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Citation: Nguyen, Trung-Kien, Nguyen, Ngoc-Duong, Vo, Thuc and Thai, Huu-Tai (2017) Trigonometric-series solution for analysis of laminated composite beams. *Composite Structures*, 160. pp. 142-151. ISSN 0263-8223

Published by: Elsevier

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.compstruct.2016.10.033>  
<<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.compstruct.2016.10.033>>

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# Trigonometric-series solution for analysis of laminated composite beams

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## Abstract

A new analytical solution based on a higher-order beam theory for static, buckling and vibration of laminated composite beams is proposed in this paper. The governing equations of motion are derived from Lagrange's equations. An analytical solution based on trigonometric series, which satisfies various boundary conditions, is developed to solve the problem. Numerical results are obtained to compare with previous studies and to investigate the effects of length-to-depth ratio, fibre angles and material anisotropy on the deflections, stresses, natural frequencies and critical buckling loads of composite beams with various configurations.

*Keywords:* Trigonometric-series solution; Laminated composite beams; Static; Buckling; Vibration.

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## 1. Introduction

Composite laminated beams have been increasingly used in the various engineering fields for example in constructions, spacecraft, aircraft, mechanical engineering, etc... In order to predict accurately their structural responses, various beam theories with different approaches have been developed. These beam theories can be divided into three following categories: classical beam theory (CBT), first-order beam theory (FBT) and higher-order theory (HBT). A general review and assessment of these theories for composite beams can be found in [1–3]. It should be noted that CBT is only suitable for thin beams due to neglecting shear effect. FBT overcomes this adverse by taking into account this effect. However practically an appropriate shear correction is required. By using higher-order variation of axial displacement, HBT predicts more accurate than CBT and FBT, and importantly no shear correction factor is necessary. Therefore, this theory has been increasingly applied in predicting responses of composite beams.

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For numerical methods, finite element method has been widely used to analyze composite beams [4–17]. For analytical approach, Navier solution is the simplest one, which is only applicable for simply supported boundary conditions ([18–20]). In order to deal with arbitrary boundary conditions, many researchers developed different methods. Ritz-type method is commonly used [21–24]. Khdeir and Reddy [25, 26] developed state-space approach to derive exact solutions for the natural frequencies and critical buckling loads of cross-ply composite beams. Chen et al. [27] also proposed an analytical solution based on state-space differential quadrature for vibration of composite beams. By using the dynamic stiffness matrix method, Jun et al. [28, 29] calculated the natural frequencies of composite beams based on third-order beam theory. A literature review shows that although Ritz procedure is efficient to deal with static, buckling and vibration problems of composite beams with various boundary conditions, the research on this interesting topic is still limited.

The objectives of this paper is to develop a new trigonometric-series solution for analysis of composite beams with arbitrary lay-ups. It is based on a higher-order theory which accounts for a higher-order variation of the axial displacement. By using Lagrange equations, the governing equations of motion are derived. Ritz-type analytical solution with new trigonometric series is developed for beams under various boundary conditions. The convergence and verification studies are carried out to demonstrate the accuracy of the proposed solution. Numerical results are presented to investigate the effects of length-to-depth ratio, fibre angle and material anisotropy on the deflections, stresses, natural frequencies and critical buckling loads of composite beams.

## 2. Theoretical formulation

A laminated composite beam with rectangular section ( $b \times h$ ) and length  $L$  as shown in Fig. 1 is considered. It is made of  $n$  plies of orthotropic materials in different fibre angles with respect to the  $x$ -axis.

### 2.1. Kinetic, strain and stress relations

**The displacement field of refined higher-order deformation theory ([30–32]) is given by:**

$$u_1(x, z) = u_0(x) - zw_{0,x} + \left( \frac{5z}{4} - \frac{5z^3}{3h^2} \right) \phi_0(x) = u_0(x) - zw_{0,x} + \Psi(z)\phi_0(x) \quad (1a)$$

$$u_3(x, z) = w_0(x) \quad (1b)$$

where  $u_0$ ,  $\phi_0$  and  $w_0$  are unknown mid-plane displacements of beam;  $\Psi$  is the shape function representing a higher-order variation of axial displacement; the comma indicates partial differentiation with respect to the coordinate subscript that follows.

The strain field of beams is given by:

$$\epsilon_{xx}(x, z) = u_{0,x} - zw_{0,xx} + \Psi(z)\phi_{0,x} = \epsilon_x^0 + z\kappa_x^b + \Psi(z)\kappa_x^s \quad (2a)$$

$$\gamma_{xz}(x, z) = \Psi_{,z}\phi_0 = g(z)\phi_0 \quad (2b)$$

where  $\epsilon_x^0$  and  $\kappa_x^b$ ,  $\kappa_x^s$  are the axial strain and curvatures of the beam.

The stress of the  $k^{th}$ -layer is given by:

$$\sigma_{xx}^{(k)}(x, z) = \bar{Q}_{11}^{(k)} [\epsilon_x^0(x) + z\kappa_x^b(x) + \Psi(z)\kappa_x^s(x)] \quad (3a)$$

$$\sigma_{xz}^{(k)}(x, z) = \bar{Q}_{55}^{(k)} \gamma_{xz}(x, z) \quad (3b)$$

where  $\bar{Q}_{11}^{(k)}$  and  $\bar{Q}_{55}^{(k)}$  are the in-plane and out-of-plane elastic stiffness coefficients in the global coordinates (see [30] for details).

## 2.2. Variational formulation

The strain energy  $\mathcal{U}$  of system is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{U} &= \frac{1}{2} \int_V (\sigma_{xx}\epsilon_{xx} + \sigma_{xz}\gamma_{xz}) dV \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^L \left[ A(u_{0,x})^2 - 2Bu_{0,x}w_{0,xx} + D(w_{0,xx})^2 + 2B^s u_{0,x}\phi_{0,x} - 2D^s w_{0,xx}\phi_{0,x} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + H^s(\phi_{0,x})^2 + A^s\phi_0^2 \right] dx \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where  $(A, B, D, B^s, D^s, H^s)$  are the stiffnesses of laminated composite beams given by:

$$(A, B, D, B^s, D^s, H^s) = \sum_{k=1}^n \int_{z_k}^{z_{k+1}} (1, z, z^2, \Psi, z\Psi, \Psi^2) \bar{Q}_{11}^{(k)} b dz \quad (5)$$

$$A^s = \sum_{k=1}^n \int_{z_k}^{z_{k+1}} g^2 \bar{Q}_{55}^{(k)} b dz \quad (6)$$

The work done  $\mathcal{V}$  by the compression load  $N_0$  and transverse load  $q$  is given by:

$$\mathcal{V} = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^L N_0(w_{0,x})^2 dx - \int_0^L qw_0 dx \quad (7)$$

