



Impact Simulations of Fiber Reinforced Plastics with LS-Dyna and Digimat

Mikael Palm, CAE team leader, Husqvarna Group



Content

- About Husqvarna Group
- Simulation work-flow for glass-fiber reinforced plastics
- DSM beam comparison in a three-point bending load-case
- Correlation of simulation method
- Example of complete impact simulation model



This is Husqvarna Group

- A global leading producer of outdoor power products including chainsaws, trimmers, robotic lawn mowers and ride-on mowers
- Net sales in 2018 amounted to EUR 4.1 billion
- Core brands: Husqvarna, Gardena
- Sales in more than 100 countries
- Leadership positions in products for forest, park & garden care, as well as construction
- Main distribution channels are dealers and retailers, and with growing on-line presence
- Approximately 13,000 employees in 40 countries
- The share is listed on Nasdaq Stockholm





330 years of innovation





Simulation work-flow



Simulation work-flow



The information in the fiber orientation tensor is output from the FEA interface in Moldex3D



The direction of the vectors show the dominating fiber direction and the color represents the amount of alignment.

Digimat is used to map and simulate the non-linear material properties including failure. The structural mesh uses tetrahedral elements and the fiber orientation can vary within the element.



Simulation work-flow



Linear tetrahedrons with 4 integration points (type 4 solids) The element is deleted when 3 integration points have reached failure Always at least two elements through the thickness. Element size ~0.7 mm.



Material testing and characterization were done by our material supplier DSM at their material science centre.





The material models were validated by 3-point bending of an X-rib beam.





Mapping to LS-Dyna model were done in Digimat MAP.



Explicit tet-mesh model Simulated time: 0.1 s, time-step: 1.1e-7, added mass: 0.012 kg



DSM did a quasi-static implicit analysis in Abaqus with hexa elements in combination with Digimat, but the simulation was successfully re-created with an explicit simulation and tetrahedral elements in LS-Dyna at Husqvarna.

Husqvarna Group

Results with element erosion



Both the stiffness and crack initiation point were close to the original Abaqus results.

Correlation



Test setup for correlating the simulation method by crushing a battery housing





A stiff battery dummy was used. Deformation speed: 5 mm/min. The flat surface was lubricated to avoid influence of friction. Material: Dry Akulon K224-PG6 (PA6 30% GF)



Correlation



Moldex3D simulation to calculate fiber orientations in the battery housing



Boundary Layer Mesh (5 layers), meshed in Moldex3D designer (solid), 2.3e6 number of elements in cavity Runs on 8 processors and only fill phase is necessary to calculate fiber orientations



Correlation, component test





Simulation in LS-Dyna with contacts and Digimat anisotropic material model that included failure criteria.

The battery housing was compressed 10 mm.

Resembles a drop test where the heavy battery will apply a large force to the housing.

Husqvarna Group

Correlation, component test





When failure is reached for a finite element it is deleted and a crack opens up.

Correlation, component test







Cracks after 10 mm deformation correlate well with the simulated result



Correlation, component test



Correlation, drop test



Drop simulation of complete clearing saw model. Drop height: 600 mm













- Petrol trimmer drop simulation with Digimat material model in LS-Dyna
- Weight: 3.52 (engine) + 4.32 (shaft assembly) + 0.47 (fluid in tank) = 8.31 kg
- Drop height: 600 mm
- Impact energy: 48.9 J
- The drop test will be made with dry material at room temperature.



Mold filling simulation of the starter cover. Material: Akulon K224-PG6 (PA6 30% GF)











Animations of two variants of the starter cover



Removal of the connector that cracked solved a potential issue with the starter cover. The material model included fiber orientations and failure for increased accuracy.



Impact on muffler cover

Mold filling simulation of the muffler cover. Material: Akulon S223-HG6 (PA66 30% GF)





Fiber orientation



Impact on muffler cover

Results example, not final version



Drop height of engine part: 600 mm Impact energy: 30.1 J Simulated time: 10 ms



Impact on muffler cover

Results example, not final version





Drop height of engine part: 600 mm Impact energy: 30.1 J Simulated time: 10 ms



Summary

• Implemented simulation loop containing mold filling simulations are now used mainly for impact simulations of Husqvarna battery products.

- Gives an increased accuracy and a possibility to predict the amount of damage after a drop test.
- Our material supplier (DSM) provides correlated material models in Digimat format.
- Design engineers can do the Moldex3D simulations that are used by the calculation group.



www.husqvarnagroup.com