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# The jump-off velocity of an impulsively loaded spherical shell

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## 1 Introduction

We consider a constant temperature spherical shell of isotropic, homogeneous, linearly elastic material with density  $\rho$  and Lamé coefficients  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$ . The inner and outer radii of the shell are  $r_i$  and  $r_o$ , respectively. We assume that the inside of the shell is a void. On the outside of the shell, we apply a uniform, time-varying pressure  $p(t)$ . We also assume that the shell is initially at rest. The equation of motion and boundary and initial conditions for this problem are

$$c^{-2}\ddot{u} = u'' + \frac{2}{r}u' - \frac{2}{r^2}u; \quad r_i < r < r_o, \quad t > 0 \quad (1)$$

$$\alpha_i u'(r_i, t) + \beta_i u(r_i, t) = 0; \quad t > 0 \quad (2)$$

$$\alpha_o u'(r_o, t) + \beta_o u(r_o, t) = -p(t); \quad t > 0 \quad (3)$$

$$u(r, 0) = 0, \quad \dot{u}(r, 0) = 0; \quad r_i \leq r \leq r_o \quad (4)$$

where  $u(r, t)$  is the displacement,  $u' = \frac{\partial u}{\partial r}$  is the radial strain,  $\dot{u} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}$  is the velocity,  $\alpha_i = \alpha_o = \lambda + 2\mu$ ,  $\beta_i = \frac{2}{r_i}\lambda$ ,  $\beta_o = \frac{2}{r_o}\lambda$ , and

$$c = \sqrt{\frac{\lambda + 2\mu}{\rho}}$$

is the speed of sound through the material [1, 2, 3].

We want to compute the jump-off time and velocity of the pressure wave, which are the first time after  $t = 0$  at which the pressure wave from the outer surface reaches the inner surface. This analysis computes the jump-off velocity and time for both compressible and incompressible materials. This differs substantially from [3], where only incompressible materials are considered. We will consider the behavior of an impulsively loaded, exponentially decaying pressure wave  $p(t) = P_0 e^{-\alpha t}$ , where  $\alpha \geq 0$ . We notice that a constant pressure wave  $P(t) = P_0$  is a special case ( $\alpha = 0$ ) of a decaying pressure wave. Both of these boundary conditions are considered in [3].

As described in [1] using the method of characteristics, the displacement and velocity have the forms

$$u(r, t) = \frac{1}{r}[\psi_1'(r - ct) + \psi_2'(r + ct)] - \frac{1}{r^2}[\psi_1(r - ct) + \psi_2(r + ct)], \quad (5)$$

$$\dot{u}(r, t) = \frac{c}{r}[\psi_2''(r + ct) - \psi_1''(r - ct)] - \frac{c}{r^2}[\psi_2'(r + ct) - \psi_1'(r - ct)], \quad (6)$$

where the functions  $\psi_1(\xi)$  and  $\psi_2(\eta)$  for  $\xi = r - ct$  and  $\eta = r + ct$  are determined from (2), (3), and (4). Figure 1 gives a picture of the strips used to compute the functions  $\psi_1$  and  $\psi_2$  and shows how a pressure wave front originating on the outer radius at time  $t = 0$  propagates through the shell. In strip [0] of the figure,  $\psi_1$  is computed from (4), so  $\psi_1$  and all of its derivatives are identically 0 for all  $\xi$  in the strip. Likewise, in strip {0},  $\psi_2$  and all of its derivatives are identically 0.

## 2 Solution for compressible material

In strip  $\{N\}$  for  $N = 1, 2, \dots$ ,  $\psi_2$  is computed from (3). When the material is compressible (i.e. when the Poisson ratio  $\nu \neq 1/2$ ),  $\psi_2(\eta)$  in strip  $\{N\}$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \psi_{2\{N\}}(\eta) = & E_{\{N\}1} e^{a_{\{1\}}\eta} \cos b_{\{1\}}\eta + E_{\{N\}2} e^{a_{\{1\}}\eta} \sin b_{\{1\}}\eta - \frac{1}{b_{\{1\}}} \int_{\eta_{\{N\}}^*}^{\eta} e^{a_{\{1\}}(\eta-\gamma)} \left[ \frac{r_o}{\alpha_o} p\left(\frac{\gamma-r_o}{c}\right) \chi(\gamma) \right. \\ & + \psi_{1[N-1]}''(2r_o - \gamma) + \frac{1}{r_o} \left( \frac{\beta_o r_o}{\alpha_o} - 2 \right) \psi_{1[N-1]}'(2r_o - \gamma) + \frac{1}{r_o^2} \left( 2 - \frac{\beta_o r_o}{\alpha_o} \right) \psi_{1[N-1]}(2r_o - \gamma) \left. \right] \\ & \sin b_{\{1\}}(\eta - \gamma) d\gamma, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\psi_{1[N-1]}$  is  $\psi_1(\xi)$  in strip  $[N-1]$ ,

$$a_{\{1\}} = \frac{1-2\nu}{r_o(1-\nu)}, \quad b_{\{1\}} = \frac{\sqrt{1-2\nu}}{r_o(1-\nu)},$$