The kinetic energy  $\mathcal{K}$  of system is written by:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{K} &= \frac{1}{2} \int_V \rho(z)(\dot{u}_1^2 + \dot{u}_3^2) dV \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^L \left[ I_0 \dot{u}_0^2 - 2I_1 \dot{u}_0 \dot{w}_{0,x} + I_2 (\dot{w}_{0,x})^2 + 2J_1 \dot{\phi}_0 \dot{u}_0 - 2J_2 \dot{\phi}_0 \dot{w}_{0,x} + K_2 \dot{\phi}_0^2 + I_0 \dot{w}_0^2 \right] dx \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

where dot-superscript denotes the differentiation with respect to the time  $t$ ;  $\rho$  is the mass density of each layer, and  $I_0, I_1, I_2, J_1, J_2, K_2$  are the inertia coefficients defined by:

$$(I_0, I_1, I_2, J_1, J_2, K_2) = \sum_{k=1}^n \int_{z_k}^{z_{k+1}} \rho^{(k)}(1, z, z^2, \Psi, z\Psi, \Psi^2) b dz \quad (9)$$

The total potential energy of system is expressed by:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi &= \mathcal{U} + \mathcal{V} - \mathcal{K} \\ \Pi &= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^L \left[ A(u_{0,x})^2 - 2B u_{0,x} w_{0,xx} + D(w_{0,xx})^2 + 2B^s u_{0,x} \phi_{0,x} - 2D^s w_{0,xx} \phi_{0,x} + H^s (\phi_{0,x})^2 + A^s \phi_0^2 \right] dx \\ &+ \frac{1}{2} \int_0^L N_0 (w_{0,x})^2 dx - \int_0^L q w_0 dx \\ &- \frac{1}{2} \int_0^L \left[ I_0 \dot{u}_0^2 - 2I_1 \dot{u}_0 \dot{w}_{0,x} + I_2 (\dot{w}_{0,x})^2 + 2J_1 \dot{\phi}_0 \dot{u}_0 - 2J_2 \dot{\phi}_0 \dot{w}_{0,x} + K_2 \dot{\phi}_0^2 + I_0 \dot{w}_0^2 \right] dx \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

Based on Ritz method [30], the displacement field in Eq. (10) is approximated in the following forms:

$$u_0(x, t) = \sum_{j=1}^m \psi_j(x) u_j e^{i\omega t} \quad (11a)$$

$$w_0(x, t) = \sum_{j=1}^m \varphi_j(x) w_j e^{i\omega t} \quad (11b)$$

$$\phi_0(x, t) = \sum_{j=1}^m \xi_j(x) \phi_j e^{i\omega t} \quad (11c)$$

where  $\omega$  is the frequency,  $i^2 = -1$  the imaginary unit;  $(u_j, w_j, \phi_j)$  are unknown values to be determined;  $\psi_j(x)$ ,  $\varphi_j(x)$  and  $\xi_j(x)$  are the shape functions which are proposed for simply supported (S-S), clamped-clamped (C-C) and clamped-free (C-F) boundary conditions given in Table 1. It is clear that the proposed shape functions satisfy various boundary conditions given in Table 2. It is noted that the inappropriate shape functions may cause slow convergence rates and numerical instabilities [21, 22]. In addition, for shape functions which do not satisfy boundary conditions, Lagrangian multipliers method can be used to impose boundary conditions [24, 33, 34].

The governing equations of motion can be obtained by substituting Eq. (11) into Eq. (10) and using Lagrange's equations:

$$\frac{\partial \Pi}{\partial q_j} - \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial \Pi}{\partial \dot{q}_j} = 0 \quad (12)$$

with  $q_j$  representing the values of  $(u_j, w_j, \phi_j)$ , that leads to:

$$\left( \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{K}^{11} & \mathbf{K}^{12} & \mathbf{K}^{13} \\ {}^T\mathbf{K}^{12} & \mathbf{K}^{22} & \mathbf{K}^{23} \\ {}^T\mathbf{K}^{13} & {}^T\mathbf{K}^{23} & \mathbf{K}^{33} \end{bmatrix} - \omega^2 \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{M}^{11} & \mathbf{M}^{12} & \mathbf{M}^{13} \\ {}^T\mathbf{M}^{12} & \mathbf{M}^{22} & \mathbf{M}^{23} \\ {}^T\mathbf{M}^{13} & {}^T\mathbf{M}^{23} & \mathbf{M}^{33} \end{bmatrix} \right) \begin{Bmatrix} \mathbf{u} \\ \mathbf{w} \\ \phi \end{Bmatrix} = \begin{Bmatrix} \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{F} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{Bmatrix} \quad (13)$$

where the components of stiffness matrix  $\mathbf{K}$  and mass matrix  $\mathbf{M}$  are given by:

$$\begin{aligned} K_{ij}^{11} &= A \int_0^L \psi_{i,x} \psi_{j,x} dx, K_{ij}^{12} = -B \int_0^L \psi_{i,x} \varphi_{j,xx} dx, K_{ij}^{13} = B^s \int_0^L \psi_{i,x} \xi_{j,x} dx \\ K_{ij}^{22} &= D \int_0^L \varphi_{i,xx} \varphi_{j,xx} dx + N^0 \int_0^L \varphi_{i,x} \varphi_{j,x} dx \\ K_{ij}^{23} &= -D^s \int_0^L \varphi_{i,xx} \xi_{j,x} dx, K_{ij}^{33} = H^s \int_0^L \xi_{i,x} \xi_{j,x} dx + A^s \int_0^L \xi_i \xi_j dx \\ M_{ij}^{11} &= I_0 \int_0^L \psi_i \psi_j dx, M_{ij}^{12} = -I_1 \int_0^L \psi_i \varphi_{j,x} dx, M_{ij}^{13} = J_1 \int_0^L \psi_i \xi_j dx \\ M_{ij}^{22} &= I_0 \int_0^L \varphi_i \varphi_j dx + I_2 \int_0^L \varphi_{i,x} \varphi_{j,x} dx, M_{ij}^{23} = -J_2 \int_0^L \varphi_{i,x} \xi_j dx \\ M_{ij}^{33} &= K_2 \int_0^L \xi_i \xi_j dx, F_i = \int_0^L q \varphi_i dx \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

The deflection, stresses, critical buckling loads and natural frequencies of composite beams can be determined by solving Eq. (13).

### 3. Numerical examples

In this section, convergence and verification studies are carried out to demonstrate the accuracy of the proposed solution and to investigate the responses of composite beams with various boundary conditions for bending, vibration and buckling problems. For static analysis, the beam is subjected to a uniformly distributed load with density  $q$ . Laminates are supposed to have equal thicknesses and made of the same orthotropic materials whose properties are followed:

- Material I [21]:  $E_1/E_2 = \text{open}$ ,  $G_{12} = G_{13} = 0.6E_2$ ,  $G_{23} = 0.5E_2$ ,  $\nu_{12} = 0.25$
- Material II [21]:  $E_1/E_2 = \text{open}$ ,  $G_{12} = G_{13} = 0.5E_2$ ,  $G_{23} = 0.2E_2$ ,  $\nu_{12} = 0.25$
- Material III [35]:  $E_1=144.9$  GPa,  $E_2=9.65$  GPa,  $G_{12} = G_{13} = 4.14$  GPa,  $G_{23}=3.45$  GPa,  $\nu_{12}=0.3$ ,  $\rho=1389$  kg/m<sup>3</sup>.

