

# Finite Element Modeling of the Detachment of Soft Adhesives

Stick-slip phenomena and Schallamach waves captured using reversible cohesive elements

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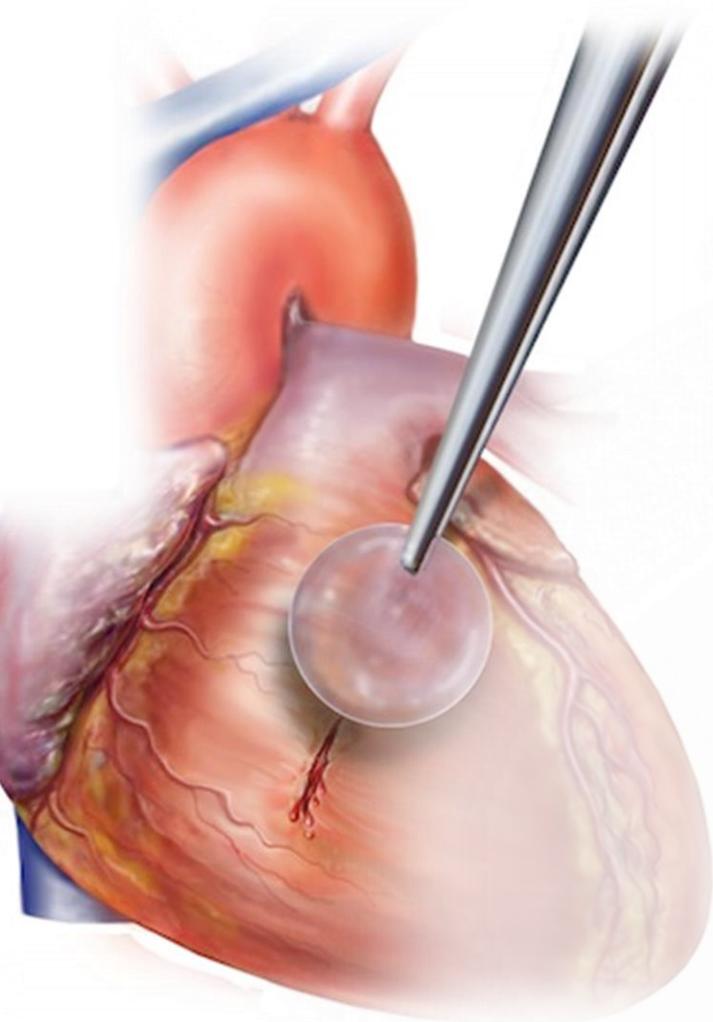
# Soft Adhesives

*And the remarkable reversible capacities of natural adhesives  
How to explain reattachment and reversible adhesion?*



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Medical: tissue repair,  
wound scaffolds or drug patches



High-precision  
non-damaging  
soft grippers

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## Soft Adhesive Applications



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Climbing robots for  
dangerous environments

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UC San Diego Jacobs School of Engineering (2018), Tolley Gecko Gripper on Flickr, consulted in Sept 2020 on <https://www.flickr.com/photos/jsoe/albums/72157695462669655/with/40449351705/>  
The European Space Agency (2014), Wall-crawling gecko robots can stick in space too, consulted in Sept 2020 [http://www.esa.int/Enabling\\_Support/Space\\_Engineering\\_Technology/Wall-crawling\\_gecko\\_robots\\_can\\_stick\\_in\\_space\\_too](http://www.esa.int/Enabling_Support/Space_Engineering_Technology/Wall-crawling_gecko_robots_can_stick_in_space_too)  
The Karplab (2014), Worm-Inspired Glue Mends Broken Hearts, consulted on Sept 2020 on <https://www.karplab.net/portfolio-item/worm-inspired-glue-mends-broken-hearts>

