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Propagation of compressional elastic waves through a 1-D medium with contact nonlinearities

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Summary. Propagation of monochromatic elastic waves across cracks is investigated in 1D, both theoretically and numerically. Cracks are modeled by nonlinear jump conditions. The mean dilatation of a single crack and the generation of harmonics are estimated by a perturbation analysis, and computed by the harmonic balance method. With a periodic and finite network of cracks, direct numerical simulations are performed and compared with Bloch-Floquet's analysis.

1 Introduction

Failure processes resulting in a crack generally produce rough crack faces. Once crack opening has taken place, and the crack faces have undergone slight relative sliding displacement, the crack will never completely close again due to the nonconforming surfaces in partial contact. A complicated interaction between crack faces is expected, depending strongly on the magnitudes of the tractions transmitted across the rough surfaces in contact [9].

The interaction of ultrasonic waves with cracks has been investigated by many authors, assuming that the wavelength is much larger than a characteristic length of the roughness of the contacting surfaces. Linear slip-displacement models of crack-face interaction have been widely used [12, 10]. However, a non-physical penetration of contacting surfaces may occur in linear models. Moreover, laboratory experiments have shown that methods of non-destructive evaluation based on linear models may fail to detect partially closed cracks [13].

Here, we study wave propagation with a nonlinear model of contact proposed in [1, 2]. A monochromatic compressional wave propagates normally to a plane flaw surface, leading to a 1D problem detailed in section 2. Analysis of scattered fields is performed in section 3. With a single crack, the generation of harmonics and the mean dilatation of the crack are addressed analytically and numerically. Propagation through periodic networks of contact nonlinearities is studied by Bloch-Floquet's analysis [8] and simulations. Numerical experiments are proposed in section 4. Conclusions are drawn and future perspectives are suggested in section 5.

2 Problem statement

2.1 Configuration

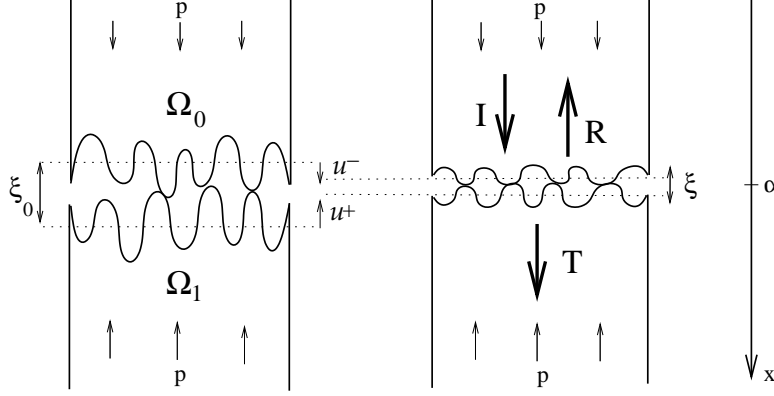


Fig. 1. Elastic media Ω_0 and Ω_1 separated by vacuum, with rough contact surfaces. Static (left) and dynamic (right) case, with incident (I), reflected (R) and transmitted (T) waves.

We consider a single crack with rough faces separating two media Ω_0 and Ω_1 linearly elastic and isotropic, with density ρ and elastic speed of the compressional waves c . These parameters are piecewise constant and may be discontinuous around the crack: (ρ_0, c_0) if $x \in \Omega_0$, (ρ_1, c_1) if $x \in \Omega_1$. The media are subject to a constant static stress p . At rest, the distance between planes of average height is $\xi_0(p) > 0$ (figure 1, left). An incident monochromatic wave, emitted by a punctual stress source at $x = x_s$ in Ω_0 , gives rise to reflected (in Ω_0) and transmitted (in Ω_1) compressional waves. These perturbations in Ω_0 and Ω_1 are described by the 1D elastodynamic equations

$$\rho \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial x}, \quad \frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial t} = \rho c^2 \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + 2\rho_0 c_0^2 v_0 \delta(x - x_s) \sin \omega t, \quad (1)$$