For convenience, the following normalized terms are used:

$$\bar{w} = \frac{100w_0E_2bh^3}{qL^4}, \bar{\sigma}_{xx} = \frac{bh^2}{qL^2}\sigma_{xx}\left(\frac{L}{2}, \frac{h}{2}\right), \bar{\sigma}_{xz} = \frac{bh^2}{qL}\sigma_{xz}(0,0) \quad (15a)$$

$$\bar{\omega} = \frac{\omega L^2}{h}\sqrt{\frac{\rho}{E_2}} \text{ for Materials I and II, } \bar{\omega} = \frac{\omega L^2}{h}\sqrt{\frac{\rho}{E_1}} \text{ for Material III} \quad (15b)$$

$$\bar{N}_{cr} = N_{cr}\frac{L^2}{E_2bh^3} \text{ for Materials I and II, } \bar{N}_{cr} = N_{cr}\frac{L^2}{E_1bh^3} \text{ for Material III} \quad (15c)$$

In order to evaluate the convergence and reliability of the proposed solution,  $(0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ)$  composite beams ( $L/h=5$ ) with Material I and  $E_1/E_2=40$  are considered. The mid-span displacements, fundamental natural frequencies and critical buckling loads with respect to the series number  $m$  for different boundary conditions are given in Table 3. It is observed that the responses converge quickly for three boundary conditions:  $m=2$  for buckling,  $m=12$  for vibration, and  $m=14$  for deflection. Thus, these numbers of series terms will be used for buckling, vibration and static analysis, respectively throughout the numerical examples. In comparison, the present trigonometric solution appears convergence more quickly than the polynomial series solution [33], especially for buckling analysis.

### 3.1. Static analysis

As the first example,  $(0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ)$  and  $(0^\circ/90^\circ)$  composite beams with material II and  $E_1/E_2=25$  are considered. Their mid-span displacements for various boundary conditions with 5 ratios of length-to-depth,  $L/h=5, 10, 20, 30, 50$  are given in Tables 4-5 and compared to earlier studies. It is observed that the present solutions are in excellent agreement with those calculated by various higher-order theories ([11], [14], [24], [36], [37]). The axial and transverse shear stresses of these beams with  $L/h=5, 10, 20$  are presented in Table 6 and compared to solutions obtained by Vo and Thai [14] and Zenkour [37]. Good agreements with the previous models are also found. The variation of the axial and shear stress through the beam depth is displayed in Figure 3, in which a parabolic distribution and traction-free boundary conditions of shear stress is observed.

Next, the effect of fibre angle change on the mid-span displacements of  $(\theta/\theta)_s$  composite beams ( $L/h=10$ ) with material II and  $E_1/E_2=25$  is plotted in Figure 2. It can be seen that the mid-span transverse displacement increases with the fibre angle, the lower curve corresponds to the C-F beams while the highest curve is C-C ones.

### 3.2. Vibration and buckling analysis

Tables 7-9 report the fundamental frequencies and critical buckling loads of  $(0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ)$  and  $(0^\circ/90^\circ)$  composite beams with different boundary conditions. The present solutions are validated

by comparison with those derived from HBTs ([11], [15], [21], [22], [24], [25], [26]). Excellent agreements between solutions from the present model and previous ones are observed while a slight deviation with those from Mantari and Canales [24] is found for  $L/h=5$ . The first three mode shapes of  $(0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ)$  and  $(0^\circ/90^\circ)$  composite beams ( $L/h=10$ ) with material I and  $E_1/E_2=40$  is plotted in Figure 4. It can be seen that the symmetric beam exhibits double coupled vibration  $(w_0, \phi_0)$  whereas the anti-symmetric one presents triply coupled vibration  $(u_0, w_0, \phi_0)$ . The effect of the ratio of material anisotropy on the fundamental frequencies and critical buckling loads is plotted in Figure 5. Obviously, the results increase with  $E_1/E_2$ .

Finally,  $(\theta/ - \theta)_s$  composite beams ( $L/h=15$ ) with material III are analysed. The effects of fibre angle variation on the fundamental frequencies and critical buckling loads are illustrated in Table 10 and Figure 6. It can be seen that the results decrease with an increase of fibre angle. A good agreement between the present solutions and those obtained from [6] is observed. It should be noted that there exist slight deviations between the present solution and Chandrashekhara et al. [6] with those from previous studies ([15], [23], [27]).  $[30^\circ/-30^\circ]_s$  composite beams with S-S, C-F and C-C boundary conditions are chosen to investigate the effect of the span-to-depth ratio on the fundamental frequencies and critical buckling loads (Figure 7). It can be seen that the results increase with the increase of  $L/h$ . The effect of the span-to-depth ratio is effectively significant for C-C boundary condition when  $L/h \leq 20$ .

#### 4. Conclusions

The authors proposed a new analytical solution for static, buckling and vibration of laminated composite beams based on a higher-order beam theory. This solution based on trigonometric series are developed for various boundary conditions. Numerical results are obtained to compare with previous studies and to investigate effects of fibre angle and material anisotropy on the deflections, stresses, natural frequencies, critical buckling loads and corresponding mode shapes. The obtained results showed that the proposed series solution converges quickly for buckling analysis. The present solution is found to simple and efficient in analysis of laminated composite beams with various boundary conditions.

#### Acknowledgements

This research is funded by Vietnam National Foundation for Science and Technology Development (NAFOSTED) under Grant No. 107.02-2015.07.



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Table 1: Trigonometric series for shape functions.

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Table 7: Normalized fundamental frequencies of  $(0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ)$  and  $(0^\circ/90^\circ)$  composite beams (Material I,  $E_1/E_2=40$ ).

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Table 9: Normalized critical buckling loads of  $(0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ)$  and  $(0^\circ/90^\circ)$  composite beams (Material I,  $E_1/E_2=40$ ).

Table 10: Normalized fundamental frequencies of  $[\theta/ - \theta]_s$  composite beams with respect to the fibre angle change ( $L/h=15$ , Materials III).

## CAPTIONS OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Geometry of laminated composite beams.

Figure 2: Effects of the fibre angle change on the normalized transverse displacement of  $[\theta / -\theta]_s$  composite beams ( $L/h=10$ , Material II,  $E_1/E_2=25$ ).

Figure 3: Distribution of the normalized stresses ( $\bar{\sigma}_{xx}$ ,  $\bar{\sigma}_{xz}$ ) through the beam depth of  $(0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ)$  and  $(0^\circ/90^\circ)$  composite beams with simply-supported boundary conditions (Material II,  $E_1/E_2=25$ ).

Figure 4: The first three mode shapes of  $(0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ)$  and  $(0^\circ/90^\circ)$  composite beams with simply-supported boundary conditions ( $L/h=10$ , Material I,  $E_1/E_2=40$ ).

Figure 5: Effects of material anisotropy on the normalized fundamental frequencies and critical buckling loads of  $(0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ)$  and  $(0^\circ/90^\circ)$  composite beams with simply-supported boundary conditions ( $L/h=10$ , Material I).

Figure 6: Effects of the fibre angle change on the normalized fundamental frequencies and critical buckling loads of  $[\theta / -\theta]_s$  composite beams ( $L/h=15$ , Material III).

Figure 7: Effects of the span-to-depth ratio on the normalized fundamental frequencies and critical buckling loads of  $[30^\circ/-30^\circ]_s$  composite beams ( $L/h=15$ , Material III).

