

Analysis of SMA hybrid composite structures using commercial codes

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ABSTRACT

A thermomechanical model for shape memory alloy (SMA) actuators and SMA hybrid composite (SMAHC) structures has been recently implemented in the commercial finite element codes MSC.Nastran and ABAQUS. The model may be easily implemented in any code that has the capability for analysis of laminated composite structures with temperature dependent material properties. The model is also relatively easy to use and requires input of only fundamental engineering properties. A brief description of the model is presented, followed by discussion of implementation and usage in the commercial codes. Results are presented from static and dynamic analysis of SMAHC beams of two types; a beam clamped at each end and a cantilevered beam. Nonlinear static (post-buckling) and random response analyses are demonstrated for the first specimen. Static deflection (shape) control is demonstrated for the cantilevered beam. Approaches for modeling SMAHC material systems with embedded SMA in ribbon and small round wire product forms are demonstrated and compared. The results from the commercial codes are compared to those from a research code as validation of the commercial implementations; excellent correlation is achieved in all cases.

Keywords: shape memory alloys, Nitinol, commercial codes, MSC.Nastran, ABAQUS, finite element analysis, post-buckling control, vibration control, shape control, deflection control

1. INTRODUCTION

There has been growing interest in adaptive materials and structures in recent years. Structures that adapt to their environment or have the ability to change configurations have been of particular interest. Shape memory alloys (SMA) have enormous potential for such applications. Their energy density is generally considered as the highest of known actuators, smart materials-based or conventional, so efficient actuation concepts may be possible. The interaction of temperature and stress on the transformation behavior of SMA materials can be used to exploit phenomena such as thermally induced shape memory, pseudoelasticity, as well as combinations of these effects. Significant progress has been made in the areas of SMA materials characterization, constitutive modeling, and integration into applications. However, structural concept development and component design have been stymied by the lack of an analytical tool in a general purpose structural analysis environment. Many structural concepts involving SMA materials have been developed by trial and error and/or using excessively simplified modeling approaches.

There are various phenomenological and micromechanics-based constitutive models for SMA materials that are currently in use by various research groups¹⁻⁴. Although these models are very comprehensive in capturing the complex behavior of SMA materials, they are difficult to implement in commercial structural analysis codes and are difficult to use in practice. Thus, none of these models are in wide use, particularly by general structural analysts. An engineering model for SMA materials was recently developed based upon nonlinear thermoelasticity and definition of an effective coefficient of thermal expansion (ECTE)⁵. The ECTE model has the advantages of being relatively simple to use, readily implemented in commercial codes, and requiring input of only fundamental engineering properties. The ECTE model does, however, have a more restrictive range of application than the phenomenological/micro-based models. Thus, it is envisioned that the ECTE model may be the model of choice for detailed design when appropriate and may be used in conjunction with more a comprehensive model for analyses of increasing fidelity when the case demands.

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It is desirable in many applications to integrate SMA actuators into a structure, e.g., to achieve maximum space or weight efficiency, distributed or spatially varying actuation, autonomous response to environmental effects, minimum system complexity, etc. Previous studies have proposed special finite elements for modeling SMA materials according to various constitutive models, particularly the phenomenological/micro-based models. These elements then provide the functionality of the actuator, separate from elements modeling the bulk of the structure. This approach is most effective when there are few actuators that are geometrically distinct from the distributed structure. This approach is inefficient, however, and intractable for practical structural analysis when there are many actuators, particularly when they are distributed within a host composite structure. This is especially true for cases involving SMA actuators of small size, like round wire. It is for these reasons that means for modeling SMAHC materials and formulating SMAHC elements is deemed necessary. The latter SMAHC modeling approach affords the ability to model an enormous number of material configurations efficiently, as long as the effective composite properties can be constructed from the constituents. The genesis of the ECTE model was the need to model SMAHC materials, so it is particularly suited to such modeling requirements.

