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# Hypersingular Integral Equation for Triple Circular Arc Cracks in an Elastic Half-Plane

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# Abstract

Triple circular arc cracks problems subjected to shear stress in half-plane elasticity is investigated. Modified complex potentials (MCP) with the free traction boundary condition are applied to formulate the hypersingular integral equation (HSIE) for the problems. The unknown crack opening displacements (COD) of the HSIE are solved numerically by using the appropriate quadrature formulas. Mode I and Mode II of nondimensional stress intensity factor (SIF) at all cracks tips are presented for the problems of three adjacent circular arc cracks, three circular arc cracks with dissimilar radius and three circular arc cracks in series in a half-plane. The results exhibit that as the crack opening angle increases and the distance of cracks closer to the boundary of half-plane, the nondimensional SIF increases. This indicates that the strength of material becomes weaker and the tendency of material to fail is higher.

Keywords: half-plane; hypersingular integral equation; stress intensity factor; triple circular arc cracks.

## 1 Introduction

Structural failure may occur for many reasons, including defects in the materials, loading uncertainties, and natural disasters. Presence of cracks is one of the causes that might lead to material failure as it may weaken the strength of materials. Many researchers have proposed various methods to formulate the cracks problems in a half-plane, infinite plane, or bonded dissimilar materials.

Weakly singular integral equation by [3], hypersingular integral equation by [4] and singular integral equation by [7] were applied to formulate curved cracks problems in a half-plane elasticity. Potential theory was proposed for the contact problems and crack in half-plane of transversely isotropic piezoelectric materials by [10]. A distributed dipole technique is used by [9] to analyse the problem for multiple cracks of branced, kinked and straight cracks in a half-plane. [14] calculated the stress intensity factor for cracks in an orthotropic half-plane using the dislocation technique associated with the Cauchy singularity and Fourier transform in the complex form. [15] developed the analysis of cracks problems under mixed-mode condition in an orthotropic half-plane. The cracks problems in a half-plane for more complicated crack configurations were considered by [8].

Recently, the problems of triple cracks have drawn the attention of numerous researchers. The stress intensity factors for the three cracks problem of Griffith cracks on the surface of a pair of nonidentical infinite elastic half-spaces was analysed by [6]. Meanwhile, the stress magnification factors of three coplanar Griffith cracks in a sandwiched of two identical orthotropic half planes was calculated by [5]. [18] formulated the three collinear and parallel circular arc cracks problems using boundary element analysis. [12] applied the Schmidt method for the three cracks at the interface of a graded layer bonding two different materials. Three equal collinear cracks in an orthotropic solid and a homogeneous elastic were considered by [17]. [13] studied the dynamic stress intensity factors in an orthotropic plate subjected to time-harmonic disturbance for the case of three collinear cracks. [1] investigated the three cracks of collinear unequal smooth cracks of an isotropic infinite plate with coalesced yield zones by using the modification of Dugdale model.

In this paper, the problems of triple circular arc cracks in a half-plane elasticity is formulated into HSIE using the MCP and traction free boundary condition. The cracks are mapped into the real axis and are solved numerically. Mode I and Mode II of nondimensional SIFs are discussed and analysed graphically.

## 2 Mathematical Formulation

The complex potentials of the crack problem is formulated by utilising the complex variable function method. The stresses  $(\sigma_x, \sigma_y, \sigma_{xy})$ , the resultant force functions (X, Y) and the displacements (u, v) can be demonstrated by the two complex potentials  $\Phi(\xi) = \phi'(\xi)$  and  $\Psi(\xi) = \psi'(\xi)$  as follows [16]

$$\sigma_x + \sigma_y = 4Re\Phi(\xi),\tag{1}$$

$$\sigma_y + i\sigma_{xy} = 2Re\Phi(\xi) + \xi\overline{\Phi'(\xi)} + \overline{\Psi(\xi)},\tag{2}$$

$$f = -Y + iX = \phi(\xi) + \xi \overline{\phi'(\xi)} + \overline{\psi(\xi)}, \tag{3}$$

$$2G(u+iv) = \kappa\phi(\xi) - \xi\overline{\phi'(\xi)} - \overline{\psi(\xi)},\tag{4}$$

