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Mechanical Characterization of Composites and Biological Tissues by Means of Non-Linear Filtering

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Introduction

Constitutive models to characterize fibre-reinforced composites and biological tissues are complex and usually contain a large number of parameters. A common way to measure these parameters is to load samples of a simple shape in such a way, that a homogeneous stress and strain distribution is obtained in some part of the sample. In this way a direct coupling between stress and strain is possible. However, such a procedure has disadvantages when used for composites or biological materials: l

(1)

- Due to the complex mechanical behaviour it is hardly possible to create a simple stress and strain field. Hence the field equations can only be solved numerically.
- As many unknown parameters are to be determined (due to anisotropy, nonlinear visco-elastic behaviour) the number of experiments needed for a sufficient characterization is enormous.
- Most biological materials have inhomogeneous properties, so homogeneous strain distributions can not be obtained.

Here we follow a different approach, which does not require a homogeneous strain distribution. It is assumed that measurements of the strain distribution are available and that the field equations can be solved numerically.

· Theory

Assuming that a constitutive model for the material under investigation and a numerical procedure to solve the field equations are available, the problem is to find a column \underline{x} of unknown parameters from the equation:

 $\underline{\mathbf{y}}(t) = \underline{\mathbf{Y}}(\underline{\mathbf{x}}, \underline{\mathbf{w}}(t), t) + \underline{\mathbf{v}}(t)$

61.vii.2

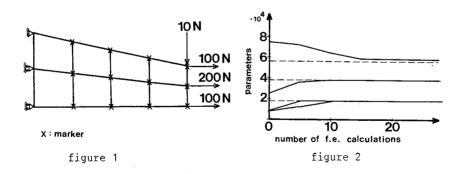
where: y = a column of measured displacements, w = a column of model errors, y = a column of measuring errors, t = time, $\underline{Y} = some non-linear function$. The function \underline{Y} is not explicitly available, but we assume that it is possible to calculate y for given \underline{x} by means of some numerical procedure, such as the finite element method.

Making use of an approximate non-linear filter procedure (Jazwinski, [1]) we obtain minimum variance estimates for the parameters, $\underline{\hat{x}}$:

 $J = \text{Expectation} \{ (\underline{x} - \underline{x})^{T} (\underline{x} - \underline{x}) \} \rightarrow \text{minimum}$ (2)

<u>Example</u>

The procedure has been used to characterize a transversally isotropic elastic material. Figure 1 shows a simulation of an experiment by means of a finite element calculation, in which plane stress is assumed. The displacements of the markers, artificially disturbed with noise, are used to determine four parameters out of one single experiment. Figure 2 shows the estimates for the model parameters as a function of the number of finite element calculations used in the optimization process. The horizontal straight lines indicate the real values of the parameters.



This and other experiments showed that the method offers an interesting tool for a quick characterization of complex materials.

References

 Jazwinski A.H.: Stochastic processes and filtering theory. New York and London: Academic Press 1970