_{TT}/E_L = 1/125$, and $\nu_{LT} = \nu_{TT} = 0.25$. The crack is described by introducing at mid-thickness and for $0 \leq x_2 \leq a$ an imperfect interface with a very small interfacial stiffness, $K_{Sh}/\bar{E}_L = 10^{-4}$, with $\bar{E}_L = \bar{C}_{22} = E_L/(1 - \nu_{LT}\nu_{TL})$; this implies that the normalized value of the homogenized shear rigidity in the delaminated region is $G/G_{LT} = 0.01$. The fully bonded region, for $a \leq x_2 \leq 2L$, is described by inserting a mid-thickness interface with interfacial stiffness $K_{Sh}/\bar{E}_L = 10^4$, which implies a homogenized shear rigidity $G/G_{LT} = 0.99$. The boundary conditions at $x_2 = 0$ and $x_2 = 2L$ are those given in Eq. (42), and the continuity conditions at $x_2 = a$ and $x_2 = L$ are imposed on the global variables and force and moment resultants.

The deformed shape of the specimen is shown in Fig. 12b. The results are compared with those predicted by a discrete layer interface model and show an unrealistic discontinuity in the slope of the curve at the crack tip cross section. For

Fig. 10 Cantilevered plate composed of two equal thickness layers joined by a linear-elastic interface and subjected to a transverse load F at the free end

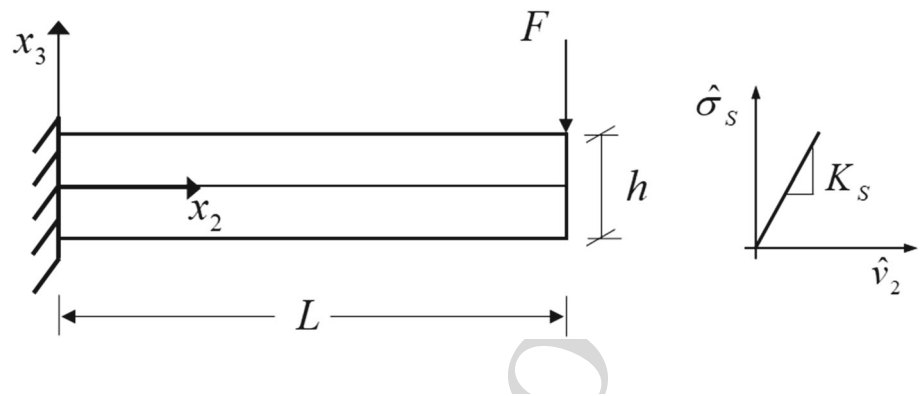
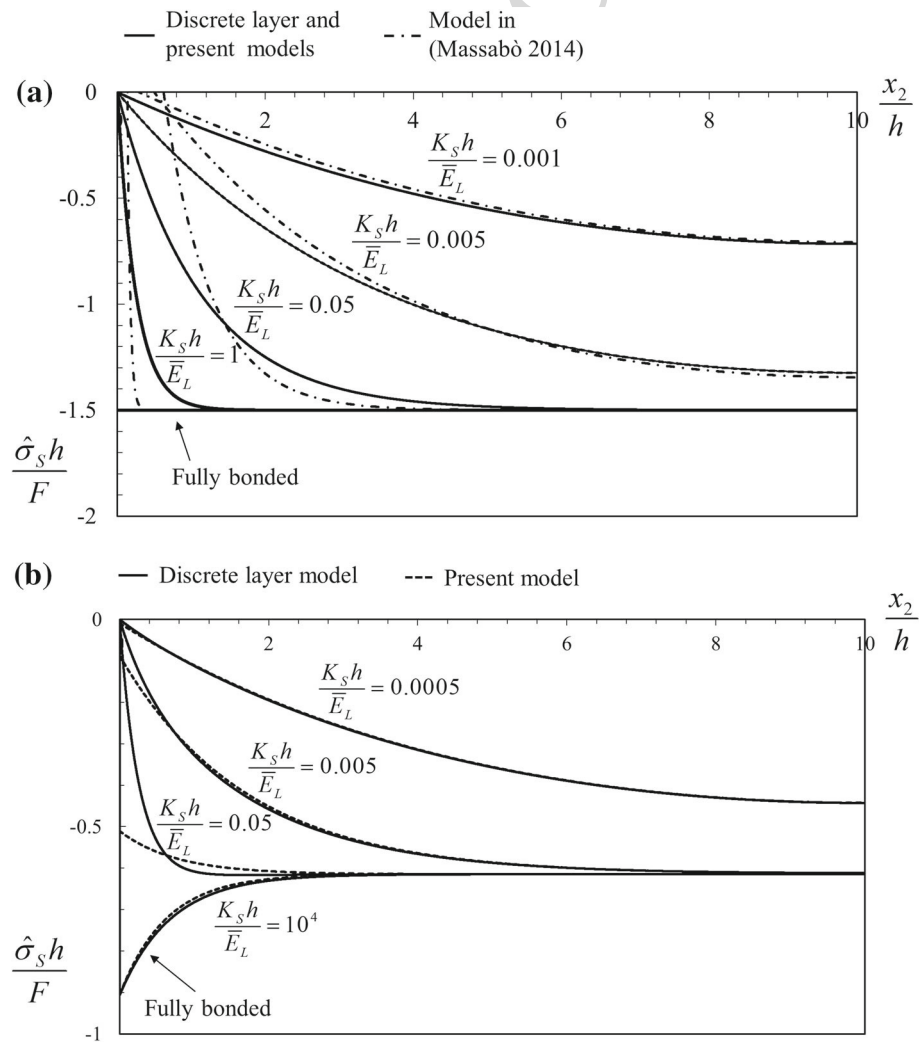