where  $\xi = \xi_x + i\xi_y$ , v is the Poisson's ratio, G is the shear modulus of elasticity,  $\kappa = 3 - 4v$  and  $\kappa = (3 - v)/(1 + v)$  are the plane strain and stress problems respectively. A conjugated value is described by the bar over a function. By differentiating Equation (3) with respect to  $\xi$  as

$$N + iT = \frac{d}{d\xi}(-Y + iX)$$

$$= \phi'(\xi) + \overline{\phi'(\xi)} + \frac{d\overline{\xi}}{d\xi}(\xi\overline{\phi''(\xi)} + \overline{\psi'(\xi)}),$$
(5)

the derivative in a specified direction (DISD) can be defined. The known normal and tangential tractions are represented by N and T respectively.

For the problem of cracks in a half-plane elasticity associated with the condition of traction free at the boundary of half-plane, the modified complex potentials (MCP) is applied. MCP constitutes of the principal and complementary parts describe as

$$\phi(\xi) = \phi_p(\xi) + \phi_c(\xi),\tag{6}$$

$$\phi'(\xi) = \phi'_p(\xi) + \phi'_c(\xi), \tag{7}$$

$$\psi(\xi) = \psi_p(\xi) + \psi_c(\xi),\tag{8}$$

$$\psi'(\xi) = \psi'_p(\xi) + \psi'_c(\xi), \tag{9}$$

where  $\phi_p(\xi)$ ,  $\phi'_p(\xi)$ ,  $\psi_p(\xi)$ ,  $\psi'_p(\xi)$  and  $\phi_c(\xi)$ ,  $\phi'_c(\xi)$ ,  $\psi_c(\xi)$ ,  $\psi'_c(\xi)$  represented the principal and complementary parts respectively. The principal part is attained from the crack opening displacements (COD) distribution along the crack faces in a problem of an infinite plate. The complex potentials of the principal part can be defined as

$$\phi_p(\xi) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_L \frac{g(\mu)d\mu}{\mu - \xi},$$
(10)

$$\phi_p'(\xi) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_L \frac{g(\mu)d\mu}{(\mu - \xi)^2},\tag{11}$$

$$\psi_p(\xi) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_L \frac{\overline{g(\mu)}d\mu}{\mu - \xi} + \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_L g(\mu) \left(\frac{d\bar{\mu}}{\mu - \xi} - \frac{\bar{\mu}d\mu}{(\mu - \xi)^2}\right),\tag{12}$$

$$\psi_p'(\xi) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_L \frac{\overline{g(\mu)}d\mu}{(\mu-\xi)^2} + \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_L g(\mu) \left(\frac{d\bar{\mu}}{(\mu-\xi)^2} - \frac{2\bar{\mu}d\mu}{(\mu-\xi)^3}\right).$$
(13)

COD is the unknown function which signifies by the  $g(\mu)$  and is interpreted by

$$g(\mu) = \frac{2G}{i(\kappa+1)} \left[ \left( u(\mu) + iv(\mu) \right)^+ - \left( u(\mu) + iv(\mu) \right)^- \right], \quad \mu \in L.$$
(14)

The displacements at a point  $\mu$  of the upper and lower parts of crack faces denote by  $(u(\mu) + iv(\mu))^+$  and  $(u(\mu) + iv(\mu))^-$  respectively. The traction at the boundary of half-plane caused by the principal part is eliminated by the complementary part. The condition of traction free along the boundary of half-plane ( $L_b$ ), can be expressed by letting Equation (3) equal to zero as

$$\phi(\xi) + \xi \overline{\phi'(\xi)} + \overline{\psi(\xi)} = 0, \quad \xi \in L_b.$$
(15)

Next, using Equations (6) - (8), the condition (15) along the boundary of half-plane is written as

$$\left[\overline{\phi_p(\xi)} + \overline{\phi_c(\xi)}\right] + \xi \left[\phi_p'(\xi) + \phi_c'(\xi)\right] + \left[\overline{\psi}_p(\xi) + \psi_c(\xi)\right] = 0, \quad \xi \in L_b.$$
(16)