where v_0 is the amplitude of the incident elastic velocity, and $\omega = 2\pi f$ is the angular frequency of the source. The elastic velocity $v = \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}$, the elastic displacement u , and the elastic stress perturbation σ around p , are averaged fields per unit area in crack's plane. The dynamic stresses induced by the elastic waves affect the thickness $\xi(t)$ of the crack (figure 1, right). The constraint

$$\xi = \xi_0 + [u] \geq \xi_0 - \delta > 0 \quad (2)$$

must be satisfied, where $[u] = u^+ - u^-$ is the difference between the elastic displacements on the two sides of the crack, and $\delta(p) > 0$ is the *maximum allowable closure* [2]. We also assume that the wavelengths are much larger than ξ , neglecting the propagation time through the crack, and replacing it by a zero-thickness *interface* at $x = \alpha$: $[u] = [u(\alpha, t)] = u(\alpha^+, t) - u(\alpha^-, t)$.

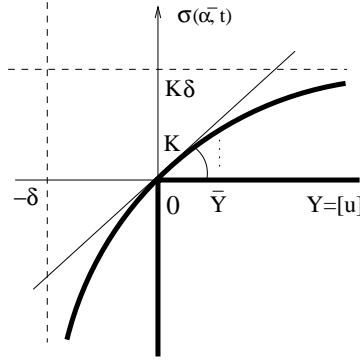


Fig. 2. Nonlinear relation between stress and slip displacement.

2.2 Contact law

Cracks are classically modeled by linear jump conditions [12] with *stiffness* K :

$$[\sigma(\alpha, t)] = 0, \quad [u(\alpha, t)] = \frac{1}{K} \sigma(\alpha^\pm, t). \quad (3)$$

If $K \rightarrow +\infty$, welded conditions are recovered. Conditions (3) violate (2) under large compression loadings: $\sigma(\alpha^\pm, t) < -K\delta \Rightarrow \xi < \xi_0 - \delta$. Hence, the linear regime induced by (3) is realistic only with very small perturbations. With larger ones, nonlinear jump conditions are required.

Compression loading increases the number and the surface of contacting faces. Consequently, a smaller stress is needed to open than to close a crack of a given displacement; an infinite stress is even required to close the crack faces completely. This behavior can be modeled by the global jump conditions proposed in [1, 2]

$$[\sigma(\alpha, t)] = 0, \quad [u(\alpha, t)] = \frac{1}{K} \frac{\sigma(\alpha^\pm, t)}{1 - \sigma(\alpha^\pm, t)/(K\delta)}, \quad (4)$$

satisfying (2) and implying $\sigma(\alpha^\pm, t) < K\delta$. The second relation in (4) is sketched in figure 2. The straight line with a slope K tangential to the hyperbola at the origin amounts to the linear jump conditions (3); as deduced from (4), the linear regime is valid only if $|\sigma(\alpha^\pm, t)| \ll K\delta$. A second limit-case not investigated here is obtained if $\delta \rightarrow 0$ and K bounded: the hyperbola tends towards the nondifferentiable graph of the unilateral contact, denoted by bold straight segments in figure 2.

3 Analysis of scattered fields

3.1 Single crack

Analytical approach. The scattered fields can be expressed in terms of $Y(t) = [u(\alpha, t)]$. Following [11, 4] gives the nonlinear ordinary differential equation (ODE)

$$\frac{dY}{dt} + \beta \frac{Y}{1+Y/\delta} = 2v_0 \sin \omega t, \quad (5)$$

satisfied by Y , with $\beta = K((\rho_0 c_0)^{-1} + (\rho_1 c_1)^{-1})$. Inspection of (5) and dimensional analysis show that Y is δ times a function of $\frac{v_0}{\beta\delta}$, $\frac{\omega}{\beta}$ and ωt . To solve (5), we assume $|Y|/\delta < 1$, which leads to the series

$$\frac{dY}{dt} + \beta \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{\delta^n} Y^{n+1} = 2v_0 \sin \omega t. \quad (6)$$

