

Sheridon grating to a maximum blaze wavelength of 250 nm, although precluding its use in visible Raman systems, does not hinder its application to UV Raman or fluorescence spectroscopy because maximum grating efficiency is desirable around 250 nm. Using a Sheridan grating in a spectrograph used for UV laser combustion diagnostics reduces or eliminates the need for Rayleigh/Mie scattering filtering and thus provides more sensitivity in detecting Raman or fluorescence signals lying close in wavelength to the laser line.

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Shape Control of Laminated Plates with Piezoelectric Actuators Including Stress-Stiffening Effects

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I. Introduction

PIEZOELECTRIC elements can be used as sensors or actuators in applications such as shape control, active damping, and acoustic noise suppression of a wide class of structures. The effective use of these systems requires accurate electromechanical models to simulate the interaction between the structure and the piezoelectric elements. The literature addresses the modeling of piezoelectric elements either bonded or embedded to several different types of structures. The piezoelectric actuation of beams was treated in depth by Crawley and Anderson¹ and Crawley and de Luis.² Several other formulations were also developed for the modeling of plates^{3,4} and general shells.⁵ Most of the electromechanical models proposed in the literature are based on linear analyses.

The piezoelectric elements are usually mounted to the top and bottom surfaces of a structural element and may induce in-plane extension, bending, and localized shear deformations in structural elements.⁶ If both elements are actuators and shear deformation is neglected, the in-phase actuation produces in-plane deformations, whereas out-of-phase actuation produces bending. If one of the piezoelectric elements is used as an actuator while the second one is used as a sensor, or if a single piezoelectric actuator is mounted on a surface, the actuation always results in combined in-plane and bending stresses.

The in-plane stresses may have a significant influence on the mechanical behavior of plates. Initial and/or residual stresses affect the flexural stiffness and in turn the dynamic and stability characteristics of laminated plates.⁷ The initial and/or residual stresses in a plate may result from a combination of boundary constraints with external applied loads and environmental effects. Almeida and Hansen⁸ showed that, with proper design, thermal residual stresses caused by the curing process can be tailored to enhance the mechanical behavior of composite plates. Rammerstorfer⁹ determined optimum fields of residual stresses that maximize the first natural frequency and buckling load of plates.

Piezoelectric elements provide great flexibility in inducing in-plane stress fields because the distribution and magnitude of the in-plane stresses can be easily controlled by varying the voltages applied to each actuator. The objective of this work is to investigate the effectiveness of using piezoelectric elements to control the flexural stiffness of composite plates by inducing in-plane stresses. A finite element approach is used to model laminated plates with piezoelectric actuators and/or sensors placed at arbitrary portions of the plate. The analysis assumes ideal linear theory for the piezoelectric actuation and includes stress-stiffness effects. In the case of plates without membrane-bending coupling, the in-plane problem and the bending problem may be independently solved from two subsequent linear analyses. The numeric results on the shape control of laminated plates with piezoelectric actuators demonstrate that even if the plate is unconstrained the piezoelectrically induced in-plane stresses may significantly affect the mechanical behavior of the plate.

II. Problem Formulation

Consider a laminated plate with piezoelectric elements symmetrically bonded to the top and bottom surfaces at arbitrary positions.

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cases the plate buckles for voltages considerably lower than the breakdown voltage limits. The relative values of the displacements presented in Fig. 1 show that the plate loses stability according to different modes whether there are tensile or compressive in-plane piezoelectric stresses. Of course, larger values of v_0 are needed to buckle the plate for larger values of thickness. Considering that the voltage applied to the actuator is limited to the breakdown voltage, the effect of stress stiffening is more pronounced for thin plates.

Figure 2 shows that the configuration with the piezoelectric elements forming a frame around the perimeter of the plate presents a behavior similar to that of the plate with two longitudinal actuators along the edges (Fig. 1), but the stress-stiffening effect is more pronounced. For compressive in-plane piezoelectric actuation, the plate stiffness decreases until it loses stability for a relatively low voltage (about -70 V). Tensile actuation initially causes the plate stiffness to increase, but the plate loses stability according to a different mode at an actuation voltage of about 100 V.

V. Conclusion

The numerical results on the shape control of laminated plates with piezoelectric actuators demonstrate that even if the plate is unconstrained the piezoelectrically induced in-plane stresses may significantly affect the mechanical behavior of the plate. Therefore, for the case of combined in-phase and out-of-phase piezoelectric actuation, accurate modeling of composite plates with piezoelectric elements should account for the stress-stiffening effects. The importance of the stress-stiffness effect depends on the magnitude of the in-phase actuation and geometric arrangement of the piezoelectric actuators, boundary conditions, geometry of the problem, and material properties.

The ability of controlling the plate stiffness has potentially interesting applications in smart structures. For example, piezoelectric actuation systems may be designed to tune the vibration frequencies of composite plates. Also, the problem of buckling control of composite plates with piezoelectric elements can be properly modeled using the present formulation.

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Coevolutionary Approaches to Structural Optimization

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Introduction

NONGRADIENT methods such as genetic algorithms have been applied to solve structural optimization problems with promising results.^{1–4} Nonetheless, these evolutionary algorithms have not been fully developed to handle constrained optimization.⁵ Until recently, all existing methods were based on the evolution of a single group. Based on the evolution of two groups with opposite objectives, a coevolution method has been devised for solving saddle-point problems.⁶ This method finds two major application areas: min/max design and constrained optimization. For a constrained problem, the optimal values of the parameter and multiplier vectors correspond to the saddle point of the associated Lagrangian if a certain convexity assumption is satisfied. Hence, constrained optimization problems can be reformulated as saddle-point problems. For nonconvex problems, augmentation of the Lagrangian function provides the necessary convexity, as with the deterministic augmented Lagrangian methods. The new coevolution method has been applied to the well-known truss problems: the 10-bar, 25-bar, and 72-bar truss problems treated in Refs. 7 and 8. The numerical results clearly show that the coevolution method has good potential for large-scale structural optimization. The basic concept of the coevolution method and its application to the 72-bar truss problem are summarized here.

Coevolution for Constrained Optimization

A general constrained optimization problem is written as follows:

$$\min_x f(x), \quad x \in \mathcal{S} \quad (1)$$

subject to

$$g_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \quad (2)$$

$$h_j(x) = 0, \quad j = 1, \dots, l \quad (3)$$

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