Biomechanics: Concepts and Computation

This quantitative approach integrates the classical concepts of mechanics and computational modelling techniques, in a logical progression through a wide range of fundamental biomechanics principles. Online MATLAB-based software, along with examples and problems using biomedical applications, will motivate undergraduate biomedical engineering students to practise and test their skills. The book covers topics such as kinematics, equilibrium, stresses and strains, and also focuses on large deformations and rotations and non-linear constitutive equations, including visco-elastic behaviour and the behaviour of long slender fibre-like structures. This is the first textbook that integrates both general and specific topics, theoretical background and biomedical engineering applications, as well as analytical and numerical approaches. This is the definitive textbook for students.

Cees Oomens is Associate Professor in Biomechanics and Continuum Mechanics at the Eindhoven University of Technology, the Netherlands. He has lectured many different courses ranging from basic courses in continuum mechanics at bachelor level, to courses on mechanical properties of materials and advanced courses in computational modelling at masters and postgraduate level. His current research focuses on damage and adaptation of soft biological tissues, with emphasis on skeletal muscle tissue and skin.

Marcel Brekelmans is Associate Professor in Continuum Mechanics at the Eindhoven University of Technology. Since 1998 he has also lectured in the Biomedical Engineering Faculty at the University; here his teaching addresses continuum mechanics, basic level and numerical analysis. He has published a considerable number of papers in well-known journals, and his research interests in continuum mechanics include the modelling of history-dependent material behaviour (plasticity, damage and fracture) in forming processes.

Frank Baaijens is Full Professor in Soft Tissue Biomechanics and Tissue Engineering at the Eindhoven University of Technology, where he has also been a part-time Professor in the Polymer Group of the Division of Computational and Experimental Mechanics since 1990. He is currently Scientific Director of the national research program on BioMedical Materials (BMM), and his research focuses on soft tissue biomechanics and tissue engineering.

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Biomechanics

Concepts and Computation

Cees Oomens, Marcel Brekelmans, Frank Baaijens

Eindhoven University of Technology Department of Biomedical Engineering Tissue Biomechanics & Engineering



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Contents

	About the cover		
	Prefa	lice	xiii
1	Vector calculus		
	1.1		1
	1.2		1
	1.3	Vector operations	1
	1.4	Decomposition of a vector with respect to a basis	5
		Exercises	8
2	The	concepts of force and moment	10
	2.1	Introduction	10
	2.2	Definition of a force vector	10
	2.3	Newton's Laws	12
	2.4	Vector operations on the force vector	13
	2.5	Force decomposition	14
	2.6	Representation of a vector with respect to a vector basis	17
	2.7	Column notation	21
	2.8	Drawing convention	24
	2.9	The concept of moment	25
	2.10	Definition of the moment vector	26
	2.11	The two-dimensional case	29
	2.12	Drawing convention of moments in three dimensions	32
		Exercises	33
3	Stati	c equilibrium	37
	3.1	Introduction	37
	3.2	Static equilibrium conditions	37
	3.3	Free body diagram	40
		Exercises	47

vi	Cont	ents		
	4	The	mechanical behaviour of fibres	50
		4.1	Introduction	50
		4.2	Elastic fibres in one dimension	50
		4.3	A simple one-dimensional model of a skeletal muscle	53
		4.4	Elastic fibres in three dimensions	55
		4.5	Small fibre stretches	61
			Exercises	66
	5	Fibre	es: time-dependent behaviour	69
		5.1	Introduction	69
		5.2	Viscous behaviour	71
			5.2.1 Small stretches: linearization	73
		5.3		74
			5.3.1 Continuous and discrete time models	74
			5.3.2 Visco-elastic models based on springs and dashpots: Maxwell model	78
			5.3.3 Visco-elastic models based on springs and dashpots: Kelvin–Voigt model	82
		5.4	Harmonic excitation of visco-elastic materials	83
			5.4.1 The Storage and the Loss Modulus	83
			5.4.2 The Complex Modulus	85
			5.4.3 The standard linear model	87
		5.5	Appendix: Laplace and Fourier transforms Exercises	92 94
	6	Anal	ysis of a one-dimensional continuous elastic medium	99
	•	6.1	-	99
		6.2	Equilibrium in a subsection of a slender structure	99
		6.3	-	101
		6.4		104
		6.5	Deformation of an inhomogeneous bar	104
			Exercises	111
	7	Biol	ogical materials and continuum mechanics	114
		7.1	Introduction	114
		7.2	Orientation in space	115
		7.3	Mass within the volume V	117
		7.4	Scalar fields	120
		7.5	Vector fields	122
		7.6	Rigid body rotation	125

