In-Plane Free Vibration of Functionally Graded Rectangular Plates with Elastic Restraint

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Abstract

The in-plane free vibration of a rectangular plate made of functional graded materials (FGM) is studied based on the two-dimensional linear elasticity theory. The material parameters of FGM rectangular plates are assumed to vary along with the length and width directions according to an exponential law. The governing equation of motion for the FGM rectangular plate is derived using the D'Alembert principle. Subsequently, the equation of motion is solved by the Differential Quadrature Method (DQM), and the natural frequencies for in-plane free vibration of FGM rectangular plate are obtained accordingly. The effects of gradient index, length-width ratio and stiffness of elastic boundary on the natural frequency of FGM rectangular plates are discussed, and the modes for in-plane free vibration are provided.

Keywords: Functionally graded rectangular plates; Elastic restraint; In-plane free vibration; Differential Quadrature Method

Introduction

The vibration and stability of engineering structures play significant roles in structural mechanics. The related research on free vibration, forced vibration, dynamical buckling and stability responses is one of the most important subjects in engineering. The one-dimensional structures, e.g. strings, rods, beams, have been studied sufficiently, especially in recent years [1-5]. The research results provide important reference for the analysis and design of one-dimensional engineering structures including the traveling strings, beams, viscoelastic belts and so on [1-5]. On the other hand, for two-dimensional plate structures, the free vibrations include the out-of-plane vibration (or called transverse vibration) and in-plane vibration, in which the out-of-plane vibration plays a dominant role in energy conversion due to its good coupling properties between frequency band and sound field. Many investigators have carried out a lot of research work on the out-of-plane vibration of plates using different methods. However, more and more experiments have proved that besides the out-of-plane vibration, the in-plane vibration acting as a high frequency component also affects the energy conversion [6]. Therefore, it is also indispensable to study the in-plane vibration of plate structures, and it has attracted much research attention [7-28].

For examples, Kobayashi et al. [7] researched the in-plane vibration behavior of rectangular plate by Ritz method. The in-plane vibration frequencies of rectangular plate under different boundary conditions were solved. Moreover, four modal forms were defined according to the order of power series, and the modal characteristics of rectangular plate under different support conditions were analyzed. Gutierrez and Laura [8] studied the in-plane vibration characteristic of rectangular plate with normal elastic constraints by Ritz method. It was assumed that the displacement of in-plane vibration is the superposition of triangular function modes, and the effects of elastic constraints stiffness on the frequency were discussed. Based on thin plate theory and hysteretic damping model, Farag and Pan [9] investigated the resonant characteristics for the in-plane vibration behavior of finite flat plates. The mode shapes of the in-plane vibration were depicted for frequencies below and above the first resonance frequency. On this basis, Farag and Pan [10] analyzed the propagation characteristics of in-plane waves, considering the longitudinal and shear waves. The frequency bands for attenuation and propagation of the waves are identified. Based on Kantorovich-Krylov variational method, Wang and Wereley [11] analyzed the in-plane free vibration characteristics and modal characteristics of rectangular plates under three boundary conditions. The modal response functions of rectangular plates under in-plane excitation are given, and the modal characteristics of rectangular plates are discussed. Xing and Liu [18] used the direct separation
of variables method to obtain the exact solutions for the free in-plane vibrations of rectangular plates under all classical boundary conditions. The frequency and modal characteristics of rectangular plates are discussed, and the problems of frequency loss and repetition are solved. A Ritz method using a set of trigonometric functions is developed to obtain accurate in-plane modal properties of rectangular plates with arbitrary non-uniform elastic edge restraints [21].

All the above papers are concerned with in-plane vibration of rectangular plates with uniform materials. However, there are also many studies on in-plane vibration of rectangular plates with inhomogeneous materials [22-28]. Gorman [22] obtained the accurate solutions analytical type solutions are obtained for the free in-plane vibration frequencies and mode shapes of fully clamped orthotropic rectangular plates by the method of superposition. Based on Reddy’s third-order shear deformation theory. Hosseini Hashemi et al. [23] solved the exact analytical approach for in-plane and out-of-plane free vibration analysis of thick laminated transversely isotropic plates. The in-plane and out-of-plane deformed mode shapes are plotted for different boundary conditions. Shi et al. [25] studied the free in-plane vibration analysis of orthotropic rectangular plates with non-uniform boundary conditions and internal line supports using a modified Fourier solution. Rostami and Ranji [26] provided the results for in-plane vibrations of rotating orthotropic cantilever plates. The equations of motion are derived by Hamilton’s principle and solved by the Extended Kantorovich Method (EKM). The effects of the dimensionless parameters on the natural frequency were investigated, and the resonant frequencies and tune speeds were also discussed. Papkov [27] obtained a new method for in-plane free vibration analysis of rectangular orthotropic plate under the completely clamped or completely free boundary condition. The boundary value problem was assumed to essentially reduce to infinite systems of linear algebraic equations. The accuracy and computational efficiency of the method were demonstrated by examples.

