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Structural Damage Caused by Impulsive Loads: A Theoretical Analysis

By E. H. MANSFIELD, Sc.D., F.R.Ae.S., A.F.A.I.A.A.

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Structural Damage Caused by Impulsive Loads: A Theoretical Analysis

By E. H. MANSFIELD, Sc.D., F.R.Ae.S., A.F.A.I.A.A.

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Summary.

A general theoretical technique is presented for the estimation of structural damage caused by impulsive loads. The technique, though approximate, takes account of differences that may exist between the elastic and plastic modes of deformation. A detailed analysis, with some numerical results, is presented for the case when the impulsive load is a uniformly distributed pressure whose magnitude varies time-wise as a rectangular pulse.

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1. *Introduction.*

The theoretical estimation of structural damage caused by impulsive loading, particularly blast pressure, has been considered by a number of authors, e.g. Fox¹, Christopherson², Montgomery and Taub³, Beer and Dahl⁴, and Thornhill^{5,6}. The pressure-time (p , t) variation most commonly assumed is of the form

$$\dot{p} = p_0(1 - ct)e^{-ct},$$

an empirical relation appropriate to conditions a moderate distance away from a spherical explosion: \dot{p} is the pressure in excess over atmospheric pressure and c is a constant.

In the above investigations the target is a single mass attached to a spring and friction slide. Thornhill and Coombs^{5,6} have analysed such a system, particularly in the context of aircraft attack

by blast, and have shown that the relevant parameters may be chosen to describe adequately the results of numerous experiments. They also distinguish between 'localised damage' which is characterised by a short-time interval of loading, and 'lever-type damage' which describes the damage mechanism in a wing which is subjected to a long-time interval of loading. In an actual structure, of course, infinitely many modes are generally excited, but analysis and experiment (in the elastic regime) show^{7,8} that a single mode tends to be dominant. Furthermore, the dominant mode often closely resembles the static mode of deflexion under the given applied load distribution. This resemblance is particularly marked when the applied load distribution is not dissimilar to the distribution of inertia loading.

Now, we are concerned here with the estimation of damage to a structure, and accordingly the plastic behaviour of the structure is no less important than the elastic behaviour. Of course, if the plastic mode of deformation coincides with the elastic mode—differing only in magnitude—it is possible to represent the structure precisely by a mass attached to a spring with appropriate inelastic characteristics. In general, however, the elastic and plastic modes differ and some account should be taken of these differences. Such account is taken here by assuming that the structure deforms under dynamic loading in precisely the same deflexion patterns that it would develop under static loads. Thus, initially the structure deforms in an elastic mode until the magnitude of this mode is such that yielding occurs; further deformation takes place in a plastic mode superposed on the maximum amplitude of the elastic mode. Such a scheme is not, of course, rigorously correct (except under certain 'soft' time-wise load variations), but it is the most realistic physical assumption that can be made which, at the same time, retains the simplicity inherent in a single-degree-of-freedom (albeit with a 'split mode') analysis. The novel feature of this paper is the adoption of such a 'split mode' analysis which provides a supplementary approach to earlier analysis and which has more direct application to structural-damage studies for isolated structural members.

The dynamic elasto-plastic behaviour of structures deforming in such a split mode is considered here, with particular reference to beams and plates; the extension of the analysis to incorporate the split-mode feature is shown to be quite small. A detailed analysis is then presented for the case when the impulsive load is a uniformly distributed pressure whose magnitude varies time-wise as a rectangular pulse.

2. Simplified Elastic Behaviour of Structures.

In solving dynamic load problems involving a structure with many degrees of freedom, Williams⁷ has shown that it is often sufficient to restrict attention to a single, arbitrarily chosen mode. In such a case, the real structure is said to be replaced by a 'semi-rigid' structure, in which the shape of the deflexion pattern is fixed and only the amplitude of movement is variable. Furthermore, the overall behaviour of such a semi-rigid structure is not very sensitive to the precise form chosen for the mode. Thus, the period of vibration of a simply supported beam, constrained to deflect into the shape it would assume under a uniform load, is only 1·2% in excess of the true value. Similarly, if the beam is constrained to deflect into its true fundamental mode (a half sine wave) the strain energy stored by a uniformly distributed load is only 0·15% less than the true value. The closeness of these results is due to the fact that the uniformly distributed load acts in much the same way as the inertia loading or, in mathematical terms, the first term in the Fourier expansion of the uniform load is the dominant term. There are analogous results for plates, and for boundary conditions other than simple support.

In the subsequent analysis, advantage is taken of the simplifications resulting from the assumption of a single degree of freedom. Furthermore, this concept is carried over into the plastic range, despite the fact that the elastic and plastic modes of deformation are, in general, different. We also adopt William's device in which the semi-rigid structure is replaced by an equivalent mass-spring system (see Fig. 1). This is done purely on grounds of convenience, and it involves no additional simplifications. The general method for deriving the equivalent mass and the equivalent spring constant is illustrated in Section 2.1. In Section 3 attention is given to the behaviour of structures in the plastic regime.

2.1. Equivalent Mass-Spring System for Semi-Rigid Structure in Elastic Mode

To illustrate the method for calculating the equivalent mass-spring system, we consider first a beam whose assumed mode of deflexion, apart from a time-dependent factor of proportionality, is given by $x(\xi)$ where ξ is the distance along the beam. We also define $\xi = \xi_0$ as our reference point, so that a knowledge of $x(\xi_0)$ completely determines the deflexion of the beam.

Now the kinetic energy of the beam is

$$\frac{1}{2g} \int_0^a m \{\dot{x}(\xi)\}^2 d\xi$$

where m is the mass per unit length, and this must be equated to the kinetic energy of the equivalent mass M acting at the reference point ξ_0 :

$$\frac{M}{2g} \{\dot{x}(\xi_0)\}^2.$$

The equivalent mass is therefore given by

$$M = \int_0^a m \left\{ \frac{x(\xi)}{x(\xi_0)} \right\}^2 d\xi. \quad (1)$$

Similarly the strain energy in the beam is

$$\frac{1}{2} \int_0^a EI \{x''(\xi)\}^2 d\xi$$

where a prime denotes differentiation with respect to ξ . Equating this to the strain energy in the equivalent spring yields the following equation for the spring constant K :

$$K = \int_0^a EI \left\{ \frac{x''(\xi)}{x(\xi_0)} \right\}^2 d\xi. \quad (2)$$

It is to be noted that the natural frequency f of the equivalent mass-spring system is the same as that of the semi-rigid structure:

$$4\pi^2 f^2 = gK/M = \frac{g \int_0^a EI \{x''(\xi)\}^2 d\xi}{\int_0^a m \{x(\xi)\}^2 d\xi} \quad (3)$$

The loading on the beam is represented by an equivalent load P which acts at the reference point and which does the same amount of work. Thus

$$P = \int_0^a p \left\{ \frac{x(\xi)}{x(\xi_0)} \right\} d\xi. \quad (4)$$

The calculation of M and P for plates is straightforward; to calculate K , we require the expression for the strain energy of a plate, and hence

$$K = \frac{1}{\{x(\xi_0, \eta_0)\}^2} \iint_A D \left[\left(\frac{\partial^2 x}{\partial \xi^2} + \frac{\partial^2 x}{\partial \eta^2} \right)^2 - 2(1-\nu) \left(\frac{\partial^2 x}{\partial \xi^2} \frac{\partial^2 x}{\partial \eta^2} - \left(\frac{\partial^2 x}{\partial \xi \partial \eta} \right)^2 \right) \right] d\xi d\eta. \quad (5)$$

2.2. Values of M , K , f and P for Beams (Elastic Mode).

The following values are appropriate for a uniform beam subjected to a uniformly distributed load per unit length. The reference point is taken at the centre.

If the beam is simply supported, we take

$$x(\xi) = \sin \pi \xi / a, \quad \text{say}, \quad (6)$$

where, for convenience, the (dimensional) constant of proportionality has been omitted. This yields

$$\left. \begin{aligned} M &= 0.5 ma, \\ K &= 48.6 EI/a^3, \\ f &= \frac{1.57}{a^2} \left(\frac{gEI}{m} \right)^{1/2}, \\ P &= 0.637 pa. \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (7)$$

If the beam is clamped, we take

$$x(\xi) = \xi^2(a-\xi)^2, \quad \text{say}, \quad (8)$$

which yields

$$\left. \begin{aligned} M &= 0.406 ma, \\ K &= 205 EI/a^3, \\ f &= \frac{3.57}{a^2} \left(\frac{gEI}{m} \right)^{1/2}, \\ P &= 0.533 pa. \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (9)$$

2.3. Values of M , K , f and P for Plates (Elastic mode).

A rectangular plate with an aspect ratio greater than about 5 acts effectively as part of an infinite strip, and it can therefore be treated as a 'beam'. The stiffening influence of the end supports in rectangular plates with more modest aspect ratios is not negligible, and the deflexion under uniform pressure—which we define as the elastic mode—can be estimated, for example, by the method of Kantorovich (*see* Refs.9, 10). However, in most cases such precision is not justified, and an accurate enough value can be obtained by a form of interpolation between the infinite strip and the square plate considered below. The reference point (ξ_0, η_0) is taken at the centre $(\frac{1}{2}a, \frac{1}{2}a)$.