An approximate solution of (6) is sought by a *perturbation approximation* (PA) [3]

$$Y(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} Y_n(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\delta^n} y_n(t). \quad (7)$$

Nothing ensures that (7) converges: $|Y|/\delta < 1$ is always satisfied when $Y < 0$, but it is true when $Y > 0$ only if $\frac{v_0}{\beta\delta}$ is sufficiently small. Plugging (7) into (6) and identifying the terms with identical power of δ leads to an infinite series

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy_0}{dt} + \beta y_0 &= 2v_0 \sin \omega t, \\ \frac{dy_1}{dt} + \beta y_1 &= \beta y_0^2, \\ \frac{dy_2}{dt} + \beta y_2 &= \beta y_0 (2y_1 - y_0^2), \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

and so on. There is no influence of the truncation order N on the accuracy of the solution Y_n with $n < N$. The recursive and linear ODE are much simpler to solve than the nonlinear ODE (5), even if computing Y_n with $n \geq 2$ is cumbersome. This computation has been automatized with computer algebra tools. Since the number of terms in Y_n is roughly 2^{2n+1} , very high orders are currently out of reach. Computing Y_n up to $N = 8$ takes 20 mn on a Pentium 3 GHz. We detail the case $N = 1$. Setting $\varphi_0 = \arctan \frac{\omega}{\beta}$, the zero-th order periodic solution of (7)-(8) is

$$Y_0(t) = 2 \frac{v_0}{\beta} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + (\omega/\beta)^2}} \sin(\omega t - \varphi_0). \quad (9)$$

Setting $\varphi_1 = \arctan \frac{\beta}{2\omega}$, the first-order periodic solution of (7)-(8) is

$$Y_1(t) = 2 \frac{v_0^2}{\beta^2 \delta} \frac{1}{1 + (\omega/\beta)^2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + (2\omega/\beta)^2}} \sin(2\omega t - 2\varphi_0 + \varphi_1) \right). \quad (10)$$

Two properties are deduced from (10). First, the mean value of Y_1 is non-null

$$\bar{Y}_1 = 2 \frac{v_0^2}{\beta^2 \delta} \frac{1}{1 + (\omega/\beta)^2} > 0. \quad (11)$$

More generally, the mean value \bar{Y}_{2n+1} of Y_{2n+1} is proportional to $\delta \left(\frac{v_0}{\beta\delta} \right)^{2n+2}$, and $\bar{Y}_{2n} = 0$. The mean thickness of the crack $\bar{\xi}$ deduced from (2) satisfies $\bar{\xi} = \xi_0 + \bar{Y} > \xi_0$, with $\bar{Y} = \sum \bar{Y}_n$. The dilatation predicted here is similar to the *DC* signal measured by [6] with glass-piezoceramic interface. The second property deduced from (10) concerns the term with

angular frequency 2ω . Its importance is quantified by the ratio of amplitudes between sinusoidal terms in (10) and (9)

$$\gamma_2 = \frac{v_0}{\beta \delta} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + (\omega/\beta)^2} \sqrt{1 + (2\omega/\beta)^2}}. \quad (12)$$

Consequently, nonlinear effects increase with $\frac{v_0}{\beta \delta}$ and decrease with $\frac{\omega}{\beta}$.

Numerical approach. To compute the scattered fields with high accuracy and no limitation about the range of validity, one implements the numerical *harmonic balance method* (HBM). The periodic elastic displacements are written ($k_0 = \omega/c_0$, $k_1 = \omega/c_1$)

$$\begin{aligned} u_I(x, t) &= \frac{v_0}{\omega} \{ \cos(\omega t - k_0 x) - 1 \}, \\ u_R(x, t) &= R_0^a + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left\{ R_n^a \sin n(\omega t + k_0 x) + R_n^b \cos n(\omega t + k_0 x) \right\}, \\ u_T(x, t) &= T_0^a + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left\{ T_n^a \sin n(\omega t - k_1 x) + T_n^b \cos n(\omega t - k_1 x) \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