In recent years, a new type of FGM composite material has emerged. FGM has excellent physical and chemical properties, and it has been extensively studied. Therefore, this paper presents the in-plane free vibration behaviors of FGM rectangular plates with elastic restraints. It is assumed that the material physical parameters vary along with two directions according to the exponential law. The material parameters of functionally graded plates are assumed to vary along the length and width direction according to exponential law, and the material parameters can be described by

$$P(x,y) = P_1 + \left( P_0 - P_1 \right) e^{-\alpha x + \beta y}$$

Where $P_0$ and $P_1$ stands for the material parameters at $(0, 0)$ and $(a, b)$, respectively. $\alpha$ and $\beta$ are the gradient index.

According to the two-dimensional linear elasticity theory, the geometric equations of rectangular plate can be expressed as

$$\varepsilon_x = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}, \quad \varepsilon_y = \frac{\partial v}{\partial y}, \quad \gamma_{xy} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial x}$$

Where $u(x,y,t)$ and $v(x,y,t)$ stand for the transverse and longitudinal displacement component of FGM.
rectangular plate, respectively. \( \varepsilon_x \) and \( \varepsilon_y \) represent the normal strain in \( x \) and \( y \) directions, respectively. \( \gamma_{xy} \) is the shear strain.

The constitutive equation of functionally graded rectangular plates is

\[
\sigma_x = c_{11} \varepsilon_x + c_{12} \varepsilon_y, \quad \sigma_y = c_{12} \varepsilon_x + c_{22} \varepsilon_y, \quad \tau_{xy} = c_{66} \gamma_{xy} \tag{3}
\]

where \( \sigma_x \) and \( \sigma_y \) represent the normal stress in \( x \) and \( y \) directions, respectively. \( \tau_{xy} \) is the shear stress. \( c_{ij} \) represents the elastic modulus coefficients, and these coefficients are functions of position \((x, y)\).

According to D’Alembert principle, the equations of motion for in-plane vibration of rectangular plates can be obtained as

\[
\frac{\partial \sigma_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \tau_{xy}}{\partial y} = \rho \ddot{u}, \quad \frac{\partial \tau_{xy}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \sigma_y}{\partial y} = \rho \ddot{v} \tag{4}
\]

where \( \ddot{u} \) and \( \ddot{v} \) represent the second derivative of displacement component \( u \) and \( v \) for time, \( \rho \) is density of rectangular plates.

For rectangular plates with quadrilateral elastic constraints, the boundary conditions are as follows

\[
x = 0: \quad \sigma_x = c_{11} \varepsilon_x + c_{12} \varepsilon_y = k_{w0} \varepsilon_x, \quad \tau_{xy} = c_{66} \gamma_{xy} = k_{s0} \gamma_{xy}
\]

\[
x = a: \quad \sigma_x = c_{11} \varepsilon_x + c_{12} \varepsilon_y = -k_{w0} \varepsilon_x, \quad \tau_{xy} = c_{66} \gamma_{xy} = -k_{s0} \gamma_{xy}
\]

\[
y = b: \quad \sigma_y = c_{22} \varepsilon_x + c_{12} \varepsilon_y = -k_{s0} \gamma_{xy}, \quad \tau_{xy} = c_{66} \gamma_{xy} = -k_{s0} \gamma_{xy}
\]

\[
y = 0: \quad \sigma_y = c_{22} \varepsilon_x + c_{12} \varepsilon_y = -k_{w0} \varepsilon_x, \quad \tau_{xy} = c_{66} \gamma_{xy} = -k_{s0} \gamma_{xy}
\]

where \( k_{w0} \) and \( k_{s0} \) represent the stiffness coefficients at \( x=0 \), \( k_{w1} \) and \( k_{s1} \) represent the stiffness coefficients at \( y=0 \), \( k_{w1} \) and \( k_{s1} \) represent the stiffness coefficients at \( x=a \), \( k_{w2} \) and \( k_{s2} \) represent the stiffness coefficients at \( y=b \).