2.3.1. *Square plates.*—If the sides of the square plate are simply supported, we take

$$x(\xi, \eta) = \sin(\pi \xi / a) \sin(\pi \eta / a), \quad (10)$$

which yields

$$\left. \begin{aligned} M &= 0.25 ma^2, \\ & (= 0.25 \rho ha^2), \\ K &= 8.9 Eh^3/a^2, \\ f &= 0.95 \frac{h}{a^2} \left(\frac{gE}{\rho} \right)^{1/2}, \\ P &= 0.405 pa^2. \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (11)$$

If the sides of the square plate are clamped, we take

$$x(\xi, \eta) = \xi^2\eta^2(a - \xi)^2(a - \eta)^2, \quad (12)$$

which yields

$$\left. \begin{aligned} M &= 0.165 ma^2, \\ & (= 0.165 \rho ha^2), \\ K &= 19.6 Eh^3/a^2, \\ f &= 1.74 \frac{h}{a^2} \left(\frac{gE}{\rho} \right)^{1/2}, \\ P &= 0.285 pa^2. \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (13)$$

2.3.2. *Rectangular plates.*—In what follows it is assumed that the reference point is at the centre, and that $b > a$. For simply supported rectangular plates a crude interpolation, based on a composite mode in which equation (10) is valid at the ends and equation (6) valid over the central length of $(b - a)$, now yields the following values:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} M &= 0.25 ma(2b - a), \\ & \{ = 0.25 \rho ha(2b - a) \}, \\ K &= 4.45 Eh^3(a + b)/a^3, \\ f &= 0.67 \frac{h}{a^2} \left\{ \frac{gE(b + a)}{\rho(2b - a)} \right\}^{1/2}, \\ P &= 0.637 pa(b - 0.364a). \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (14)$$

Similarly, for clamped rectangular plates, the adoption of a composite mode based on equations (12) and (8) yields the following values:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} M &= 0.406 ma(b - 0.59a), \\ & \{ = 0.406 \rho ha(b - 0.59a) \}, \\ K &= 18.8 Eh^3(b + 0.04a)/a^3, \\ f &= 1.08 \frac{h}{a^2} \left\{ \frac{gE(b + 0.04a)}{\rho(b - 0.59a)} \right\}^{1/2}, \\ P &= 0.533 pa(b - 0.465a). \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (15)$$

3. *Simplified Plastic Behaviour of Structures.*

When part, or all, of a structure is stressed beyond the elastic limit the structure is said to be in the plastic regime. To assist in the understanding of the plastic behaviour of structures, it is helpful to consider first some simple structures whose material possesses idealised elasto-plastic characteristics.

A material whose stress-strain relationship is as shown in Fig. 2 is said to possess perfect plasticity, and a rod of such material would necessarily possess a load-displacement relationship which is similar to this. The same remarks would also apply to the bending moment-curvature relationship for an I-beam whose web does not contribute to the flexural rigidity. However, in a beam of rectangular section the spread of plasticity through the load-bearing material is gradual, and the bending moment-curvature relationship is as shown in Fig. 3. Fig 3 is also applicable to a plate in pure bending; but the loading on a plate is generally more complex, and the onset of the plastic regime then depends upon the magnitudes of the two principal moments. The critical combinations

of the principal stresses which suffice to initiate plasticity in a material are, strictly speaking, only determinable by experiment. However, although different materials behave in different ways, there is a corresponding choice of theories available which are in accord with experiment^{11,12}. Furthermore, for plates under normal pressure the predominating stress combination is such that the principal stresses are of the same sign, and it is in this region that the various theories, and experimental results, differ by only a few per cent. Thus the simplest of theories is sufficiently adequate and advantage is taken of this in Section 3.5 where the maximum principal stress criterion is adopted. Finally we may note that if the material stress-strain relationship is as shown in Fig. 4, which is not unlike that of mild steel, the corresponding bending moment-curvature relationship for a plate or beam of rectangular section is as shown in Fig. 2.

3.1. *Plastic Behaviour of Redundant Structures.*

So far, the discussion has been centred on the basic plastic behaviour of a beam or plate in bending. However, if the beam (or plate) forms part of a structure or is supported in such a way that it is 'redundant', the load-displacement relationship exhibits an additional complicating feature associated with the spread of plasticity through the structure as a whole. This is most readily demonstrated by considering the uniformly loaded idealised I-beam whose bending moment-curvature relationship is as in Fig. 2. Both simply supported and clamped boundary conditions are considered, although it is only the latter condition which exhibits this additional feature. The ends of the beam are assumed to be free to move along the line of the beam so that membrane forces cannot occur.

3.1.1. *Ends simply supported.*—In the elastic state the maximum (+ve) bending moment occurs at the centre and is given by

$$\mathcal{M} = pa^2/8.$$

Thus, when

$$\begin{aligned} p &= p_Y, \quad \text{say} \\ &= 8\mathcal{M}_Y/a^2 \end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

the bending moment at the centre attains its limiting value \mathcal{M}_Y ; a 'plastic hinge' develops there, and the beam can carry no further load because it is now acting as a mechanism. The central deflexion is plotted against the load in Fig. 5.

3.1.2. *Ends clamped.*—In the elastic state the maximum (–ve) bending moment occurs at the ends and is given by

$$\mathcal{M} = pa^2/12.$$

Thus, when

$$p = 12\mathcal{M}_Y/a^2 \tag{17}$$

the bending moments at the ends attain the limiting value \mathcal{M}_Y ; plastic hinges will develop there, but the beam does not yet fail because there are not sufficient hinges formed to convert the beam into a mechanism. Indeed, when equation (17) is satisfied, it can be shown that the (+ve) bending moment at the centre is $\frac{1}{2}\mathcal{M}_Y$. Now when

$$p > 12\mathcal{M}_Y/a^2$$

the slope of the load deflexion curve is the same as that for the simply supported case because there is no change in the end moments. It follows from equation (17) and (16) that a central hinge will form, resulting in failure of the beam, when

$$\begin{aligned} p &= p_Y \\ &= \frac{12\mathcal{M}_Y}{a^2} + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{8\mathcal{M}_Y}{a^2} \right) \\ &= 16\mathcal{M}_Y/a^2. \end{aligned} \tag{18}$$

The complete load-deflexion curve is shown in Fig. 5; the three straight lines comprising this curve correspond to three distinct modes of deformation. The behaviour of a plate is more complex because there is, in general, a gradual mode change from the onset of plasticity to failure. Fortunately, the failure of a plate or beam can be estimated without recourse to a detailed examination of the elasto-plastic behaviour. For example, if the position of the plastic hinges is known the principle of virtual work may be applied to determine the failing load. Thus for the clamped beam previously considered, the work done at failure by the applied load is $\frac{1}{2}pa\Delta x$, where Δx is a virtual increase in the central deflexion, and this must be equated to the work done in the plastic hinges by the moment \mathcal{M}_Y acting over a total angular rotation of $(2\Delta x/a + 4\Delta x/a + 2\Delta x/a)$, which leads directly to equation (18).

3.2. Plastic Behaviour of Practical Structures.

We have already seen that in a redundant structure, such as a plate or clamped beam, there is a gradual transition from the elastic mode to the mode at failure, even when the material or the basic structural element possesses idealised elasto-plastic properties. Most practical materials exhibit no clearly defined yield point, and there is some work hardening in the plastic regime. These effects inevitably lead to further smoothing of this transition zone so that, for example, in the clamped beam the actual relationship between the central deflexion and the applied load could be as shown by the broken line in Fig. 5. Furthermore, all the curves of Fig. 5 refer to static loading conditions; under dynamic loading there will be an additional smoothing between the elastic and plastic modes due to the inertia of the structure resisting a sudden mode-to-mode change. The exact dynamic analysis of even the simplest of structures presents formidable difficulties but, fortunately, the errors caused by ignoring the transition zone and neglecting work-hardening are of opposite sign and are, roughly speaking, of comparable magnitude (*see* dotted lines in Fig. 5). This simplified approach is adopted here.

3.3. Determination of \mathcal{M}_Y for Beams and Plates.

Let us assume that the material possesses idealised elasto-plastic characteristics with a yield stress σ_Y ,—which may be taken to be equal to the 0.2% proof stress of the actual material. When a beam of this material is subjected to its limiting bending moment \mathcal{M}_Y , the whole of the cross-section is assumed to be plastic, and the ‘neutral axis’ is determined from the condition of equilibrium of the direct stresses ($+\sigma_Y$ and $-\sigma_Y$) acting over the cross-section: in other words, the neutral axis is at the centre of area. If z is measured from the neutral axis the moment \mathcal{M}_Y is therefore given by

$$\mathcal{M}_Y = \sigma_Y \int_A |z| dA \tag{19}$$

where dA is an element of the cross-sectional area.

For an I-beam whose flange areas are A_1 and A_2 ($A_1 \leq A_2$), and the distance between flanges is h , equation (19) reduces to

$$\mathcal{M}_Y = hA_1\sigma_Y.$$

Similarly for a plate of thickness h :

$$\mathcal{M}_Y = \frac{1}{4}h^2\sigma_Y.$$

Alternatively, the limiting moment \mathcal{M}_Y may be determined directly by experiment.

3.4. Equivalent Mass-Spring System for Structure in Plastic Mode.

The concept of the equivalent mass, etc., introduced in Section 2.1, may be conveniently carried over into the plastic mode. Thus, if the suffix p is introduced to indicate that the plastic mode is under consideration, equations (1) and (4) for example, become simply

$$\left. \begin{aligned} M_p &= \int_0^a m \left\{ \frac{x_p(\xi)}{x_p(\xi_0)} \right\}^2 d\xi \\ P_p &= \int_0^a p \left\{ \frac{x_p(\xi)}{x_p(\xi_0)} \right\} d\xi. \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (20)$$

These values generally differ from M and P .

Now the concept of the equivalent mass and the equivalent force has been introduced merely for convenience, and the displacement of this equivalent mass—which is what matters—is unaffected by a proportional increase in M_p and P_p . Thus either M_p or P_p may be scaled up (or down) to the appropriate value of M or P . In what follows M_p and P_p are scaled up by the factor (P/P_p) , so that the ‘equivalent force’ in the plastic mode is the same as that in the elastic mode, P ; the ‘equivalent mass’ in the plastic mode is now defined by

$$M', \text{ say} = \mu M \quad (21)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \mu &= \frac{PM_p}{P_pM}, \\ &= \frac{x(\xi_0) \int_0^a px(\xi) d\xi \int_0^a m\{x_p(\xi)\}^2 d\xi}{x_p(\xi_0) \int_0^a px_p(\xi) d\xi \int_0^a m\{x(\xi)\}^2 d\xi}. \end{aligned}$$

The adoption of this scaling factor is not, of course, essential to the analysis, but it brings with it the advantage of continuity of P and F^* at the mode-to-mode change.