The elastic stresses are deduced from (13). Fields are truncated at N and injected in (4). The truncation implies that $R_n^{a,b}$ and $T_n^{a,b}$ depend on N . The terms with identical trigonometric arguments are put together, and the terms with a trigonometric argument greater than $N\omega t$ are removed. The first condition (4) implies $2N$ linear equations, without R_0^a and T_0^a . The second condition (4) implies $2N + 1$ nonlinear equations, including $T_0^a - R_0^a + v_0/\omega$. Finally, we get a $(4N + 1) \times (4N + 1)$ nonlinear system with first-order or second-order polynomial entries

$$F(X) = 0, \quad X = (\bar{Y}, R_1^a, T_1^a, R_1^b, T_1^b, \dots, R_N^b, T_N^b)^T, \quad \bar{Y} = T_0^a - R_0^a + \frac{v_0}{\omega}. \quad (14)$$

To solve (14), three cases may be considered:

- *linear regime, for all N :* (14) becomes a linear system whose solution is easy to compute analytically. In this limit-case, $\bar{Y} = 0$ and $R_n^{a,b} = T_n^{a,b} = 0$ if $n \geq 2$;
- *nonlinear case, $N = 1$:* (14) can be solved analytically. A detailed study shows that the solution may not be unique: if v_0 is lower than a critical value \tilde{v}_0 , there exists only one real root; if $v_0 > \tilde{v}_0$, there are three real roots. Moreover, $\bar{Y} > 0$; an approximation of this jump recovers the value \bar{Y}_1 deduced from the PA (11);
- *nonlinear case, $N > 1$:* (14) is solved numerically by the Newton-Raphson method. The determination of F and of its jacobian J has been automatized with computer algebra tools: computing F and J with $N = 100$ roughly takes 1 second on a Pentium 3 GHz. The root of (14) may be not unique, like with $N = 1$ and $v_0 > \tilde{v}_0$. The initialization must therefore be done carefully, e.g. using the exact values of the first 5 components of X at $N = 1$, and setting the other components to zero. This simple initialization works up to $v_0 \approx \tilde{v}_0$. With stronger nonlinearities, this approach is coupled with a basic continuation.

3.2 Network of cracks

Analytical approach. A Bloch-Floquet's analysis [8] is applied to an infinite and periodic network in linear regime. With constant parameters, the dispersion relation is

$$\cos \hat{k}h = \cos kh - \frac{\rho c \omega}{2K} \sin kh, \quad (15)$$

where \hat{k} is the effective wavenumber and h is the spacing between cracks. If

$$-\left|\frac{1-\theta}{1+\theta}\right| \leq \cos kh \leq \left|\frac{1-\theta}{1+\theta}\right|, \quad \theta = \left(\frac{\rho c \omega}{2K}\right)^2, \quad (16)$$

the waves are not attenuated. Otherwise, the waves are evanescent with decay

$$\Im \hat{k} = -\frac{1}{h} \cosh^{-1} \left(\cos kh - \frac{\rho c \omega}{2K} \sinh kh \right). \quad (17)$$

Numerical approach. The analysis is much harder in nonlinear regime, since successive harmonics generated across cracks may not belong to the same pass-band structure. Consequently, nonlinear regime as well as non-periodic configurations are investigated by *direct numerical simulations* (DNS). A fourth-order ADER scheme solves (1) in the time domain. The jump conditions (4) are enforced numerically by an interface method [7]. With high nonlinearities, space-time mesh refinement is implemented around the cracks to discretize correctly the stiff fronts. Obviously, this approach also works with a single crack, hence it will be used to get reference solutions in each experiment.

4 Numerical experiments

A crack at $\alpha = 0.5$ m in aluminium is studied: $\rho_0 = \rho_1 = 2600$ kg/m³, $c_0 = c_1 = 6400$ m/s, $K = 10^{13}$ Pa/m, $\delta = 3 \cdot 10^{-7}$ m. Three amplitudes v_0 are considered: 0.01 m/s, 0.13 m/s, and 0.6 m/s. The source is at $x_s = 0.25$ m, and $f = 100$ kHz.