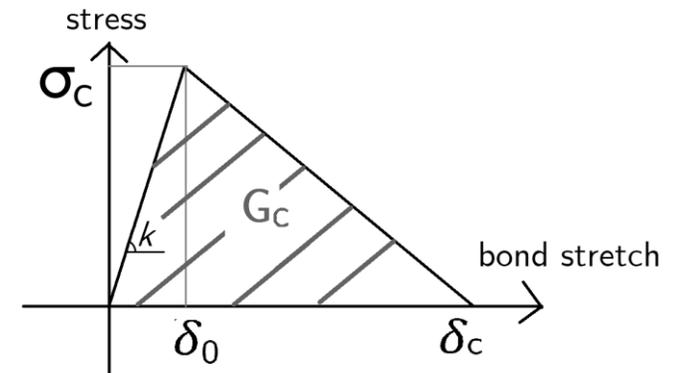
Experimental observations



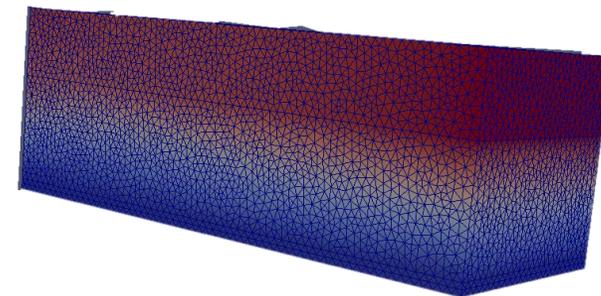
Research questions in mechanics of solids: how to explain, predict and influence physical realities?

Analytical theory

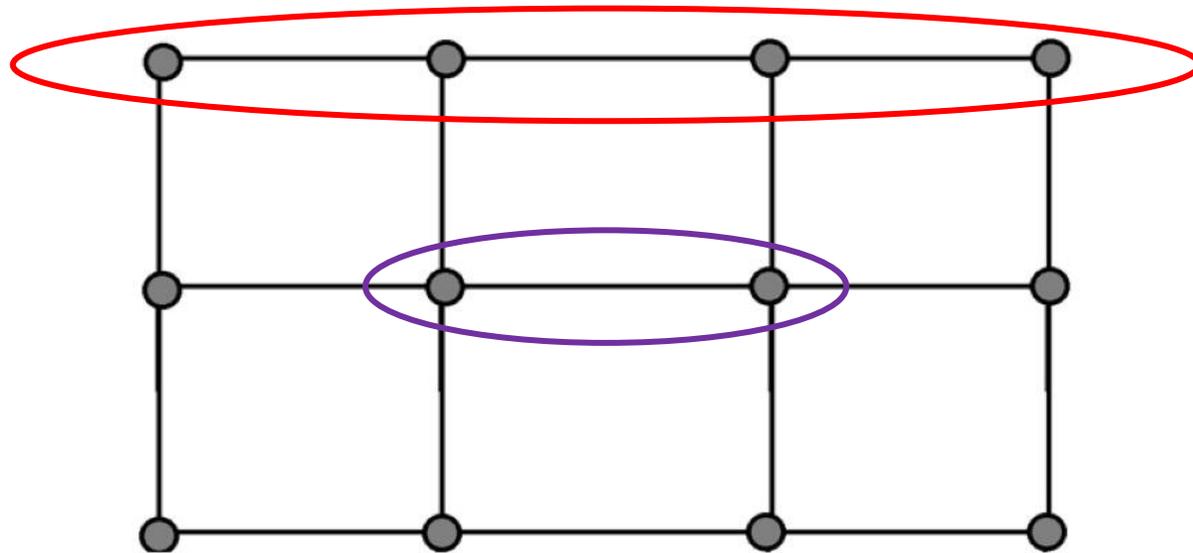
Cohesive elements represent surface strength assumptions



Numerical solutions



# Finite Element Models of solid deformation



Differential equations governing the conservation of mass and momentum:

$$\dot{\rho} + \rho \operatorname{div} \mathbf{v} = 0$$

$$\operatorname{div} \mathbf{T} + \rho \mathbf{b} = \rho \dot{\mathbf{v}},$$

$$\mathbf{T} = \mathbf{T}^T$$

+ constitutive equations linking stress induced by forces to strain encountered by the material

+Boundary conditions on the stress or strain state applied on the borders of the material