The concept of embedding SMA actuators in a composite structure was introduced by Rogers and Robershaw⁶. Several subsequent research efforts have investigated SMAHC laminates for a variety of applications⁷⁻¹¹. The ECTE model has been used previously in a research code to analyze the static and dynamic response of beam and plate structures^{5,12,13}. It is the objective of this study to demonstrate SMAHC structural analysis using the ECTE model within the framework of commercial finite element codes. The thermally induced shape memory effect will be the focus of this work in application to structural thermoelastic, vibration, and shape control. A brief description of the modeling approach will be followed by discussion of implementation and use of the model in the commercial codes MSC.Nastran and ABAQUS. The commercial implementations of the ECTE model will be validated in comparison to a research code for the analysis cases of post-buckling, random response, and shape control of SMAHC beams.

2. MODEL FORMULATION

The salient features of the ECTE constitutive model for SMA and SMAHC materials are described in this section. A more detailed description can be found elsewhere⁵. There are various composite material types, structural fabrication techniques, and embedding strategies to integrate SMA actuators within a composite structure, e.g., between layers, within layers, etc. Likewise, there are many micromechanical models for evaluating the effective composite properties and resulting constitutive equations for such hybrid composites. The case considered here is that of a laminated composite composed of unidirectional pre-impregnated (pre-preg) layers with SMA actuators embedded within the laminae. A representative volume element from an individual SMAHC lamina, with principal material coordinates 1 and 2, is shown schematically in Figure 1. This example is used for simplicity of illustration and it is understood that a similar approach could be used to model different composite materials, embedding strategies, and structure types.

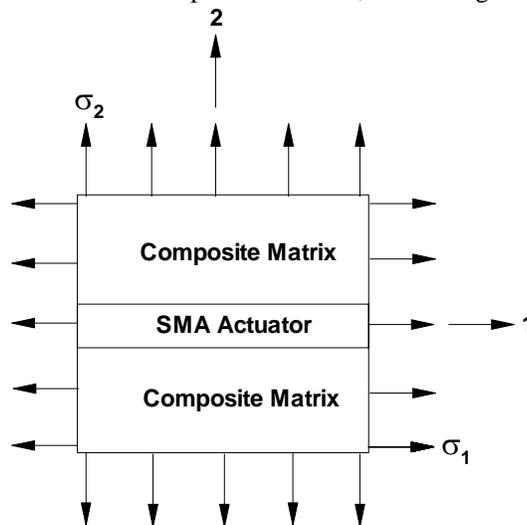


Figure 1: Representative volume element for a SMAHC lamina.

The thermoelastic constitutive relations in principal material coordinates for a thin orthotropic lamina under conditions of plane stress can be shown to have the following form

$$\begin{Bmatrix} \sigma_1 \\ \sigma_2 \\ \tau_{12} \end{Bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} Q_{11} & Q_{12} & 0 \\ Q_{12} & Q_{22} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & Q_{66} \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} \varepsilon_1 \\ \varepsilon_2 \\ \gamma_{12} \end{Bmatrix} - \int_{T_0}^T \begin{Bmatrix} \alpha_1(\tau) \\ \alpha_2(\tau) \\ 0 \end{Bmatrix} d\tau \quad (1)$$

where $[Q]$ is the reduced stiffness matrix, $\{\varepsilon\}$ is the total strain vector, and $\{\alpha\}$ is the vector of CTEs. The reduced stiffness terms are related to the effective engineering properties through the following equations.

$$Q_{11} = \frac{E_1}{1 - \nu_{12}\nu_{21}} \quad Q_{12} = \frac{\nu_{12}E_2}{1 - \nu_{12}\nu_{21}} \quad Q_{22} = \frac{E_2}{1 - \nu_{12}\nu_{21}} \quad Q_{66} = G_{12} \quad (2)$$

Estimates of the effective engineering properties for the lamina in Figure 1 must be determined in order to make use of these constitutive relations. A mechanics of materials approach can be used as follows to develop the effective properties for such a SMAHC material.

