FREE VIBRATION ANALYSIS OF EDGE CRACKED FUNCTIONALLY GRADED BEAMS RESTING ON WINKLER-PASTERNAK FOUNDATION

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Abstract

In this study, free vibration analysis of an edge cracked functionally graded cantilever beam resting on Winkler-Pasternak foundation. Material properties of the beam change in the thickness direction according to exponential distributions. The differential equations of motion are obtained by using Hamilton’s principle. The considered problem is investigated within the Euler-Bernoulli beam theory by using finite element method. The cracked beam is modeled as an assembly of two sub-beams connected through a massless elastic rotational spring. In the study, the effects of the location of crack, the depth of the crack, foundation stiffness and various material distributions on the natural frequencies and the mode shapes of the cracked functionally graded beams are investigated in detail.

Keywords: Free vibration, Winkler-Pasternak Foundation, Open edge crack, Functionally graded materials,

1. Introduction

Structural elements are subjected to destructive effects in the form of initial defects within the material or caused by fatigue or stress concentration. As a result of destructive effects, cracks occur in the structural elements. It is known that a crack in structure elements introduces a local flexibility, becomes more flexible and its dynamic and static behaviors will be changed. Cracks cause local flexibility and changes in structural stiffness. Therefore, understanding the mechanical behavior and the safe performance of edge-cracked structures is importance in designs.

Functionally graded materials (FGMs) are a new generation of composites where the volume fraction of the FGM constituents vary gradually, giving a non-uniform microstructure with continuously graded macro properties such as elasticity modulus, density, heat conductivity, etc.. Typically, in a FGM, one face of a structural component is ceramic that can resist severe thermal loading and the other face is metal which has excellent structural strength. FGMs consisting of heat-resisting ceramic and fracture-resisting metal can improve the properties of thermal barrier systems because cracking and delamination, which are often observed in conventional layered composites, are reduced by proper smooth transition of material properties. Since the concept of FGMs has been introduced in 1980s, these new kinds of materials have been employed in many engineering application fields, such as aircrafts, space vehicles, defense industries, electronics and biomedical sectors, to eliminate stress concentrations, to relax residual stresses, and to enhance bonding strength. Because of the wide material variations and applications of FGMs, it is important to study the responses of FGM
structures to mechanical and other loadings. With the increased use of FGMs, understanding the mechanical behavior and safe performance of cracked FGM structures is very important.

In the literature, the free vibration and dynamic behavior of homogeneous cracked beams have been extensively studied [1-17]. In recent years, the dynamic behavior of cracked FGM beams has been a topic of active research. Sridhar et al. [18] developed an effective pseudo-spectral finite element method for wave propagation analysis in anisotropic and inhomogeneous structures with or without vertical and horizontal cracks. Briman and Byrd [19] studied the effect of damage on free and forced vibrations of a functionally graded cantilever beam. Yang et al. [20] investigated an analytical study on the free and forced vibration of inhomogeneous Euler–Bernoulli beams containing open edge cracks that the beam is subjected to an axial compressive force and a concentrated transverse load moving along the longitudinal direction. Yang and Chen [21] investigated free vibration and buckling analysis of FGM beams with edge cracks by using Bernoulli–Euler beam theory and the rotational spring model. Free vibration and elastic buckling of beams made of FGM containing open edge cracks are studied within Timoshenko beam theory by Ke et al. [22]. Yu and Chu [23] studied the transverse vibration characteristics of a cracked FGM beam by using the p-version of finite element method. Ke et al. [24] investigated the post-buckling analysis of FGM beams with an open edge crack based on Timoshenko beam theory and von Kármán nonlinear kinematics by using Ritz method. Ferezqi et al. [25] studied an analytical investigation of the free vibrations of a cracked Timoshenko beam made up of FGM. Yan et al. [26] studied dynamic response of FGM beams with an open edge crack resting on an elastic foundation subjected to a transverse load moving at a constant speed. Akbaş [27] investigated static analysis of an edge cracked FGM beam resting on Winkler foundation by using finite element method. Yan et al. [28] investigated the nonlinear flexural dynamic behavior of a clamped Timoshenko beam made of FGM with an open edge crack under an axial parametric excitation which is a combination of a static compressive force and a harmonic excitation force based on Timoshenko beam theory and von Kármán nonlinear kinematics. Wei et al. [29] studied the free vibration of cracked FGM beams with axial loading, rotary inertia and shear deformation by using an analytical method. Akbaş [30,31] studied geometrically nonlinear and post-buckling analysis of edge cracked FG Timoshenko beams. Akbaş [32,33] investigated free vibration and wave propagation of edge cracked FG beams.