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Then, substituting Equations (10) - (13) into Equation (16), after some manipulation, gives

$$\phi_c(\xi) = -\bar{\psi}_p(\xi) - \xi \bar{\phi}'_p(\xi), \tag{17}$$

$$\phi_c'(\xi) = -\bar{\phi}_p'(\xi) - \bar{\psi}_p'(\xi) - \xi \bar{\phi}_p''(\xi), \tag{18}$$

$$\psi_c(\xi) = -\bar{\phi}_p(\xi) + \xi \bar{\phi}'_p(\xi) + \xi \bar{\psi}'_p(\xi) + \xi^2 \bar{\phi}''_p(\xi), \tag{19}$$

where  $\bar{\phi}'_p(\xi)$  is an analytic function described by  $\bar{\phi}'_p(\xi) = \overline{\phi'(\bar{\xi})}$ . One obtains  $\phi_c(\xi)$  and  $\psi_c(\xi)$  from the established complex potentials  $\phi_p(\xi)$  and  $\psi_p(\xi)$ . Hence, from (6) and (8),  $\phi(\xi)$  and  $\psi(\xi)$  are determined.

The crack problem in a half-plane is fomulated by applying the HSIE and represented by  $[N(\mu_0) + iT(\mu_0)]_p$  and  $[N(\mu_0) + iT(\mu_0)]_c$  which are the principal and complementary parts respectively. Substituting Equations (10) - (13) into Equation (5) to obtain the  $[N(\mu_0) + iT(\mu_0)]_p$ . Meanwhile, for the  $[N(\mu_0) + iT(\mu_0)]_c$ , we need to substitute Equations (17) - (19) into Equation (5). Then, letting  $\xi$  approach  $\mu_0$  and changing  $d\bar{\xi}/d\xi$  by  $d\bar{\mu}/d\mu$ . By taking the observation point  $\mu_0$  on the crack L, the tractions are attained. Summing both parts  $[N(\mu_0) + iT(\mu_0)]_p$  and  $[N(\mu_0) + iT(\mu_0)]_c$  gives the following equations of a single crack problem [4]

$$[N(\mu_0) + iT(\mu_0)] = \frac{1}{\pi} \oint_L \frac{g(\mu)d\mu}{(\mu - \mu_0)^2} + \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_L \zeta_1(\mu, \mu_0)g(\mu)d\mu + \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_L \zeta_2(\mu, \mu_0)\overline{g(\mu)}d\mu, \quad \mu_0 \in L$$
(20)

where the kernals,  $\zeta_1$  and  $\zeta_2$  are described as

$$\begin{split} \zeta_1(\mu,\mu_0) &= -\frac{1}{(\mu-\bar{\mu_0})^2} - \frac{2(\bar{\mu_0}-\bar{\mu})}{(\mu-\bar{\mu_0})^3} - \frac{1}{(\mu-\mu_0)^2} - \frac{1}{(\mu-\bar{\mu_0})^2} \frac{d\bar{\mu}}{d\mu} - \frac{1}{(\bar{\mu}-\mu_0)^2} \frac{d\bar{\mu}}{d\mu} \\ &+ \frac{d\bar{\mu_0}}{d\mu_0} \bigg( \frac{1}{(\mu-\bar{\mu_0})^2} \frac{d\bar{\mu}}{d\mu} + \frac{1}{(\bar{\mu}-\bar{\mu_0})^2} \frac{d\bar{\mu}}{d\mu} + \frac{2(\bar{\mu_0}-\mu_0)}{(\mu-\bar{\mu_0})^3} \frac{d\bar{\mu}}{d\mu} \\ &+ \frac{6(\bar{\mu_0}-\bar{\mu})(\bar{\mu_0}-\mu_0)}{(\mu-\bar{\mu_0})^4} + \frac{2(3\bar{\mu_0}-2\mu_0-\bar{\mu})}{(\mu-\bar{\mu_0})^3} \bigg) \end{split}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta_2(\mu,\mu_0) &= -\frac{1}{(\bar{\mu}-\mu_0)^2} \frac{d\bar{\mu}}{d\mu} - \frac{1}{(\bar{\mu}-\mu_0)^2} - \frac{1}{(\mu-\bar{\mu}_0)^2} + \frac{2(\mu-\mu_0)}{(\bar{\mu}-\mu_0)^3} \frac{d\bar{\mu}}{d\mu} + \frac{1}{(\bar{\mu}-\bar{\mu}_0)^2} \frac{d\bar{\mu}}{d\mu}, \\ &+ \frac{d\bar{\mu}_0}{d\mu_0} \bigg( \frac{1}{(\mu-\bar{\mu}_0)^2} + \frac{1}{(\bar{\mu}-\bar{\mu}_0)^2} + \frac{2(\mu_0-\mu)}{(\bar{\mu}-\bar{\mu}_0)^3} \frac{d\bar{\mu}}{d\mu} + \frac{2(\bar{\mu}_0-\mu_0)}{(\mu-\bar{\mu}_0)^3} \bigg). \end{aligned}$$