The most fundamental feature of the ECTE model is the axial constitutive relation for a SMA actuator, in which the non-mechanical (i.e., thermal and transformation) strain is represented by effective thermal strain:

$$\sigma_{1a}(T) = E_a(T) \left[\varepsilon_1 - \int_{T_0}^T \alpha_{1a}(\tau) d\tau \right] \quad (3)$$

where $E_a(T)$ is the Young's modulus of the SMA material, ε_1 is the total axial strain, α_{1a} is the effective coefficient of thermal expansion, and the subscript a indicates that the quantity is specific to the actuator material. It can be seen in Equation (3) that the ECTE model is intended to model thermally induced transformation phenomena, as opposed to stress induced (pseudoeelasticity), which is the restriction mentioned previously. It can be shown that the thermal strain in Equation (3) is governed by the usual thermoelastic effects at temperatures below the austenite start temperature ($T < A_s$) and is related to the recovery stress and modulus at higher temperatures ($T \geq A_s$):

$$\sigma_r(T) = -E_a(T) \int_{T_0}^T \alpha_{1a}(\tau) d\tau \quad \text{or} \quad \int_{T_0}^T \alpha_{1a}(\tau) d\tau = -\sigma_r(T) / E_a(T) \quad (4)$$

This expression implies that measurement of the fundamental engineering properties (α_{1a} for $T < A_s$, σ_r and E_a for $T \geq A_s$) from experiments approximating the intended use condition (e.g., prestrain level and constraint) is all that is required to quantify the model. For example, an actuator under stiff constraint and restricted to small prestrain recovery in service would be well represented by measurements of *blocked* recovery stress. A similar constitutive expression can be written for the actuator in the transverse direction:

$$\sigma_{2a}(T) = E_a(T) \left[\varepsilon_2 - \int_{T_0}^T \alpha_{2a}(\tau) d\tau \right] \quad (5)$$

where α_{2a} is not related to recovery stress, but is still nonlinear due to differing martensitic and austenitic properties. Note that it has been assumed that the Young's modulus for the SMA is directionally independent. The analogous expressions for the composite matrix material, denoted by the subscript m , follow directly.

$$\sigma_{1m} = E_{1m}(T) \left[\varepsilon_1 - \int_{T_0}^T \alpha_{1m}(\tau) d\tau \right] \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma_{2m} = E_{2m}(T) \left[\varepsilon_2 - \int_{T_0}^T \alpha_{2m}(\tau) d\tau \right] \quad (6)$$

It can be shown that one form for the effective properties of a SMAHC lamina can be constructed from these constituent relations as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} E_1 &= E_a \nu_a + E_{1m} \nu_m & E_2 &= \frac{E_a E_{2m}}{E_a \nu_m + E_{2m} \nu_a} & \nu_{12} &= \nu_a \nu_a + \nu_{12m} \nu_m & G_{12} &= \frac{G_a G_{12m}}{G_a \nu_m + G_{12m} \nu_a} \\ \int_{T_0}^T \alpha_1(\tau) d\tau &= \frac{E_a \nu_a \int_{T_0}^T \alpha_{1a}(\tau) d\tau + E_{1m} \nu_m \int_{T_0}^T \alpha_{1m}(\tau) d\tau}{E_a \nu_a + E_{1m} \nu_m} & \int_{T_0}^T \alpha_2(\tau) d\tau &= \int_{T_0}^T [\alpha_{2a}(\tau) \nu_a + \alpha_{2m}(\tau) \nu_m] d\tau \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

These effective engineering properties can be used in conjunction with Equations (1) and (2) to define the thermoelastic characteristics of a SMAHC lamina.

Note that the ECTE model is consistent with classical thermoelasticity, so the model can be readily implemented in any finite element code that has the capability for analyzing laminated composite materials with temperature dependent material properties. It is envisioned that a similar approach might be possible for incorporation of a phenomenological or micromechanics-based 1-D constitutive model for the SMA in a SMAHC material model by replacing Equation (3) by the corresponding constitutive and kinetic relations.

3. COMMERCIAL CODE IMPLEMENTATION

One approach for deriving the constitutive relations governing the thermoelastic properties of a SMAHC lamina was shown in the previous section. Attention will now turn to methods for implementing material models of this type using the commercial pre-/post-processor MSC.Patran and generating the data structure necessary to perform various analysis types on SMAHC structures within the framework of the commercial finite element codes MSC.Nastran and ABAQUS.