In this study is the effect of the parameter of Winkler-Pasternak foundation on natural frequencies and cracks in detail. To obtain more realistic answers and understand to edge cracked FGM beam, more the parameter of FGM property distribution must be used in numerical results. Hence, a lot of the parameters of FGM property distribution are used in this study.

The differential equations of motion are obtained by using Hamilton’s principle. The considered problem is investigated within the Euler-Bernoulli beam theory by using finite element method. The cracked beam is modeled as an assembly of two sub-beams connected through a massless elastic rotational spring. Material properties of the beam change in the thickness direction according to exponential distributions. In the study, the effects of the location of crack, the depth of the crack, foundation stiffness and various material distributions on the natural frequencies and the mode shapes of the functionally graded beams are investigated in detail.

2. Theory and Formulations

Consider a cantilever FGM beam of length $L$, width $b$, thickness $h$, containing an edge crack of depth $a$ located at a distance $L_1$ from the left end, resting on Winkler-Pasternak foundation with spring constants $k_w$ and $k_p$, as shown in Figure 1. It is assumed that the crack is
perpendicular to beam surface and always remains open. When the Pasternak foundation spring constant \( k_p = 0 \), the foundation model reduces to Winkler type.

**Figure 1:** A cantilever FGM beam with an open edge crack resting on Winkler-Pasternak foundation and cross-section.

In this study, Young’s modulus \( E(Y) \) and mass density \( \rho(Y) \) vary continuously in the thickness direction (\( Y \) axis) according to exponential distributions as follows:

\[
E(Y) = E_0 e^{\beta Y}, \quad \rho(Y) = \rho_0 e^{\beta Y}
\]

where \( E_0 \) and \( \rho_0 \) are the Young’s modulus and mass density at the midplane (\( Y=0 \)) of the beam. \( \beta \) is a constant characterizing the gradual variation of the material properties along thickness direction. When \( \beta = 0 \), the material of the beam is homogeneous. According to Eq. (1) that when \( Y = h/2 \), \( E = E_B \) and \( \rho = \rho_B \) (\( E_B \) and \( \rho_B \) are the Young’s modulus and mass density of the bottom). When \( Y = -h/2 \), \( E = E_T \) and \( \rho = \rho_T \) (\( E_T \) and \( \rho_T \) are the Young’s modulus and mass density of the top).

According to the coordinate system \((X,Y,Z)\) shown in figure 1, based on Euler-Bernoulli beam theory, the axial and the transverse displacement field are expressed as

\[
u(X,Y,t) = \nu_0(X,t) + Y \frac{\partial \nu_0(X,t)}{\partial X}
\]

\[
u(X,Y,t) = \nu_0(X,t)
\]

Where \( u_0 \) and \( \nu_0 \) are the axial and the transverse displacements in the mid-plane, \( t \) indicates time. Using Eq. (2) and (3), the linear strain- displacement relation can be obtained:

\[
\varepsilon_{xx} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial X} = \frac{\partial u_0(X,t)}{\partial X} - Y \frac{\partial^2 \nu_0(X,t)}{\partial X^2}
\]

According to Hooke’s law, constitutive equations of the FGM beam are as follows:

\[
\sigma_{xx} = E(Y) \varepsilon_{xx} = E(Y) \left[ \frac{\partial u_0(X,t)}{\partial X} - Y \frac{\partial^2 \nu_0(X,t)}{\partial X^2} \right]
\]
Where $\sigma_{xx}$ and $\varepsilon_{xx}$ are normal stresses and normal strains in the X direction, respectively. Based on Euler-Bernoulli beam theory, the elastic strain energy ($V$) and kinetic energy ($T$) of the FGM beam resting on Winkler-Pasternak foundation are expressed as

$$V = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^L \int_A \sigma_{xx} \varepsilon_{xx} \, dA \, dX + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^L \int_0^L k_v (\nu(X,t))^2 \, dX + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^L k_p \left( \frac{\partial \nu(X,t)}{\partial x} \right)^2 \, dX$$

$$T = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^L \int_A \rho \, Y \left[ \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} \right)^2 \right] \, dA \, dX$$