Fig. 11 Interfacial tractions along the length of a cantilever plate with $L/h = 10$, two equal thickness layers connected by a linear-elastic interface and subjected to a concentrated transverse force F at the free end (Fig. 10). The layer elastic constants: $E_T/E_L = 1/25$, $G_{LT}/E_L = 1/50$, $G_{TT}/E_L = 1/125$ and $\nu_{LT} = \nu_{TT} = 0.25$, and $\bar{E}_L = \bar{C}_{22} = E_L/(1 - \nu_{LT}\nu_{TL})$. **a** Stacking sequence (0, 0); solid lines: discrete layer and present models, dashed–dotted lines: model in Massabò (2014). **b** Stacking sequence (90, 0); solid lines: discrete layer model, dashed lines: present model

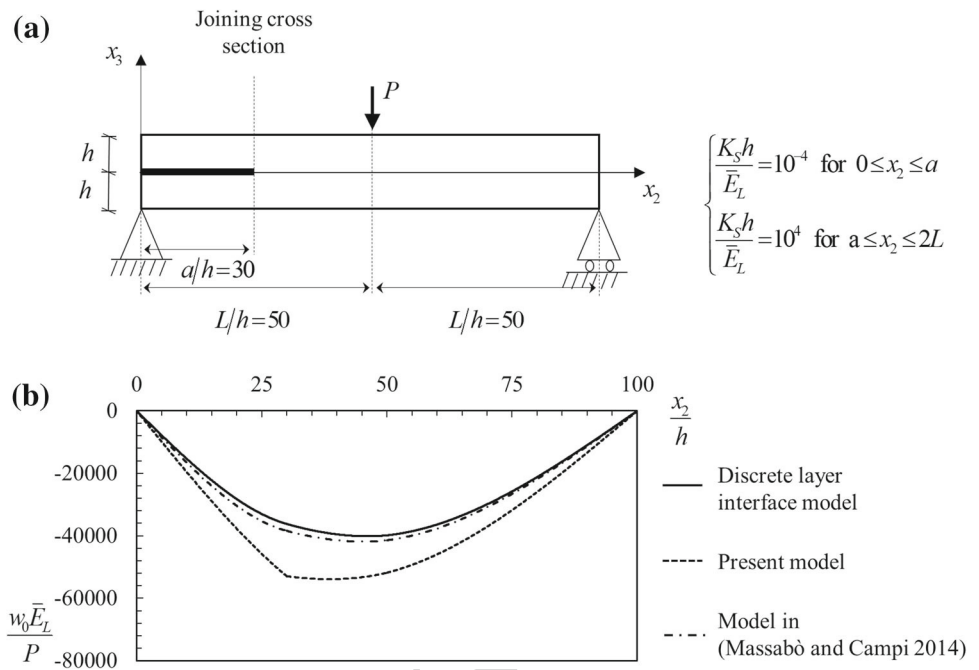


858 a larger mismatch of the interfacial stiffnesses, namely, for
 859 $K_S = 0$ and $G/G_{LT} = 0$, along the crack, and $1/K_S = 0$
 860 and $G/G_{LT} = 1$, in the intact domain, the inaccuracy would
 861 substantially increase and the model predict an unrealistic
 862 linear deflection in the cracked and intact regions of the
 863 specimen (not shown). The results obtained with the homogenized
 864 structural model in Massabò and Campi (2014) are

865 also shown in the figure and well reproduce the results of the
 866 discrete layer model.