vii	Cont	ents		
		7.7	Some mathematical preliminaries on second-order tensors Exercises	127 130
	8	Stre	ss in three-dimensional continuous media	132
		8.1	Stress vector	132
		8.2	From stress to force	133
		8.3	Equilibrium	134
		8.4	Stress tensor	142
		8.5	Principal stresses and principal stress directions	146
		8.6	Mohr's circles for the stress state	149
		8.7	Hydrostatic pressure and deviatoric stress	150
		8.8	Equivalent stress	150
			Exercises	152
	9	Moti	ion: the time as an extra dimension	156
		9.1	Introduction	156
		9.2	Geometrical description of the material configuration	156
		9.3	Lagrangian and Eulerian description	158
		9.4	The relation between the material and spatial time derivative	159
		9.5	The displacement vector	161
		9.6	The gradient operator	162
		9.7	Extra displacement as a rigid body	164
		9.8	Fluid flow	166
			Exercises	167
	10	Defo	ormation and rotation, deformation rate and spin	170
		10.1	Introduction	170
		10.2	A material line segment in the reference and current	
			configuration	170
		10.3	The stretch ratio and rotation	173
		10.4	Strain measures and strain tensors and matrices	176
		10.5	The volume change factor	180
		10.6	Deformation rate and rotation velocity	180
			Exercises	183
	11	Loca	al balance of mass, momentum and energy	186
		11.1	Introduction	186
		11.2	The local balance of mass	186
		11.3	The local balance of momentum	187

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Cees Oomens, Marcel Brekelmans and Frank Baaijens
Frontmatter
More information

viii	Cont	ents		
		11.4	The local balance of mechanical power	189
		11.5	Lagrangian and Eulerian description of the balance equations	190
			Exercises	192
	12	Con	stitutive modelling of solids and fluids	194
		12.1	Introduction	194
		12.2	Elastic behaviour at small deformations and rotations	195
		12.3	The stored internal energy	198
		12.4	Elastic behaviour at large deformations and/or large rotations	200
		12.5	Constitutive modelling of viscous fluids	203
			Newtonian fluids	204
			Non-Newtonian fluids	205
			Diffusion and filtration	205
		12.0	Exercises	205
	13	Solu	tion strategies for solid and fluid mechanics	
			lems	210
		-	Introduction	210
		13.2	Solution strategies for deforming solids	210
		13.2	13.2.1 General formulation for solid mechanics problems	210
			13.2.2 Geometrical linearity	212
			13.2.3 Linear elasticity theory, dynamic	213
			13.2.4 Linear elasticity theory, static	213
			13.2.5 Linear plane stress theory, static	214
			13.2.6 Boundary conditions	218
		13.3	Solution strategies for viscous fluids	220
			13.3.1 General equations for viscous flow	221
			13.3.2 The equations for a Newtonian fluid	221
			13.3.3 Stationary flow of an incompressible Newtonian fluid13.3.4 Boundary conditions	222 223
			13.3.5 Elementary analytical solutions	223
		13.4	Diffusion and filtration	225
		13.4	Exercises	223
	14	Solu	tion of the one-dimensional diffusion equation	
			neans of the Finite Element Method	232
		14.1	Introduction	232
		14.1	The diffusion equation	232
		14.2	•	255
		14.3	Method of weighted residuals and weak form of the model	235
		144	problem Polynomial interpolation	233 237
		14.4	i orynomiai micripolation	237

ix	Contents						
		14.5	Galerkin approximation	239			
		14.6	Solution of the discrete set of equations	246			
		14.7	Isoparametric elements and numerical integration	246			
		14.8	Basic structure of a finite element program	250			
		14.9	Example	253			
			Exercises	256			
	15	Solu	tion of the one-dimensional convection-diffusion				
		equa	ation by means of the Finite Element Method	264			
		15.1	Introduction	264			
		15.2	The convection-diffusion equation	264			
		15.3	Temporal discretization	266			
		15.4	Spatial discretization	269			
			Exercises	273			
	16	Solu	tion of the three-dimensional convection-diffusion				
		equa	ation by means of the Finite Element Method	277			
		16.1	Introduction	277			
		16.2	Diffusion equation	278			
		16.3	Divergence theorem and integration by parts	279			
		16.4	Weak form	280			
		16.5	Galerkin discretization	280			
		16.6	Convection-diffusion equation	283			
		16.7	Isoparametric elements and numerical integration	284			
		16.8	Example	288			
			Exercises	291			
	17	Shaj	pe functions and numerical integration	295			
		17.1	Introduction	295			
		17.2	Isoparametric, bilinear quadrilateral element	297			
		17.3	Linear triangular element	299			
		17.4	Lagrangian and Serendipity elements	302			
			17.4.1 Lagrangian elements	303			
			17.4.2 Serendipity elements	304			
		17.5	e	305			
			Exercises	309			
	18		itesimal strain elasticity problems	313			
		18.1	Introduction	313			
		18.2	Linear elasticity	313			

x	Contents		
	18.3	Weak formulation	315
	18.4	Galerkin discretization	316
	18.5	Solution	322
	18.6	Example	322
		Exercises	324
		References	329
		Index	331

About the cover

The cover contains images reflecting biomechanics research topics at the Eindhoven University of Technology. An important aspect of mechanics is experimental work to determine material properties and to validate models. The application field ranges from microscopic structures at the level of cells to larger organs like the heart. The core of biomechanics is constituted by models formulated in terms of partial differential equations and computer models to derive approximate solutions.