3.4.1. *Velocity change at mode-to-mode change.*—It is shown in Appendix I that the velocity of the equivalent mass (M') immediately after the onset of the plastic mode is ϕ times the velocity of the equivalent mass (M) immediately before the mode-to-mode change, where—to quote the formula appropriate to a plate—

$$\phi = \frac{x_p(\xi_0, \eta_0) \iint mx(\xi, \eta)x_p(\xi, \eta) d\xi d\eta}{x(\xi_0, \eta_0) \iint m\{x_p(\xi, \eta)\}^2 d\xi d\eta}. \quad (22)$$

3.5. Values of P , F^* , μ and ϕ for Beams (Plastic Mode).

If both ends of the beam are either simply supported or clamped, the mode at failure is given by

$$x_p(\xi) = 1 - 2|\xi/a|, \quad (23)$$

where, for convenience, ξ is now measured from the centre. Substitution of equation (23) into equation (20) gives

$$\left. \begin{aligned} M_p &= 0.333 ma, \\ P_p &= 0.5 pa. \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (24)$$

Now the values of M and P , appropriate to the elastic mode, have already been determined and hence the factor μ is known. Also, the magnitude of the equivalent static force F^* required for failure is given by equations (7), (16), or (9), (18).

Thus if the beam is simply supported we find

$$\left. \begin{aligned} P &= 0.637 pa, \{(7) \text{ bis}\} \\ F^* &= 5.09 \mathcal{M}_Y/a, \\ \mu &= 0.848, \\ \phi &= 1.22. \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (25)$$

The corresponding values for the clamped beam are given by

$$\left. \begin{aligned} P &= 0.533 pa, \{(9) \text{ bis}\} \\ F^* &= 8.53 \mathcal{M}_Y/a, \\ \mu &= 0.874, \\ \phi &= 1.10. \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (26)$$

3.6. Values of P , F^* , μ and ϕ for Plates (Plastic Mode).

A rectangular plate with an aspect ratio greater than about 5 acts effectively as part of an infinite strip, and it can therefore be treated as a 'beam'. The strengthening influence of the end supports in rectangular plates with more modest aspect ratios is not negligible, and there are methods available for its estimation¹³. However, in most cases such precision is not justified, and an accurate enough value can be obtained by a form of interpolation between the infinite strip and the square plate considered below.

3.6.1. *Square plates.*—The failure modes of square plates are considered in Ref. 14, and they result in the following values. For simply supported boundaries:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} P &= 0.405 pa^2, \{(11) \text{ bis}\} \\ F^* &= 9.73 \mathcal{M}_Y, \\ \mu &= 0.811, \\ \phi &= 1.22. \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (27)$$

If the boundaries are clamped:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} P &= 0.285 pa^2, \{(13) \text{ bis}\} \\ F^* &= 12.2 \mathcal{M}_Y, \\ \mu &= 0.863, \\ \phi &= 1.00. \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (28)$$

3.6.2. *Rectangular plates.*—In what follows it is assumed that the reference point is at the centre, and that $b > a$. The assumption of a composite mode—similar in character to those of Section 2.3.2—yields the following results. For simply supported boundaries:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} P &= 0.637 pa(b - 0.364a), \{(14) \text{ bis}\} \\ F^* &= 5.09 \mathcal{M}_Y \left(\frac{b+a}{a} \right) \left(\frac{b - 0.364a}{b - 0.333a} \right), \\ \mu &= 0.848 \left(\frac{b - 0.364a}{b - 0.333a} \right), \\ \phi &= 1.22. \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (29)$$

If the boundaries are clamped:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} P &= 0.533 pa(b - 0.465a), \{(15) \text{ bis}\} \\ F^* &= 8.53 \mathcal{M}_Y \left(\frac{b + 0.667a}{a} \right) \left(\frac{b - 0.465a}{b - 0.380a} \right), \\ \mu &= 0.874 \left(\frac{b - 0.534a}{b - 0.59a} \right) \left(\frac{b - 0.465a}{b - 0.380a} \right), \\ \phi &= 1.10 \left(\frac{b - 0.578a}{b - 0.534a} \right). \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (30)$$

4. *Dynamic Loading of Simplified Elasto-Plastic Structures.*

In Section 2 it was shown that by restricting attention to a single mode the behaviour of a structural component (e.g. an inter-rib panel) under impulsive pressure is readily analysed by reducing it first to an equivalent mass-spring system. Such a system, with the addition of a purely plastic component in the spring characteristic and with due allowance for the mode-to-mode change is now considered. We will determine the displacement $x \{= x(\xi_0)\}$ of a mass M subjected to a force P for a time t_0 , the mass being attached to an elasto-plastic spring such that the restoring force F is equal to Kx in the range $0 < x < x^*$ and equal to Kx^* ($= F^*$) for $x > x^*$. When x reaches the value x^* (corresponding to the mode-to-mode change) the mass M becomes μM and its velocity is altered by the factor ϕ .

Attention is given to the effects of non-linear elastic response and imperfect plasticity in Section 4.6.1.

4.1. *Non-dimensional Time, Force, Impulse and Damage Terms.*

Before proceeding to the analysis of the elasto-plastic mass-spring system it is convenient to introduce some non-dimensional terms which facilitate the presentation of results. The fundamental

frequency f of the structure is equal to that of the mass-spring system {see equation (3)} and it provides a convenient means for non-dimensionalising the time interval t_0 by introducing

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \tau &= ft_0 \\ &= \frac{t_0}{2\pi} \left(\frac{gK}{M} \right)^{1/2} \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (31)$$

Similarly the force P is conveniently expressed non-dimensionally⁵ as a multiple of the yield force F^* by writing

$$\chi = P/F^*, \quad (32)$$

while a non-dimensional measure of the impulse Pt_0 is given by

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \mathcal{J} &= \chi\tau \\ &= \frac{Pt_0}{2\pi F^*} \left(\frac{gK}{M} \right)^{1/2} \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (33)$$

The damage done to the structure may be equated to the amount of plastic deformation (i.e. permanent set) which the structure suffers⁵, and it is convenient to express this non-dimensionally as a multiple of the elastic deformation of the reference point prior to yielding:

$$\mathcal{D} = (x_{\max} - x^*)/x^*, \quad (x_{\max} > x^*). \quad (34)$$

It is to be noted that the numerical value of \mathcal{D} depends upon the position chosen for the reference point; note that if $x_{\max} \leq x^*$ the structure remains elastic and \mathcal{D} is zero. It is also convenient to be able to equate ranges of the numerical value of \mathcal{D} with such phrases as 'slight damage', 'severe damage', etc. Obviously there is no universally valid scale, but to fix ideas we suggest the following average values for an aircraft or missile structure:

$$0 < \mathcal{D} < \frac{1}{2} : \text{slight damage}$$

$$\frac{1}{2} < \mathcal{D} < 2 : \text{moderate damage}$$

$$2 < \mathcal{D} < 8 : \text{severe damage}$$

$$\mathcal{D} > 8 : \text{lethal damage}$$

4.2. Analysis for $t_0 > t^*$ and $P > F^*$.

The equation of motion in the initial elastic phase is given by

$$M\ddot{x}/g = P - Kx, \quad x < x^* \quad (35)$$

whose solution is

$$x = \frac{P}{K} (1 - \cos 2\pi ft). \quad (36)$$

When $x = x^*$ it is convenient to write $t = t^*$, where, from equation (36)

$$t^* = \frac{1}{2\pi f} \cos^{-1} (1 - F^*/P), \quad (37)$$

and in this section we assume that

$$t_0 > t^*, \quad (38)$$

so that the load is being applied when the structure starts to yield. Now at time t^* the velocity \dot{x}^* is given by

$$\dot{x}^* = \frac{2\pi f P}{K} \sin 2\pi f t^*$$

and hence, from equations (22) and (37), the velocity immediately after time t^* is given by

$$\begin{aligned} [\dot{x}]_{t=t^*+} &= \phi \dot{x}^* \\ &= \phi \left[\frac{P F^* g}{K M} \left(2 - \frac{F^*}{P} \right) \right]^{1/2}. \end{aligned} \quad (39)$$

This provides one of the boundary conditions for the behaviour in the range

$$t^* < t < t_0 \quad (40)$$

when the equation of motion is

$$\mu M \ddot{x}/g = P - F^*, \quad (\text{valid for } \dot{x} + \text{ve}) \quad (41)$$

which may be integrated to give

$$x = x^* + \phi \dot{x}^* (t - t^*) + \frac{g(P - F^*) (t - t^*)^2}{2\mu M}. \quad (42)$$

When $t = t_0$ the displacement and velocity, which will be identified by the symbols x_0 and \dot{x}_0 , are therefore given by

$$\left. \begin{aligned} x_0 &= x^* + \phi \dot{x}^* (t_0 - t^*) + \frac{g(P - F^*) (t_0 - t^*)^2}{2\mu M}, \\ \dot{x}_0 &= \phi \dot{x}^* + \frac{g(P - F^*) (t_0 - t^*)}{\mu M}. \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (43)$$

Now when $t > t_0$ the equation of motion is simply

$$\mu M \ddot{x}/g = -F^*, \quad (\text{valid for } \dot{x} + \text{ve}) \quad (44)$$

and the maximum displacement, which occurs when \dot{x} is zero, is accordingly given by

$$x_{\max} = x_0 + \frac{\mu M}{2gF^*} (\dot{x}_0)^2. \quad (45)$$

Expressed in non-dimensional terms equations (34), (37), (39), (43) and (45) reduce to