3.1. MSC.Patran

Note in Equations (7) that the volume fraction of SMA for a given SMAHC layer can range from 0% to 100%. This allows for a large variety of material systems and material system modeling approaches. For example, consider the case of a SMAHC laminate with SMA ribbon embedded within or between specific laminae. Furthermore, let the actuator cross-section aspect ratio be large; thickness on the order of the lamina thickness and width on the order of typical finite element (e.g., plate or shell element) dimensions. 2-D orthotropic materials could be defined to represent the SMA and composite matrix material separately. Orthotropic engineering properties are typically known or measured for a particular composite matrix material. The full complement of orthotropic engineering properties for the SMA material can be constructed from measurements of Young's modulus E_a and recovery stress σ_r by assuming that the Young's modulus and Poisson's ratio are directionally independent, the shear modulus is related to the Young's modulus through the typical isotropic relation $G = E / 2(1 + \nu)$, the axial CTE is determined from the thermal strain in Equation (4), and the transverse CTE varies from martensitic to austenitic values. Finally, classical lamination theory can be used to develop the SMAHC laminate stiffness coefficients, thermal forces, and thermal moments. In this case, shown schematically in Figure 2, individual finite elements may consist of layers that alternate between 100% SMA and 100% host composite matrix. Note that this type of SMAHC requires only the distinct properties of the constituent materials to define the properties of the individual layers in a particular finite element.

Alternatively, a similar structural functionality and performance could be achieved with SMA actuators in the form of round wire with a diameter on the order of the lamina thickness. In this case, 3-D orthotropic materials representing the SMA and composite matrix material could be defined, with equivalent mechanical properties in the two transverse directions, and combined to form a SMAHC material by the Rule-of-Mixtures approach. Then lamination sequences of traditional composite and/or SMAHC laminae can be modeled through classical lamination theory to develop the corresponding laminate stiffness coefficients, thermal forces, and thermal moments. Individual finite elements could consist of all SMAHC layers with varying orientations and SMA content, combinations of traditional and SMAHC layers, etc. An example of a SMAHC finite element of the latter type is shown schematically in Figure 3. Thus, the material model for individual layers in a finite element of this type requires properties for mixtures of the constituents, defined by relations like those in Equations (7).



Figure 2: SMAHC element cross-section type 1; embedded SMA ribbon.

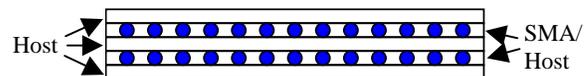


Figure 3: SMAHC element cross-section type 2; embedded SMA round wire.

While MSC.Patran supports output of temperature dependent material property data for isotropic and anisotropic materials, it does not for orthotropic materials. Thus, modeling strategies for an anisotropic SMAHC material may be plausible for MSC.Patran output. The present study is primarily concerned with laminated SMAHC materials, which are composed of orthotropic layers. MSC.Patran will produce the laminate definition information (PCOMP bulk data entries

in MSC.Nastran and *SHELL SECTION options in ABAQUS) and the temperature independent material property data for the individual laminae (MATi bulk data entries in MSC.Nastran and combinations of temperature independent versions of the *MATERIAL/*ELASTIC/*EXPANSION/etc. options in ABAQUS) for either material case described above. However, MSC.Patran will not produce the required temperature dependent material property data (MATTi and TABLEMi bulk data entries in MSC.Nastran and appropriate combinations of temperature dependent versions of the *MATERIAL/*ELASTIC/*EXPANSION/etc. options in ABAQUS) for either laminated composite. This limitation is not particularly consequential for elements with properties of the first type described above, layers alternating between 100% SMA and 100% host composite, because a single tabulated data set for each constituent is all that is required. However, some additional effort is required for elements with properties of the latter type above, where any given layer may consist of mixtures of SMA and host composite. In this case, a new tabulated dataset must be created from the constituent properties, by using Equations (7), for every material combination employed. In either case, the analysis input file must be hand altered to incorporate the appropriate temperature dependent material properties. Of course, this limitation might be removed in some other pre-processor that is unknown to the authors.

3.2. MSC.Nastran

The capability for analyzing laminated composite materials with temperature dependent material properties was recently added to MSC.Nastran. A brief description of this capability is given here, but further detail can be found in the MSC.Nastran Version 2004 Release Notes and Quick Reference Guide. This capability is available for QUAD4 and TRIA3 h-element types and is implemented for SOL 106, Nonlinear Static (NLSTATIC) solution procedure. Other response characteristics of SMAHC structures can be determined by a RESTART from any particular increment in a nonlinear static solution sequence. This will be described in more detail in later sections.