- *Main image*: Myogenic precursor cells have the ability to differentiate and fuse to form multinucleated myotubes. This differentiation process can be influenced by means of mechanical as well as biochemical stimuli. To monitor this process of early differentiation, immunohistochemical analyses are performed to provide information concerning morphology and localization of characteristic structural proteins of muscle cells. In the illustration, the sarcomeric proteins actin (red), and myosin (green) are shown. Nuclei are stained blue. Image courtesy of Mrs Marloes Langelaan.
- *Left top*: To study the effect of a mechanical load on the damage evolution of skeletal tissue an in-vitro model system using tissue engineered muscle was developed. The image shows this muscle construct in a set-up on a confocal microscope. In the device the construct can be mechanically deformed by means of an indentor. Fluorescent identification of both necrotic and apoptotic cells can be established using different staining techniques Image courtesy of Mrs Debby Gawlitta.
- *Left middle*: A three-dimensional finite element mesh of the human heart ventricles is shown. This mesh is used to solve the equations of motion for the beating heart. The model was used to study the effect of depolarization waves and mechanics in the paced heart. Image courtesy of Mr Roy Kerckhoffs.
- *Left bottom*: The equilibrium equations are derived from Newton's laws and describe (quasi-)static force equilibrium in a three-dimensional continuum. Chapter 9 of the present book.

Preface

In September 1997 an educational programme in Biomedical Engineering, unique in the Netherlands, started at the Eindhoven University of Technology, together with the University of Maastricht, as a logical step after almost two decades of research collaboration between both universities. This development culminated in the foundation of the Department of Biomedical Engineering in April 1999 and the creation of a graduate programme (MSc) in Biomedical Engineering in 2000 and Medical Engineering in 2002.

Already at the start of this educational programme, it was decided that a comprehensive course in biomechanics had to be part of the curriculum and that this course had to start right at the beginning of the Bachelor phase. A search for suitable material for this purpose showed that excellent biomechanics textbooks exist. But many of these books are very specialized to certain aspects of biomechanics. The more general textbooks are addressing mechanical or civil engineers or physicists who wish to specialize in biomechanics, so these books include chapters or sections on biology and physiology. Almost all books that were found are at Masters or post-graduate level, requiring basic to sophisticated knowledge of mechanics and mathematics. At a more fundamental level only books could be found that were written for mechanical and civil engineers.

We decided to write our own course material for the basic training in mechanics appropriate for our candidate biomedical engineers at Bachelor level, starting with the basic concepts of mechanics and ending with numerical solution procedures, based on the Finite Element Method. The course material assembled in the current book, comprises three courses for our biomedical engineers curriculum, distributed over the three years of their Bachelor studies. Chapters 1 to 6 mostly treat the basic concepts of forces, moments and equilibrium in a discrete context in the first year. Chapters 7 to 13 in the second year discuss the basis of continuum mechanics and Chapters 14 to 18 in the third year are focussed on solving the field equations of mechanics using the Finite Element Method.

Preface

xiv

What makes this book different from other basic mechanics or biomechanics treatises? Of course there is the usual attention, as in standard books, focussed on kinematics, equilibrium, stresses and strains. But several topics are discussed that are normally not found in one single textbook or only described briefly.

- Much attention is given to large deformations and rotations and non-linear constitutive equations (see Chapters 4, 9 and 10).
- A separate chapter is devoted to one-dimensional visco-elastic behaviour (Chapter 5).
- There is special attention to long slender fibre-like structures (Chapter 4).
- The similarities and differences in describing the behaviour of solids and fluids and aspects of diffusion and filtration are discussed (Chapters 12 to 16).
- Basic concepts of mechanics and numerical solution strategies for partial differential equations are integrated in one single textbook (Chapters 14 to 18).

Because of the usually rather complex geometries (and non-linear aspects) found in biomechanical problems hardly any relevant analytical solutions can be derived for the field equations and approximate solutions have to be constructed. It is the opinion of the authors that at Bachelor level at least the basis for these numerical techniques has to be addressed.

In Chapters 14 to 18 extensive use is made of a finite element code written in Matlab by one of the authors, which is especially developed as a tool for students. Applying this code requires that the user has a licence for the use of Matlab, which can be obtained via MathWorks (www.mathworks.com). The finite element code, which is a set of Matlab scripts, including manuals, is freely available and can be downloaded from the website: www.mate.tue.nl/biomechanicsbook.