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \mathcal{D} &= \mu \phi^2 (\chi - \frac{1}{2}) + \phi \chi \Lambda (2\chi - 1)^{1/2} + \chi \Lambda^2 (\chi - 1) / 2\mu \\ \text{where} \\ \Lambda &= 2\pi\tau - \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{\chi - 1}{\chi} \right). \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (46)$$

4.3. Analysis for $t_0 > t_1$ and $\frac{1}{2}F^* < P < F^*$.

If $P < F^*$ the analysis may require modification. This is because equations (41) and (42) are valid only if \dot{x} is +ve, in other words up to such time t_1 , say, at which

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \dot{x} &= \phi \dot{x}^* + \frac{g(P - F^*) (t_1 - t^*)}{\mu M} \\ &= 0, \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (47)$$

where $\phi\dot{x}^*$ is given by equation (39). The time t_1 is accordingly given by

$$t_1 = \frac{1}{2\pi f} \left[\cos^{-1} \left(\frac{\chi - 1}{\chi} \right) + \left(\frac{\mu\phi}{1 - \chi} \right) (2\chi - 1)^{1/2} \right]. \quad (48)$$

The corresponding value of x is x_{\max} and finally, in non-dimensional terms, we obtain

$$\mathcal{D} = \mu\phi^2 \left(\frac{\chi - \frac{1}{2}}{1 - \chi} \right). \quad (49)$$

If $t_1 > t_0 > t^*$ the analysis of Section 4.2 is valid. If $P < \frac{1}{2}F^*$ the structure remains elastic and there is no damage.

4.4. Analysis for $t_0 \leq t^*$.

Equation (36) which gives the displacement in the initial phase, is now only valid up to time t_0 , when

$$\left. \begin{aligned} x_0 &= \frac{P}{K} (1 - \cos 2\pi f t_0), \\ \dot{x}_0 &= \frac{2\pi f P}{K} \sin 2\pi f t_0. \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (50)$$

In the range $t_0 < t < t^*$ the equation of motion is

$$M\ddot{x}/g = -Kx \quad (51)$$

whose solution, which satisfies equation (50), is given by

$$x = \frac{P}{K} \{ \cos 2\pi f(t - t_0) - \cos 2\pi f t \}. \quad (52)$$

The value of t^* is determined by equating the above displacement to x^* , whence

$$t^* = \frac{1}{2}t_0 + \frac{1}{2\pi f} \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{F^*}{2P \sin \pi f t_0} \right), \quad (53)$$

and the corresponding velocity \dot{x}^* is accordingly given by

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x}^* &= \frac{2\pi f P}{K} \{ \sin 2\pi f t^* - \sin 2\pi f(t^* - t_0) \}, \\ &= \frac{2\pi f P}{K} \{ 4 \sin^2 \pi f t_0 - (F^*/P)^2 \}^{1/2}. \end{aligned} \quad (54)$$

Finally, for $t > t^*$ the equation of motion is

$$\mu M\ddot{x}/g = -F^*, \quad (\text{valid for } \dot{x} + \text{ve}) \quad (44 \text{ bis})$$

and the maximum displacement, which occurs when \dot{x} is zero, is accordingly given by

$$x_{\max} = x^* + \frac{\mu M (\phi\dot{x}^*)^2}{2gF^*}. \quad (55)$$

In non-dimensional terms the damage is given by

$$\mathcal{D} = \mu\phi^2 (2\chi^2 \sin^2 \pi\tau - \frac{1}{2}). \quad (56)$$

4.5. Graphical Presentation of the Damage.

Equations (46), (49) and (56), which express the damage in terms of the pressure and time interval, constitute one of the main features of the report. The results, for $\mu = \phi = 1$, are expressed in graphical form in Figs. 6, 7 and 8. In Fig. 6 \mathcal{D} is plotted against τ for various values of χ . If χ is large and τ small it is difficult to determine \mathcal{D} from Fig. 6, and accordingly Fig. 7 has been prepared in which \mathcal{D} is plotted against τ for various values of $\mathcal{J} (= \chi\tau)$. Finally in Fig. 8 $\mathcal{D}/\mathcal{J}^2$ is plotted against τ for various values of χ , to facilitate the determination of \mathcal{D} if τ is large. If the parameters μ and ϕ differ significantly from unity, their influence on \mathcal{D} must be determined from the appropriate preceding equation; note that in equations (49) and (56) the damage varies with μ and ϕ in proportion to $\mu\phi^2$.

4.6. Structural Behaviour under Sudden Impulse.

It is clear from Fig. 7 that the maximum damage caused by a given 'impulse' $\chi\tau$ occurs when $\tau \rightarrow 0$, although for practical purposes the damage does not vary significantly over the range $0 < \tau < 0.2$. In other words, if the time of application of the pressure is small in comparison with the fundamental period of vibration, the resulting damage to the structure depends only on the product of pressure \times time; more generally, the damage depends upon $\int \chi d\tau$ so that the case in which the pressure is not constant may also be readily analysed, for equation (56) may then be cast in the form

$$\mathcal{D} \approx \mu\phi^2(2\pi^2\mathcal{J}^2 - \frac{1}{2}) \quad (57)$$

where

$$\mathcal{J} = \int \chi d\tau. \quad (58)$$

4.6.1. *Non-linear structural behaviour.*—It has just been shown that when $0 < \tau < 0.2$ the loading acts effectively as a sudden impulse, which leads to considerable simplification in the analysis of the idealised elasto-plastic structure. Of greater importance, however, is the fact that the analysis can also be readily extended to the case of a structure with quite general characteristics. Thus we determine below the damage caused by a sudden impulse applied to a mass-spring system whose force-displacement curve is arbitrary, as shown in Fig. 9. The structure is assumed to be elastic up to the point A beyond which it deforms plastically with arbitrary work-hardening. To simplify the discussion the influence of the parameters μ and ϕ is ignored, and we will again define the damage by equation (34), although this definition is now not necessarily proportional to the actual permanent set. The initial elastic but non-linear curve OA might, for example, represent the deflexion of a thin plate in which membrane forces play a significant role.

After a sudden impulse $I (= Pt_0)$ the velocity of the mass is given by

$$\dot{x}_0 = gI/M \quad (59)$$

and accordingly the kinetic energy U is given by

$$U = gI^2/2M. \quad (60)$$

Now when the velocity of the mass falls to zero, at $x = x_{\max}$, this kinetic energy is equal to the work done on the spring, so that

$$\frac{gI^2}{2M} = \int_0^{x_{\max}} F dx \quad (61)$$

from which may be determined x_{\max} , and hence a measure of the damage.

Structure with linear work-hardening.

As an example in the application of equation (61) we determine below the damage caused by a sudden impulse to a structure exhibiting linear work-hardening as shown in Fig. 10. The spring characteristics are

$$\left. \begin{aligned} F &= Kx, & 0 < x \leq x^* \\ F &= F^* + \alpha K(x - x^*), & x \geq x^* \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (62)$$

where α , the ratio of the slopes of AB to OA, is a measure of the degree of work-hardening.

Substitution of equation (62) into equation (61) now gives, in non-dimensional form

$$\mathcal{D} = [\{1 + \alpha(4\pi^2 \mathcal{J}^2 - 1)\}^{1/2} - 1]/\alpha. \quad (63)$$

The variation of \mathcal{D} with \mathcal{J} and α is shown in Fig. 11. As might be expected the influence of work-hardening is small for small values of \mathcal{D} , but it can become of overriding importance for large values of \mathcal{D} . Similar conclusions may be drawn when the time of application of the pressure is not small in comparison with the fundamental period of vibration.

4.7. Influence of Rate of Loading on the Yield Stress.

It is shown in Refs. 15 to 18, for example, that the yield stress of a material is increased at extremely high rates of strain. In other words σ_Y and hence F^* and x^* may depend on the variation of \dot{x} in the elastic range. The precise variation of \dot{x} is probably of little consequence, and it is sufficient to consider the average value x^*/t^* .

Now t^* is given by equations (37) and (53):

$$\left. \begin{aligned} t^* &= \frac{1}{2\pi f} \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{\chi - 1}{\chi} \right), & t_0 > t^*, \\ t^* &= \frac{1}{2}t_0 + \frac{1}{2\pi f} \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{2\chi \sin \pi f t_0} \right), & t_0 < t^*, \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (64)$$

and hence x^*/t^* may be determined.

It is to be noted that an extremely high rate of loading (i.e. very small t_0) does not imply an extremely high rate of strain (i.e. very small t^).* This is because the inertia of the structure intervenes, and the rate of strain is then primarily determined by the fundamental frequency of the structure. This point is made clearer by combining the second of equation (64) with equation (56), which gives

$$t^* = \frac{1}{2}t_0 + \frac{1}{2\pi f} \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{\mu\phi^2}{2\mathcal{D}} \right)^{1/2}. \quad (65)$$

Thus, for a given value of \mathcal{D} , the value of t^* cannot be less than $(1/2\pi f) \tan^{-1} (\mu\phi^2/2\mathcal{D})^{1/2}$ however small t_0 may be.

