Numerical Verification of a Full-field Deformation Analysis of a Specimen Loaded by Combined Loading

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Abstract
The contribution deals with an experimental investigation of deformation fields of a specimen loaded by combined loading. The experiment was done using non-contact optical method of low-speed digital image correlation. This technique allows investigate displacement as well strain fields. The experimentally obtained results depicted in the paper in a form of color maps and graphs were verified by a numerical simulation performed in Ansys, where two types of meshing were used to demonstrate the coherence between experiment and simulation.

Keywords: digital image correlation, full-field measurement, strain, gauge

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1. Introduction

Digital image correlation method is a noncontact optic technique with high sensitivity and accuracy [1,2]. It is based on the comparison (called correlation) of digital images obtained from one (2D system) or more (3D system) CCD cameras during the investigated object loading (see Figure 1- Figure 2).

![Figure 1. 2D digital image correlation system](image1)

![Figure 2. 3D digital image correlation system](image2)

There are two forms of digital image correlation systems – a low-speed system and a high-speed one. It is possible to use the first mentioned only at low sampling frequencies (maximally several fps). Such a system mostly contains the objectives with higher resolution and thus it is suitable for the deformation analyses [3]. Dr. Avril and Prof. Pierron created their own software called CamFit allowing identification of the mechanical properties of materials due to the results obtained from full-field deformation measurements [4]. Several experiments with the evaluation performed in this software were realized and described e.g. in the publications [5,6,7]. For the use of CamFit it is needed to obtain the input data from software VIC 3D. For the evaluation of stress fields from strain fields obtained by Istra4D that is the software delivered with correlation systems Dantec Dynamics the program called Q-STRESS was created at the department of authors.

A high-speed correlation system with smaller objectives resolution can be used for the analyses, by which high sampling frequency is necessary. A common sampling frequency of the high-speed systems is several thousand fps and therefore they primary serve as a tool for motion analyses, vibration analysis, modal analyses [8,9], drop tests [10], crack tests or fracture mechanics.

By the use of Dantec Dynamics correlation systems the displacements in two perpendicular directions $x$ and $y$ are obtained by the use of pseudo-affine transformations (1), (2):

$$x'_t(a_0, a_1, a_2, a_3, x, y) = a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 y + a_3 x y$$ (1)

$$y'_t(a_4, a_5, a_6, a_7, x, y) = a_4 + a_5 x + a_6 y + a_7 x y$$ (2)

where $x'$, $y'$ are the transformation coordinates and $a_0, a_1, a_2, ... , a_7$ are the transformation parameters [2].
Transformation parameters are determined using minimization of the difference between the value of intensity in actual image \( G_2(x,y) \) and the previous one \( G_1(x,y) \) as follows:

\[
\min_{a_0 \cdots a_7, g_0, g_1} \sum \left| G_1(x,y) + g_0 - g_1 G_2(x,y), y, x \right|_2 \tag{3}
\]

where \( g_0 \) and \( g_1 \) represents the illumination parameters [2].

2. Experimental Strain Fields Analysis of the Specimen Loaded by Combined Loading

Shape and dimensions of the analyzed specimen (Figure 4) were set in such a way that it was possible to evaluate the strain fields obtained by specimen tension loading combined with bending. The loading, which was realized in laboratory conditions, was ensured using mechanical loading system working on lever mechanism.

The experiment was performed with digital image correlation system Q-400 Dantec Dynamics. This system comprises of two low-speed cameras with spatial resolution of 5 MPx (Figure 5) furnished by objectives with Schneider Kreuznach Germany lenses.

