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Detection of Crack in a Composite Beam by Using Continuous Wavelet Transform

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Abstract:

Composite beams play a critical role in modern engineering and construction, offering a unique combination of strength, light weight, and flexibility that makes them ideal for use in structures ranging from bridges to aerospace components. Their ability to withstand various loads while maintaining structural integrity is paramount to ensuring safety and durability. However, the presence of cracks in composite beams poses significant challenges, as these defects can compromise the beam's loadbearing capacity and lead to catastrophic failures if undetected. Cracks, often caused by factors such as fatigue, environmental conditions, or manufacturing defects, can propagate over time, weakening the material and reducing the overall lifespan of the structure. Therefore, early detection and accurate assessment of cracks in composite beams are essential to maintaining the safety and longevity of structures that rely on these advanced materials.

In this study, the Continuous Wavelet Transform (CWT) is utilized to identify the presence and location of cracks in composite beams. To evaluate the algorithm's robustness against noise, white Gaussian noise is introduced into the simulated beam deflection data. The findings reveal that the CWT-based algorithm effectively identifies the crack even with significant noise interference. Additionally, the algorithm's performance is assessed for detecting cracks with varying depths. The results demonstrate that the algorithm can accurately locate cracks with depths as small as 10% of the beam thickness, maintaining its effectiveness up to a Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR) of 60. Furthermore, the study explores the algorithm's reliability in detecting cracks positioned at different locations along the beam length. The CWT-based algorithm consistently locates the crack regardless of its position along the length of the beam, indicating its noise robustness and versatility in different scenarios.

Keywords: Continuous Wavelet Transform, Composite Beam, Crack Detection, Finite Element Analysis

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