5. Comparison with Two-Term Solution and with Previous Theory.

The novel feature in this paper is the adoption of a 'split mode' to account for the different structural behaviour in the elastic and plastic regimes. As stated in the Introduction there are certain time-wise load variations for which this 'split mode' assumption is rigorously correct. This is so, for example, if the time-wise variation of the load is such that the velocity is zero when yielding starts; a small increase in load over that required for static equilibrium then results in motion purely

in the plastic mode. Generally, however, the adoption of the 'split mode' is not rigorously correct, and in order to test its merits in a more realistic and critical case we have compared the damage with that predicted by a more accurate method and with previous 'single mode' theory. The analysis for the more accurate method is given in Appendix II, which treats the simply supported beam subjected to uniformly distributed impulsive loading; the analysis is based on a two-degree-of-freedom system in which the deflexion is expressed as an arbitrary combination of the elastic and plastic modes. The results of calculations based on this two-term solution are given in Fig. 12 and compare very favourably with the approximate method developed here; the damage \mathcal{D} has been plotted against γ_0^2 , where γ_0 is a non-dimensional measure of the velocity at the onset of yielding, and is defined in Appendix II. The oscillatory character of the two-term solution is due to the occurrence of purely elastic phases which are interspersed with the elasto-plastic phases. An exact solution would show additional deviations due to the spreading of the central hinge and to the higher elastic modes which might, for example, result in permanent shear deformation at the supports; indeed, there would no longer be a unique correspondence between a simple damage criterion (such as \mathcal{D}) and the final damaged form of the structure.

6. *Conclusions.*

A simple theoretical technique has been presented for the estimation of structural damage caused by impulsive loads. The basis of the analysis is the assumption that the structure deforms under the impulsive loads in the same deflexion patterns that it would develop under static loads. The assumption leads to the concept of a 'split mode' in which, in the plastic regime, the plastic mode is superposed on the maximum amplitude of the elastic mode. The dynamics of the associated mode-to-mode change admit of simple analysis and, for a particular example, the predicted damage shows good agreement with a more exact analysis.

The case of a uniformly distributed impulsive pressure whose magnitude varies time-wise as a rectangular pulse is considered in detail and the results are presented in graphical form.

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LIST OF SYMBOLS

a	Width of beam or plate
A	Flange area
b	Length of plate ($b > a$)
D	Flexural rigidity of plate, $Eh^3/\{12(1-\nu^2)\}$
\mathcal{D}	Non-dimensional measure of damage defined by equation (34)
E	Young's modulus
EI	Flexural stiffness of beam
f	Frequency of vibration in elastic mode, c/s
F	Restoring force in spring
F^*	Yield force in spring
g	Acceleration due to gravity, 32.2 ft/sec ²
h	Thickness of plate
I	Impulse defined in Section 4.6.1
\mathcal{I}	Non-dimensional measure of impulse defined in equation (33)
K	Equivalent spring constant
m	Mass per unit length of beam, or unit area of plate
M	Equivalent mass in elastic mode
M'	Equivalent mass defined in equation (21)
\mathcal{M}	Bending moment in beam, bending moment per unit length in plate
p	Pressure per unit length of beam, per unit area of plate
P	Equivalent force
t	Time
t_0	Time of application of pressure
t_1	Defined in Section 4.3
t^*	Time at which yielding starts
U	Kinetic energy
x	Displacement of mass

LIST OF SYMBOLS—*continued*

x^*	Value of x when yielding starts
$x(\xi)$	Displacement of beam
$x(\xi, \eta)$	Displacement of plate
z	Distance from neutral axis
α	Defined in Section 4.6
γ_0	Non-dimensional measure of velocity when yielding starts, introduced in Section 5
ϕ	Non-dimensional parameter defined in Section 3.4.1
μ	Non-dimensional parameter defined in equation (21)
ν	Poisson's ratio (assumed equal to 0.3 in numerical calculations)
ρ	Density of plate material
σ	Stress
A	Defined in equation (46)
τ	Non-dimensional measure of time defined in equation (31)
χ	Non-dimensional measure of force defined in equation (32)
ξ	Distance along beam
ξ_0	Reference point in beam
ξ, η	Co-ordinates in plate
ξ_0, η_0	Reference point in plate
Suffix p refers to the plastic mode	
Suffix Y refers to conditions at yield	
A dot denotes differentiation with respect to time	

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ADDITIONAL NOTATION USED IN THE APPENDICES

a_1, a_2	Introduced in equation (72)
\mathcal{D}_n	Non-dimensional measure of total damage at end of n th elasto-plastic phase
f_0, f_2	Natural frequencies appropriate to modes w_0, w_2
$i(\xi)$	Impulse per unit length
k	Introduced in equation (73) and defined in equation (87)
K_0, K_1, K_2	Equivalent spring constants for modes w_0, w_1, w_2
M_0, M_1, M_2	Equivalent masses for modes w_0, w_1, w_2
P_0, P_1, P_2	Equivalent forces for modes w_0, w_1, w_2
t	Time measured from start of each elasto-plastic phase
t'	Time measured from start of each elastic phase
$T = 2\pi f_2 t$	a non-dimensional measure of t
$T' = 2\pi f_0 t'$	a non-dimensional measure of t'
T_n	Value of T at end of $(n+1)$ th elasto-plastic phase
T'_n	Value of T' at end of $(n+1)$ th elastic phase
$v(\xi)$	Velocity of beam
V	Velocity of reference point (in Appendix I)
$v^*(\xi), V^*$	Values of $v(\xi), V$ at mode-to-mode change
V_0	Introduced after equation (88)
$w(\xi)$	Deflexion of beam
w_0	Defined in equation (81)
w_1, w_2	Normal modes introduced in equation (73)
Δ, δ	Non-dimensional measures of the beam deflexion introduced in equation (73)
Δ_n, δ_n	Values of Δ, δ at end of $(n+1)$ th elastic phase
$\Delta_{n, n+1}, \delta_{n, n+1}$	Values of Δ, δ at end of $(n+1)$ th elasto-plastic phase
γ_n	Non-dimensional measure of velocity of beam centre at end of $(n+1)$ th elastic phase, <i>see</i> equations (95), (111)
$\gamma_{n, n+1}$	Non-dimensional measure of velocity of beam centre at end of $(n+1)$ th elasto-plastic phase, <i>see</i> equations (100), (117)

APPENDIX I

Dynamics of the Mode-to-Mode Change

For simplicity the discussion below is limited to the dynamics of the mode-to-mode change in a beam; the extension to the plate is straightforward.

In the elastic mode $x(\xi)$, the velocity $v(\xi)$ at any point may be expressed in terms of the velocity V , say, of the reference point ξ_0 :

$$v(\xi) = \frac{Vx(\xi)}{x(\xi_0)}. \quad (66)$$

Similarly, in the plastic mode $x_p(\xi)$, the velocity $v_p(\xi)$ is given by

$$v_p(\xi) = \frac{V_p x_p(\xi)}{x_p(\xi_0)}. \quad (67)$$

Now let $v^*(\xi)$ and V^* denote the values of $v(\xi)$ and V at the maximum amplitude in the elastic mode, i.e. immediately prior to the introduction of the plastic mode, and let $v_p^*(\xi)$ and V_p^* denote the values of $v_p(\xi)$ and V_p immediately after the introduction of the plastic mode. The problem is to determine the relationship between V_p^* and V^* .

It is convenient to regard the velocity distribution $v^*(\xi)$ as the immediate result of a distributed impulse applied to a stationary but deflected beam. The magnitude of this distributed impulse per unit length is given by

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \dot{i}(\xi) &= \lim_{\delta t \rightarrow 0} p(\xi)\delta t, \quad \text{say} \\ &= \frac{mv^*(\xi)}{g} \\ &= \frac{V^*mx(\xi)}{gx(\xi_0)}. \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (68)$$

The effect of this impulsive pressure distribution $p(\xi)$ on a beam constrained to deflect in the plastic mode $x_p(\xi)$ may be readily determined from the analysis of Section 2.1 and equation (20). The equivalent impulsive force P_p is given by

$$\left. \begin{aligned} P_p &= \int_0^a p(\xi) \left\{ \frac{x_p(\xi)}{x_p(\xi_0)} \right\} d\xi \\ &= \frac{1}{\delta t} \int_0^a \dot{i}(\xi) \left\{ \frac{x_p(\xi)}{x_p(\xi_0)} \right\} d\xi \\ &= \frac{V^*}{g\delta t} \int_0^a \frac{mx(\xi)x_p(\xi)}{x(\xi_0)x_p(\xi_0)} d\xi. \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (69)$$

The velocity V_p^* is now given by

$$\left. \begin{aligned} V_p^* &= \frac{gP_p\delta t}{M_p} \\ &= \frac{V^* \int_0^a \frac{mx(\xi)x_p(\xi)}{x(\xi_0)x_p(\xi_0)} d\xi}{\int_0^a \frac{m\{x_p(\xi)\}^2}{\{x_p(\xi_0)\}^2} d\xi} \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (70)$$

in virtue of equations (69) and (20).

Finally

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \phi &= V_p^*/V^* \\ &= \frac{x_p(\xi_0) \int_0^a m x(\xi) x_p(\xi) d\xi}{x(\xi_0) \int_0^a m \{x_p(\xi)\}^2 d\xi} \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (71)$$

APPENDIX II

Impulsive Damage in Simply Supported Beams: a Two-Term Solution

The following analysis, though approximate, is an attempt to analyse in a simple engineering way the complex dynamical interaction between the elastic and plastic behaviour which occurs after the initial formation of a plastic hinge. The simply supported beam subjected to a sudden impulse has been chosen on grounds of convenience; the general method of solution could, however, be applied to any beam which exhibits a single plastic hinge at failure, and any time-wise variation of the impulsive loading; beams exhibiting more than one hinge would require a more complex analysis. The results indicate that the introduction of the parameters μ and ϕ leads to a more accurate estimation of damage.

A.1. *Characteristics of the Assumed Beam Modes.*

The beam deflects symmetrically about the centre and it is therefore sufficient to consider the behaviour of half the beam, and for convenience we take the origin at one of the simply supported ends. The underlying assumption of the following analysis is that the deflexion w of the half-beam may be expressed at all times as a linear combination of the elastic and plastic modes introduced in Sections 2 and 3, i.e.

$$w(\xi) = a_1 \sin \pi\xi/a + a_2\xi \quad (72)$$

where a_1 and a_2 are functions of time (to be determined) and $0 \leq \xi \leq \frac{1}{2}a$.

