A MATHEMATICAL MODEL FOR THE DETERMINATION OF VISCOELASTIC BEHAVIOR OF BRAIN IN VIVO—II RELAXATION RESPONSE

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Abstract — In a recent experiment for determining the mechanical response of brain in vivo, a probe, inserted through scalp, skull and dura, is placed in contact with and normal to the brain, given a prescribed motion, and the time variation of corresponding force is measured. In the corresponding continuum mechanical model, brain is idealized as a linear isotropic viscoelastic solid constrained by a rigid skull. At the mating surface, the shear stress and normal displacement vanish everywhere except under the probe which exerts a local radial displacement. This model introduces effective viscoelastic moduli in shear, which is unknown, and in dilatation, which is considered known from other sources. Part II of this study is concerned with stress relaxation induced by a small step displacement of the probe. From the solution of the corresponding quasi-static boundary value problem, a nonlinear Volterra integral equation is established from which the shear stress relaxation function can be solved in terms of measured probe displacement and force. A numerical method of solution is developed.

1. INTRODUCTION

RECENTLY, Fallenstein et al. (1969) developed an experiment to determine the mechanical response of brain in vivo. A small hole is cut through the scalp, skull and dura of a monkey so that a probe can be put into contact with its brain. After a small preset displacement, the probe is oscillated normal to the brain at a fixed frequency and amplitude. The probe force and displacement are recorded so that their amplitude rate and phase lag can be determined.

The present work is concerned with correlating data from such an experiment with specific material parameters. In order to define the material parameters, a continuum mechanical model must be assumed for the experimental conditions and brain material. In Part I, it was assumed that the skull could be modeled as a rigid spherical container completely filled with a brain modeled as a linear isotropic viscoelastic solid. The probe was modeled as a local normal harmonic displacement. By assuming that brain material exhibits linear, isotropic viscoelastic response, two independent material parameters were introduced. One was a frequency dependent shear modulus and the other was a frequency dependent bulk modulus. The bulk modulus is known from other sources (Goldsmith, 1966), but the shear modulus is unknown. With the experiment now modeled as a boundary value problem in dynamic linear viscoelasticity, an equation was developed which relates the shear modulus to experimental data. A method of solution was developed and the shear modulus evaluated.

It is the purpose of Part II of this work to study how Fallenstein's probe test can also be used to measure the relaxation response of brain. The relaxation experiment is identical to the oscillatory experiment in all details except that now the probe is subjected to an instantaneously applied displacement which is held constant while time decay of the force required to maintain the probe is measured.

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The relaxation test can be combined with the above mentioned oscillatory test. Some time after the probe has been displaced in the relaxation test the applied force has relaxed to its long term value. The system can now be regarded as having the initial preset required for the oscillatory test.

There are several reasons for doing a relaxation test. First, it is of interest to estimate the order of magnitude of the relaxation modulus and the time for significant amount of stress relaxation. The test is useful for determining the range of linearity of response, since if the probe displacement is altered by a factor of $\alpha$, so should the measured stress. For a linear viscoelastic material, there exists a relation between the shear relaxation modulus and the shear frequency dependent modulus. By determining both moduli experimentally and comparing them against this relation, one can evaluate the assumption of linear viscoelasticity for the mechanical response of brain.

Because the relaxation test is so similar to the oscillatory test, the brain and skull can be modeled as before. The only difference is in the time dependent displacement boundary condition representing the probe. Two independent moduli are again associated with the assumption of linear isotropic viscoelasticity, a time dependent shear relaxation modulus and a time dependent bulk relaxation modulus, the latter as previously mentioned being known. With the relaxation experiment now modeled as a boundary value problem, an equation is developed which relates the shear relaxation function to experimental data. The equation takes the form of a nonlinear Volterra integral equation of the second kind for which a method of solution is developed.

The discussion of the idealization of the experiment into a continuum mechanics model is given in Part I and will only be summarized here for convenience. The model itself and the associated equations are reviewed in Section 2. A general solution to these equations is developed in Section 3. A numerical method for solving the governing integral equations for the shear modulus is discussed in Section 4.