$\eta_{\{N\}}^* = r_o + (N-1)R$  is the lower boundary of strip  $\{N\}$ ,  $R = r_o - r_i$  is the thickness of the shell, and  $E_{\{N\}1}$ ,  $E_{\{N\}2}$  are constants chosen so that

$$\begin{aligned} \psi_{2\{N\}}(\eta_{\{N\}}^*) &= \psi_{2\{N-1\}}(\eta_{\{N\}}^*), \\ \psi_{2\{N\}}'(\eta_{\{N\}}^*) &= \psi_{2\{N-1\}}'(\eta_{\{N\}}^*). \end{aligned}$$

Thus both  $\psi_2$  and  $\psi_2'$  are continuous across strip boundaries. The constants  $E_{\{N\}1}$ ,  $E_{\{N\}2}$  are given by the vector equation

$$\begin{bmatrix} E_{\{N\}1} \\ E_{\{N\}2} \end{bmatrix} = \frac{e^{-a_{\{1\}}\eta_{\{N\}}^*}}{b_{\{1\}}} \begin{bmatrix} a_{\{1\}} \sin b_{\{1\}}\eta_{\{N\}}^* + b_{\{1\}} \cos b_{\{1\}}\eta_{\{N\}}^* & -\sin b_{\{1\}}\eta_{\{N\}}^* \\ -a_{\{1\}} \cos b_{\{1\}}\eta_{\{N\}}^* + b_{\{1\}} \sin b_{\{1\}}\eta_{\{N\}}^* & \cos b_{\{1\}}\eta_{\{N\}}^* \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \psi_{2\{N-1\}}(\eta_{\{N\}}^*) \\ \psi_{2\{N-1\}}'(\eta_{\{N\}}^*) \end{bmatrix}.$$

In strip  $[N]$  for  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ ,  $\psi_1$  is computed from (2). When the material is compressible,  $\psi_1(\xi)$  in strip  $[N]$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \psi_{1[N]}(\xi) = & E_{[N]1} e^{a_{[1]}\xi} \cos b_{[1]}\xi + E_{[N]2} e^{a_{[1]}\xi} \sin b_{[1]}\xi - \frac{1}{b_{[1]}} \int_{\xi_{[N]}^*}^{\xi} e^{a_{[1]}(\xi-\gamma)} [\psi_{2\{N-1\}}''(2r_i - \gamma) \quad (8) \\ & + \frac{1}{r_i} \left( \frac{\beta_i r_i}{\alpha_i} - 2 \right) \psi_{2\{N-1\}}'(2r_i - \gamma) + \frac{1}{r_i^2} \left( 2 - \frac{\beta_i r_i}{\alpha_i} \right) \psi_{2\{N-1\}}(2r_i - \gamma) \left. \right] \sin b_{[1]}(\xi - \gamma) d\gamma, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\psi_{2\{N-1\}}$  is  $\psi_2(\eta)$  in strip  $\{N-1\}$ ,

$$a_{[1]} = \frac{1-2\nu}{r_i(1-\nu)}, \quad b_{[1]} = \frac{\sqrt{1-2\nu}}{r_i(1-\nu)},$$

$\xi_{[N]}^* = r_i - (N-1)R$  is the lower boundary of strip  $[N]$ , and  $E_{[N]1}$ ,  $E_{[N]2}$  are constants chosen so that

$$\begin{aligned} \psi_{1[N]}(\xi_{[N]}^*) &= \psi_{1[N-1]}(\xi_{[N]}^*), \\ \psi_{1[N]}'(\xi_{[N]}^*) &= \psi_{1[N-1]}'(\xi_{[N]}^*). \end{aligned}$$

Thus both  $\psi_1$  and  $\psi_1'$  are continuous across strip boundaries. The constants  $E_{[N]1}$ ,  $E_{[N]2}$  are given by the vector equation

$$\begin{bmatrix} E_{[N]1} \\ E_{[N]2} \end{bmatrix} = \frac{e^{-a_{[1]}\xi_{[N]}^*}}{b_{[1]}} \begin{bmatrix} a_{[1]} \sin b_{[1]}\xi_{[N]}^* + b_{[1]} \cos b_{[1]}\xi_{[N]}^* & -\sin b_{[1]}\xi_{[N]}^* \\ -a_{[1]} \cos b_{[1]}\xi_{[N]}^* + b_{[1]} \sin b_{[1]}\xi_{[N]}^* & \cos b_{[1]}\xi_{[N]}^* \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \psi_{1[N-1]}(\xi_{[N]}^*) \\ \psi_{1[N-1]}'(\xi_{[N]}^*) \end{bmatrix}.$$

