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Moisture-induced stresses in timber structures

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Presentation overview



- Introduction
- Material and methods
 - Material data
 - Modelling method for curved timber frames
- Moisture transport
 - Climate variation
 - Diffusion coefficients
 - Numerical example
- Moisture-induced stresses
 - FEM formulation
 - Numerical examples
- Conclusions





My previous modelling experience







Teacher in timber construction for eight years?

- Design based on EC5
- Design of structural elements
- Design of timber connections
- Exercises solved by hand, 1D or 2D
- Exercises that fits the expressions given in EC5
- Forced to do simplifications because of the design method.
- Difficult to use numerical stress simulations because the design criteria in EC5 are based on hand calculations
- Design of structural systems for advanced timber constructions was limited.





Why is this happening?

(low degree of robustness, wrong connection design)







Timber structure exposed to outdoor climate variation







Old timber construction





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How can we analyse advanced timber constructions?

- There is a need of an **effective computer tool** to study how timber structures behave during both **mechanical and environmental loading**.
- In EC5 and in many textbooks on timber design it is stated that the **moisture sensitivity** of the wood material must be taken into account in the design process. **But the fact is that these matters are not dealt with properly.**





Extended beam model for simulation of hygro-mechanical and visco-elastic deformations and stresses in timber structures













Hygroscopic material

• Wood is a hygroscopic material which means that it attempts to attain an equilibrium moisture content (EMC) with its surrounding environment, resulting in a variable moisture content during the year.

Variation in RH over a year, RH = 60 to 90%





Variation in temperature over a year, T = -10 to $20^{\circ}C$



Models needed for simulation of a curved frame structure

- i) A two-dimensional transient non-linear moisture transport analysis of the cross-section of the frame.
- ii) A frame analysis used for simulation of the longterm visco-elastic and hygro-mechanical deformations of the timber frame structures.



iv) A two-dimensional stress model of the frame structure to study stresses perpendicular to the grain direction in the curved part of the frame because of the structural constraints found concerning the free straightening or free bending of the curved part during moistening or drying of the frame.



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Variation in diffusion coefficients













1D MC-variation based on 2D analysis







A beam element with 4 nodal points







Constitutive relations: (strains/stress)







The creep driver

$$\dot{\overline{\gamma}}_{n}(x,y,t) = \int_{0}^{t} e^{\frac{t}{\tau_{n}}} \overline{C}_{c_{n}} \overline{G} \dot{\sigma}(x,y,t') dt' =$$

$$\int_{0}^{t} e^{\frac{t}{\tau_{n}}} \left[\frac{1}{E_{l}(x,y)} \phi_{n} - \frac{V_{rl}}{E_{r}} \phi_{n} - \frac{V_{tl}}{E_{t}} \phi_{n} & 0 & 0 \\ - \frac{V_{lr}}{E_{l}} \phi_{n} - \frac{1}{E_{r}} \phi_{n} - \frac{V_{tr}}{E_{t}} \phi_{n} & 0 & 0 \\ - \frac{V_{lt}}{E_{l}} \phi_{n} - \frac{V_{rt}}{E_{r}} \phi_{n} - \frac{1}{E_{t}} \phi_{n} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{G_{lr}} \phi_{n} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{G_{lt}} \phi_{n} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{G_{rt}} \phi_{n} \end{bmatrix} \overline{G} \dot{\sigma}(x,y,t') dt'$$





Constitutive relations:

(sec. forces/strains, curvature)







Finite element formulation

$$\int_{a}^{b} B^{T} DB dx \dot{a} - \left[(\hat{\nabla} N)^{T} \dot{F} \right]_{a}^{b} + \left[N^{T} \dot{V} \right]_{a}^{b} - \int_{a}^{b} N^{T} \dot{q} dx - \int_{a}^{b} B^{T} \dot{F}_{p} dx = 0$$

$$K = \int_{a}^{b} B^{T} DB dx \qquad (Stiffness matrix)$$

$$\dot{f}_{b} = \left[(\hat{\nabla} N)^{T} \dot{F} \right]_{a}^{b} - \left[N^{T} \dot{V} \right]_{a}^{b} \qquad (Boundary vector)$$

$$\dot{f}_{l} = \int_{a}^{b} N^{T} \dot{q} dx \qquad (Load vector)$$

$$\dot{f}_{p} = \dot{f}_{w} + \dot{f}_{m} + \dot{f}_{c} = \int_{a}^{b} B^{T} \dot{F}_{p} dx = \int_{a}^{b} B^{T} (\dot{F}_{w} + \dot{F}_{m} + \dot{F}_{c}) dx \qquad (Pseudo-load vector)$$

$$K\dot{a} = \dot{f}_{b} + \dot{f}_{l} + \dot{f}_{p}$$





Incremental formulation







Curved frame structure 20 (winter) 12 (summer) Load case 1 Load case 2 45[mm] w[%] 20 2 E [GPa] 140 √ w[%] 48 49 50 year 0 2 3 0.01 11.7 -0 9 = 2.5 kN/m 2.5 KN/m 115 10 [m] r=3 [m]

30 [m]





Displacements





Moment variation after 1, 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 years in service







Moment variation after 1, 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 years in service







Stress variation along the first glueline counting from the bottom side

















Variation in the longitudinal stress over the cross-section





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Stresses perpendicular to the grain caused by MC-gradient







2D model to study stresses perpendicular to the grain direction







Load case 2

Stresses perpendicular to the grain direction



Conclusions







- Cyclic climate load action has a significant effect on both deformations and stress distribution in inhomogeneous timber structures.
- Climate loading should best be treated as a separate load case in connection with future design codes for timber structures that are exposed to natural variations in climate.
- There is a big need for better design tools?



Future work



- A beam element able to simulate **beams with varying cross section dimensions** (single and double tapered beams)
- Beam element able to handle eccentric normal force action



• 3D beam element able to simulate biaxial bending



Future work



• **Curved beam element** able to simulate perpendicular to the fibre direction



- **3D beam element** including moisture driven twist deformation and lateral torsional buckling
- **3D element** with round cross sections able to simulate progressive (lengthwise and radial) tree growth including both growth stresses and stresses from wind load.