867 The continuity condition imposed on the transverse shear
 868 forces at the crack tip cross sections and Eqs. (36) and
 869 (37) explain that the difference between the gradients of
 870 the transverse displacements in the two regions at $x_2 = a$,
 871 $w_{0,2}(a^+) - w_{0,2}(a^-)$, is controlled by the difference between

Fig. 12 **a** End Notched Flexural specimen with two equal thickness layers bonded by a linear-elastic interface with interfacial stiffnesses $K_S h / \bar{E}_L = 10^{-4}$ for $0 \leq x_2 \leq a$ and $K_S h / \bar{E}_L = 10^4$ for $a \leq x_2 \leq 2L$. **b** Deformed shape (shear correction factor $k_{44} = 5/6$)



872 the constants A_{44}^S of the two domains, which is given in
 873 Eq. (37) and depends on the difference between the homogenized
 874 shear rigidities. The kinematic continuity conditions,
 875 Eq. (34), do not enforce the gradients of the transverse displacements
 876 to coincide at continuity cross sections between different domains,
 877 as in classical structural theories, and impose instead a condition on the
 878 additional variable θ_2 . The problem is not present in the homogenized
 879 model in Massabò and Campi (2014), where continuity conditions are applied
 880 also on the gradient of the transverse displacement, and this
 881 explains why results in Fig. 12b are accurate.
 882

883 5 Conclusions

884 A homogenized structural model has been formulated for linear static
 885 analysis of multilayered beams and wide plates with layers joined by thin
 886 compliant interlayers, e.g., adhesive layers, or uniformly distributed
 887 mechanical connectors, e.g., nails, dowels, screws, pins, or stitches. The
 888 thin interlayers and the action of the connectors are described by introducing
 889 zero-thickness sliding interfaces, whose mechanical response is controlled
 890 by linear-elastic constitutive laws. The model extends the zigzag theory
 891 formulated in Tessler et al. (2009) for fully bonded beams to account for
 892 the presence of imperfect interfaces using the multiscale strategy proposed
 893 in Massabò and Campi (2014). The global displacement field of first-order
 894 shear deformation theory is enriched by a local field which describes the
 895 inhomogeneous material structure and the jumps at the imperfect interfaces.
 896 A homogenization

899 technique based on the imposition of continuity conditions on the tractions
 900 at the layer interfaces is used to define the local variables in terms of the
 901 global variables. Homogenized equilibrium equations are then derived using
 902 a variational technique; they depend on four global variables, independently
 903 of the number of layers or imperfect interfaces in the system. The problem
 904 is solved in closed form, also in the limit of fully debonded layers; this
 905 allows to easily investigate and understand the effects of the status of the
 906 bonding on global and local fields.
 907

908 The model formulated in this paper overcomes the limitations of models
 909 based on a discrete layer discretization of the problem, where the number
 910 of displacement variables depends on the number of layers and imperfect
 911 interfaces. It also has advantages over models which are based on a
 912 homogenized zigzag approach and describe the thin interlayers as regular
 913 layers, since the solution is more efficient and the model can treat systems
 914 made of individual layers joined by mechanical fasteners, where the actual
 915 thickness of the interfaces is zero. The model maintains the advantages of
 916 the original zigzag theory in Tessler et al. (2009) in the treatment of the
 917 shear deformations and is able to accurately predict global and local fields
 918 in simply supported highly anisotropic thick plates, also in the presence of
 919 imperfect or fully debonded interfaces. It improves solutions obtained
 920 with homogenized structural models based on classical zigzag theories
 921 (Massabò and Campi 2014). Improvements with respect to similar
 922 homogenized approaches are also observed in the treatment of clamped
 923 supports, where the fictitious boundary layers observed in the previous
 924 works are reduced in size or
 925
 926
 927
 928

not present. Important limitations are instead observed in the capability of the model to treat plates with in-plane discontinuities, such as finite length delaminations, for which other homogenized approaches prove to be more accurate.

