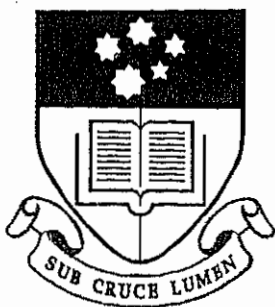


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THERMOELASTOPLASTIC AND CREEP ANALYSIS OF THICK-WALLED CYLINDERS

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Contents

ABSTRACT	1
STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY	3
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	4
NOTATION	5
1 INTRODUCTION	8
1.1 General Introduction	8
1.2 Problem Definition	12
1.3 Material Consideration	13
1.3.1 Material Time-Independent Constitutive Model	14
1.3.2 The Bauschinger Effect Factor (<i>BEF</i>)	15
1.3.3 Material Time-Dependent Creep Properties	16
1.3.4 Creep Failure Criterion	19
1.4 Scope of the Thesis	20
2 LITERATURE REVIEW	22

2.1	Introduction	22
2.2	Time-Independent Elastoplastic Deformation	23
2.2.1	Conclusion (Time-Independent Analysis)	37
2.2.2	Objective 1	39
2.3	Time-Dependent Creep Deformation of Tubes	40
2.3.1	Conclusion (Time-dependent Analysis)	58
2.3.2	Objective 2	59
3	THEORETICAL ANALYSIS	60
3.1	Introduction	60
3.2	Formulation of Thermoelastoplastic Problem in Thick-Walled Cylinders	61
3.2.1	Plastic Flow Rule	64
3.2.2	Boundary and End Conditions	69
3.2.3	Summary of the Governing Equations	71
3.2.4	Successive Elastic Approximation Method	73
3.2.5	Derivation of Thermoelastoplastic Stresses	76
3.2.6	Dimensionless solution	84
3.2.7	Residual Stress	88
3.2.8	Critical Condition	92
3.3	Creep Stress and Damage Analysis	94
3.3.1	Introduction	94
3.3.2	Formulation of the Creep Deformation of Thick-Walled Tubes .	95
3.3.3	Derivation of Creep Stresses	97

3.3.4	Creep Flow Rule	100
3.3.5	Creep Damage Model	102
3.3.6	Summary of the creep Governing Equations	104
4	NUMERICAL PROCEDURE	108
4.1	Numerical Procedure for the Computation of Thermoelastoplastic and Residual Stresses	108
4.2	Numerical Procedure for Computation of Creep Stresses and Creep Dam- ages	116
5	EXPERIMENTAL INVESTIGATION	122
5.1	Introduction	122
5.2	Material's Constitutive Model Tests	123
5.2.1	Specifications of Test Specimens	124
5.2.2	Material Loading-Unloading Tests	126
5.3	Thick-Walled Cylinder Tests	129
5.3.1	Introduction	129
5.3.2	Specifications of specimens	130
5.3.3	Critical Pressure Tests	131
5.3.4	Pressure Expansion Tests	135
5.3.5	Residual Stress Tests	137
6	RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS	145
6.1	Introduction	145

6.2	Elastic Stress Distribution	146
6.2.1	Mechanical Elastic Stress Distribution	147
6.2.2	Thermal Elastic Stress Distribution	149
6.2.3	Combined Mechanical and Thermal Elastic stresses	151
6.3	Results from Critical Condition	153
6.4	Plastic Stress Distribution	163
6.4.1	Effect of Temperature Gradient on Plastic Stresses	175
6.4.2	Residual Stresses and the Bauschinger Phenomenon	180
6.5	Results of Creep Stress and Damage Analysis	190
6.5.1	Introduction	190
6.5.2	Creep Stress Redistributions	191
6.5.3	Effective Stress Histories	194
6.5.4	Damage Histories and Remaining Life Evaluation	197
7	SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE WORK	202
7.1	Summary and Conclusions	202
7.2	Recommendations for Future Work	208
	Appendix A: Computer Programs of Time-Independent Analysis	212
	Appendix B: Computer Program of Time-Dependent Creep Analysis	230
8	REFERENCES	243
	Publications Originated From This Research	257

ABSTRACT

Time-independent thermoelastoplastic and time-dependent creep stress and damage analysis of thick-walled cylinders have been investigated using incremental theory of plasticity in conjunction with improved material elastoplastic and creep constitutive models. The results are validated experimentally and numerically.

For time-independent thermoelastoplastic analysis thick-walled cylinders of SUS 304 stainless steel have been selected. The material's loading and unloading properties including the Bauschinger effect factor (BEF) are obtained experimentally and represented mathematically as continuous functions of effective plastic strain. The material's model and the BEF have been incorporated in an analytical-numerical model to predict the cylinder's plastic and residual stresses as well as the critical pressures of direct and reverse yielding. The analytical-numerical models for the prediction of critical inner pressure, plastic stress distributions and the subsequent residual stresses of thick-walled cylinders are validated experimentally. Several experiments are carried out on thick-walled cylindrical test specimens in which internal hydraulic pressure has been increased and the outer surface deformations are measured by the strain gauges.

Subsequently the load has been released and the residual strains are again measured at the outer surface of the cylinder. These experimental measured values are compared with the predicted values of the analytical-numerical model and, in most cases, the model predictions are accurate.

For time-dependent creep stress and creep damage analysis, thick-walled tubes of $\frac{1}{2}Cr, \frac{1}{2}Mo, \frac{1}{4}V$ ferritic steel have been considered. Improved material creep and rupture properties are obtained from the available literature. A numerical model has been developed for the computation of creep stresses and strains and the creep damages in a thick-walled tube which is subjected to an internal pressure and a thermal gradient. The model predicts histories of stresses and strains as well as the damage history during the life of the tube due to variation in stresses with time and through-thickness variations. The creep damage accumulation is based on the Robinson's linear life fraction damage rule which has been incorporated in a non-linear time-dependent stress analysis. Following the stress histories the damages are calculated and cumulatively summed during the life of the tube. From the effective stress histories a reference time has been identified when the effective stress distributions become uniform throughout the tube wall. Effect of internal pressure on this reference time is investigated. The accuracy of the results has been examined by comparing the theoretically predicted creep curves and the numerically followed curves. Deviation of the followed paths from the predicted paths is small.