First, the elastic stress transmitted across the crack is shown in figure 3. In the left column, σ_T computed by HBM (\circ) is compared with the DNS ($-$). In the right column, the normalized harmonics I_i ($i = 1, \dots, 5$) are shown. The amplitude $v_0 = 0.01$ m/s (a-b) is too small to mobilize the nonlinearity of the crack, and $N = 2$ harmonics are sufficient. We measure $I_2 = 0.017$, to compare with $\gamma_2 = 0.016$: the approximation (12) is good. With $v_0 = 0.13$ m/s (c-d), $N = 10$ harmonics are used, and $I_2 = 0.24$ is measured, to compare with $\gamma_2 = 0.25$. Lastly, with $v_0 = 0.6$ m/s, $N = 50$ harmonics are required (e). We measure $I_2 = 0.60$, to compare with $\gamma_2 = 1.02$: the approximation (12) becomes poor. In the three cases and as deduced from the PA (section 3.1), the nonlinearity increases with v_0 . At a given v_0 , the I_i 's decrease strictly with i .

Second, the influence of v_0 on the jump \bar{Y} is illustrated in figure 4. The left column shows snapshots of u computed by DNS. The jump between mean values of u yields \bar{Y} . In the right column, the time history of $Y(t) = [u(\alpha, t)]$ is computed by fourth-order Runge-Kutta integration of (5) ($-$) and by PA (\circ). At small t , PA differs from RK 4 because it does not compute transients. With $v_0 = 0.01$ m/s, $\bar{Y} = 5.42 \cdot 10^{-11}$ m/s (to compare with the approximation $\bar{Y}_1 = 5.026 \cdot 10^{-11}$ m/s) is not visible (a), and $N = 2$ in the PA (b). With $v_0 = 0.13$ m/s, $\bar{Y} = 5.84 \cdot 10^{-8}$ m/s is measured (c), to compare with $\bar{Y}_1 = 5.60 \cdot 10^{-8}$ m/s, and $N = 6$ is required (d). In that case, the maximum value of $Y(t)$ is roughly 0.99δ : with greater values of v_0 , then $\max |Y|/\delta > 1$, and the PA may not converge. It is what happens with $v_0 = 0.6$ m/s: only RK 4 is shown (f), and $\bar{Y} = 9.82 \cdot 10^{-7}$ m/s is measured, to be compared with $\bar{Y}_1 = 1.02 \cdot 10^{-7}$ m/s.

Parametric studies performed by the HBM ($N = 50$) are proposed in figure 5. A log-log scale shows that \bar{Y} is very close to the line with slope 2 deduced from (11), even at high v_0 (a). The amplitude of I_i increases strictly with v_0 , and I_2 tends towards γ_2 at small v_0 (b).

Lastly, propagation across a periodic and finite network of cracks is simulated in figure 6. Two spacings are considered: $h = 1.72 \cdot 10^{-2}$ m and $h = 5.17 \cdot 10^{-2}$ m. In linear regime and