Table 1: Trigonometric series for shape functions.

| Boundary conditions | $\varphi_j(x)$                   | $\psi_j(x)$                  | $\xi_j(x)$                   |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| S-S                 | $\sin \frac{j\pi}{L}x$           | $\cos \frac{j\pi}{L}x$       | $\cos \frac{j\pi}{L}x$       |
| C-F                 | $1 - \cos \frac{(2j-1)\pi}{2L}x$ | $\sin \frac{(2j-1)\pi}{2L}x$ | $\sin \frac{(2j-1)\pi}{2L}x$ |
| C-C                 | $\sin^2 \frac{j\pi}{L}x$         | $\sin \frac{2j\pi}{L}x$      | $\sin \frac{2j\pi}{L}x$      |

Table 2: Three different boundary conditions of beams.

| BC  | $x = 0$                                 | $x = L$                                 |
|-----|---|---|
| S-S | $w_0 = 0$                               | $w_0 = 0$                               |
| C-F | $u_0 = 0, w_0 = 0, \phi_0=0, w_{0,x}=0$ |   |
| C-C | $u_0 = 0, w_0 = 0, \phi_0=0, w_{0,x}=0$ | $u_0 = 0, w_0 = 0, \phi_0=0, w_{0,x}=0$ |



Table 3: Convergence studies for normalized mid-span displacements, fundamental frequencies and critical buckling loads of  $(0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ)$  composite beams ( $L/h = 5$ , Material I,  $E_1/E_2 = 40$ ).

| BC                     | Number of series ( $m$ ) |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|------------------------|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|                        | 2                        | 4       | 6       | 8       | 10      | 12      | 14      | 16      |
| Deflection             |                          |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| S-S                    | 1.4978                   | 1.4632  | 1.4685  | 1.4671  | 1.4676  | 1.4674  | 1.4675  | 1.4674  |
| C-F                    | 3.6160                   | 4.0311  | 4.1035  | 4.1380  | 4.1499  | 4.1571  | 4.1604  | 4.1626  |
| C-C                    | 0.8696                   | 0.9183  | 0.9274  | 0.9301  | 0.9311  | 0.9316  | 0.9319  | 0.9320  |
| Fundamental frequency  |                          |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| S-S                    | 9.2084                   | 9.2084  | 9.2084  | 9.2084  | 9.2084  | 9.2084  | 9.2084  | 9.2084  |
| C-F                    | 4.3499                   | 4.2691  | 4.2473  | 4.2394  | 4.2359  | 4.2342  | 4.2332  | 4.2327  |
| C-C                    | 11.8716                  | 11.6673 | 11.6269 | 11.6143 | 11.6093 | 11.6069 | 11.6056 | 11.6048 |
| Critical buckling load |                          |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| S-S                    | 8.6132                   | 8.6132  | 8.6132  | 8.6132  | 8.6132  | 8.6132  | 8.6132  | 8.6132  |
| C-F                    | 4.7080                   | 4.7080  | 4.7080  | 4.7080  | 4.7080  | 4.7080  | 4.7080  | 4.7080  |
| C-C                    | 11.6518                  | 11.6518 | 11.6518 | 11.6518 | 11.6518 | 11.6518 | 11.6518 | 11.6518 |

Table 4: Normalized mid-span displacements of ( $0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ$ ) composite beam under a uniformly distributed load (Material II,  $E_1/E_2=25$ ).

| BC  | Theory                   | $L/h$ |       |       |       |       |
|-----|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|     |                          | 5     | 10    | 20    | 30    | 50    |
| S-S | Present                  | 2.412 | 1.096 | 0.759 | 0.697 | 0.665 |
|     | Murthy et al. [11]       | 2.398 | 1.090 | -     | -     | 0.661 |
|     | Khdeir and Reddy [36]    | 2.412 | 1.096 | -     | -     | 0.665 |
|     | Vo and Thai (HBT) [14]   | 2.414 | 1.098 | 0.761 | -     | 0.666 |
|     | Zenkour [37]             | 2.414 | 1.098 | -     | -     | 0.666 |
|     | Mantari and Canales [24] | -     | 1.097 | -     | -     | -     |
| C-F | Present                  | 6.813 | 3.447 | 2.520 | 2.342 | 2.250 |
|     | Murthy et al. [11]       | 6.836 | 3.466 | -     | -     | 2.262 |
|     | Khdeir and Reddy [36]    | 6.824 | 3.455 | -     | -     | 2.251 |
|     | Vo and Thai (HBT) [14]   | 6.830 | 3.461 | 2.530 | -     | 2.257 |
|     | Mantari and Canales [24] | -     | 3.459 | -     | -     | -     |
| C-C | Present                  | 1.536 | 0.531 | 0.236 | 0.177 | 0.147 |
|     | Khdeir and Reddy [36]    | 1.537 | 0.532 | -     | -     | 0.147 |
|     | Mantari and Canales [24] | -     | 0.532 | -     | -     | -     |

Table 5: Normalized mid-span displacements of ( $0^\circ/90^\circ$ ) composite beams under a uniformly distributed load (Material II,  $E_1/E_2=25$ ).

| BC  | Theory                   | $L/h$  |        |        |        |        |
|-----|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|     |                          | 5      | 10     | 20     | 30     | 50     |
| S-S | Present                  | 4.777  | 3.688  | 3.413  | 3.362  | 3.336  |
|     | Murthy et al. [11]       | 4.750  | 3.668  | -      | -      | 3.318  |
|     | Khdeir and Reddy [36]    | 4.777  | 3.688  | -      | -      | 3.336  |
|     | Vo and Thai (HBT) [14]   | 4.785  | 3.696  | 3.421  | -      | 3.344  |
|     | Zenkour [37]             | 4.788  | 3.697  | -      | -      | 3.344  |
|     | Mantari and Canales [24] | -      | 3.731  | -      | -      | -      |
| C-F | Present                  | 15.260 | 12.330 | 11.556 | 11.410 | 11.335 |
|     | Murthy et al. [11]       | 15.334 | 12.398 | -      | -      | 11.392 |
|     | Khdeir and Reddy [36]    | 15.279 | 12.343 | -      | -      | 11.337 |
|     | Vo and Thai (HBT) [14]   | 15.305 | 12.369 | 11.588 | -      | 11.363 |
|     | Mantari and Canales [24] | -      | 12.475 | -      | -      | -      |
| C-C | Present                  | 1.920  | 1.004  | 0.752  | 0.704  | 0.679  |
|     | Khdeir and Reddy [36]    | 1.922  | 1.005  | -      | -      | 0.679  |
|     | Mantari and Canales [24] | -      | 1.010  | -      | -      | -      |

Table 6: Normalized stresses of  $(0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ)$  and  $(0^\circ/90^\circ)$  composite beams with simply-supported boundary conditions (Material II,  $E_1/E_2=25$ ).

| Lay-ups                      | Theory                 | $\bar{\sigma}_{xx}$ |        |        | $\bar{\sigma}_{xz}$ |        |        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------|--------|---------------------|--------|--------|
|                              |                        | $L/h=5$             | 10     | 20     | $L/h=5$             | 10     | 20     |
| $(0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ)$ | Present                | 1.0696              | 0.8516 | 0.7965 | 0.4050              | 0.4289 | 0.4388 |
|                              | Zenkour [37]           | 1.0669              | 0.8500 | -      | 0.4057              | 0.4311 | -      |
|                              | Vo and Thai (HBT) [14] | 1.0670              | 0.8503 | 0.7961 | 0.4057              | 0.4311 | 0.4438 |
| $(0^\circ/90^\circ)$         | Present                | 0.2362              | 0.2343 | 0.2338 | 0.9174              | 0.9483 | 0.9594 |
|                              | Zenkour [37]           | 0.2362              | 0.2343 | -      | 0.9211              | 0.9572 | -      |
|                              | Vo and Thai (HBT) [14] | 0.2361              | 0.2342 | 0.2337 | 0.9187              | 0.9484 | 0.9425 |