Two new parameters have been introduced to allow user specification of options involved in analysis of laminated composites with temperature dependent material properties. The parameter COMPMATT indicates the intent for analysis of temperature dependent laminated composites and the parameter EPSILON T indicates the form of the thermal expansion property data. The form for specification of these parameters is as follows: PARAM,COMPMATT,YES (Default NO) and PARAM, EPSILON T,INTEGRAL (Default SECANT). Setting the parameter COMPMATT to YES allows PCOMP bulk data entries, which define the composite material laminate, to reference temperature dependent material properties in TABLEMi bulk data entries through corresponding MATTi (i=1,2,8) and MATi (i=1,2,8) bulk data entries. The default value for the parameter EPSILON T causes MSC.Nastran to expect the secant form for CTE data in the TABLEMi bulk data entries and thermal strain is calculated according to the equation

$$\varepsilon(T) = \alpha(T)(T - T_{ref}) - \alpha(T_i)(T_i - T_{ref}) \quad (8)$$

where the subscripts *i* and *ref* indicate initial and reference quantities, respectively. A value of INTEGRAL for the parameter EPSILON T indicates that the CTE data is in tangent form and the thermal strain should be calculated as the integral of the interpolated CTE. The integral approach has greater accuracy with increasing temperature step size.

The user also has the option of specifying thermal strain directly. This is indicated in the bulk data file by assigning a negative table identification number (TID) to the TABLEMi material property table for the corresponding thermal expansion data. Of course, the same negative TID must also appear in the MATTi bulk data entry referring to the temperature dependent thermal strain data. This capability may be convenient in many cases where thermal strain is known, which is particularly useful for the ECTE model because thermal strain in the actuator's axial direction is known from Equation (4) for $T \geq A_s$. Temperature difference evaluation of thermal strain, i.e., by the secant or integral approach, would be necessary only if analysis were required at temperatures less than A_s .

3.3. ABAQUS

ABAQUS is also capable of modeling laminated composite materials with temperature dependent material properties. This capability is available for many element types and solution procedures, so the user is referred to the ABAQUS User's and Reference Manuals. A large variety of solution combinations can be achieved by making use of restart capabilities with the *RESTART option and/or multiple analysis steps (*STEP option) within a single analysis input file. The *SHELL SECTION, COMPOSITE option is used to describe the material and orientation stacking sequence, which refers to corresponding *MATERIAL options. *ELASTIC, *EXPANSION, and *DENSITY options are then associated with each *MATERIAL option to fully prescribe the temperature dependent material properties. ABAQUS accepts thermal expansion data in terms of secant CTE values only and does not support input of thermal strain.

4. EXAMPLE PROBLEMS

The commercial implementations of the ECTE model will now be demonstrated and validated through comparison with a research code for two relatively simple SMAHC structures. The cases to be considered include a beam clamped at each end and a cantilevered beam. The modeling approaches described above will be employed to model the material system of these specimens and static and dynamic structural response will be investigated.

4.1. Clamped SMAHC Beam

Consider a beam specimen with dimensions of $18 \times 1 \times 0.078$ inches ($45.72 \times 2.54 \times 0.1872$ cm) and clamped at both ends. The lamination stacking sequence is $(45/0/-45/90)_{2s}$ with SMA ribbon material replacing a width of 0.45 inches (1.143 cm) of the 0° glass-epoxy layers about the beam centerline, bounded by 0.275 inch (0.6985 cm) wide strips of glass-epoxy on either side. The thickness of each glass-epoxy layer is 0.004875 inches (0.012383 cm) and that for the SMA is 0.006 inches (0.01524 cm). The motivation for this particular geometry and material system is from a previous experimental validation study of the ECTE model as implemented in a research code¹². The finite element mesh used to model the beam specimen consists of 36×4 rectangular elements with two element widths modeling the SMA inclusion, using the SMAHC type 1 approach, and one element width modeling the glass-epoxy strips along the outer edges of the beam. A graphical representation of the beam specimen and finite element mesh is shown in Figure 4. CQUAD4 quadrilateral shell elements were used in MSC.Nastran, S4 quadrilateral shell elements were used in ABAQUS, and rectangular plate elements¹⁴ were used in the research code. The properties used in this study for the glass-epoxy and SMA materials and the property representations in MSC.Nastran and ABAQUS input forms are shown in the Appendix. Examples for definition of the glass-epoxy and SMAHC laminates described here are also given in the Appendix.