### 2. Idealization of Experiment, Governing Equations

The general three dimensional form of the constitutive equation for isotropic linear viscoelastic materials depends on two independent material parameters, $\mu(\tau)$ and $\kappa(\tau)$, where $\tau$ denotes time. These are both zero for $\tau < 0$ and may have jump discontinuities at $\tau = 0$. $\mu(\tau)$ represents the relaxation of shear stress due to a shear strain applied at time $\tau = 0$ and then maintained constant. $\kappa(\tau)$ represents the relaxation of hydrostatic stress induced by a volumetric strain applied at time $\tau = 0$ and then held fixed. Because of this interpretation, $\mu(\tau)$ is called the shear stress relaxation function and $\kappa(\tau)$ is called the bulk relaxation function. According to Goldsmith (1966), the bulk modulus of brain is similar to that of water, a constant whose value is $3 \times 10^5$ psi. For use in equation (1), this can be expressed as $k(t) = G_2(t)/3 = 3 \times 10^5 \cdot 1(t)$, where $1(t)$ is the unit step function, that is, $1(t) = 1$, $t \geq 0$ and $1(t) = 0$, $t < 0$. For later use, we let $G_2(t) = G_2 1(t)$, where $G_2 = 9 \times 10^5$ psi.

The tensorial stress history $\sigma_u(t)$ corresponding to an arbitrary time varying tensorial strain history $\epsilon_u(t)$ is then given by the constitutive equation

$$\sigma_u(t) = G_1(0^+)\epsilon_u(t) + \int_{0^+}^t \epsilon_u(t - \tau) \frac{\partial G_1(\tau)}{\partial \tau} d\tau$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} \delta_{ij} \left[ \epsilon_{kk}(t) \left[ G_2(0^+) - G_1(0^+) \right] \
+ \int_{0^+}^t \epsilon_{kk}(t - \tau) \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} \left[ G_2(\tau) - G_1(\tau) \right] d\tau \right]$$

(1)

where for notational convenience, $G_1 = 2\mu$. $G_2 = 3\kappa$. Equation (1) can be written in the following form so as to include the discontinuities of $G_1$ and $G_2$ at $t = 0$ in the integral.
\[
\sigma_{ij}(t) = \int_{0-}^{t} \epsilon_{ij}(t-\tau) \, dG_1(\tau)
\]
\[
+ \frac{1}{3} \delta_{ij} \int_{0-}^{t} \epsilon_{kk}(t-\tau) \, d[G_2(\tau) - G_1(\tau)].
\]

(2)

Since its mathematical structure involves both convolution and Stieltjes integration, equation (2) is often abbreviated as (Gurtin and Sternberg, 1962)

\[
\sigma_{ij} = \epsilon_{ij} \ast dG_1 + \frac{1}{3} \delta_{ij} \epsilon_{kk} \ast d[G_2 - G_1].
\]

(3)

The special notation introduced in equation (3) allows the use of a very convenient algebra for performing operations involving the Stieltjes convolution integral in equation (2). This operator algebra, derived by Gurtin and Sternberg (1962), corresponds only to operations on the time variable and may be interchanged with operations involving spatial variables. These operations will be introduced as needed, but will not be verified.

In constructing a continuum mechanics model of Fallenstein's probe test, the following assumptions are made:

1. Brain tissue will be assumed to be a linear, homogeneous, isotropic viscoelastic material.
2. The brain entirely fills the skull which is assumed to be a spherical case.
3. Since the skull is much harder than the brain tissue, the skull is assumed to be rigid.
4. The excitation load is axisymmetric, which implies that response will also be axisymmetric about an axis through the line of force of the excitation load. Also, displacements occur only in planes through the line of force.
5. Body force is neglected.
6. The connection between the brain and the skull is complex. Generally, there is a thin layer of cerebrospinal fluid between the skull and brain. In addition, there are nerve bundles and blood vessels at the lower part of the brain. Since the probe is placed in a section of the skull far from the restraint of nerve cords, the influence of this is neglected. Furthermore, since the layer of cerebrospinal fluid is thin and its viscosity is small (similar to the water), the additional assumption is made that the shear stress at the interface between brain and skull can be neglected.

Based on the above assumptions, a theoretical model is pictured as shown in Fig. 1. We introduce spherical coordinates \((R, \theta, \phi)\) with origin at the center of the sphere and with the center line of the probe lying on \(\theta = 0\).