Table 7: Normalized fundamental frequencies of  $(0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ)$  and  $(0^\circ/90^\circ)$  composite beams (Material I,  $E_1/E_2=40$ ).

| BC                       | Lay-ups                      | Theory                   | $L/h$                        |         |        |        |        |        |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|                          |                              |                          | 5                            | 10      | 20     | 30     | 50     |        |
| S-S                      | $(0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ)$ | Present                  | 9.208                        | 13.614  | 16.338 | 17.055 | 17.462 |        |
|                          |                              | Murthy et al. [11]       | 9.207                        | 13.611  | -      | -      | -      |        |
|                          |                              | Khdeir and Reddy [25]    | 9.208                        | 13.614  | -      | -      | -      |        |
|                          |                              | Aydogdu [21]             | 9.207                        | -       | 16.337 | -      | -      |        |
|                          |                              | Vo and Thai [15]         | 9.206                        | 13.607  | 16.327 | -      | 17.449 |        |
|                          |                              | Mantari and Canales [24] | 9.208                        | 13.610  | -      | -      | -      |        |
|                          | $(0^\circ/90^\circ)$         | Present                  | 6.128                        | 6.945   | 7.219  | 7.274  | 7.302  |        |
|                          |                              | Murthy et al. [11]       | 6.045                        | 6.908   | -      | -      | -      |        |
|                          |                              | Khdeir and Reddy [25]    | 6.128                        | 6.945   | -      | -      | -      |        |
|                          |                              | Aydogdu [21]             | 6.144                        | -       | 7.218  | -      | -      |        |
|                          |                              | Vo and Thai [15]         | 6.058                        | 6.909   | 7.204  | -      | 7.296  |        |
|                          |                              | Mantari and Canales [24] | 6.109                        | 6.913   | -      | -      | -      |        |
| C-F                      | $(0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ)$ | Present                  | 4.234                        | 5.498   | 6.070  | 6.198  | 6.267  |        |
|                          |                              | Murthy et al. [11]       | 4.230                        | 5.491   | -      | -      | -      |        |
|                          |                              | Khdeir and Reddy [25]    | 4.234                        | 5.495   | -      | -      | -      |        |
|                          |                              | Aydogdu [21]             | 4.234                        | -       | 6.070  | -      | -      |        |
|                          |                              | Mantari and Canales [24] | 4.221                        | 5.490   | -      | -      | -      |        |
|                          |                              | $(0^\circ/90^\circ)$     | Present                      | 2.383   | 2.543  | 2.591  | 2.600  | 2.605  |
|                          | Murthy et al. [11]           |                          | 2.378                        | 2.541   | -      | -      | -      |        |
|                          | Khdeir and Reddy [25]        |                          | 2.386                        | 2.544   | -      | -      | -      |        |
|                          | Aydogdu [21]                 |                          | 2.384                        | -       | 2.590  | -      | -      |        |
|                          | Mantari and Canales [24]     |                          | 2.375                        | 2.532   | -      | -      | -      |        |
|                          | C-C                          |                          | $(0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ)$ | Present | 11.607 | 19.728 | 29.695 | 34.268 |
|                          |                              | Murthy et al. [11]       |                              | 11.602  | 19.719 | -      | -      | -      |
| Khdeir and Reddy [25]    |                              | 11.603                   |                              | 19.712  | -      | -      | -      |        |
| Aydogdu [21]             |                              | 11.637                   |                              | -       | 29.926 | -      | -      |        |
| Mantari and Canales [24] |                              | 11.486                   |                              | 19.652  | -      | -      | -      |        |
| $(0^\circ/90^\circ)$     |                              | Present                  |                              | 10.027  | 13.670 | 15.661 | 16.154 | 16.429 |
|                          |                              | Murthy et al. [11]       | 10.011                       | 13.657  | -      | -      | -      |        |
|                          |                              | Khdeir and Reddy [25]    | 10.026                       | 13.660  | -      | -      | -      |        |
|                          |                              | Aydogdu [21]             | 10.102                       | -       | 15.688 | -      | -      |        |
|                          |                              | Mantari and Canales [24] | 9.974                        | 13.628  | -      | -      | -      |        |

Table 8: Normalized critical buckling loads of  $(0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ)$  and  $(0^\circ/90^\circ)$  composite beams with simply-supported boundary conditions (Materials I and II,  $E_1/E_2=10$ ).

| Lay-ups                      | Theory           | $L/h$ |       |       |       |       |
|------------------------------|------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                              |                  | 5     | 10    | 20    | 30    | 50    |
| Material I                   |                  |       |       |       |       |       |
| $(0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ)$ | Present          | 4.727 | 6.814 | 7.666 | 7.848 | 7.945 |
|                              | Aydogdu [22]     | 4.726 | -     | 7.666 | -     | -     |
|                              | Vo and Thai [15] | 4.709 | 6.778 | 7.620 | -     | 7.896 |
| $(0^\circ/90^\circ)$         | Present          | 1.920 | 2.168 | 2.241 | 2.255 | 2.262 |
|                              | Aydogdu [22]     | 1.919 | -     | 2.241 | -     | -     |
|                              | Vo and Thai [15] | 1.910 | 2.156 | 2.228 | -     | 2.249 |
| Material II                  |                  |       |       |       |       |       |
| $(0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ)$ | Present          | 3.728 | 6.206 | 7.460 | 7.751 | 7.909 |
|                              | Aydogdu [22]     | 3.728 | -     | 7.459 | -     | -     |
|                              | Vo and Thai [15] | 3.717 | 6.176 | 7.416 | -     | 7.860 |
| $(0^\circ/90^\circ)$         | Present          | 1.766 | 2.116 | 2.227 | 2.249 | 2.260 |
|                              | Aydogdu [22]     | 1.765 | -     | 2.226 | -     | -     |
|                              | Vo and Thai [15] | 1.758 | 2.104 | 2.214 | -     | 2.247 |

Table 9: Normalized critical buckling loads of  $(0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ)$  and  $(0^\circ/90^\circ)$  composite beams (Material I,  $E_1/E_2=40$ ).