The analysis is considerably simplified by recombining the elastic and plastic modes into normal modes as follows:

$$w(\xi) = k\{(\Delta + \delta)w_1 - \delta w_2\} \quad (73)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} w_1 &= 2\xi/a, \\ w_2 &= (24\xi/a - \pi^2 \sin \pi\xi/a)/(12 - \pi^2), \end{aligned} \quad (74)$$

and k is a disposable constant introduced for convenience.

It is to be noted that w_1 and w_2 are equal to unity at the reference point $\xi = \frac{1}{2}a$, and accordingly $k\Delta$ is the deflexion of the centre of the beam. The grouping of terms in w_2 was obtained from the condition

$$\int_0^{a/2} w_1 w_2 d\xi = 0.$$

Now the effect of the sudden impulse is to impart a certain velocity distribution to the undeflected beam. Thereafter each half-beam is unloaded, apart from the bending moment \mathcal{M} at $\xi = \frac{1}{2}a$ which may be elastic ($\mathcal{M} < \mathcal{M}_Y$) or plastic ($\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{M}_Y$).

Associated with each of the normal modes w_1 and w_2 there is an 'equivalent mass' M_1 and M_2 , an 'equivalent spring constant' K_1 and K_2 , and an 'equivalent force' P_1 and P_2 which thus depends only on the magnitude of the central moment \mathcal{M} . Substitution of equations (74) into equations (1), (2), (3) gives

$$\left. \begin{aligned} M_1 &= ma/6 \\ K_1 &= 0 \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (75)$$

in virtue of the fact that w_1 is a rigid-body displacement, and

$$\left. \begin{aligned} P_1 &= -\mathcal{M}w_1'(\frac{1}{2}a) \\ &= -2\mathcal{M}/a \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (76)$$

where a dash denotes differentiation with respect to ξ .

Also

$$M_2 = \frac{ma(\pi^4 - 96)}{4(12 - \pi^2)^2} \quad (77)$$

$$K_2 = \frac{EI\pi^8}{4a^3(12 - \pi^2)^2} \quad (78)$$

$$\begin{aligned} P_2 &= \mathcal{M}w_2'(\frac{1}{2}a) \\ &= \frac{2A\mathcal{M}}{a(12 - \pi^2)} \end{aligned} \quad (79)$$

and finally

$$\left. \begin{aligned} 4\pi^2 f_2^2 &= gK_2/M_2 \\ &= \frac{gEI\pi^8}{ma^4(\pi^4 - 96)} \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (80)$$

The change of sign in the expressions for P_1 and P_2 is due to the change in the direction of measurement of positive w_1 and w_2 , which results from the minus sign in equation (73).

In the initial purely elastic state

$$\text{where } \left. \begin{aligned} w(\xi) &= k\Delta w_0, \quad \text{say} \\ w_0 &= \sin \pi\xi/a \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (81)$$

and the corresponding values of the 'equivalent mass', etc. for the half-beam are given by equation (7):

$$M_0 = ma/4 \quad (82)$$

$$K_0 = \frac{\pi^4 EI}{4a^3} \quad (83)$$

$$P_0 = pa/\pi \quad (84)$$

and

$$4\pi^2 f_0^2 = \frac{gEI\pi^4}{ma^4} \quad (85)$$

Also, from equations (16) and (84)

$$F_0^* = \frac{8\mathcal{M}_Y}{\pi a}$$

and accordingly the central deflexion $k\Delta_0$, say, at the end of the initial purely elastic state is given by

$$\left. \begin{aligned} k\Delta_0 &= F_0^*/K_0 \\ &= \frac{32a^2\mathcal{M}_Y}{\pi^5 EI} \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (86)$$

This provides a convenient means for choosing k , for by taking

$$\left. \begin{aligned} k &= \frac{32a^2\mathcal{M}_Y}{\pi^5 EI} \\ \Delta_0 &= 1 \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (87)$$

we see that

and Δ , δ are now non-dimensional measures of the magnitudes of the two components in the deflexion.

A.2. Conditions after the Initial Elastic State.

Now the effect of a sudden impulse $P_0 t_0$ is to impart kinetic energy to the half-beam, and this may be equated to the kinetic energy + strain energy in the half-beam at the end of the initial purely elastic state, i.e.

$$\frac{g(P_0 t_0)^2}{2M_0} = \frac{M_0 V_0^2}{2g} + \frac{K_0 k^2}{2} \quad (88)$$

where

$$V_0 = [k\dot{\Delta}]_{\Delta=\Delta_0}.$$

Equation (88) enables V_0 to be determined for a given sudden impulse $P_0 t_0$; the value of V_0 for the case of the 'not so sudden' impulse is given by equation (54). The values of $k\Delta_0$ and V_0 provide the initial conditions for the elasto-plastic motion in which the deflexion is represented by equation (73). The corresponding values of $[\delta]_{\Delta=\Delta_0}$, ($= \delta_0$, say) and $[\dot{\delta}]_{\Delta=\Delta_0}$, ($= \dot{\delta}_0$, say) are derived from the condition that initially

$$w'(\frac{1}{2}a) = k\{(\Delta + \delta)w_1'(\frac{1}{2}a) - \delta w_2'(\frac{1}{2}a)\} = 0 \quad (89)$$

whence

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \delta_0 &= \frac{12}{\pi^2} - 1 \\ \dot{\delta}_0 &= \left(\frac{12}{\pi^2} - 1\right) \frac{V_0}{k} \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (90)$$

A.3. General Equations of Motion.

Now the equations of motion in the modes w_1 and w_2 are as follows

$$\frac{kM_1}{g} (\ddot{\Delta} + \ddot{\delta}) = P_1 \quad (91)$$

and

$$\frac{kM_2}{g} \ddot{\delta} + kK_2 \delta = P_2 \quad (92)$$

where P_1 and P_2 are given by equations (76) and (79) with $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{M}_Y$ provided the central hinge angle is increasing. If at any stage in the motion the rate of opening of the central hinge falls to zero, the hinge may 'lock' and the possibility of a further purely elastic phase in the motion must be considered.

A.4. The First Elasto-Plastic Phase.

The solution of equations (91) and (92) subject to the boundary conditions (90) may be written non-dimensionally in the form

$$\Delta + \delta = \Delta_0 + \delta_0 + \frac{6\gamma_0 T}{\pi^3} - \frac{3(\pi^4 - 96)T^2}{16\pi^3} \quad (93)$$

and

$$\delta = \delta_0 \cos T + \left(\frac{12 - \pi^2}{\pi^3} \right) \{3(1 - \cos T) + \frac{1}{2}\gamma_0 \sin T\} \quad (94)$$

where γ_0 and T have been introduced for convenience and are given by

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \gamma_0 &= \frac{V_0}{kf_2} \\ T &= 2\pi f_2 t \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (95)$$

and t is assumed zero at the start of the motion when $\Delta = \Delta_0 = 1$.

Equations (93) and (94) are valid only as long as $\dot{w}'(\frac{1}{2}a)$ is positive, i.e. up to such time when

$$(\dot{\Delta} + \dot{\delta}) - \left(\frac{12}{12 - \pi^2} \right) \dot{\delta} = 0. \quad (96)$$

Substitution of equations (93) and (94) in (96) and writing T_0 for the critical value of T gives the following relation for determining T_0 in terms of γ_0 :

$$\gamma_0 = \frac{\left(\frac{\pi^4 - 96}{16} \right) T_0 - (2\pi - 6) \sin T_0}{1 - \cos T_0}. \quad (97)$$

Let us now denote by Δ_{01} , δ_{01} the values of Δ , δ at time T_0 , and by $\dot{\Delta}_{01}$, $\dot{\delta}_{01}$ the values of $\dot{\Delta}$, $\dot{\delta}$ at time T_0 . Let us also introduce γ_{01} {cf. equation (95)} such that $\dot{\Delta}_{01} = \gamma_{01}f_2$. Equations (93), (94) and (96) then give

$$\Delta_{01} + \delta_{01} = \Delta_0 + \delta_0 + \frac{6\gamma_0 T_0}{\pi^3} - \frac{3(\pi^4 - 96)}{16\pi^3} T_0^2 \quad (98)$$

$$\delta_{01} = \delta_0 \cos T_0 + \left(\frac{12 - \pi^2}{\pi^3} \right) \{3(1 - \cos T_0) + \frac{1}{2}\gamma_0 \sin T_0\} \quad (99)$$

and

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \gamma_{01} &= \dot{\Delta}_{01}/f_2 \\ &= \left(\frac{\pi^2}{12 - \pi^2} \right) \frac{\dot{\delta}_{01}}{f_2} \\ &= \gamma_0 - \left(\frac{\pi^4 - 96}{16} \right) T_0. \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (100)$$

Equations (98) to (100) provide the initial conditions for the behaviour of the beam in the purely elastic phase which occurs after time T_0 . The amount of damage suffered by the complete beam at time T_0 depends on the angular movement of the plastic hinge, and this may be readily expressed non-dimensionally—as in the main text—as the ratio of the corresponding permanent central deflexion/ k . This non-dimensional measure of the damage is denoted by the symbol \mathcal{D}_1 and it is to be noted that further damage may occur before the beam finally comes to rest. Thus we find

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{D}_1 &= \Delta_{01} + \delta_{01} - \left(\frac{12}{12 - \pi^2}\right) \delta_{01} \\ &= \frac{6}{\pi^3} \{(2\pi - 6)(1 - \cos T_0) + \gamma_0(T_0 - \sin T_0) - (\pi^4 - 96)T_0^2/32\}.\end{aligned}\quad (101)$$

A.5. The Second Elastic Phase.