The formulation is limited to beams or plates in cylindrical bending with layers aligned along the bending axes and linear elastic, sliding only, interfaces. The formulation can be extended to model 2D structures and interfaces with generally nonlinear traction laws, which are necessary to describe interfacial damage, delaminations, and problems, where the interfacial normal tractions are important, following the methodology in Massabò and Campi (2015).

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Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest On behalf of all authors, the corresponding author states that there is no conflict of interest.

Appendix A: Solutions for fully debonded layers

In a plate with fully debonded layers (very compliant interlayers or absence of mechanical connectors) with $K_S^i \rightarrow 0$ for $i = 1, \dots, n - 1$, $G \rightarrow 0$ and $G/K_S^i \rightarrow h/(n - 1)$ from Eq. (19), the enrichment function, Eq. (22), becomes

$${}^{(k)}\phi(x_3) = -(x_3 - x_3^{k-1}) + \frac{h}{n-1}(k-1) - \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} {}^{(i)}h, \quad (44)$$

and the displacement field in terms of the global variables, Eq. (23), modifies as

$${}^{(k)}v_2(x_2, x_3) = v_{02}(x_2) + [\varphi_2(x_2) - \theta_2(x_2)]x_3 + \theta_2(x_2) \left(x_3^{k-1} + \frac{h(k-1)}{n-1} - \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} {}^{(i)}h \right)$$

$${}^{(k)}v_3(x_2) = w_0(x_2). \quad (45)$$

The strain and stress fields are obtained from Eqs. (24) and (25) setting $G \rightarrow 0$:

$${}^{(k)}\varepsilon_{22}(x_2) = v_{02,2}(x_2) + [\varphi_{2,2}(x_2) - \theta_{2,2}(x_2)]x_3 + \theta_{2,2}(x_2) \left(x_3^{k-1} + \frac{h(k-1)}{n-1} - \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} {}^{(i)}h \right)$$

$$2^{(k)}\varepsilon_{23}(x_2) = \varphi_2(x_2) + w_{0,2}(x_2) - \theta_2(x_2)$$

$${}^{(k)}\sigma_{22}(x_2, x_3) = {}^{(k)}\bar{C}_{22} \{ v_{02,2}(x_2) + [\varphi_{2,2}(x_2) - \theta_{2,2}(x_2)]x_3 + \theta_{2,2}(x_2) \left(x_3^{k-1} + \frac{h(k-1)}{n-1} - \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} {}^{(i)}h \right) \}$$

$${}^{(k)}\sigma_{23}(x_2, x_3) = {}^{(k)}C_{44} [\varphi_2(x_2) + w_{0,2}(x_2) - \theta_2(x_2)]. \quad (46)$$

The equilibrium equation (38) and boundary conditions (39) are obtained by taking the limit of the coefficients in Eq. (37) as the interfacial stiffness goes to zero. For this limit, the constants A_{22} , B_{22} , and D_{22} , which are independent of the interfacial stiffness, do not change, while the remaining constants take the following forms:

$$B_{22}^S = -B_{22} + \sum_{k=1}^n {}^{(k)}\bar{C}_{22} {}^{(k)}h \left\{ x_3^{k-1} + h \frac{k-1}{n-1} - \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} {}^{(i)}h \right\}$$

$$D_{22}^S = -D_{22} + \sum_{k=1}^n {}^{(k)}\bar{C}_{22} \left\{ x_3^{k-1} + h \frac{k-1}{n-1} - \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} {}^{(i)}h \right\} \int_{x_3^{k-1}}^{x_3^k} x_3 dx_3$$

$$D_{22}^{SS} = -2D_{22}^S - D_{22}$$

$$+ \sum_{k=1}^n {}^{(k)}\bar{C}_{22} {}^{(k)}h \left\{ x_3^{k-1} + h \frac{k-1}{n-1} - \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} {}^{(i)}h \right\}^2$$

$$A_{44} = \sum_{k=1}^n {}^{(k)}C_{44} {}^{(k)}h; \quad A_{44}^{SS} = -A_{44}^S = A_{44}; \quad \hat{A}_{44}^S = 0. \quad (47)$$