| BC  | Lay-ups                      | Theory                   | $L/h$  |        |        |        |         |
|-----|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
|     |                              |                          | 5      | 10     | 20     | 30     | 50      |
| S-S | $(0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ)$ | Present                  | 8.613  | 18.832 | 27.086 | 29.496 | 30.906  |
|     |                              | Mantari and Canales [24] | 8.585  | 18.796 | -      | -      | -       |
|     |                              | Khdeir and Reddy [26]    | 8.613  | 18.832 | -      | -      | -       |
|     | $(0^\circ/90^\circ)$         | Present                  | 3.907  | 4.942  | 5.297  | 5.369  | 5.406   |
|     |                              | Aydogdu [22]             | 3.906  | -      | -      | -      | -       |
|     |                              | Mantari and Canales [24] | 3.856  | 4.887  | -      | -      | -       |
| C-F | $(0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ)$ | Present                  | 4.708  | 6.772  | 7.611  | 7.790  | 7.886   |
|     |                              | Mantari and Canales [24] | 4.673  | 6.757  | -      | -      | -       |
|     |                              | Khdeir and Reddy [26]    | 4.708  | 6.772  | -      | -      | -       |
|     | $(0^\circ/90^\circ)$         | Present                  | 1.236  | 1.324  | 1.349  | 1.353  | 1.356   |
|     |                              | Aydogdu [22]             | 1.235  | -      | -      | -      | -       |
|     |                              | Mantari and Canales [24] | 1.221  | 1.311  | -      | -      | -       |
| C-C | $(0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ)$ | Present                  | 11.652 | 34.453 | 75.328 | 97.248 | 114.398 |
|     |                              | Mantari and Canales [24] | 11.502 | 34.365 | -      | -      | -       |
|     |                              | Khdeir and Reddy [26]    | 11.652 | 34.453 | -      | -      | -       |
|     | $(0^\circ/90^\circ)$         | Present                  | 8.674  | 15.626 | 19.768 | 20.780 | 21.372  |
|     |                              | Mantari and Canales [24] | 8.509  | 15.468 | -      | -      | -       |

Table 10: Normalized fundamental frequencies of  $[\theta/ - \theta]_s$  composite beams with respect to the fibre angle change ( $L/h=15$ , Materials III).

| BC  | Theory                     | Fibre angle |            |            |            |            |            |            |
|-----|----------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
|     |                            | $0^\circ$   | $15^\circ$ | $30^\circ$ | $45^\circ$ | $60^\circ$ | $75^\circ$ | $90^\circ$ |
| C-C | Present                    | 4.9116      | 4.7173     | 4.1307     | 3.1973     | 2.2019     | 1.6825     | 1.6205     |
|     | Aydogdu [23]               | 4.9730      | 4.2940     | 2.1950     | 1.9290     | 1.6690     | 1.6120     | 1.6190     |
|     | Chandrashekhara et al. [6] | 4.8487      | 4.6635     | 4.0981     | 3.1843     | 2.1984     | 1.6815     | 1.6200     |
|     | Chen et al. [27]           | 4.8575      | 3.6484     | 2.3445     | 1.8383     | 1.6711     | 1.6161     | 1.6237     |
|     | Vo and Thai [15]           | 4.8969      | 4.5695     | 3.2355     | 1.9918     | 1.6309     | 1.6056     | 1.6152     |
| S-S | Present                    | 2.6563      | 2.5108     | 2.1033     | 1.5367     | 1.0121     | 0.7608     | 0.7317     |
|     | Aydogdu [23]               | 2.6510      | 1.8960     | 1.1410     | 0.8040     | 0.7360     | 0.7250     | 0.7290     |
|     | Chandrashekhara et al. [6] | 2.6560      | 2.5105     | 2.1032     | 1.5368     | 1.0124     | 0.7611     | 0.7320     |
|     | Vo and Thai [15]           | 2.6494      | 2.4039     | 1.5540     | 0.9078     | 0.7361     | 0.7247     | 0.7295     |
| C-F | Present                    | 0.9832      | 0.9259     | 0.7683     | 0.5553     | 0.3631     | 0.2722     | 0.2618     |
|     | Aydogdu [23]               | 0.9810      | 0.6760     | 0.4140     | 0.2880     | 0.2620     | 0.2580     | 0.2600     |
|     | Chandrashekhara et al. [6] | 0.9820      | 0.9249     | 0.7678     | 0.5551     | 0.3631     | 0.2723     | 0.2619     |
|     | Vo and Thai [15]           | 0.9801      | 0.8836     | 0.5614     | 0.3253     | 0.2634     | 0.2593     | 0.2611     |



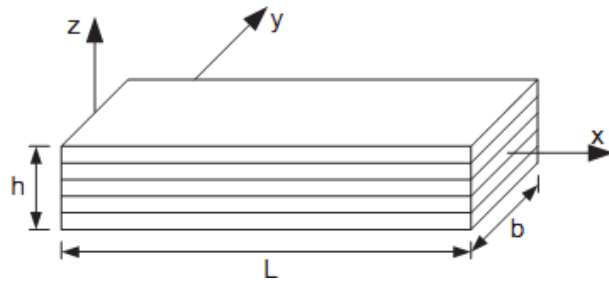


Figure 1: Geometry of laminated composite beams.

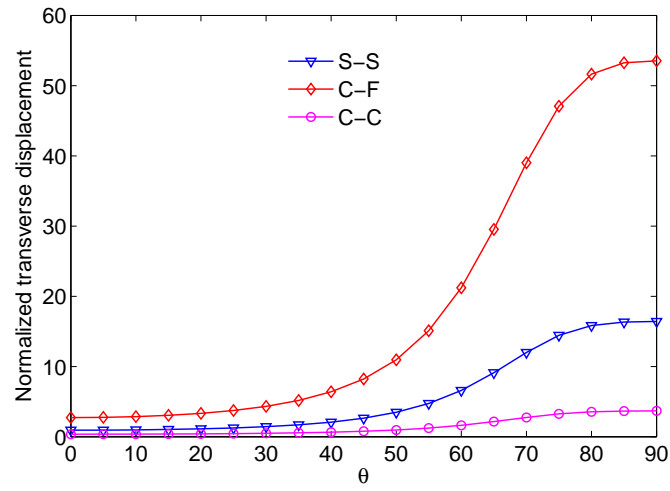
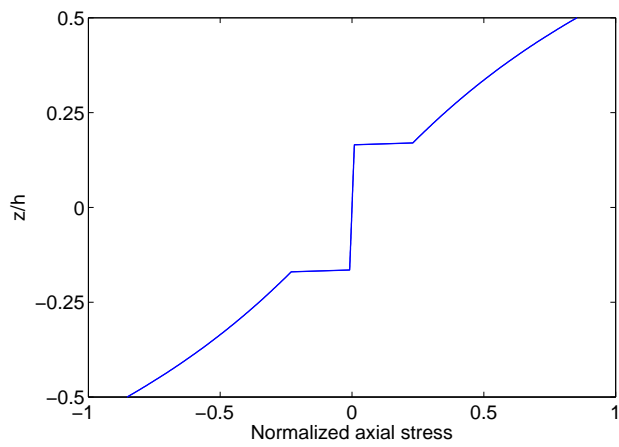
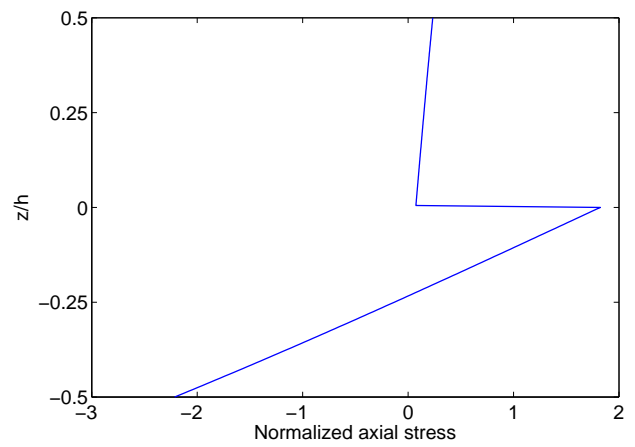