With applying Hamilton’s principle, the differential equations of motion are obtained as follows:

$$A_{XX} \frac{\partial^2 u_0}{\partial X^2} - B_{XX} \frac{\partial}{\partial X} \left( \frac{\partial^2 v_0}{\partial X^2} \right) = I_1 \frac{\partial^2 u_0}{\partial t^2} - I_2 \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( \frac{\partial v_0}{\partial X} \right)$$

$$B_{XX} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial X^2} \left( \frac{\partial u_0}{\partial X} \right) - D_{XX} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial X^2} \left( \frac{\partial^2 v_0}{\partial X^2} \right) - k_v v_0 + k_p \frac{\partial^2 v_0}{\partial X^2} = -I_3 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \left( \frac{\partial v_0}{\partial X} \right) + I_4 \frac{\partial^2 v_0}{\partial X^2}$$

The stiffness components are defined as

$$(A_{XX}, B_{XX}, D_{XX}) = \int_A E(Y)(1,Y,Y^2) \, dA$$

$$(I_1, I_2, I_3) = \int_A \rho \, Y \, (1,Y,Y^2) \, dA$$

The displacement field of the finite element shown is expressed in terms of nodal displacements as follows:

$$u_i^{(x)}(x,t) = \varphi_i^{(u)}(x) \, u_i(t) + \varphi_i^{(v)}(x) \, v_i(t)$$

$$v_i^{(x)}(x,t) = \varphi_i^{(v)}(x) \, v_i(t) + \varphi_i^{(v)}(x) \, \theta_i(t) + \varphi_i^{(v)}(x) \, \theta_i(t) + \varphi_i^{(v)}(x) \, \theta_i(t)$$

where $u_i$, $v_i$, and $\theta_i$ are axial displacements, transverse displacements, and slopes at the two end nodes of the beam element, respectively. $\varphi_i^{(u)}$ and $\varphi_i^{(v)}$ are interpolation functions for axial and transverse degrees of freedom, respectively, which are given in Appendix.

Two-node beam element shown in Figure 2.

![Figure 2: A two-node beam element](image)

With using the standard procedure of the Galerkin finite element method, the stiffness matrix and the mass matrix are obtained according to Eqs. (8) and (9). The equation of motion as follows:
\[ [K] \{q\} + [M]\{\ddot{q}\} = 0 \]  

(14)

where \([K]\) is the stiffness matrix and \([M]\) is the mass matrix. \(\{q\}\) is nodal displacement vector which as follows

\[ \{q\} = \{u, v, \theta\}^T \]  

(15)

The stiffness matrix \([K]\) can be expressed as a sum of three submatrices as shown below:

\[ [K] = [K_b] + [K_w] + [K_p] \]  

(16)

Where \([K_{(b)}]\), \([K_{(w)}]\) and \([K_{(p)}]\) are beam stiffness matrix, Winkler foundation stiffness matrix and Pasternak foundation stiffness matrix, respectively. Explicit forms of \([K]\) are given in Appendix. The mass matrix \([M]\) can be expressed as a sum of four submatrices as shown below:

\[ [M] = [M_u] + [M_v] + [M_\theta] + [M_{u\theta}] \]  

(17)

Where \([M_{(u)}]\), \([M_{(v)}]\) and \([M_{(\theta)}]\) are the contribution of \(u\), \(v\) and \(\theta\) degree of freedom to the mass matrix, \([M_{(u\theta)}]\) is coupling mass matrix due to coupling between \(u\) and \(\theta\). Explicit forms of \([M]\) are given in Appendix.

The cracked beam is modeled as an assembly of two sub-beams connected through a massless elastic rotational spring shown in figure 3.