Assumption 6 means that there is no shear stress at the interface of viscoelastic material and rigid container. Hence the boundary condition on stress takes the form

\[
\sigma_{r\theta}(a, \theta, t) = \sigma_{\theta\phi}(a, \theta, t) = 0.
\]

(4)

Assumption 4. of axisymmetry, implies \(\sigma_{r\phi} = 0\), so that the stress boundary condition
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reduces to
\[ u_{r}(a, \theta, \tau) = 0. \] (5)

Since the skull is assumed rigid, the normal
displacement must vanish everywhere except
at the opening provided by the probe. Under
the probe the displacement is prescribed.
The boundary condition on normal displace-
ment \( u_{r}(a, \theta, \tau) \) then becomes
\[
u_{r}(a, \theta, \tau) = \begin{cases} u(\theta, \tau) & 0 \leq \theta \leq \theta_{0} \\ 0 & \theta_{0} \leq \theta \leq \pi. \end{cases} \] (6)

The normal displacement \( u(\theta, \tau) \) will have
its maximum value under the probe, at \( \theta = 0 \),
and then decrease gradually as \( \theta \) increases
until it reaches zero at \( \theta = \theta_{0} \). In the relaxa-
tion test, the probe is given a radial displace-
ment which varies in time like a step function,
i.e.
\[
u(\theta, \tau) = u(\theta) \, 1(t) \] (7)

where \( 1(t) = 0, t < 0 \) and \( 1(t) = 1, t \geq 0 \).

For notational convenience, the general field
equations are stated with respect to a Carte-
sian coordinate system. It can be assumed
that waves generated by this step loading will
damp out in a very short period of time, so
that the motion may be regarded as quasi-
static. Neglecting inertia, the stresses satisfy
\[
\frac{\partial \sigma_{ij}}{\partial x_j} = 0. \] (8)

For small strains, the strain-displacement
equation is
\[
e_{ij}(X, \tau) = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{\partial u_{i}(X, \tau)}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial u_{j}(X, \tau)}{\partial x_i} \right]. \] (9)

The strain-displacement relations on spherical
coordinates are given in Part I and will not be
repeated here. For a linear, homogeneous,
isotropic viscoelastic material, the equation
for the displacement is found from equations
(3), (8) and (9) to be
\[
\nabla^{2}u_{i}(X, \tau) + \frac{1}{3} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_{k}} \left[ \frac{\partial u_{k}(X, \tau)}{\partial x_{i}} \right] = \Phi[G_{1}(t) + 2G_{2}(t)] = 0 \] (10)
or in vector form
\[
\nabla \cdot u \cdot dG_{1} + \frac{1}{3} \nabla \cdot u \cdot d(G_{1} + 2G_{2}) = 0. \] (11)

where \( G_{1}(t) = 2\mu(t), G_{2}(t) = 3\kappa(t) \).

3. SOLUTION

It has been shown by Gurtin and Sternberg
(1962) that the general solution of elastostatics
in terms of the Papkovich–Neuber displacement
potentials can be extended to quasi-
static viscoelasticity. That is
\[
u = \nabla(\Phi + X \cdot \Psi) \cdot d(G_{1} + 2G_{2})
- 4\Psi \cdot d(2G_{1} + G_{2}). \] (12)
is the general solution of equation (10), where
\( \Phi \) and \( \Psi \) are, respectively, a scalar valued and
a vector valued function of \( X \) and \( \tau \), i.e. \( \Phi = \Phi(X, \tau), \Psi = \Psi(X, \tau) \), which satisfy
\[
\nabla^{2}\Phi = 0, \quad \nabla^{2}\Psi = 0. \] (13)

Referring equations (12) and (13) to spheri-
cal coordinates, the assumption of axisym-
metry implies that \( \Phi \) and \( \Psi \) depend only on
\( R, \theta \) and \( \tau \). The additional condition that
\( u_{\theta} = 0 \) implies that \( \Psi_{\theta} = 0 \). If a separation of
variables representation for \( \Phi \) and \( \Psi \) is then
assumed, that is, \( \Phi \) and \( \Psi \) can be expressed
in the form \( F(R)H(\theta)T(\tau) \), then the general
solution of equation (13) is given by Luré
(1964), as
\[
\Phi = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} - B_{n}R^{n}P_{n}(\cos \theta)
\]
\[
\Psi = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} - A_{n}(n+1) R^{n+1}P_{n}(\cos \theta) \, e_{r}
+ \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_{n} R^{n+1}P_{n}'(\cos \theta) \, e_{\theta} \] (14)

where \( A_{n} \) and \( B_{n} \) are unknown functions of
time. \( P_{n}(\cos \theta) \) are Legendre functions and
$P_n'(\cos \theta) = \frac{dP_n}{d\theta} = -P_n^{(\nu)}$, where $P_n^{(\nu)}$ are the associated Legendre functions of order 1.