In a plate made of layers having the same thickness, h/n , and elastic constants, the coefficients in Eq. (47) simplify. When the origin of the coordinate system is placed at the plate mid-thickness, they become

$$A_{22} = \bar{C}_{22}h; \quad B_{22} = 0; \quad D_{22} = \frac{\bar{C}_{22}h^3}{12};$$

$$A_{44} = -A_{44}^S = A_{44}^{SS} = C_{44}h; \quad \hat{A}_{44}^S = 0$$

$$B_{22}^S = 0; \quad D_{22}^S = \frac{\bar{C}_{22}h^3}{12n}; \quad D_{22}^{SS} = \frac{\bar{C}_{22}h^3}{6n(n-1)}. \quad (48)$$

Appendix B: decoupled equilibrium equations

The equilibrium equation (38) is decoupled by subsequent derivations/substitutions and eliminating $w_{0,2}$ through the introduction of a variable γ given by $\gamma = \varphi_2 + w_{0,2}$. The

984 system of decoupled equations, which has the same order of
985 the original system, is

$$\begin{aligned}
 \theta_{2,222} + \frac{A_{44}a_2 + A_{44}^S}{A_{44}a_1}\theta_{2,2} + \frac{f_3 + k_{44}A_{44}a_{3,2}(x_2)}{k_{44}A_{44}a_1} &= 0 \\
 \gamma &= a_1\theta_{2,22} + a_2\theta_2 + a_3(x_2) \\
 v_{02,22} &= \frac{B_{22}D_{22}^{SS} - D_{22}^S B_{22}^S}{A_{22}D_{22}^S - B_{22}B_{22}^S}\theta_{2,22} - \frac{B_{22}(k_{44}A_{44}^{SS} + \hat{A}_{44}^S)}{A_{22}D_{22}^S - B_{22}B_{22}^S}\theta_2 \\
 &\quad - \frac{k_{44}A_{44}^S B_{22}}{A_{22}D_{22}^S - B_{22}B_{22}^S}\gamma - \frac{D_{22}^S}{A_{22}D_{22}^S - B_{22}B_{22}^S}f_2 \\
 \varphi_{2,22} &= \frac{(B_{22}^S)^2 - A_{22}D_{22}^{SS}}{A_{22}D_{22}^S - B_{22}B_{22}^S}\theta_{2,22} + \frac{A_{22}(k_{44}A_{44}^{SS} + \hat{A}_{44}^S)}{A_{22}D_{22}^S - B_{22}B_{22}^S}\theta_2 \\
 &\quad + \frac{k_{44}A_{44}^S A_{22}}{A_{22}D_{22}^S - B_{22}B_{22}^S}\gamma + \frac{B_{22}^S}{A_{22}D_{22}^S - B_{22}B_{22}^S}f_2 \\
 w_{0,2} &= \gamma - \varphi_2, \tag{49}
 \end{aligned}$$

987 where

$$\begin{aligned}
 a_1 &= \frac{B_{22}[B_{22}D_{22}^{SS} - D_{22}^S B_{22}^S] + D_{22}[(B_{22}^S)^2 - A_{22}D_{22}^{SS}] + D_{22}^S[A_{22}D_{22}^S - B_{22}B_{22}^S]}{k_{44}A_{44}(A_{22}D_{22}^S - B_{22}B_{22}^S) + k_{44}A_{44}^S[(B_{22}^S)^2 - A_{22}D_{22}]} \\
 a_2 &= \frac{[D_{22}A_{22} - (B_{22}^S)^2][k_{44}A_{44}^{SS} + \hat{A}_{44}^S] - k_{44}A_{44}^S[A_{22}D_{22}^S - B_{22}B_{22}^S]}{k_{44}A_{44}(A_{22}D_{22}^S - B_{22}B_{22}^S) + k_{44}A_{44}^S[(B_{22}^S)^2 - A_{22}D_{22}]} \\
 a_3(x_2) &= \frac{f_{2m}[A_{22}D_{22}^S - B_{22}B_{22}^S] + f_2[D_{22}B_{22}^S - B_{22}D_{22}^S]}{k_{44}A_{44}(A_{22}D_{22}^S - B_{22}B_{22}^S) + k_{44}A_{44}^S[(B_{22}^S)^2 - A_{22}D_{22}]} \tag{50}
 \end{aligned}$$

990 The first equation (49) is a third-order differential equation
991 in θ_2 , whose solution allows cascading solutions for γ ,
992 through an algebraic equation, and for v_{02} and φ_2 , through
993 solutions of two second-order differential equations. The last
994 equation (49), which is a first-order differential equation,
995 defines w_0 .

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