![Figure 3. Rotational spring model.](image)

The bending stiffness of the cracked section \(k_f\) is related to the flexibility \(G\) by

\[ k_f = \frac{1}{G} \]  

(18)

Cracked section’s flexibility \(G\) can be derived from Broek’s approximation [34]:

\[ \frac{(1 - \nu^2)K_I^2}{E(a)} = \frac{M^2}{2} \frac{dG}{da} \]  

(19)

where \(M\) is the bending moment at the cracked section, \(K_I\) is the stress intensity factor (SIF) under mode I bending load and is a function of the geometry, the loading, and the material properties as well. \(\nu\) indicates Poisson’s ratio which is taken to be constant since its influence on the stress intensity factors is quite limited [35]. For an FGM strip with an open edge crack under bending, the analytical solution and the expression of SIF is given Yu And Chu [23] that obtained from the data given by Erdogan and Wu [35] through Lagrange interpolation technique:
\[ K_t = \frac{6M}{bh^2} \sqrt{\pi} a F(E_R, a/h) \]  

(20)

Where \( a \) is depth of crack, \( E_R \) is the ratio of Young’s modulus of bottom and top surfaces of the beam \( (E_b/E_t) \) and \( F \) is an unknown function of two independent variables. The function \( F \) is can be expressed as follows [23];

\[
F(E_R, a/h) = \frac{p_1 + p_2 \ln(E_b) + p_3[\ln(E_b)]^2 + p_4[\ln(E_b)]^3 + p_5(a/h) + p_6(a/h)^2}{1 + p_7 \ln(E_b) + p_8[\ln(E_b)]^2 + p_9(a/h) + p_{10}(a/h)^2 + p_{11}(a/h)^3}
\]  

(21)

Where the coefficients \( p_1, p_2, \ldots, p_{10}, p_{11} = 1.1732, -0.3539, 0.0289, -0.0061, 0.6625, 3.072, -0.0014, -0.0017, 1.9917, -0.3496, -3.0982 \) are given in Yu And Chu [23] that are determined by fitting Eq. (20) based on the least square method to the numerical values of the SIF for specific material gradients and normalized crack size given by Erdogan and Wu [35].

The spring connects the adjacent left and right elements and couples the slopes of the two FGM beam elements at the crack location. In the massless spring model, the compatibility conditions enforce the continuities of the axial displacement, transverse deflection, axial force and bending moment across the crack at the cracked section \( (X = L_1) \), that is,

\[
u_1 = u_2, \quad v_1 = v_2, \quad N_1 = N_2, \quad M_1 = M_2 \]

(22)

The discontinuity in the slope is as follows:

\[
k_f \left( \frac{dv_1}{dX} - \frac{dv_2}{dX} \right) = k_f (\theta_1 - \theta_2) = M_1
\]  

(23)

Based on the massless spring model, the stiffness matrix of the cracked section as follows:

\[
[K]_{C_r} = \begin{bmatrix}
1/G & -1/G \\
-1/G & 1/G
\end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix}
k_f & -k_f \\
-k_f & k_f
\end{bmatrix}
\]  

(24)

The stiffness matrix of the cracked section is written according to the displacement vector:

\[
\{q\}_{(C_r)} = [\theta_1, \theta_2]^T
\]  

(25)

Where \( \theta_1 \) and \( \theta_2 \) are the angles of the cracked section. With adding crack model, the equations of motion for the finite element and by use of usual assemblage procedure the following system of equations of motion for the whole system can be obtained as follows:

\[
([K] + [K]_{(C_r)})\{q\} + [M]\{\ddot{q}\} = 0
\]  

(26)

If the global nodal displacement vector \( \{q\} \) is assumed to be harmonic in time with circular frequency \( \omega \), i.e \( \{q\} = \{q\}_0 e^{i\omega t} \) becomes, after imposing the appropriate end conditions, an eigenvalue problem of the form:

\[
([K] + [K]_{(C_r)}) - \omega^2 [M]\{\ddot{q}\} = 0
\]  

(27)
Where \( \{ \bar{q} \} \) is a vector of displacement amplitudes of the vibration. The dimensionless quantities can be expressed as

\[
\bar{\omega} = \frac{\omega L^2}{D_0 \sqrt{I_{10}}}, \quad \bar{k}_w = \frac{k_w L^4}{D_0}, \quad \bar{k}_p = \frac{k_p L^2}{D_0}, \quad \bar{X} = \frac{X}{L}, \quad \bar{Y} = \frac{Y}{h}, \quad \bar{E}_y = \frac{E_y}{E_T}, \quad \bar{\rho}_R = \frac{\rho_R}{\rho_T}
\]  

(28)

Where \( \bar{\omega} \) is the dimensionless frequency, \( \bar{k}_w \) is the dimensionless Winkler parameter, \( \bar{k}_p \) is the dimensionless Pasternak parameter, \( E_y \) is the ratio of Young’s modulus of bottom and top surfaces of the beam, \( \bar{\rho}_R \) is the ratio of mass density of bottom and top surfaces of the beam. \( D_0 \) and \( I_{10} \) indicate the value of \( D_{XX} \) and \( I_1 \) of an isotropic homogeneous beam.