Synchronization of the cameras is ensured by TU-4XB box, which the cameras are connected with using coaxial cables with BNC connector. The block scheme of digital image correlation system Q-400 is depicted in Figure 7.

| Technical data | Q-400 |
|----------------|-------|
| Measurement accuracy | up to 1 \( \mu \text{m} \) depending on measurement conditions |
| CCD sensor resolution | 5 M P x |
| Measuring range | from 1 \( \mu \text{m} \) up to several mm |
| Measuring area | commonly from 3mm x 3mm to some m² |
| Distance to object | various depending on the size of specimen |
| Operational modes | Automatic, manual, 2D and 3D analysis |
| Sampling frequency | max. 2 fps by automatic mode |
| Illumination | spotlight with performance of 400 W |
| Control device | notebook with 8-cores processor, 4 GB RAM |
| Operational system | Windows 7 |
On the specimen surface a random contrary black and white pattern printed on vinyl elastic foil was attached. The specimen was fixed in its upper side to the frame of loading system and in its bottom side to the force transducer HBM RSCC/200 kg, which was attached to the frame of the loading system. It served as a tool for identification of tension loading force. The value of the loading force was tracked using strain indicator and recorder Vishay P3 (Figure 8).

The aim was to measure the deformation of the specimen by increasing loading force. The recording of the images from CCD cameras (Figure 9) was realized in manual mode always in moments when the loading force was increasing in 100 N in the range from 0 N to 1500 N. For that reason fifteen various deformation states of the specimen were acquired.

The results of the analysis obtained in program Istra4D are in a form of investigated object contour, displacement fields in particular directions \(x\), \(y\) and \(z\), tangential strain fields \(\varepsilon_x\), \(\varepsilon_y\), tangential shear strain fields \(\gamma_{xy}\) as well as principal strain fields \(\varepsilon_1\), \(\varepsilon_2\).

On the evaluated object contour three virtual gages in a form of points (Figure 13) serving for depiction of temporal change of investigated quantity were chosen. Their function will be further described in the next chapter of the paper.
3. Numerical verification of obtained results

It was necessary to verify the obtained results by a numerical analysis. The analyzed specimen with dimensions depicted in Figure 4 was modeled in program Ansys Workbench. Using tetrahedrons as finite elements two individual analyses were performed – the first one served as preview with uniform elements size of 3.05 mm (Figure 14a) and the second one with refine meshing, where the mesh was created using the global and local size settings. Its elements were at scoped locations divided three times (Figure 14b). The results mentioned in the paper were obtained using the finer meshing.

The boundary conditions were defined as follows:
- the specimen was fixed in its bottom part,
- the loading tension force in specimen upper part changed linearly from 0 N to 1500 N.

In Figure 15- Figure 17 it is possible to see the tangential strain field $\varepsilon_x$, $\varepsilon_y$ as well as tangential shear strain field $\gamma_{xy}$ obtained by maximal loading force 1500 N using numerical analysis.

The obtained color fields of deformations depicted in Figure 10- Figure 12 and Figure 15- Figure 17 look similar, but it was necessary to compare the values of corresponding quantities. On the contour of modeled specimen also three virtual gages in a form of points were set in locations, which should correspond to these defined in Istra4D (Figure 13). The aim was to compare the experimentally and numerically obtained courses of $\varepsilon_x$, $\varepsilon_y$, $\gamma_{xy}$.
in these specific points during the specimen loading. Mentioned courses can be seen in Figure 18-Figure 19.

![Figure 18. Temporal courses of $\varepsilon_x$ in defined points during the specimen loading](image)

![Figure 19. Temporal courses of $\varepsilon_y$ in defined points during the specimen loading](image)

4. Conclusions

In the contribution the deformation analysis of the specimen loaded by combined loading performed using low-speed digital image correlation system Q-400 Dantec Dynamics is described. The verification of obtained results was realized by the numerical analysis in Ansys Workbench. For the comparison three corresponding virtual gages in a form of points were chosen, in which the temporal changes of strains in $x$ and $y$ direction were compared. The acquired courses signify that by both methods approximately equal results were obtained. Differences occurred in the courses can be caused by several reasons. The first reason can be that the attachment of the specimen to the loading system was not such ideal as in numerical solution. The second possibility is that the chosen points in Istra4D and Ansys did not correspond totally and also their negligible shifts could cause relatively outstanding difference in obtained results. The last reason can be the unknown factors influencing the results such as defects in material or any residual stresses generated by the preparation of the specimen.

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