By introducing the following non-dimensional terms:

\[
U = \frac{a}{b} \sigma_x, \quad V = \frac{a}{b} \tau_{xy}, \quad \xi = x/a, \quad \eta = y/b, \quad s = \frac{a}{b}, \quad \sigma = \frac{\sigma_x}{c_{33}}, \quad \sigma = \frac{\sigma_y}{c_{33}}, \quad \gamma_{xy} = \frac{\tau_{xy}}{c_{66}}, \quad \tau_{xy} = \frac{\tau_{xy}}{c_{33}} \tag{5}
\]

in which \( k_{b} = c_{33}/b \), \( i, j = 1, 3, 5 \), \( c_{33} \) and \( \rho_{0} \) represent the elastic modulus and density of materials at \((0,0)\), respectively. \( \Omega \) stands for the non-dimensional natural frequency.

Substituting Eq. (6) into Eq. (4), the non-dimensional equations of motion can be established as

\[
\frac{\partial \sigma_x}{\partial \xi} + s \frac{\partial \tau_{xy}}{\partial \eta} = \frac{s^2 \rho_0}{c_{33}} \ddot{U}, \quad \frac{\partial \tau_{xy}}{\partial \xi} + s \frac{\partial \sigma_y}{\partial \eta} = \frac{s^2 \rho_0}{c_{33}} \ddot{V} \tag{7}
\]

Since the mode of FGM plate is harmonic to time, the displacement can be assumed to be as

\[
U(\xi, \eta, t) = \bar{U}(\xi, \eta) e^{j\omega t}, \quad V(\xi, \eta, t) = \bar{V}(\xi, \eta) e^{j\omega t} \tag{8}
\]

where \( j = \sqrt{-1} \) is the imaginary unit.

Substituting Eq. (8) into Eq. (7), the non-dimensional characteristic equations of in-plane free vibration of functionally graded rectangular plates are obtained as

\[
\sigma_{11} \frac{\partial^2 \bar{U}}{\partial \xi^2} + \sigma_{12} \frac{\partial^2 \bar{U}}{\partial \eta^2} + s^2 \frac{\partial^2 \bar{U}}{\partial \eta^2} = -\rho_0 \ddot{U},
\]

\[
\sigma_{12} \frac{\partial^2 \bar{U}}{\partial \xi^2} + \sigma_{22} \frac{\partial^2 \bar{V}}{\partial \eta^2} + s^2 \frac{\partial^2 \bar{V}}{\partial \eta^2} = -\rho_0 \ddot{V} \tag{9}
\]

Substituting Eqs. (6) and (8) into Eq. (5), the boundary conditions expressed by mode shapes can be expressed as

\[
\xi = 0: \quad \sigma_{11} \frac{\partial \bar{U}}{\partial \eta} = k_{w0} \bar{U}, \quad \tau_{xy} = k_{s0} \bar{U}, \quad \eta = 0: \quad \sigma_{22} \frac{\partial \bar{V}}{\partial \eta} = k_{s0} \bar{V},
\]

\[
\eta = 1: \quad \sigma_{12} \frac{\partial \bar{V}}{\partial \eta} = -k_{s0} \bar{V}, \quad \xi = 1: \quad \sigma_{22} \frac{\partial \bar{V}}{\partial \eta} = -k_{s0} \bar{V} \tag{10}
\]

When \( K_w \) and \( K_s \) take different values, different boundary conditions can be obtained as

Clamped boundary(C): \( K_{w0} = K_{s0} = \infty \), Free boundary(F): \( K_{w0} = K_{s0} = 0 \),

Special boundary 1(S1): \( K_{w0} = 0, \quad K_{s0} = \infty \),

Special boundary 2(S2): \( K_{w0} = \infty, \quad K_{s0} = 0 \).

As can be seen, equation (9) is a second order coupled differential equation with variable coefficients. It is very difficult to solve it directly, so the differential quadrature method (DQM) is used to solve it.

**Method of Solution**

In this section, the DQM is used to solve the equations. In DQM, we can express the derivative of a function at a given point as a weighted linear summation of the values of the function at all the points in the domain [29]. Therefore, the differential equation can be transformed into a set of algebraic equations expressed by the value of the function at the node. When using this method, there are two questions to be determined:

**Selection of node**

A well accepted kind of sampling points in the DQM is the so-called Gauss-Lobatto-Chebyshev points [21]:

\[
\xi_i = \frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 - \cos \left( \frac{i-1}{N} \pi \right) \right], \quad i = 1, 2, ..., N_i \tag{11}
\]

\[\eta_j = \frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 - \cos \left( \frac{j-1}{N} \pi \right) \right], \quad j = 1, 2, ..., N_j \]
where $N_x$ and $N_y$ represent the number of nodes selected in the direction of $\xi$ and $\eta$, respectively.