3. Numerical Results

In the numerical examples, the natural frequencies and the mode shapes of the beams are calculated and presented in figures for various the effects of the location of crack, the depth of the crack, foundation stiffness and material distributions. The beam considered in numerical examples is made of Aluminum (\( E = 70 \text{GPa}, \nu = 0.33, \rho = 2780 \text{kg/m}^3 \)) which the material constants change exponentially as in Eq. (1). The top surface of the FGM beam is Aluminum. In the numerical integrations, five-point Gauss integration rule is used. Unless otherwise stated, it is assumed that the width of the beam is \( b = 0.1m \), height of the beam is \( h = 0.1m \) and length of the beam is \( L = 30h \) in the numerical results. In the numerical calculations, the number of finite elements is taken as \( n = 100 \).

In figure 4, the effect of the dimensionless Winkler parameter \( \bar{k}_w \) on the dimensionless fundamental frequency \( \bar{\omega}_1 \) of edge cracked FGM beams (\( E_y = 2, \ a/h = 0.6, \ \bar{k}_p = 0 \)) are shown for various the crack location \( L_a/L \).

**Figure 4:** The effect the dimensionless Winkler parameter \( \bar{k}_w \) on the dimensionless fundamental frequency \( \bar{\omega}_1 \) for various the crack location \( L_a/L \).

It is seen from figure 4 that the increasing the value of the dimensionless Winkler parameter \( \bar{k}_w \) play important role on the fundamental frequency. With increase in the dimensionless Winkler parameter \( \bar{k}_w \), the fundamental frequency increases. Because, with increasing the Winkler parameter \( \bar{k}_w \), the beam gets more stiffer. Also, it is observed figure 4 that the
differences between of the crack location $L_1/L$ decrease with increase the Winkler parameter $\bar{k}_w$.

Figure 5 shows that the effect of the dimensionless Winkler parameter $\bar{k}_w$ on the dimensionless fundamental frequency $\bar{\omega}_1$ of edge cracked FGM beams ($E_R = 2$, $L_1/L = 0.05$, $\bar{k}_p = 0$) are shown for various the crack depth ratio $a/h$.

![Figure 5](image)

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=0.5\textwidth]{figure5.png}
\caption{The effect the dimensionless Winkler parameter $\bar{k}_w$ on the dimensionless fundamental frequency $\bar{\omega}_1$ for various the crack depth ratio $a/h$.}
\end{figure}

It is seen from figure 5 that with the increasing the value of the dimensionless Winkler parameter $\bar{k}_w$, the differences between of the crack depth ratio $a/h$ decrease. Increases with the stiffness parameter of the foundation, the effects of the crack reduce.

In Figure 6, the effect of the the dimensionless Winkler parameter $\bar{k}_w$ on the dimensionless fundamental frequency $\bar{\omega}_1$ of edge cracked FGM beams ($a/h = 0.6$, $L_1/L = 0.05$, $\bar{k}_p = 0$) are shown for $E_R = 2$ and $E_R = 0.5$.

![Figure 6](image)

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=0.5\textwidth]{figure6.png}
\caption{The effect the dimensionless Winkler parameter $\bar{k}_w$ on the dimensionless fundamental frequency $\bar{\omega}_1$ for $E_R = 2$ and $E_R = 0.5$.}
\end{figure}
It is seen from figure 6 that with increase in the value of the dimensionless Winkler parameter $\tilde{K}_w$, the difference between the dimensionless fundamental frequency of $E_R = 2$ and $E_R = 0.5$ decreases. It is shown results that the stiffness parameter of the foundation is very effective for reducing disadvantage of cracks.

Figure 7 displays the effect of the dimensionless Winkler parameter $\tilde{K}_w$ on the first and second normalized vibration mode shapes for $E_R = 2$, $L_4/L = 0.05$, $a/h = 0.6$, $\tilde{K}_p = 0$.