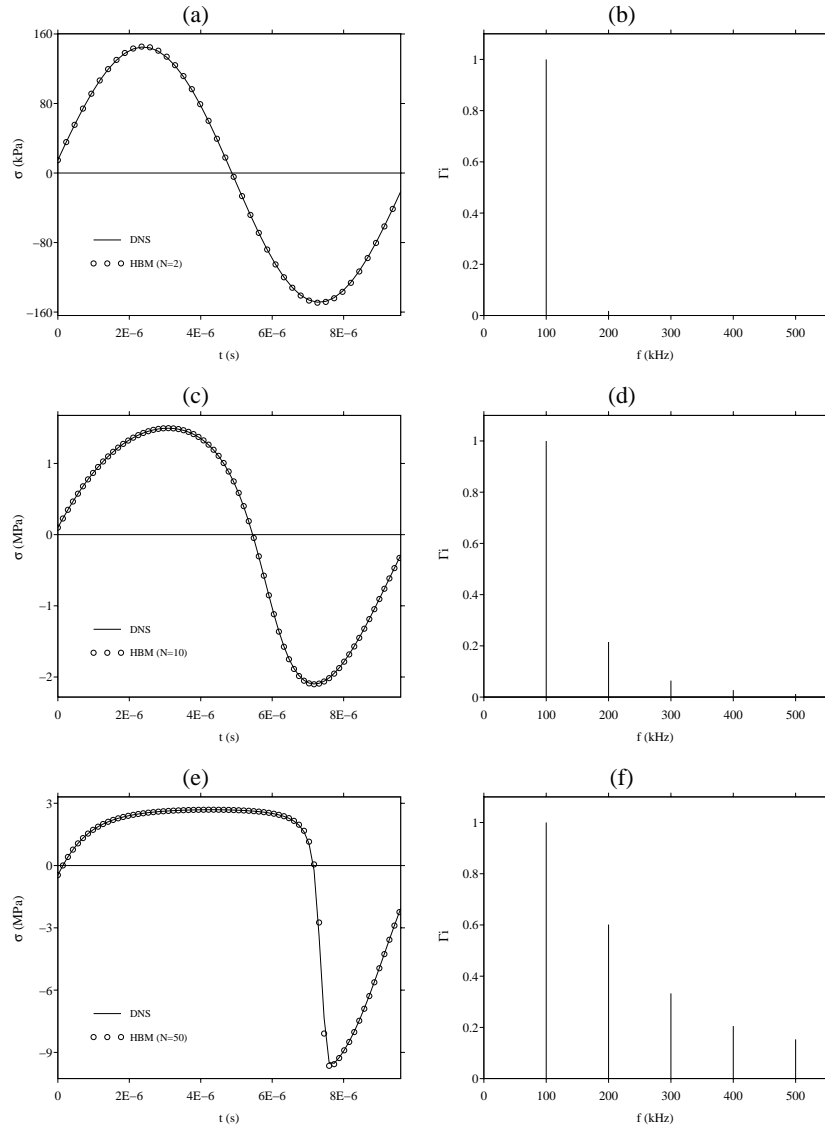


Fig. 3. Transmitted stress, with $v_0 = 0.01$ m/s (a-b), $v_0 = 0.13$ m/s (c-d), $v_0 = 0.6$ m/s (e-f). Left column: values of σ_T on a period; right column: normalized harmonics Γ_i ($i = 1, \dots, 5$).