Substituting the above solutions into equations (12) gives

$$u_r = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \{-n R^{n-1} B_n \ast d(G_1 + 2G_2)$$

$$- (n + 1) R^{n+1} A_n \ast d\{(n - 6)G_1 + 2nG_2\}\} \frac{P_n'(\cos \theta)}{P_n(\cos \theta)}$$

$$u_\theta = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \{-n R^{n-1} B_n \ast d(G_1 + 2G_2)$$

$$- R^{n+1} A_n \ast d\{(n + 9) + 2(n + 3)G_2\}\} \frac{P_n'(\cos \theta)}{P_n(\cos \theta)}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (15)

$A_n(t)$ and $B_n(t)$ can be determined from boundary conditions of equations (5-7). In order to apply them, note the following:

(i) the radial displacement on the surface in equation (6) can be expressed in Legendre polynomials, i.e.

$u_r(a, \theta, t) = u(\theta) 1(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n P_n(\cos \theta) 1(t)$ \hspace{1cm} (16)

(ii) Equations (1) and (5) imply that $\varepsilon_{r\theta}(a, \theta, t)$ satisfies

$$\varepsilon_{r\theta}(t) G_1(0) + \int_0^t \varepsilon_{r\theta}(\tau) \dot{G}_1(t - \tau) \, d\tau = 0.$$  \hspace{1cm} (17)

where $\dot{G}_1$ denotes the derivative of $G_1$ with respect to its argument. This is a homogeneous linear Volterra integral equation of the second kind. If $G_1(0) \neq 0$, it has a unique solution (See Smithies, 1958).

This represents an integral equation for $B_n(t)$ in terms of $A_n(t)$. Substituting equations (21) and (22) into (15) gives

$$u_r = 6RA_0 \ast dG_1 - B_1 \ast d(G_1 + 2G_2) P_1(\cos \theta)$$

$$+ \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \left\{ a^2 n R^{n-1} A_n \ast d\left\{ (n + 3)G_1 + \frac{2n(n + 2)}{n - 1}G_2 \right\} \right. - (n + 1) R^{n-1} A_n$$

$$\times d\{(n - 6)G_1 + 2nG_2\}\} P_n(\cos \theta)$$
\[ u_{\theta} = -B_1 \ast d(G_1 + 2G_2) P'_1(\cos \theta) \]

\[ + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \left\{ a^2 R^{n-1} A_n \ast d \left[ (n+3)G_1 \right. \right. \]

\[ + \left. \left. \frac{2n(n+2)}{n-1} G_2 \right] - R^{n+1} A_n \ast d((n+9)G_1 + 2(n+3)G_2) \right\} P'_n(\cos \theta). \]  

Equation (24) also gives integral equations for \( A_n \) for \( n \geq 2 \),

\[ A_n(t) \ast d \left[ (8n+6) G_1 + 2n \left( \frac{2n+1}{n-1} \right) G_2 \right] \]

\[ = c_1(t)/a^n. \]  

It was mentioned in Section 2 that \( G_2(t) = G_2(t) \), where \( G_2 \) is a known constant. Equation (29) then has the integral form

\[ A_n(t) \left[ G_1(0) + \frac{n}{4n+3} \left( \frac{2n+1}{n-1} \right) G_2 \right] \]

\[ + \int_0^t A_n(t-\tau) \dot{G}_1(\tau) \, d\tau \]

\[ = c_1(t)/[(8n+6) a^{n+1}]. \]  

If the material parameters \( G_1, G_2 \) and the boundary condition \( u(\theta) \) are given, one can determine \( A_n(t) \) from equations (25) and (29), which are all Volterra integral equations of the second kind. Then \( B_n(t) \) are found by using equations (22) and (28).