**Determination of weight coefficient**

By introducing Lagrange interpolation function, the weight coefficient of first derivative for $\xi$ is expressed as [30]

$$A_i^\xi = \left[ \prod_{j=1, j \neq i}^{N} (\xi - \xi_j) \right] / \sum_{j=1}^{N} A_i^\xi, \quad i, j = 1, 2, ..., N_i \tag{12}$$

According to formula (12), the weight coefficients of second derivative can be obtained as

$$B_i^\xi = \left[ A_i^\xi \right]^2 \tag{13}$$

The weight coefficient for $\eta$ is similar to that for $\xi$, and the specific expression is omitted.

Using DQM to discretize the equations of motion (9), the discretized equations of motion are obtained as follows

$$\left( \sum_{j=1}^{N} B_i^\xi \right) \sum_{n=1}^{N} \eta_{ij,n} \bar{U}_{ij} + \left( \sum_{j=1}^{N} A_i^\xi \right) \sum_{n=1}^{N} \eta_{ij,n} \bar{V}_{ij} + \left( \sum_{j=1}^{N} \eta_{ij,n} \right) \sum_{m=1}^{N} \eta_{ij,m} \bar{W}_{ij,m} = 0 \tag{14}$$

Using DQM to discretize the boundary conditions (10), the discretized boundary conditions are obtained as follows

$$\xi = 0: \quad \sum_{i=1}^{N} A_i^\xi \bar{P}_{ij} + \sum_{i=1}^{N} A_i^\xi \bar{F}_{ij} - sK_{an} \bar{U}_{ij} = 0 \tag{15}$$

$$\eta = 0: \quad \sum_{i=1}^{N} A_i^\eta \bar{G}_{ij} + \sum_{i=1}^{N} A_i^\eta \bar{F}_{ij} - K_{an} \bar{V}_{ij} = 0 \tag{16}$$

By eliminating $\bar{q}_j$ in formula (16), the eigenvalue equation of free vibration for a functionally graded rectangular plate can be obtained as

$$(K - \Omega^2 I) \bar{q}_b = 0 \tag{17}$$

in which $K = K_{bb} - \Omega^2 I K_{dd}^{-1} K_{db}$.

**Numerical Examples and Analysis**

**Frequency characteristics for in-plane free vibration of FGM rectangular plate**

In this section, the frequency characteristics for in-plane free vibration of FGM rectangular plate are studied. In the examples, it is assumed that the material at coordinate (0, 0) is pure metal Ti-6Al-4V, and the material at coordinates (a, b) is pure ceramics ZrO$_2$. Their physical parameters are $E = 132.2$ GPa, $\mu = 0.3$, $\rho = 3657$ kg/m$^3$, $E_i = 122.7$ GPa, $\mu_i = 0.288$, $\rho_i = 4420$ kg/m$^3$.

The number of nodes $N_x$ and $N_y$ are assumed to be 17.

**Effect of gradient indexes on frequency:** Figure 2 shows the effect of gradient indexes $\alpha$ and $\beta$ on the fundamental frequency $\Omega$ of FGM rectangular plate under various boundary conditions, in which the length-width ratio $s$ is equal to 1 and the gradient indexes vary from 0 to 4. In Figure 2(a), when $\alpha$ and $\beta$ are both equal to zero, the first-order frequency $\Omega_1$ of FGM rectangular plate under the four-sided clamped boundary condition (C-C-C-C) is 3.55. In reference [2], the analytical solution of the first-order frequency is equal to 3.51. It can be seen that DQM has high accuracy and good astringency and stability. From Figure 2(a) to Figure 2(f), it can be seen that with the increase of gradient indexes, the fundamental frequency increases gradually and then tends to the constant.