Let  $N_j(\mu_{j0}) + iT_j(\mu_{j0})$  denote the tractions applied at the point  $\mu_{j0}$  of the crack-*j* and j = 1, 2, 3 for the triple cracks problems. By superposition of the COD distribution  $g_j(\mu_j)$  along the crack-*j*, HSIE of the triple cracks problem is attained as follows

$$N_{j}(\mu_{j0}) + iT_{j}(\mu_{j0}) = \frac{1}{\pi} \oint_{L} \frac{g_{j}(\mu_{j})d\mu_{j}}{(\mu_{j} - \mu_{j0})^{2}} + \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{L_{j}} \zeta_{1}(\mu_{j}, \mu_{j0})g_{j}(\mu_{j})d\mu_{j} + \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{L_{j}} \zeta_{2}(\mu_{j}, \mu_{j0})\overline{g_{j}(\mu_{j})}d\mu_{j} + \sum_{k=1}^{3} \left\{ \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{L_{k}} \frac{g_{k}(\mu_{k})d\mu_{k}}{(\mu_{k} - \mu_{j0})^{2}} + \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{L_{k}} \zeta_{1}(\mu_{k}, \mu_{j0})g_{k}(\mu_{k})d\mu_{k} + \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{L_{k}} \zeta_{2}(\mu_{k}, \mu_{j0})\overline{g_{k}(\mu_{k})}d\mu_{k} \right\} + \sum_{m=1}^{3} \left\{ \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{L_{m}} \frac{g_{m}(\mu_{m})d\mu_{m}}{(\mu_{m} - \mu_{j0})^{2}} + \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{L_{m}} \zeta_{1}(\mu_{m}, \mu_{j0})g_{m}(\mu_{m})d\mu_{m} + \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{L_{m}} \zeta_{2}(\mu_{m}, \mu_{j0})\overline{g_{m}(\mu_{m})}d\mu_{m} \right\}, \quad \mu_{j0} \in L_{j}$$

$$(21)$$

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where  $j \neq k \neq m$ .

The equal sign of the first integral signifies the hypersingular integral. Whereas the remaining integrals are defined as the regular integrals. The effect on crack-*j* influenced by itself is represented by the first three integrals, while the other integrals explain the effect of crack-*k* and crack-*m* on crack-*j* for j = 1, 2, 3 where  $j \neq k \neq m$ . Similar formulation can be found in [11].

Then, rewrite the solution (21) in the form of [2]

$$g_j(\mu_j)|_{\mu_j = \mu_j(s_j)} = \sqrt{a^2 - s_j^2} H_j(s_j) \quad \text{where} \quad H_j(s_j) = H_{j1}(s_j) + iH_{j2}(s_j) \tag{22}$$

for j = 1, 2, 3.

### 3 Numerical Examples

The stress intensity factor (SIF) at  $D_{jk}$  of crack-*j* for j = 1, 2, 3 and crack tips-*k* for k = 1, 2 are explained as follows

$$K_{D_{jk}} = (K_1 - iK_2)_{D_{jk}} = \sqrt{2\pi} \lim_{\mu \to \mu_{D_{jk}}} \sqrt{|\mu - \mu_{D_{jk}}|g'_j(\mu_j)} = \sqrt{\pi a_{jk}} F_{D_{jk}},$$
(23)

where  $F_{D_{jk}} = (F_{1D_{jk}} + iF_{2D_{jk}})$ .  $F_{1D_{jk}}$  and  $F_{2D_{jk}}$  are Mode I and II of nondimensional SIFs at tips k of crack  $D_j$ .

Table 1: The nondimensional SIF of a circular arc crack with different opening angle, $\alpha$ , under shear lo	bading $\sigma_x = p$ .