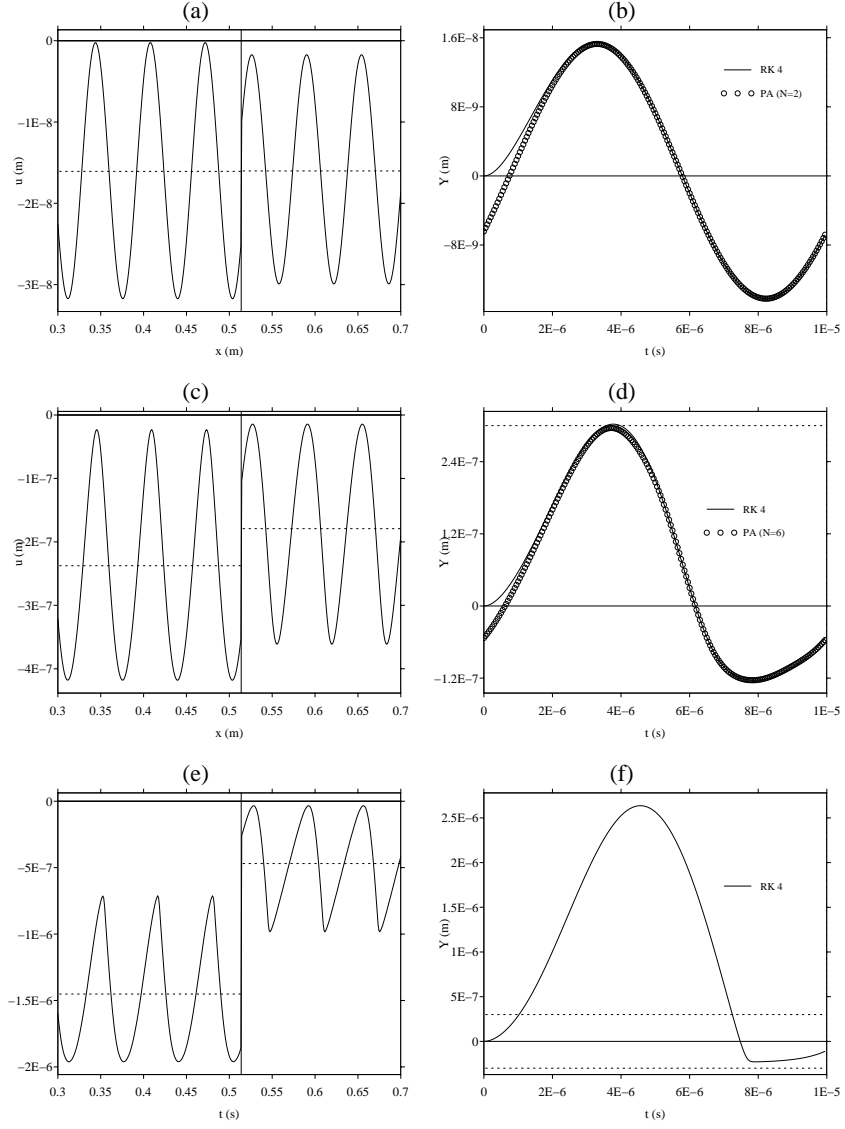


Fig. 4. Left column: snapshots of u around α (the dotted horizontal lines denote the mean value of u , on both sides of α). Right column: time history of $Y = [u(\alpha, t)]$ (the horizontal dotted lines denote $\pm \delta$). (a-b): $v_0 = 0.01$ m/s, (c-d): $v_0 = 0.13$ m/s, (e-f): $v_0 = 0.6$ m/s.

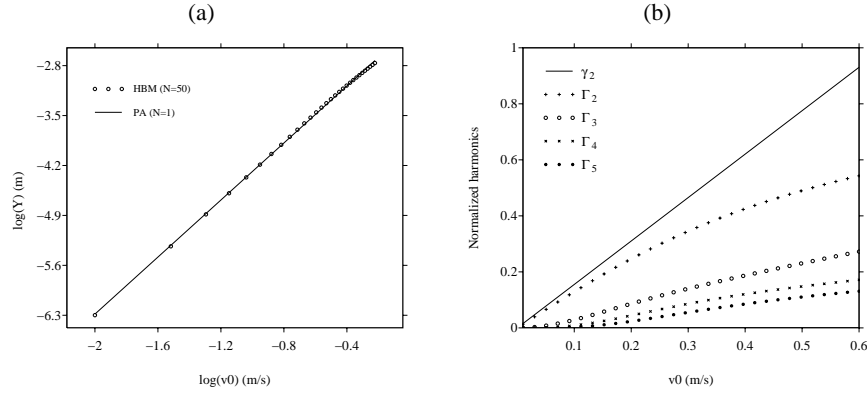


Fig. 5. Parametric studies in terms of v_0 : \bar{Y} (a), normalized harmonics Γ_i ($i = 2, \dots, 5$) (b).

with an infinite network, the Bloch-Floquet's analysis predicts respectively a pass-band and a stop-band behavior, observed with small amplitudes (a-b). The attenuation measured in (a) is in good agreement with the theoretical attenuation (17). With higher amplitudes (c to f), the behaviors are maintained.