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Effect of length-width ratio on fundamental frequency:
Figure 3 shows the effect of length-width ratio on the fundamental frequency $\Omega_1$ of FGM rectangular plate under various boundary conditions, in which the gradient indexes are assumed to be $\alpha = \beta = 1$ and length-width ratio $s$ varies from 1 to 3. It can be seen from Fig. 3 that the influence of length-width ratio on fundamental frequency plate is different for different boundary conditions. In detail, The fundamental frequencies of FGM rectangular plate under C-C-C-C and S1-C-S1-C boundary conditions increase with the increase of length-width ratio, while those under C-F-S1-F, C-F-S2-F, C-F-C-F and S1-F-S1-F boundary conditions decrease with the increase of length-width ratio, and those under S1-S1-S1-S1 boundary condition remain unchanged with the increase of length-width ratio. Therefore, we should pay particular attention to the specific boundary constraints when designing an FGM rectangular plate especially when the in-plane vibration cannot be neglected.

Figure 2: Effect of gradient index on fundamental frequency under various boundaries conditions.
Effect of stiffness of elastic boundary on frequency: Figure 4 shows the relationship between the stiffness coefficient and the fundamental frequency under a special boundary condition (S1-S1-S2-S2). It is assumed that the normal stiffness coefficient $K\text{\_}n$ and $K\text{\_}y$ are both expressed as $K\text{\_}n$, the tangential stiffness coefficient $K\text{\_}\tau$ and $K\text{\_}n\tau$ are both expressed as $K\text{\_}\tau$, and other stiffness coefficients are equal to $\infty$. $K\text{\_}n$ and $K\text{\_}\tau$ vary from 0.01 to 10$^{3}$, and logarithmic coordinates are used in abscissa. Figure 4(a) shows the effect of tangential stiffness coefficient $K\text{\_}\tau$ on the fundamental frequencies with different normal stiffness coefficients. It can be seen that with the increase of tangential stiffness coefficient, the fundamental frequency increases, especially when $K\text{\_}\tau$ varies from 1 to 10. From another angle, increasing the $K\text{\_}n$ leads to the increase of $\Omega\text{\_}f$.

Figure 4(b) shows the effect of normal stiffness coefficient $K\text{\_}n$ on the fundamental frequencies with different tangential stiffness coefficients. It can be seen that the effect of normal stiffness coefficient $K\text{\_}n$ on the fundamental frequencies is the same as the effect of tangential stiffness coefficient $K\text{\_}\tau$ on the fundamental frequencies. However, comparing Figures 4(a) & 4(b), it can be seen that the influence of normal stiffness coefficients on fundamental frequency is more remarkable than that of tangential stiffness coefficients.

Modal characteristics for in-plane free vibration of FGM rectangular plate

In order to reveal the in-plane vibration mechanism of FGM rectangular plates, it is necessary to study the modal characteristics of them. Figure 5 shows the first six order modal diagrams of rectangular plates under various boundary conditions when $s$ is equal to 1.5, $\alpha$ and $\beta$ are both equal to 1. From Figure 5, it can be seen that the vibration frequency of four-sided clamped(C-C-C-C) FGM plates is the largest, and the vibration frequency of S1-F-S1-F FGM plates is the smallest. Moreover, for the clamped boundary, symmetric or antisymmetric modes will appear at the interior points of FGM rectangular plate, and this property is also suitable for the S1 and S2 boundaries. For the free boundary, symmetric or antisymmetric modes will appear at the interior points and boundaries of FGM rectangular plate, and coupled vibration occurs at normal and tangential directions.
Figure 5: Mode shapes for in-plane free vibration of in-plane FGM rectangular plate with various boundary condition.
Conclusion

The in-plane free vibration of FGM rectangular plate is studied based on the two-dimensional linear elasticity theory. The equation of motion is established, and the natural frequencies are determined. The variations of natural frequencies concerning the gradient index, length-width ratio and stiffness of elastic boundary are obtained. It is found that DQM has better accuracy in analyzing the in-plane vibration of FGM rectangular plates. Moreover, with the increase of gradient index, the fundamental frequency increases gradually and then tends to a constant, the influence of length-width ratio on fundamental frequency is different for different boundary conditions, and with the increase of stiffness coefficient, the fundamental frequency increases. Finally, the modal characteristics of FGM rectangular plates are studied. It is found that symmetric or antisymmetric modes appear at the interior points of FGM rectangular plate for the clamped, S1 and S2 boundaries. For the free boundary, symmetric or antisymmetric modes appear at the interior points and boundaries, and coupled vibration occurs at normal and tangential directions. According to the above characteristics, the frequency required in a certain range can be obtained by changing these parameters of FGM rectangular plates. Therefore, this study can provide a reference for the two-dimensional FGM rectangular plate structural engineering where the in-plane free vibration plays a remarkable role.

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Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest.

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