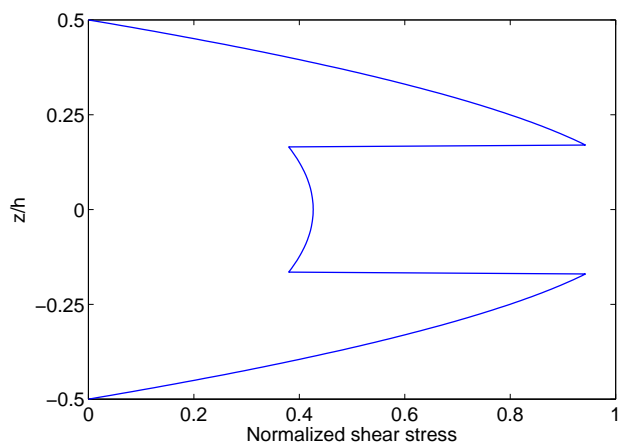
Figure 2: Effects of the fibre angle change on the normalized transverse displacement of  $[\theta / -\theta]_s$  composite beams ( $L/h=10$ , Material II,  $E_1/E_2=25$ ).



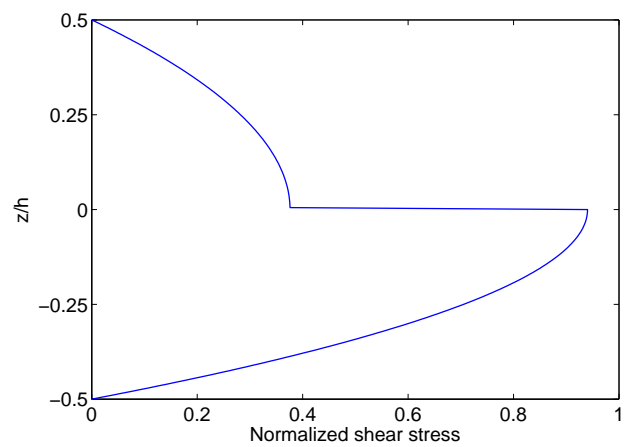
(a)  $(0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ)$



(b)  $(0^\circ/90^\circ)$

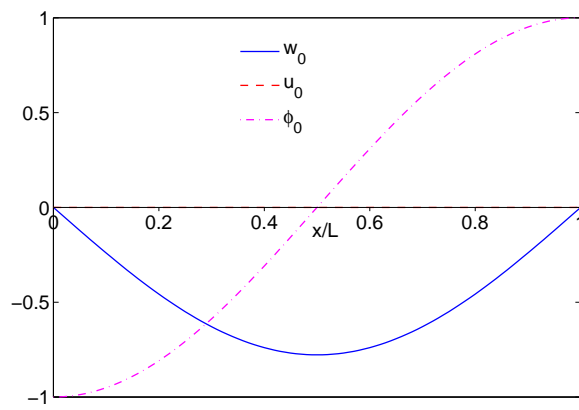


(c)  $(0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ)$

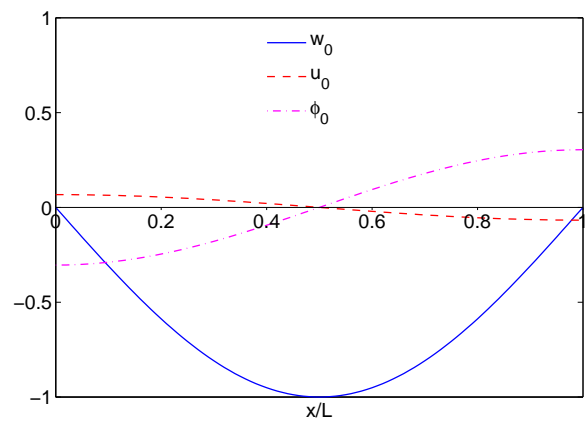


(d)  $(0^\circ/90^\circ)$

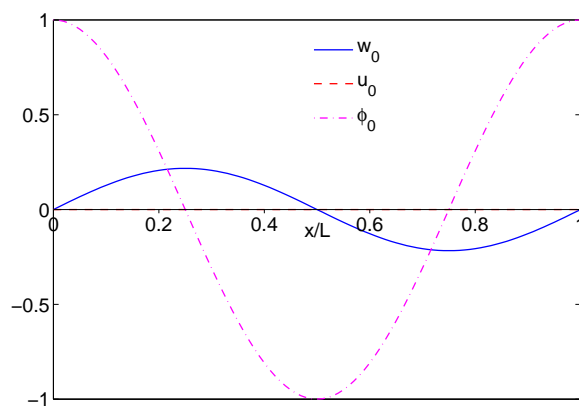
Figure 3: Distribution of the normalized stresses ( $\bar{\sigma}_{xx}$ ,  $\bar{\sigma}_{xz}$ ) through the beam depth of  $(0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ)$  and  $(0^\circ/90^\circ)$  composite beams with simply-supported boundary conditions (Material II,  $E_1/E_2=25$ ).



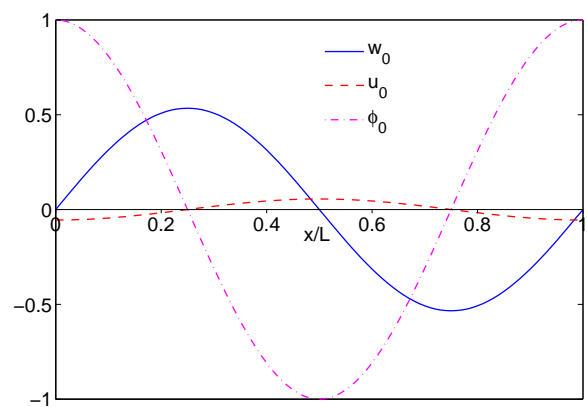
(a) Mode 1,  $\bar{\omega}_1=13.6136$  ( $0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ$ )



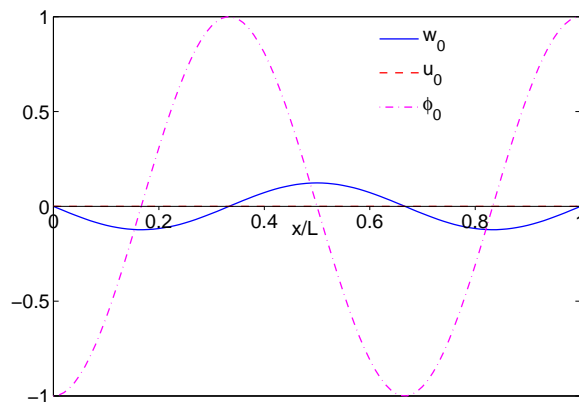
(b) Mode 1,  $\bar{\omega}_1=6.9451$  ( $0^\circ/90^\circ$ )