We see from Figure 1 that the pressure wave originates at  $r = r_o$ ,  $t = 0$  and initially travels along the characteristic line  $r + ct = r_o$ , so it first reaches  $r_i$  at time  $t = R/c$ , so this is the jump-off time. We recall that the speed of sound through a compressible linearly elastic isotropic material is

$$c = \sqrt{\frac{\lambda + 2\mu}{\rho}}.$$

After jump-off, the wave travels back into the shell along the characteristic line  $r - ct = r_i - R$ . In order to obtain the jump-off velocity, we notice from (6) that the velocity  $\dot{u}$  depends on the second derivatives of  $\psi_1$  and  $\psi_2$ . Since the pressure wave travels along a strip boundary,  $\dot{u}$  along the wave may be discontinuous because  $\psi_1''$  and  $\psi_2''$  may be discontinuous.

For simplicity we consider a special type of pressure wave, an exponentially decaying impulse:

$$p(t) = \begin{cases} 0; & t < 0 \\ P_0 e^{-\alpha t}; & t \geq 0 \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

with  $\alpha \geq 0$ . Notice that when  $P_0 \neq 0$ , the outer boundary pressure  $p(t)$  is not consistent with the initial conditions (i.e.  $-p(0) \neq \alpha_o u'(r_o, 0) + \beta_o u(r_o, 0)$ ), so there is a discontinuity that propagates along the characteristics. We compute the velocity as  $t$  approaches the jump-off time  $R/c$  both for  $\eta \in \{1\}$ ,  $\xi \in [1]$  and for  $\eta \in \{1\}$ ,  $\xi \in [2]$ , which correspond to the velocities obtain by the pressure wave traveling along the characteristic line  $\eta = r_o$  and  $\xi = r_i - R$ , respectively. These velocities correspond to what [3] calls the particle velocity and the material surface velocity, respectively. Along  $\eta = r_o$ , the jump-off velocity is

$$\dot{u}_{\{1\}[1]}(r_i, \frac{R}{c}) = \lim_{t \rightarrow R/c, \eta \in \{1\}, \xi \in [1]} \dot{u}(r_i, t) = \frac{c}{r_i} [\psi_{2\{1\}}''(r_o) - \psi_{1[1]}''(r_i - R)] - \frac{c}{r_i^2} [\psi_{2\{1\}}'(r_o) - \psi_{1[1]}'(r_i - R)].$$

Plugging these arguments into the derivatives of  $\psi_1$  and  $\psi_2$  in the appropriate strips, we obtain the jump-off velocity

$$\dot{u}_{\{1\}[1]}(r_i, \frac{R}{c}) = -\frac{r_o P_0}{r_i \rho c}$$

after using the fact that  $\alpha_o = \rho c^2$ . This velocity is called the particle velocity in [3]. Along  $\xi = r_i - R$ , the jump-off velocity is

$$\dot{u}_{\{1\}[2]}(r_i, \frac{R}{c}) = \lim_{t \rightarrow R/c, \eta \in \{1\}, \xi \in [2]} \dot{u}(r_i, t) = \frac{c}{r_i} [\psi_{2\{1\}}''(r_o) - \psi_{1[2]}''(r_i - R)] - \frac{c}{r_i^2} [\psi_{2\{1\}}'(r_o) - \psi_{1[2]}'(r_i - R)].$$

Plugging these arguments into the derivatives of  $\psi_1$  and  $\psi_2$  in the appropriate strips, we obtain the jump-off velocity

$$\dot{u}_{\{1\}[2]}(r_i, \frac{R}{c}) = -\frac{2r_o P_0}{r_i \rho c}.$$

This velocity is called the material surface velocity in [3], and it is consistent with the inner surface velocity computed in [1, pg. 22] for general stress boundary conditions.

We conclude this section by making a few observations about the jump-off velocities computed here. First, we notice that the decay parameter  $\alpha$  does not appear anywhere in the jump-off velocities. Therefore, these velocities apply to the case where a constant pressure  $p(t) = P_0$  is applied to the outer surface for all time. Second, we notice that the material surface velocity  $\dot{u}_{\{1\}[2]}(r_i, \frac{R}{c})$  is twice the particle velocity  $\dot{u}_{\{1\}[1]}(r_i, \frac{R}{c})$ . This difference is explained by the velocity doubling rule described in [4, pg. 716-719].