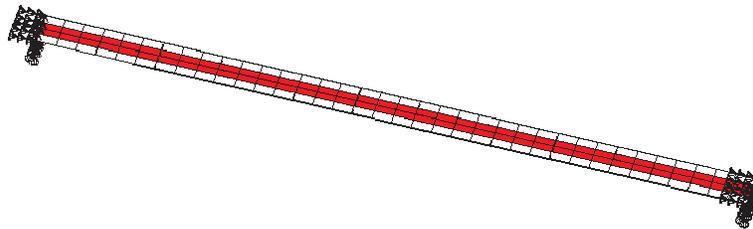


Figure 4: SMAHC beam specimen and finite element mesh.

The physical conditions for this specimen that are to be simulated numerically involve imposing a uniformly distributed thermal load of 250°F (121.1°C) in the presence of the clamped boundary conditions and subjecting the beam to random out-of-plane inertial loading. The inertial loading is characterized by a 0.25g RMS load uniformly distributed over a bandwidth of 0-400 Hz, i.e., band-limited white noise with a spectral level of $23.33 \text{ (in/s}^2\text{)}^2/\text{Hz}$ ($150.51 \text{ (cm/s}^2\text{)}^2/\text{Hz}$). It is clear that the combination of thermal loads and immovable in-plane boundaries presents the opportunity for thermoelastic instability and large thermal post-buckling deflections. Typical numerical approaches for nonlinear static solutions involving stability require some *seeding* of the solution by an initial deflection to prevent numerical ill conditioning. This initial deflection can be constructed in many ways including weighted combinations of buckling eigenvectors, geometric imperfections, and other static deflections due to real or fictitious loads. The approach taken here is that of introducing a static gravity load of $1g$ (386.4 in/s^2 , 9.81 m/s^2), normal to the plane of the beam, in a separate static analysis and using the resulting deflections as geometric imperfections.

The required solutions were achieved within the framework of MSC.Nastran by performing a nonlinear static solution (SOL 106) from ambient temperature to 250°F (121.1°C). Then, linear random analyses were performed at various temperatures using a modal approach incorporating the first 10 modes, a critical damping ratio of 0.5% for all modes, and a frequency resolution of 0.25 Hz. Linear random analysis was accomplished as a variant of frequency response analysis (SOL 111) with the definition of the RANDPS bulk data entry that referred to a frequency dependent spectral load given by a TABRND1 bulk data entry. The imperfections were introduced in the MSC.Nastran nonlinear static and ambient temperature, random input files by physically perturbing the coordinates (i.e., $x+u$, $y+v$, $z+w$) of the GRID bulk data entries defining the nodal locations. Linear random analysis at elevated temperature was accomplished by using a RESTART statement to reuse the database from the previous nonlinear static run and by specifying the specific thermal load increment number with the parameter NMLOOP, i.e., with the bulk data entry PARAM,NMLOOP,#.

A similar analysis sequence was achieved by a slightly different approach in ABAQUS. A single analysis input file was created and several analysis steps were defined to perform the analysis sequentially. The nonlinear static solution was thereby progressed through the desired equilibrium conditions and the random response was determined at those states. The geometric imperfections were introduced in the ABAQUS input file by using the *IMPERFECTION, FILE option to read the data from the gravity analysis results file. All of the linear random response steps were again performed using the modal approach incorporating the first 10 modes, each with 0.5% critical damping ratio, and a frequency resolution of 0.25 Hz.

A comparison of the nonlinear static analysis results from MSC.Nastran, ABAQUS, and the research code is shown in Figure 5, which shows the mid-span out-of-plane deflection as a function of temperature using secant CTE thermal strain calculation. It can be seen that excellent agreement has been achieved between all three implementations of the ECTE model. Analogous results are shown from the integral formulation of the ECTE model in Figure 6, which were only possible to perform in MSC.Nastran and the research code. In this case, thermal strain was taken directly from tabulated data for the axial direction of the SMA (Equation (4)) and calculated by the integral method with tangent CTE data otherwise. It can be seen that the results are essentially equivalent to the secant CTE results and excellent agreement between the codes is again achieved. The results in both figures show that traditional thermoelastic behavior prevails up to a temperature of approximately 100°F (37.8°C), where the SMA actuation authority begins to dominate the stress state. At higher temperatures, the structure is rendered flat, even eliminating the initial imperfection deflections. The stiffening effect dominates over a large temperature range, implying a significant effect on the dynamic response. More detailed descriptions of this complex thermoelastic behavior have been given elsewhere⁵.