Now in the elastic phase which occurs after time T_0 the equations of motion are (91) and (92) in which \mathcal{M} is at present unknown, together with equation (96) which expressed the constancy of the central hinge angle. The moment \mathcal{M} may be eliminated from equations (91) and (92) by writing

$$\frac{M_1}{g} (\ddot{\Delta} + \ddot{\delta}) = \frac{P_1}{P_2} \left(\frac{M_2}{g} \ddot{\delta} + K_2 \delta \right) \quad (102)$$

where

$$\frac{P_1}{P_2} = - \left(1 - \frac{\pi^2}{12} \right).$$

Similarly $(\Delta + \delta)$ may be eliminated from equations (96) and (102) to yield

$$\ddot{\delta} + 4\pi^2 f_0^2 \delta = 0 \quad (103)$$

whose solution, which satisfies the initial conditions (99) and (100), is given by

$$\delta = \delta_{01} \cos 2\pi f_0 t' + \left(\frac{\dot{\delta}_{01}}{2\pi f_0} \right) \sin 2\pi f_0 t' \quad (104)$$

where

$$t' = t - \frac{T_0}{2\pi f_2}$$

which is zero at the start of the elastic phase.

Substitution of equation (104) into equation (96) gives, on integration,

$$\Delta = \Delta_{01} + \left(\frac{\pi^2}{12 - \pi^2} \right) (\delta - \delta_{01}). \quad (105)$$

Finally, the range of validity of equations (104) and (105) may be established by determining \mathcal{M} from equations (91) or (92), and equating this to \mathcal{M}_Y . It follows that the elastic phase ceases at time $t' = T_0'/(2\pi f_0)$, say, where

$$1 - \left\{ \frac{32}{\pi(12 - \pi^2)} \right\} \delta_{01} \cos T_0' - \frac{16\gamma_{01} \sin T_0'}{\pi^2 \sqrt{(\pi^4 - 96)}} = 0. \quad (106)$$

At this critical value of t' , which heralds the appearance of a further elasto-plastic phase, the displacement and velocity of the beam are given by

$$\begin{aligned}\delta &= \delta_1, \quad \text{say} \\ &= \delta_{01} \cos T_0' + \left(\frac{12 - \pi^2}{2\pi\sqrt{(\pi^4 - 96)}} \right) \gamma_{01} \sin T_0',\end{aligned}\quad (107)$$

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\delta} &= \dot{\delta}_1, \quad \text{say} \\ &= \dot{\delta}_{01} \cos T_0' - 2\pi f_0 \delta_{01} \sin T_0'\end{aligned}\quad (108)$$

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta &= \Delta_1, \quad \text{say} \\ &= \Delta_{01} + \left(\frac{\pi^2}{12 - \pi^2} \right) (\delta_1 - \delta_{01})\end{aligned}\quad (109)$$

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\Delta} &= \dot{\Delta}_1, \quad \text{say} \\ &= \left(\frac{\pi^2}{12 - \pi^2} \right) \dot{\delta}_1.\end{aligned}\quad (110)$$

A.6. The Second Elasto-Plastic Phase.

Equations (107) to (110) provide the initial conditions for the beam in the elasto-plastic phase for which the equations of motion are (91) and (92) with $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{M}_Y$. The solution of these equations may be written non-dimensionally in the form

$$\Delta + \delta = \Delta_1 + \delta_1 + \frac{6\gamma_1 T}{\pi^3} - \frac{3(\pi^4 - 96)T^2}{16\pi^3}\quad (111)$$

and

$$\delta = \delta_1 \cos T + \left(\frac{12 - \pi^2}{\pi^3} \right) \{3(1 - \cos T) + \frac{1}{2}\gamma_1 \sin T\}\quad (112)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}\gamma_1 &= \frac{\dot{\Delta}_1}{f_2} = \left(\frac{\pi^2}{12 - \pi^2} \right) \frac{\dot{\delta}_1}{f_2} \\ &= \gamma_{01} \cos T_0' - \left\{ \frac{2\pi\sqrt{(\pi^4 - 96)}}{12 - \pi^2} \right\} \delta_{01} \sin T_0'\end{aligned}\quad (113)$$

and a fresh origin, zero at the start of this elasto-plastic phase, has been chosen for $T (= 2\pi f_2 t)$.

Equations (111) and (112) are valid only as long as $\dot{w}'(\frac{1}{2}a)$ is positive, i.e. up to such time when equation (96) is satisfied. It may then be shown that this critical value of T , denoted by T_1 , is determined from the relation:

$$\gamma_1(1 - \cos T_1) - 6 \sin T_1 - \frac{(\pi^4 - 96)}{16} T_1 + \left(\frac{2\pi^3}{12 - \pi^2} \right) \delta_1 \sin T_1 = 0.\quad (114)$$

Let us now denote by Δ_{12} , δ_{12} the values of Δ , δ at time T_1 , and by $\dot{\Delta}_{12}$, $\dot{\delta}_{12}$ the values of $\dot{\Delta}$, $\dot{\delta}$ at time T_1 . Let us also introduce γ_{12} {cf. equation (100)} such that $\dot{\Delta}_{12} = \gamma_{12}f_2$. Equations (111), (112) and (96) then give

$$\Delta_{12} + \delta_{12} = \Delta_1 + \delta_1 + \frac{6\gamma_1 T_1}{\pi^3} - \frac{3(\pi^4 - 96) T_1^2}{16\pi^3} \quad (115)$$

$$\delta_{12} = \delta_1 \cos T_1 + \left(\frac{12 - \pi^2}{\pi^3} \right) \{3(1 - \cos T_1) + \frac{1}{2}\gamma_1 \sin T_1\} \quad (116)$$

and

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \gamma_{12} &= \dot{\Delta}_{12}/f_2 \\ &= \left(\frac{\pi^2}{12 - \pi^2} \right) \frac{\dot{\delta}_{12}}{f_2} \\ &= \gamma_1 - \left(\frac{\pi^4 - 96}{16} \right) T_1. \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (117)$$

Similarly, the non-dimensional measure of the *total* damage incurred during the first two elasto-plastic phases is given by

$$\mathcal{D}_2 = \Delta_{12} + \delta_{12} - \left(\frac{12}{12 - \pi^2} \right) \delta_{12}. \quad (118)$$

A.7. Analysis for Further Elasto-Plastic Phases.

Whether or not this is the final measure of the total damage depends on whether there is a further elasto-plastic phase. Following an analysis similar to that of Section A.5, it will be seen that a further elasto-plastic phase will occur if a term T_1' exists which satisfies the equation

$$1 - \left\{ \frac{32}{\pi(12 - \pi^2)} \right\} \delta_{12} \cos T_1' - \frac{16\gamma_{12} \sin T_1'}{\pi^2 \sqrt{(\pi^4 - 96)}} = 0. \quad (119)$$

The cycle of operations for determining \mathcal{D}_3 may now be repeated. Apart from a unit increase in each suffix, it follows an identical pattern to that used to determine \mathcal{D}_2 in terms of Δ_{01} , δ_{01} , γ_{01} . If we introduce the notation \rightarrow to mean 'is a function of' we may write the necessary steps in the following symbolic form:

$$\begin{array}{ll} T_0' \rightarrow \delta_{01}, \gamma_{01} & \text{[equation (106)]} \\ \Delta_1, \delta_1, \gamma_1 \rightarrow \Delta_{01}, \delta_{01}, \gamma_{01}, T_0' & \text{[equations (107), (109), (113)]} \\ T_1 \rightarrow \delta_1, \gamma_1 & \text{[equation (114)]} \\ \Delta_{12}, \delta_{12}, \gamma_{12} \rightarrow \Delta_1, \delta_1, \gamma_1, T_1 & \text{[equations (115), (116), (117)]} \\ \mathcal{D}_2 \rightarrow \Delta_{12}, \delta_{12} & \text{[equation (118)]}^\dagger \\ T_1' \rightarrow \delta_{12}, \gamma_{12} & \text{[equation (119)]} \\ \text{etc.} & \end{array}$$

A.8. *Comparison with Present Simplified Theory and Previous Theory.*

According to the simplified theory presented in the main body of the report the damage due to a sudden impulse is given by equation (57),

$$\mathcal{D} = \mu\phi^2(2\pi^2 \mathcal{J}^2 - \frac{1}{2}).$$

Also, from equation (54)

$$\begin{aligned} V_0 &= x^* \\ &= \frac{2\pi f_0 P_0}{K_0} \left\{ 4\pi^2 f_0^2 t_0^2 - \left(\frac{F_0^*}{P_0} \right)^2 \right\}^{1/2} \end{aligned}$$

so that

$$V_0^2 = 8\pi^2 k^2 f_0^2 (2\pi^2 \mathcal{J}^2 - \frac{1}{2})$$

and hence

$$\mathcal{D} = \frac{\mu\phi^2\gamma_0^2}{8\pi^2} \left(\frac{f_2}{f_0} \right)^2.$$

Now f_2, f_0 are given by equations (80), (85) and μ, ϕ by equation (25); hence

$$\mathcal{D} = 1.096 \gamma_0^2. \tag{120}$$

The relationship between \mathcal{D} and γ_0^2 is therefore linear and it provides a convenient basis for comparison with the more accurate two-term solution and with previous theory in which the factors μ and ϕ were inherently assumed equal to unity, and for which

$$\mathcal{D} = 0.876 \gamma_0^2. \tag{121}$$

The comparison is shown in Fig. 12.

† It is, of course, unnecessary to determine \mathcal{D}_n when T_{n-1}' exists.

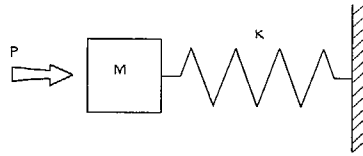


FIG. 1. Equivalent mass-spring system.

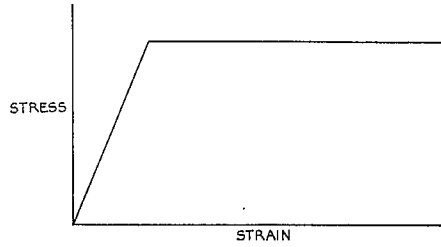


FIG. 2.