	$\alpha$			
SIF	$10^{\circ}$	$20^{\circ}$	$30^{\circ}$	$40^{\circ}$
$F_{1A}^{*}$	0.9740	0.9009	0.7942	0.6712
$F_{1A}^{**}$	0.9717	0.8977	0.7818	0.6312
$F_{2A}^*$	0.1723	0.3319	0.4675	0.5708
F <sub>2A</sub> **	0.1720	0.3318	0.4686	0.5714
$F_{1B}^{*}$	0.9739	0.9008	0.7943	0.6712
$F_{2B}^*$	-0.1723	-0.3318	-0.4675	-0.5708
*Current study **[18]				

Table 1 displays the behaviour of nondimensional SIFs  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  of a circular arc crack with opening angle,  $\alpha$ , under shear loading  $\sigma_x = p$ . It is shown that  $F_1$  at the tip of crack A is equal to  $F_1$  at the tip of crack B. Meanwhile  $F_2$  at the tip of crack A is equal to negative  $F_2$  at the tip of crack B. From the table, we can analyse that at crack tip A, the values of  $F_1$  decreases but  $F_2$  increases as the crack opening angle increases. Our result is in good agreement with those of [18].

#### 3.1 Example 1

Consider three adjacent circular arc cracks with opening angle  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2$  and  $\alpha_3$  in a half-plane under shear loading and free traction boundary condition as presented in Figures 1(a) and 1(b).

The space between cracks is described by d and h is the distance between cracks and the boundary of half-plane.  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are the radii of circular arc cracks respectively.

Figure 1(a) shows nondimensional SIFs  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  at all cracks tips for h/R = 0.2 and  $\alpha = \alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = \alpha_3$  varies. As  $\alpha$  varies,  $F_1$  at  $A_1$  is equal to  $F_1$  at  $C_2$  and  $F_1$  at  $A_2$  is equal to  $F_1$  at  $C_1$ . It is found that  $B_1$  and  $B_2$  have the same value of  $F_1$  as  $\alpha$  increases. When  $\alpha > 20^\circ$ ,  $F_2$  at  $A_1, B_1$  and  $C_1$  increases opposite to the behaviour of  $F_2$  at  $A_2, B_2$  and  $C_2$ . Whereas  $F_2$  at  $A_2, B_2$  and  $C_2$  increases when  $\alpha > 60^\circ$ .

Figure 1(b) represents the behaviour of  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  at all cracks tips for  $\alpha = \alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = \alpha_3$  varies and h/R = 0.2. As  $\alpha = \alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = \alpha_3$  increases,  $F_1$  at all cracks tips decreases.  $F_1$  at  $A_1$  is equal to  $F_1$  at  $C_2$ ,  $F_1$  at  $A_2$  is equal to  $F_1$  at  $C_1$  and  $F_1$  at  $B_1$  is equal to  $F_1$  at  $B_2$  as h/R varies. When  $\alpha > 60^\circ$ , at  $A_2$ ,  $B_2$  and  $C_2$ ,  $F_2$  increases opposite to the behaviour of  $F_2$  at  $A_1$ ,  $B_1$  and  $C_1$ .

Figures 1(c) and 1(d) portray the nondimensional SIFs  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  for h/R varies and  $\alpha = \alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = \alpha_3 = 45^\circ$  for the cracks problem in Figure 1(b). As h/R varies,  $F_1$  at  $A_1$  is equal to  $F_1$  at  $C_2$ ,  $F_1$  at  $A_2$  is equal to  $F_1$  at  $C_1$  and  $F_1$  at  $B_1$  is equal to  $F_1$  at  $B_2$  (Figure 1(c)). Meanwhile  $F_1$  at  $B_2$  sharply decreases when h/R > 2.5 (Figure 1(c)). As h/R varies,  $F_2$  do not show any significant difference at all cracks tips (Figure 1(d)). Whereas, when h/R > 3.0,  $F_2$  at  $A_1$ ,  $C_1$  and  $B_2$  slightly decreases (Figure 1(d)).