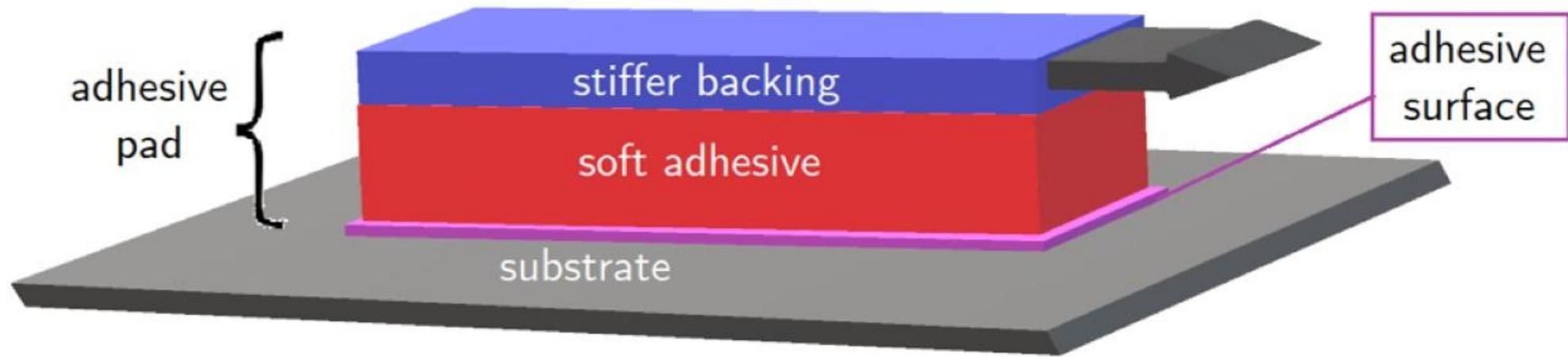
# Commercial Finite Element Models software

ANSYS

ABAQUS

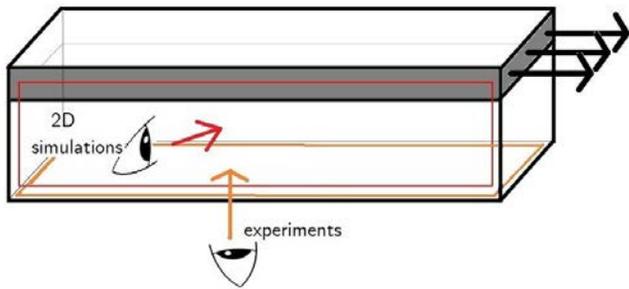
NX NASTRAN

Or code developed in research groups: Akantu

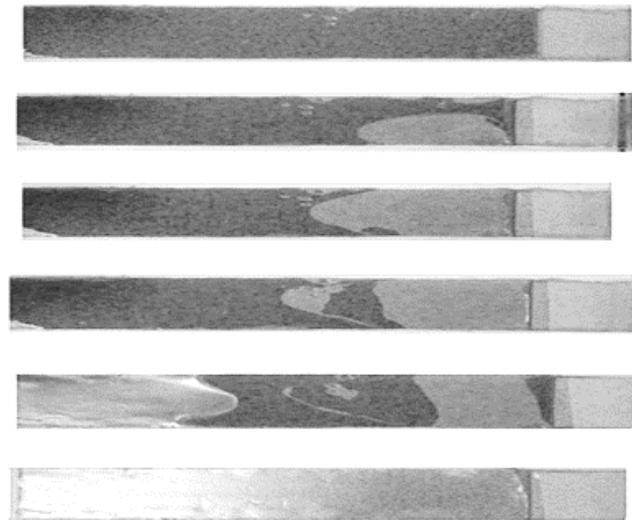


The detachment and re-attachment of adhesive with multiple layers when loaded parallel to their substrate

# Adapting a FEM framework allowed to numerically replicate a physical phenomena that is still not fully understood: Soft Adhesive detachment



Experiment



■ Attached      ■ Detached

Simulation



■ Attached      ■ Detached

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