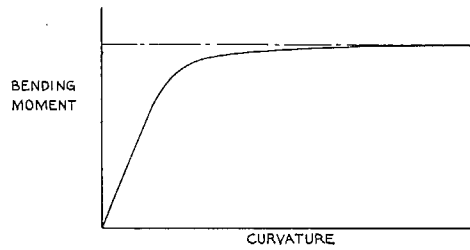


FIG. 3.

FIGS. 2 and 3. Elasto-plastic relations considered in Section 3.

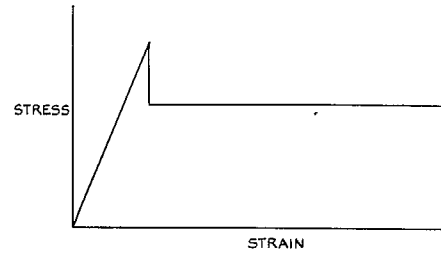


FIG. 4. Elasto-plastic relation considered in Section 3.

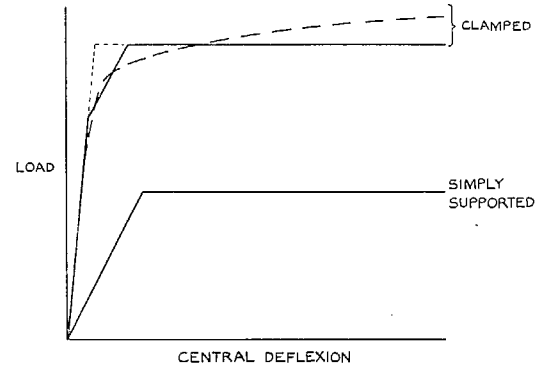


FIG. 5. Load vs. central deflexion for statically loaded beams.

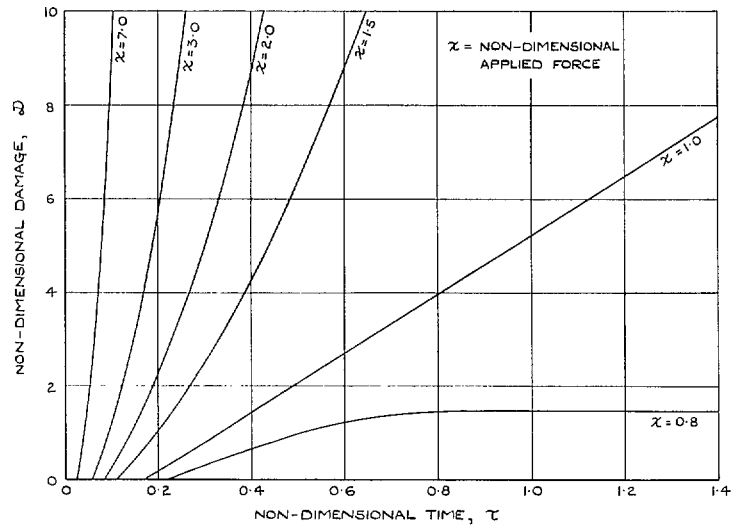


FIG. 6. Damage curves, (\mathcal{D} , τ relationship for various values of χ).

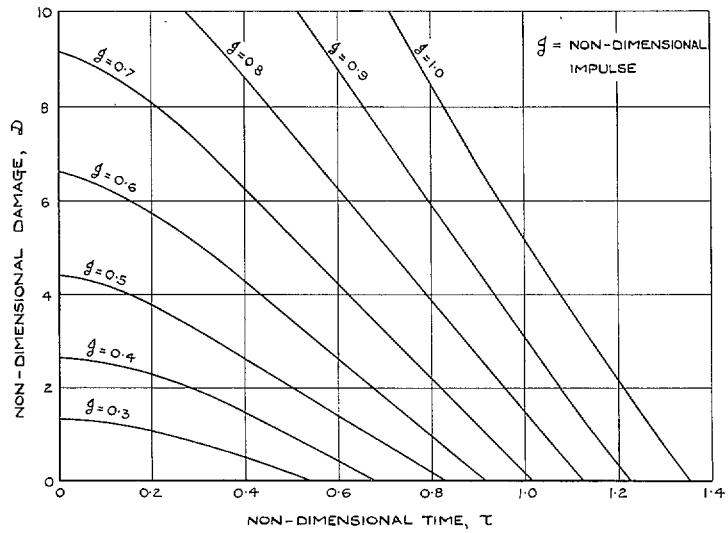


FIG. 7. Damage curves, (\mathcal{D} , τ relationship for various values of g).

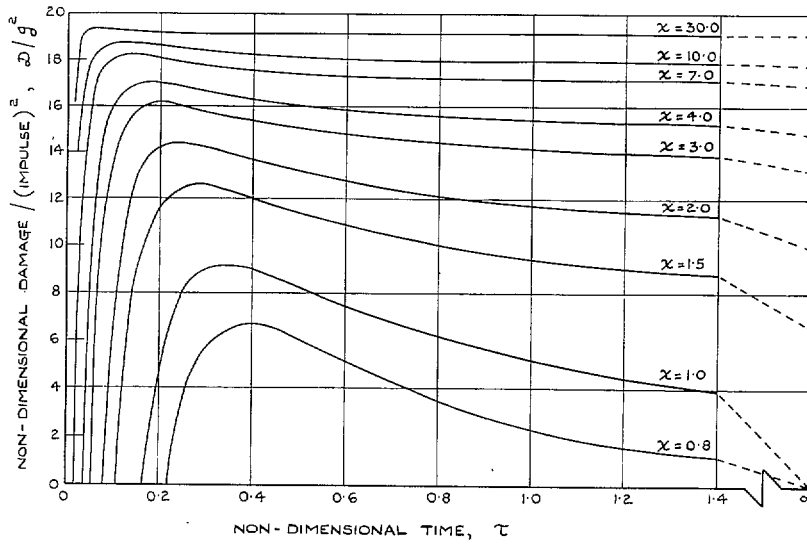


FIG. 8. Damage curves, $(\mathcal{D}/g^2, \tau$ relationship for various values of χ .

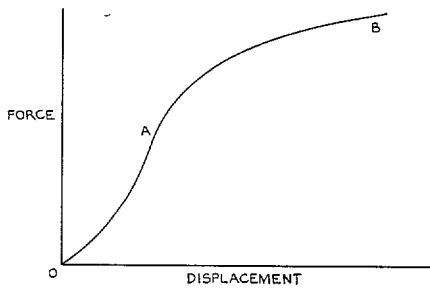


FIG. 9. Non-linear force-displacement relationship.

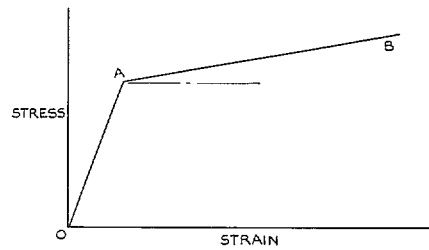


FIG. 10. Linear work-hardening.

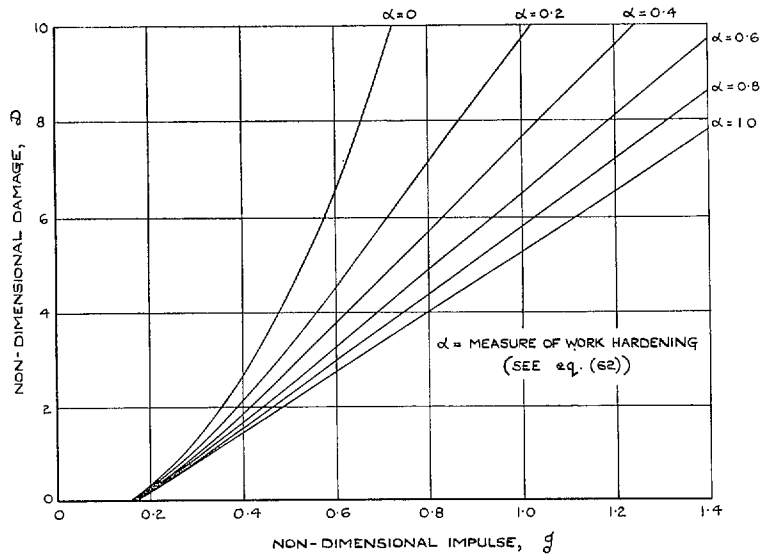


FIG. 11. Damage due to sudden impulse, (\mathcal{D} , \mathcal{I} relationship for various values of α).

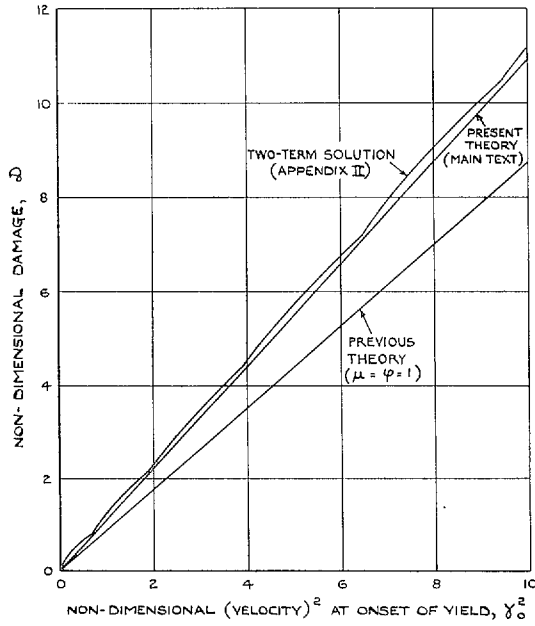


FIG. 12. Comparisons of \mathcal{D} , γ_0^2 relationships.

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