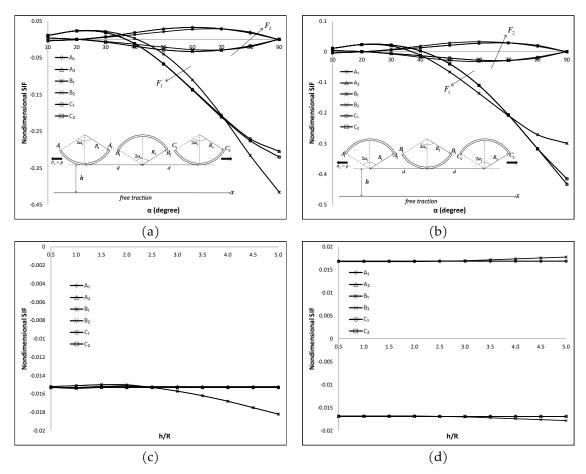


Figure 1: Three adjacent circular arc cracks in a half-plane: (a) and (b) the nondimensional SIFs when  $\alpha = \alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = \alpha_3$  varies and h/R = 0.2; (c)  $F_1$  and (d)  $F_2$  for h/R varies and  $\alpha = \alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = \alpha_3 = 45^\circ$ .

## 3.2 Example 2

Consider three circular arc cracks with opening angle  $\alpha$  and dissimilar radius in a half-plane subjected to shear stress and free traction boundary condition as shown in Figures 2(a) and 2(c).  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are denoted as radii of circular arc cracks respectively. h is the distance of cracks to the boundary of half-plane and the space between each crack is defined by d.

Figures 2(a) and 2(b) display the behaviour of  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  at all cracks tips as  $\alpha$  varies and h/R = 0.1 for the problem of cracks in Figure 2(a). As  $\alpha$  increases,  $F_1$  at  $A_1$  is equal to  $F_1$  at  $A_2$ ,  $F_1$  at  $B_1$  is equal to  $F_1$  at  $B_2$  and  $F_1$  at  $C_1$  is equal to  $F_1$  at  $C_2$  (Figure 2(a)). When  $\alpha > 20^\circ$ ,  $F_2$  at  $A_1$  is equal to negative  $F_2$  at  $A_2$  and  $F_2$  at  $C_1$  is equal to negative  $F_2$  at  $C_2$  (Figure 2(b)). Whereas  $F_2$  at  $B_2$  increase sharply opposite to the behaviour of  $F_2$  at  $B_1$  when  $\alpha > 40^\circ$  (Figure 2(b)).

Figures 2(c) and 2(d) represent the nondimensional SIFs  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  when h/R = 0.1 and  $\alpha$  varies for the cracks problem in Figure 2(c).  $F_1$  at  $B_1$  and  $B_2$  increases as  $\alpha$  increases (Figure 2(c)). When  $\alpha > 70^\circ$ ,  $F_2$  at  $B_2$  has the highest value of SIF opposite to the behaviour of  $F_2$  at  $B_1$  (Figure 2(d)).

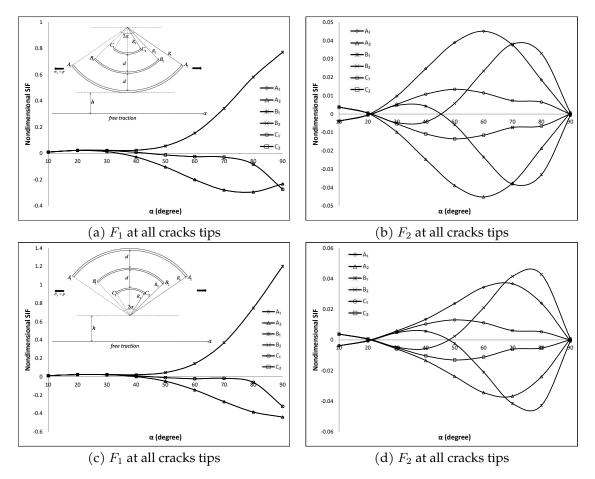


Figure 2: Three circular arc cracks problem with dissimilar radius in a half-plane: (a), (b), (c) and (d) the nondimensional SIFs when  $\alpha$  varies and h/R = 0.1.

## 3.3 Example 3

Consider three circular arc cracks in series with opening angle  $\alpha_1$ ,  $\alpha_2$  and  $\alpha_3$  in a half-plane subjected to shear stress and free traction boundary condition as shown in Figures 3(a) and 3(b).  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are defined as radii of circular arc cracks respectively. The space between cracks is d and h is the distance of cracks to the boundary of half-plane.