After having determined these functions, the stress components will be easily obtained from the stress-strain relations equation (3). These are found to be

\[ \sigma_{rr} = 6A_0 \ast dG_1 \ast dG_2 + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \left\{ a^2 n(n-1) R^{n-2} \right. \]

\[ \times A_n \ast d \left[ (n+3)G_1 + \frac{2n(n+2)}{n-1} G_2 \right] \ast dG_1 \]

\[ + R^n A_n \ast dG_1 \ast d((-n^3+n)G_1 \]

\[ - (2n^3-8n-6) G_2) \} P_n(\cos \theta) \]

\[ \sigma_{\theta\theta} = 6A_0 \ast dG_1 \ast dG_2 - \frac{B_1 \ast dG_1 \ast d(G_1 + 2G_2)}{R} \]

\[ \times [P_1(\cos \theta) + P'_1(\cos \theta)] \]

\[ + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} R^n A_n \ast dG_1 \ast d((6n^2+12n+6)G_2 \]

\[ - (3n^2+15n+12) G_1) P_n(\cos \theta) \]
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\[ + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} a^n R^{n-2} A_n \ast d G_1 \ast d \left( (n^2 + 3n) G_1 \right) \]
\[ + \frac{2n^2(n+2)}{n-1} G_2 \right] P_n(\cos \theta) \]
\[ + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \left\{ a^2 R^{n-2} A_n \ast d G_1 \ast d \left( (n+3) G_1 \right) \right\} \]
\[ + \frac{2n^2(n+2)}{n-1} G_2 \right] - R^n A_n \ast d G_1 \ast d \]
\[ \times \left[ (n+9) G_1 + 2(n+3) G_2 \right] \right\} P''_n(\cos \theta) \]

\[ \sigma_{\phi \phi} = 6 A_0 \ast d G_1 \ast d G_2 \]
\[ \left( \frac{B_1 \ast d G_1 \ast d (G_1 + 2G_2)}{R} \right) \]
\[ \times \left[ P_1(\cos \theta) + \cot \theta P'_1(\cos \theta) \right] \]
\[ + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} R^n A_n \ast d G_1 \ast d \left[ (6n^2 + 12n + 6) G_2 \right] \]
\[ - (3n^2 + 15n + 12) G_1 \right) P_n(\cos \theta) \]
\[ + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} a^2 R^{n-2} A_n \ast d G_1 \ast d \left( (n^2 + 3n) G_1 \right) \]
\[ + \frac{2n^2(n+2)}{n-1} G_2 \right] P_n(\cos \theta) \]
\[ + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \left\{ a^2 R^{n-2} A_n \ast d G_1 \ast d \left( (n+3) G_1 \right) \right\} \]
\[ + \frac{2n(n+2)}{n-1} G_2 \right] - R^n A_n \ast d G_1 \ast d \left[ (n+9) G_1 \right] \]
\[ + 2(n+3) G_2 \right] \right\} \cot \theta P'_n(\cos \theta) \]

\[ \sigma_{r \theta} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left\{ -2 R^n A_n \ast d \left[ (n^2 + 2n - 3) G_1 \right] \right\} \]
\[ + 2n(n+2) G_2 \right] - 2(n-1) R^n A_n \ast d \left[ (n^2 + 2n - 3) G_1 \right] \]
\[ \times B_n \ast d \left[ (G_1 + 2G_2) \right] \ast d G_1 \ast d P'_n(\cos \theta). \]

4. Numerical Approach

If the force or stress under the probe are known from measurements in this relaxation test, the relaxation function \( G_1(t) \) can be obtained by a numerical method. The stress under the probe will be (from equation 31)

\[ \sigma_{rr}(a, 0, t) = 6A_0 \ast d G_1 \ast d G_2 \]
\[ + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} a^n A_n \ast d G_1 \ast d \left[ (2n^2 - 2n) G_1 \right] \]
\[ + (4n^2 + 8n + 6) G_2 \right] \]

Using equations (26) and (30), equation (32) becomes

\[ \sigma_{rr}(a, 0, t) = \frac{c_0 G_1(t)}{a} + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} a^n \left[ \frac{c_{n1}(t)}{(8n+6)a^{n+1}} \right] \]
\[ - \frac{n}{4n+3} \left( \frac{2n+1}{n-1} \right) G_2 A_n(t) \]
\[ \times \ast d \left[ (2n^2 - 2n) G_1 \right] \]
\[ + (4n^2 + 8n + 6) G_2 \right] \]

Applying equation (30) again, the above equation reduces to

\[ \sigma_{rr}(a, 0, t) = \frac{c_0 G_1(t)}{a} + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \left[ F_1(n) A_n(t) G_2^2 \right] \]
\[ + F_2(n) G_21(t) + F_3(n) G_1(t) \]

where

\[ F_1(n) = \left[ \frac{4n^2(2n+1)}{8n+6} - (4n^2 + 8n + 6) \right] \]
\[ \times \frac{2n(2n+1)a^n}{(8n+6)(n-1)} \]
\[ F_2(n) = \left[ \frac{4n^2 + 8n + 6 - 4n^2(2n+1)}{8n+6} \right] \]
\[ \times \frac{c_n}{(8n+6)a} \]