### 3 Solution for incompressible material

For our purposes, we define an incompressible material to be a linearly elastic solid with Poisson ratio  $\nu = 1/2$  and finite bulk modulus  $K$ . The speed of sound through such a material is

$$c = \sqrt{\frac{K}{\rho}}.$$

This is not physically realistic, but it is sometimes used as a simplifying assumption [1, 2, 3]. For such a spherical shell, the equation of motion (1) and the initial conditions (4) are the same as in the compressible case, but the boundary conditions take a slightly different form. In this case,  $\beta_i = \frac{2}{r_i}\alpha_i$ ,  $\beta_o = \frac{2}{r_o}\alpha_o$ , and  $\alpha_i = \alpha_o = \rho c^2$ .

$$\rho c^2[u'(r_i, t) + \frac{2}{r_i}u(r_i, t)] = 0, \quad t > 0 \quad (10)$$

$$\rho c^2[u'(r_o, t) + \frac{2}{r_o}u(r_o, t)] = -p(t), \quad t > 0 \quad (11)$$

The velocity  $\dot{u}$  has the same form (6) as in the compressible case, and the functions  $\psi_1$ ,  $\psi_2$  are computed by the same method of characteristics. However, the equations for  $\psi_1$  and  $\psi_2$  in each strip in Figure 1, and hence their solutions, take a different form. Taking  $p(t)$  to have the form given in (9), the equation for  $\psi_2$  in strip {1} is

$$\psi_{2\{1\}}''(\eta) = -\frac{r_o}{\rho c^2}P_0 e^{-\alpha(\eta-r_o)/c}$$

and its solution is

$$\psi_{2\{1\}}(\eta) = -\int_{r_o}^{\eta} \int_{r_o}^{\beta} \frac{r_o}{\rho c^2}P_0 e^{-\alpha(\gamma-r_o)/c} d\gamma d\beta$$

after accounting for continuity of  $\psi_2$  and its first derivative across the  $\eta = r_o$  strip boundary. In strip [1],

$$\psi_{1[1]}(\xi) = 0$$

for all  $\xi$  inside the strip.  $\psi_1$  in strip [2] is

$$\psi_{1[2]}(\xi) = \int_{r_i-R}^{\xi} \int_{r_i-R}^{\beta} \frac{r_o}{\rho c^2}P_0 e^{-\alpha(r_i-R-\gamma)/c} d\gamma d\beta.$$

Finally, computing the jump-off velocities along the characteristic lines  $\eta = r_o$  and  $\xi = r_i - R$ , we find that the particle velocity is

$$\dot{u}_{\{1\}[1]}(r_i, \frac{R}{c}) = -\frac{r_o P_0}{r_i \rho c}$$

and the material surface velocity is

$$\dot{u}_{\{1\}[2]}(r_i, \frac{R}{c}) = -\frac{2r_o P_0}{r_i \rho c}.$$

Thus the jump-off velocities are the same as in the compressible case. Also, as in the compressible case, the decay parameter  $\alpha$  does not appear in the final result, so these jump-off velocities apply equally well to a constant loading stress  $p(t) = P_0$ . Finally, we note that these jump-off velocities are equal to the particle and inner surface material jump-off velocities computed in [3].

## References

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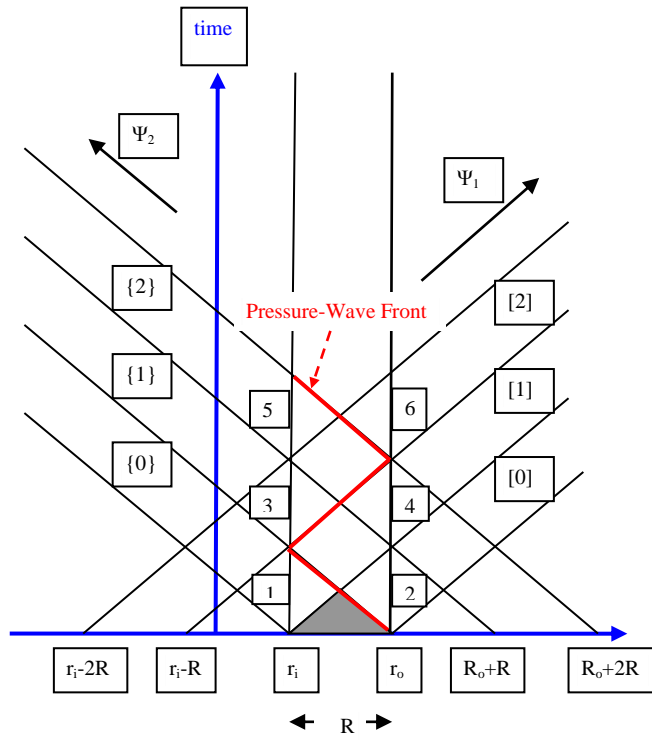


Figure 1: Pressure wave front.