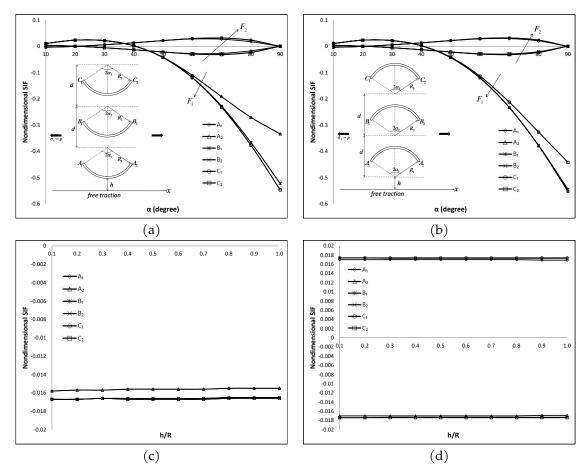


Figure 3: Three circular arc cracks in series in a half-plane: (a) and (b) the nondimensional SIFs when  $\alpha = \alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = \alpha_3$  varies and h/R = 0.5; (c)  $F_1$  and (d)  $F_2$  for h/R varies and  $\alpha = \alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = \alpha_3 = 45^\circ$ .

Figure 3(a) portrays the nondimensional SIFs for both  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  at all cracks tips as  $\alpha = \alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = \alpha_3$  varies and h/R = 0.5. It is found that  $F_1$  at  $A_1$  is equal to  $F_1$  at  $A_2$ ,  $F_1$  at  $B_1$  is equal to  $F_1$  at  $B_2$  and  $F_1$  at  $C_1$  is equal to  $F_1$  at  $C_2$  as  $\alpha$  increases.  $F_1$  decreases as  $\alpha$  increases at all cracs tips. When  $\alpha > 20^\circ$ ,  $F_2$  at  $A_1$ ,  $B_1$  and  $C_1$  increases but  $F_2$  at  $A_2$ ,  $B_2$  and  $C_2$  decreases. Whereas  $F_2$  at  $A_1$ ,  $B_1$  and  $C_1$  decreases when  $\alpha > 70^\circ$  opposite to the behaviour of  $F_2$  at  $A_2$ ,  $B_2$  and  $C_2$ .

Figure 3(b) displays the nondimensional SIFs  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  for h/R = 0.5 and  $\alpha = \alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = \alpha_3$ varies. As  $\alpha$  increases,  $F_1$  at all cracks tips decreases. It is observed that  $F_2$  at  $A_1, B_1$  and  $C_1$ increases but  $F_2$  at  $A_2, B_2$  and  $C_2$  decreases when  $\alpha > 20^\circ$ . Meanwhile when  $\alpha > 70^\circ$ ,  $F_2$  at  $A_2, B_2$  and  $C_2$  increases opposite to the behaviour of  $F_2$  at  $A_1, B_1$  and  $C_1$ .

Figures 3(c) and 3(d) show the nondimensional SIFs  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  when h/R varies and  $\alpha =$ 

 $\alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = \alpha_3 = 45^\circ$  for the cracks problem in Figure 3(a).  $F_1$  at all cracks tips remains constant as h/R increases (Figure 3(c)). As h/R increases,  $F_2$  at  $A_1$  is equal to negative  $F_2$  at  $A_2$ ,  $F_2$  at  $B_1$  is equal to negative  $F_2$  at  $B_2$  and  $F_2$  at  $C_1$  is equal to negative  $F_2$  at  $C_2$  (Figure 3(d)).

## 4 Conclusions

In this paper, three circular arc cracks problem subjected to shear loading in a half-plane elasticity is considered. By applying the free traction boundary condition, the problem is formulated into HSIE associated with the modified complex potentials. Appropriate quadrature formulas is utilised to solve the equations numerically. From the results, we can analyse that the behaviour of nondimensional SIFs for both Mode I and II at all cracks tips is influenced by the crack opening angle of circular arc cracks and the distance between cracks to the boundary of half-plane. As the angle increases and the distance of cracks closer to the boundary of half-plane, SIF increases. The strength of material decreases as SIF increases.

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Conflicts of Interest The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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