Note that the expressions for the stresses involve a repeated Stieltjes convolution operation, i.e. \( A_0 \ast d G_1 \ast d G_2 \). Gurtin and Sternberg (1962) have been shown that this may be computed as either \( (A_0 \ast d G_1) \ast d G_2 \) or \( A_0 \ast (d G_1 \ast d G_2) \).
\[ F_2(n) = \frac{2n(n-1)}{(8n+6)}a c_n. \] (34)

In deriving these results, use was made of the representation \( G_2(t) = G_21(t) \) and the operation \( A_n(t) * d1(t) = A_n(t) \). Equation (33) relates the measured stress \( \sigma_{r\tau}(a, 0, t) \) to \( G_1(t) \), which appears explicitly and also implicitly in the unknown functions \( A_n(t) \). In order to find \( G_1(t) \), equation (33) will have to be solved simultaneously with the integral equations (30) for \( A_n(t) \). The procedure for doing this combines a numerical method for solving integral equation of Volterra type (30) with the graphical procedure outlined in Part I.

Equation (30) can be rewritten as
\[
G_1(0)A_n(t) + \int_0^t A_n(t-\tau) \dot{G}_1(\tau) d\tau = s_n(n)\{(n) A_n(t) \} (35)
\]
where
\[
g_1(n) = \frac{c_n}{(8n+6)}a^{n+1}
\]
\[
g_2(n) = \frac{4n+3}{2n+1}c_n (n-1).
\]

If \( t = 0+ \), equation (35) becomes
\[
G_1(0)A_n(0) = g_1(n) - g_2(n)A_n(0)
\]
or
\[
A_n(0) = g_1(n)/[G_1(0) + g_2(n)]. \] (36)

Substituting equation (36) into (33) evaluated at \( t = 0+ \) yields
\[
\sigma_{r\tau}(a, 0, 0+) = \frac{c_0G_2}{a} + \sum_{n=2}^\infty \left[ \frac{F_1(n) g_1(n)}{G_1(0) + g_2(n)} + F_2(n) G_2 + F_3(n) G_1(0) \right]. \] (37)

From this curve, one may find the correct value of \( G_1(0) \) for which \( \sigma_{r\tau}(a, 0, 0) \) will match the experimental results.

If we now let \( t = t_1 > 0 \), equation (35) becomes
\[
G_1(0)A_n(t_1) + \int_0^{t_1} A_n(t_1-\tau) \dot{G}_1(\tau) d\tau = g_1(n) - g_2(n)A_n(t_1) \]

For sufficiently small \( t_1 \), the integral can be approximated using the trapezoidal rule and \( \dot{G}_1(t) \) can be approximated by a simple finite difference scheme so that the integral equation can be approximated as
\[
G_1(0)A_n(t_1) + \frac{A_n(t_1) + A_n(0)}{2} \cdot [G_1(t_1) - G_1(0)] = g_1(n) - g_2(n)A_n(t_1)
\]
from which the following expression for \( A_n(t_1) \) is obtained
\[
A_n(t_1) = \frac{g_1(n) - A_n(0)}{2} \cdot \frac{G_1(0) + G_1(t_1)}{g_2(n) + G_1(0)} \]. \] (38)

The right side of equation (38) has only one unknown \( G_1(t_1) \), since \( A_n(0) \) and \( G_1(0) \) have already been found from the previous step. Substituting equation (38) into (33), one will...
get a form similar to equation (37), or

$$\sigma_{rr}(a, 0, t_1) = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} f_n[G_1(t_1)] + c_n G_1(t)$$

where $$f_n[G_1(t_1)]$$ is a function of $$G_1(t_1)$$ and $$n$$ for $$n = 2, 3, 4, \ldots$$. Again a curve of $$\sigma_{rr}(a, 0, t_1)$$ vs. $$G_1(t_1)$$ is obtained. Then for a given $$\sigma_{rr}(a, 0, t_1)$$, a desired $$G_1(t_1)$$ can be determined from this curve.