![Figure 7: The effect the dimensionless Winkle parameter $\tilde{K}_w$ on the a) first and b) second normalized vibration mode shapes.](image)

It is seen from figure 7 that with increase in the value of dimensionless Winkler parameter $\tilde{K}_w$, vibration mode shapes change significantly. It is observed from the results, the stiffness parameter of the foundation is very effective for the mechanical behavior of the beam. It is observed from figure 7 that the dimensionless Winkler parameter $\tilde{K}_w$ is more effective in first vibration mode than second vibration mode.

In figure 8, the effect of the dimensionless Pasternak parameter $\tilde{K}_p$ on the dimensionless fundamental frequency $\tilde{\omega}_1$ of edge cracked FGM beams ($E_R = 2$, $a/h = 0.6$, $\tilde{K}_w = 10$) are shown for various the crack location $L_4/L$.

![Figure 8: The effect the dimensionless Pasternak parameter $\tilde{K}_p$ on the dimensionless fundamental frequency $\tilde{\omega}_1$ for various the crack location $L_4/L$.](image)
It is seen from figure 8 that with increase in the dimensionless Pasternak parameter $\bar{k}_p$, the fundamental frequency increases. Because, with increasing the Pasternak parameter $\bar{k}_p$, the beam gets more stiffer. The effect of Pasternak parameter $\bar{k}_p$ on the dimensionless fundamental frequency is less than Winkler parameter $\bar{k}_w$ for various the crack location $L_1/L$.

Figure 9 shows that the effect of the dimensionless Pasternak parameter $\bar{k}_p$ on the dimensionless fundamental frequency $\bar{\omega}_1$ of edge cracked FGM beams ($E_R = 2$, $L_1/L=0.05$, $\bar{k}_w=10$) are shown for various the crack depth ratio $a/h$. In figure 10, the effect of the the dimensionless Pasternak parameter $\bar{k}_p$ on the dimensionless fundamental frequency $\bar{\omega}_1$ of edge cracked FGM beams ($a/h=0.6$, $L_1/L=0.05$, $\bar{k}_w=10$) are shown for $E_R = 2$ and $E_R = 0.5$.

\[ \text{Figure 9: The effect the dimensionless Pasternak parameter } \bar{k}_p \text{ on the dimensionless fundamental frequency } \bar{\omega}_1 \text{ for various the crack depth ratio } a/h. \]

\[ \text{Figure 10: The effect the dimensionless Pasternak parameter } \bar{k}_p \text{ on the dimensionless fundamental frequency } \bar{\omega}_1 \text{ for } E_R = 2 \text{ and } E_R = 0.5. \]

It is seen from figure 9 and figure 10 that the stiffness parameter of the Pasternak foundation is not effective for reducing disadvantage of cracks, significantly.
Figure 11 displays the effect of the dimensionless Pasternak parameter $\bar{k}_p$ on the first and second normalized vibration mode shapes for $E_R = 2$, $L_t / L = 0.05$, $a / h = 0.6$, $\bar{k}_w = 10$.

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=0.4\textwidth]{figure11a.png}
\includegraphics[width=0.4\textwidth]{figure11b.png}
\caption{The effect the dimensionless Pasternak parameter $\bar{k}_p$ on the a) first and b) second normalized vibration mode shapes.}
\end{figure}

It is seen from figure 11 that with increase in the value of dimensionless Pasternak parameter $\bar{k}_p$, vibration mode shapes change significantly. It is observed from figure 11 that the dimensionless Pasternak parameter $\bar{k}_p$ is more effective in second vibration mode than first vibration mode.

4. Conclusions

Free vibration analysis of an edge cracked FGM cantilever beam resting on Winkler-Pasternak foundation are investigated within the Euler-Bernoulli beam theory by using finite element method. Material properties of the beam change in the thickness direction according to an exponential function. The differential equations of motion are obtained by using Hamilton’s principle. The cracked beam is modeled as an assembly of two sub-beams connected through a massless elastic rotational spring. The influences of the location of crack, the depth of the crack, foundation stiffness and various material distributions on the natural frequencies and the mode shapes of the FGM beams are examined in detail.

The following conclusions are reached from the obtained results:

(1) The crack locations and the crack depth have a great influence on the vibration characteristics of the FGM beam.

(2) The stiffness parameter of Winkler foundation is very effective for reducing disadvantage of cracks.

(3) The stiffness parameter of the Pasternak foundation is not effective for reducing disadvantage of cracks.

(4) The stiffness parameters of the foundation have a great influence on vibration mode shapes.