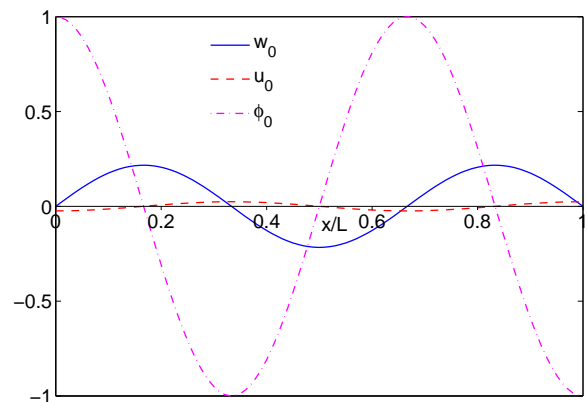
(c) Mode 2,  $\bar{\omega}_2=36.8334$  ( $0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ$ )



(d) Mode 2,  $\bar{\omega}_2=24.5139$  ( $0^\circ/90^\circ$ )

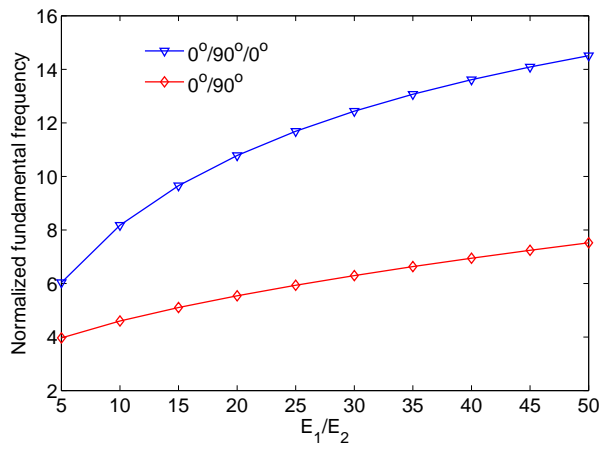


(e) Mode 3,  $\bar{\omega}_3=60.8686$  ( $0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ$ )

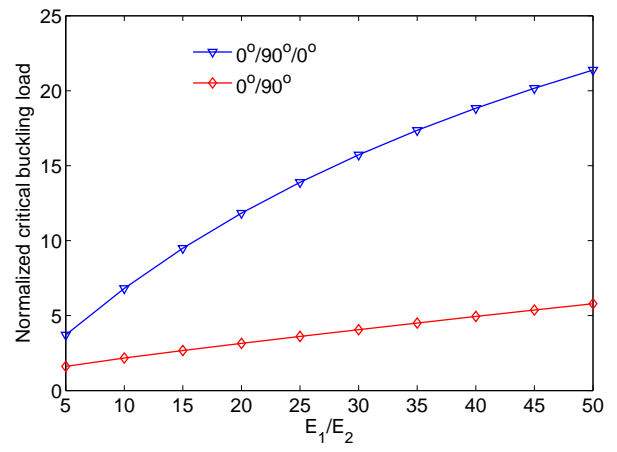


(f) Mode 3,  $\bar{\omega}_3=47.5396$  ( $0^\circ/90^\circ$ )

Figure 4: The first three mode shapes of ( $0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ$ ) and ( $0^\circ/90^\circ$ ) composite beams with simply-supported boundary conditions ( $L/h=10$ , Material I,  $E_1/E_2=40$ ).

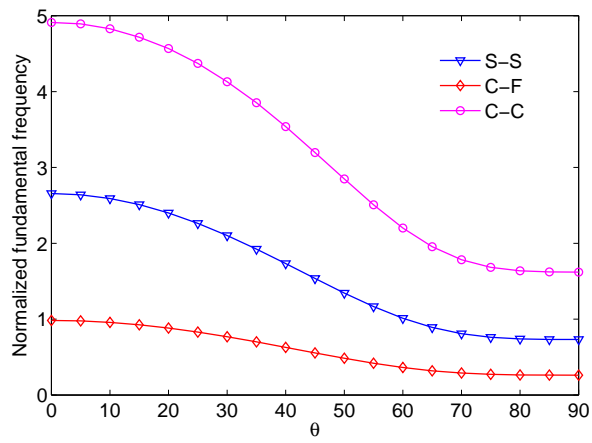


(a)

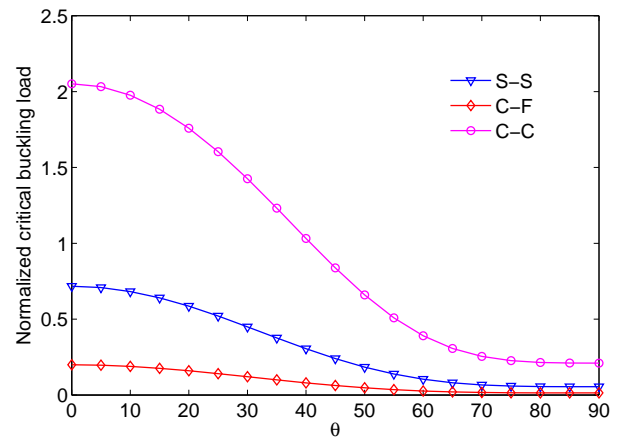


(b)

Figure 5: Effects of material anisotropy on the normalized fundamental frequencies and critical buckling loads of  $(0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ)$  and  $(0^\circ/90^\circ)$  composite beams with simply-supported boundary conditions ( $L/h=10$ , Material I).

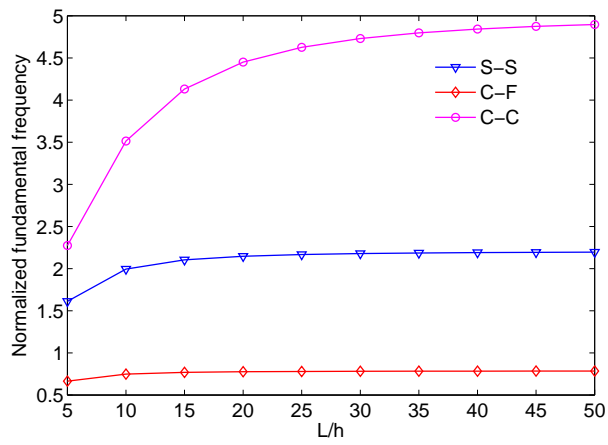


(a)

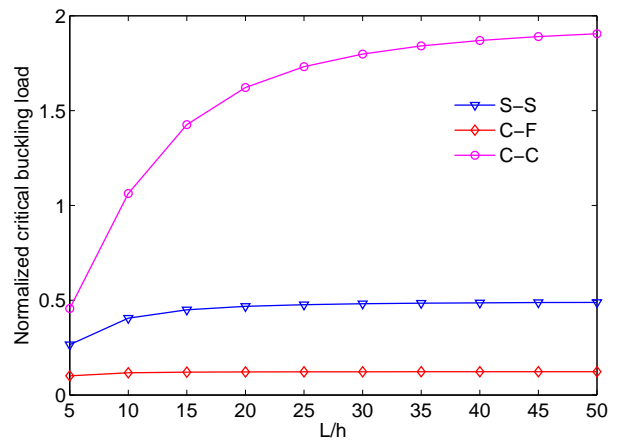


(b)

Figure 6: Effects of the fibre angle change on the normalized fundamental frequencies and critical buckling loads of  $[\theta / -\theta]_s$  composite beams ( $L/h=15$ , Material III).



(a)



(b)

Figure 7: Effects of the span-to-depth ratio on the normalized fundamental frequencies and critical buckling loads of  $[30^\circ/-30^\circ]_s$  composite beams ( $L/h=15$ , Material III).