Now let $$t = t_2 > t_1$$, equation (35) can be written as

$$G_1(0) A_n(t_2) + \int_{t_1}^{t_2} A_n(t_2 - \tau) \dot{G}_1(\tau) d\tau + \int_{t_1}^{t_2} A_n(t_2 - \tau) \ddot{G}_1(\tau) d\tau = g_1(n) - g_2(n) A_n(t_2).$$

(39)

Continuing as before, this is substituted into equation (33) and the curve of $$\sigma_{rr}(a, 0, t_2)$$ vs $$G_1(t_2)$$ is generated, from which the desired value of $$G_1(t_2)$$ can be found.

In general, let $$t = t_j > t_{j-1}$$. equation (35) will be

$$G_1(0) A_n(t_j) + \int_{t_{j-1}}^{t_j} A_n(t_j - \tau) \dot{G}_1(\tau) d\tau + \int_{t_{j-1}}^{t_j} A_n(t_j - \tau) \ddot{G}_1(\tau) d\tau + \cdots + \int_{t_{j-1}}^{t_j} A_n(t_j - \tau) \dddot{G}_1(\tau) d\tau \quad = g_1(n) - g_2(n) A_n(t_j).$$

(40)

Again using equal time steps, $$t_j - t_{j-1} = t_1$$, equation (43) becomes approximated by

$$G_1(0) A_n(t_j) + \frac{A_n(t_j) + A_n(t_{j-1})}{2} [G_1(t_j) - G_1(t_1)] + \frac{A_n(t_{j-1}) + A_n(t_j - 2)}{2} [G_1(t_j) - G_1(t_{j-1})] + \cdots + \frac{A_n(t_1) + A_n(0)}{2} [G_1(t_1) - G_1(t_{j-1})]$$

$$= g_1(n) - g_2(n) A_n(t_j).$$

(44)

From equation (44) one finds $$A_n(t_j)$$ in terms of $$G_1(t_j)$$ and previously determined values of $$A_n$$ and $$G_1$$, i.e.

$$A_n(t_j) = \frac{g_1(n) + \frac{A_n(t_{j-1})}{2} [G_1(0) - G_1(t_j)] + \frac{A_n(t_j - 2)}{2} [G_1(t_1) - G_1(t_j)] + \cdots + \frac{A_n(0)}{2} [G_1(t_{j-1}) - G_1(t_j)]}{G_1(0) + g_2(n) + [G_1(t_j) - G_1(0)]/2}.$$

(45)

which can be solved for the unknown value of $$A_n$$ at time $$t_j$$.

Continuing the process, one obtains $$G_1(t_j)$$, $$j = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$$, and hence the relaxation func-

$$A_n(t_2) = \frac{g_1(n) + \frac{A_n(t_1)}{2} [G_1(0) - G_1(t_2)] + \frac{A_n(t_2)}{2} [G_1(t_1) - G_1(t_2)]}{G_1(0) + g_2(n) + [G_1(t_2) - G_1(0)]/2}.$$

(46)
Fig. 3. Construction of the shear stress relaxation function $G_1(t)$.

It should be emphasized that the method of solution described here is only procedural. In order to obtain better accuracy or to reduce computation, it may be more appropriate to choose logarithmic time steps or a different means of approximating the integrals.

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REFERENCES


NOMENCLATURE

- $\sigma_{ij}$: stress tensor
- $\varepsilon_{ij}$: strain tensor
- $\delta_{ij}$: Kronecker delta
- $X$: position vector
- $t$: time
- $G_1(t), G_2(t)$: relaxation function governing shear and volumetric dilatation response, respectively
- $r, \theta, \phi$: spherical coordinates
- $U$: displacement vector in space coordinates only
- $U_r, U_\theta, U_\phi$: components of displacement vector in spherical coordinates
- $a$: radius of solid viscoelastic sphere
- $\Phi$: scalar displacement potential
- $\Psi$: vector displacement potential
- $P_n(x), P_n^1(x)$: Legendre and associated Legendre polynomials of first kind
- $A_n, B_n$: coefficients of infinite series expansions of displacement potentials $\Phi$ and $\Psi$, respectively
- $c_n$: coefficient of the Legendre polynomial expansion of the local applied radial displacement
- $\nabla$: gradient operator
- $\nabla \cdot$: divergence operator
- $\nabla \times$: curl operator
- $\nabla^2$: Laplacian

\[ G_1(t) = 2\mu(t) \]