Appendix
The interpolation functions for axial degrees of freedom are
\[ \varphi^{(U)}(X) = \begin{bmatrix} \varphi_1^{(U)}(X) \\ \varphi_2^{(U)}(X) \end{bmatrix}, \tag{A1} \]
where
\[ \varphi_1^{(U)}(X) = \left( \frac{X}{L_e} + 1 \right), \tag{A2} \]
\[ \varphi_2^{(U)}(X) = \left( \frac{X}{L_e} \right). \tag{A3} \]

The interpolation functions for transverse degrees of freedom are
\[ \varphi^{(V)}(X) = \begin{bmatrix} \varphi_1^{(V)}(X) \\ \varphi_2^{(V)}(X) \\ \varphi_3^{(V)}(X) \\ \varphi_4^{(V)}(X) \end{bmatrix}^T, \tag{A4} \]
where
\[ \varphi_1^{(V)}(X) = \left\{ 1 - \frac{3X^2}{L_e^2} + \frac{2X^3}{L_e^2} \right\}, \tag{A5} \]
\[ \varphi_2^{(V)}(X) = \left\{ -X + \frac{2X^2}{L_e} - \frac{X^3}{L_e} \right\}, \tag{A6} \]
\[ \varphi_3^{(V)}(X) = \left\{ \frac{3X^2}{L_e^2} - \frac{2X^3}{L_e^2} \right\}, \tag{A7} \]
\[ \varphi_4^{(V)}(X) = \left\{ \frac{X^2}{L_e^2} - \frac{X^3}{L_e^2} \right\}. \tag{A8} \]

where \( L_e \) indicates the length of the finite beam element. The components of the stiffness matrix \( \mathbf{K} \): the beam stiffness matrix \( \mathbf{K}_b \), Winkler foundation stiffness matrix \( \mathbf{K}_w \) and Pasternak foundation stiffness matrix \( \mathbf{K}_p \) are as follows

\[ \mathbf{K}_b = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{K}_b \mathbf{K}_b \\ \mathbf{K}_b \mathbf{K}_b^T \\ \mathbf{K}_b \mathbf{K}_b \end{bmatrix}, \tag{A9} \]

where
\[ \mathbf{K}_b = \int_0^{L_e} A \left[ \frac{d^2 \varphi^{(U)}}{dx^2} \right]^T \left[ \frac{d^2 \varphi^{(U)}}{dx^2} \right] dx, \tag{A10} \]
\[ \mathbf{K} = \int_0^{L_e} B \left[ \frac{d^2 \varphi^{(V)}}{dx^2} \right]^T \left[ \frac{d^2 \varphi^{(V)}}{dx^2} \right] dx, \tag{A11} \]
\[ \mathbf{K} = \int_0^{L_e} D \left[ \frac{d^2 \varphi^{(V)}}{dx^2} \right]^T \left[ \frac{d^2 \varphi^{(V)}}{dx^2} \right] dx, \tag{A12} \]
The components of the mass matrix \( \{ \mathbf{M} \} \) : \( \{ \mathbf{M}_u \} \), \( \{ \mathbf{M}_v \} \), \( \{ \mathbf{M}_\theta \} \) and \( \{ \mathbf{M}_{U\theta} \} \) are as follows

\[
\{ \mathbf{M}_u \} = \int_0^L \mathbf{I}_1 \left[ \varphi^{(u)} \right]^T \left[ \varphi^{(u)} \right] d\mathbf{X} \\
\{ \mathbf{M}_v \} = \int_0^L \mathbf{I}_1 \left[ \varphi^{(v)} \right]^T \left[ \varphi^{(v)} \right] d\mathbf{X} \\
\{ \mathbf{M}_\theta \} = \int_0^L \mathbf{I}_2 \left[ \frac{d\varphi^{(v)}}{d\mathbf{X}} \right]^T \left[ \frac{d\varphi^{(v)}}{d\mathbf{X}} \right] d\mathbf{X} \\
\{ \mathbf{M}_{U\theta} \} = -\int_0^L \mathbf{I}_2 \left[ \varphi^{(u)} \right]^T \left[ \frac{d\varphi^{(v)}}{d\mathbf{X}} \right] + \left[ \frac{d\varphi^{(v)}}{d\mathbf{X}} \right]^T \left[ \varphi^{(u)} \right] d\mathbf{X}
\]

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