5 Conclusion

The main results of this work are as follows:

1. with one crack, two phenomena are induced by the nonlinearity: mean dilatation of the crack, generation of harmonics, that both increase with $\frac{v_0}{\beta\delta}$ and $\frac{\beta}{\omega}$;
2. with many cracks, simulations show that properties of infinite linear networks are valid in nonlinear regime with finite networks much greater than wavelength.

Three directions are distinguished for further investigation:

1. investigation of shear effects, coupled or not with compressional efforts [1, 9];
2. analysis of the periodic solution of (5), to prove $\bar{Y} > 0$ and $\partial \bar{Y} / \partial \frac{v_0}{\beta\delta} > 0$;
3. effective properties of a random linear and nonlinear networks [5].

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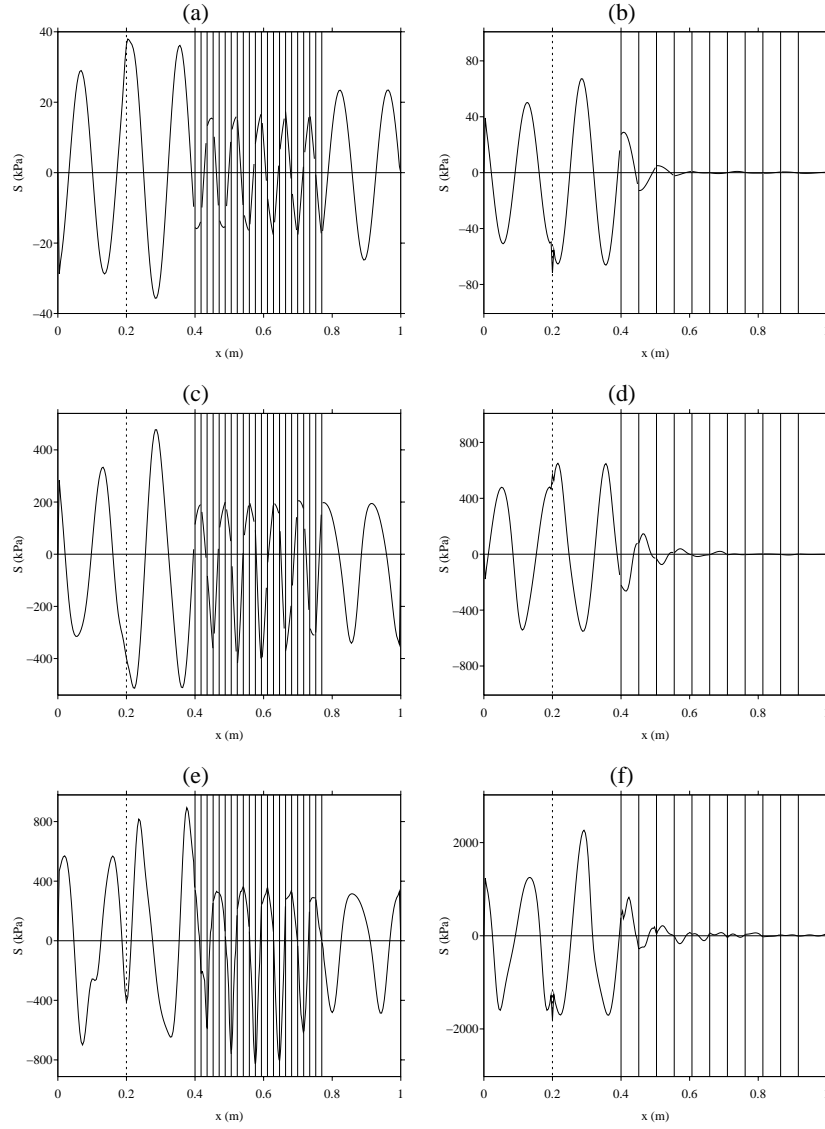


Fig. 6. Snapshots of σ , with $v_0 = 0.01$ m/s (a-b), $v_0 = 0.13$ m/s (c-d), $v_0 = 0.6$ m/s (e-f). The single vertical dashed line on the left denotes the source. The vertical solid lines denote the cracks.

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