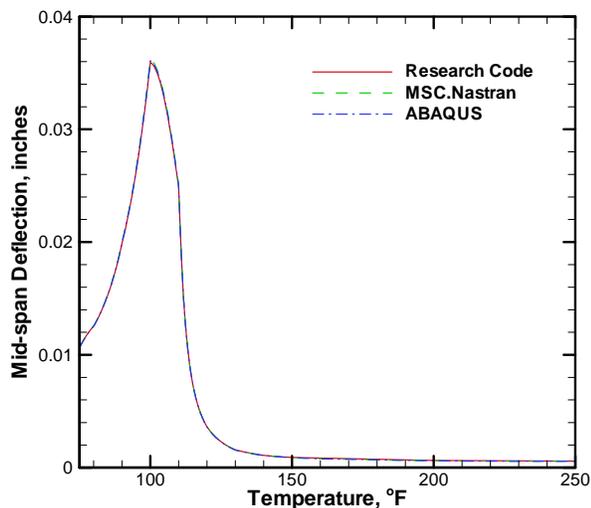


Figure 5: SMAHC beam post-buckling deflection, secant CTE results.

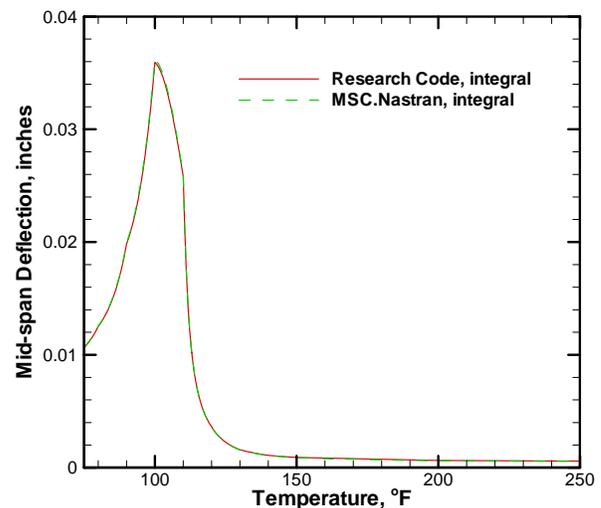


Figure 6: SMAHC beam post-buckling deflection, integral thermal strain results.

Predictions from the three codes for the beam's linear random response at the two temperature extremes are shown in Figure 7 and Figure 8. Again, excellent correlation between the three codes is observed, as expected from the agreement between the nonlinear static analysis results. These results clearly demonstrate the large stiffening effect afforded by the SMA, which results in large shifts in the resonant frequencies and reductions in the dynamic response amplitude. For example, the fundamental frequency and RMS displacement response at 250°F (121.1°C) are 4.37/9.49 times higher/lower than their ambient temperature counterparts.

Similar analyses were conducted on a SMAHC beam specimen of a slightly different material configuration. Consider the same specimen geometry and layer orientations, but with a uniformly distributed mixture of SMA and glass-epoxy in the 0° layers. This configuration is intended to simulate inclusion of small diameter round wire in the composite laminate. In this case, all layers were taken to have a thickness of 0.004875 inches (0.012383 cm). A volume fraction of 55.38% SMA was specified for the 0° layers to render an overall SMA volume fraction equivalent to the previous case. Equations (7) were used with the specified volume fractions and the properties in the Appendix to generate effective

properties for the 0° layers. These SMAHC effective properties were used, along with those for glass-epoxy alone, to construct the laminate properties for the model in Figure 4. Note that all elements in this finite element model share the same SMAHC properties of type 2, in contrast to the previous beam with SMA ribbon. A comparison of the nonlinear static results for this case is shown in Figure 9, where it can be seen that the maximum deflection has increased marginally and similar excellent agreement has been achieved. Similar performance between the two SMAHC material types was achieved intentionally in this case, but the utility of the modeling approach in achieving optimal designs is implied.

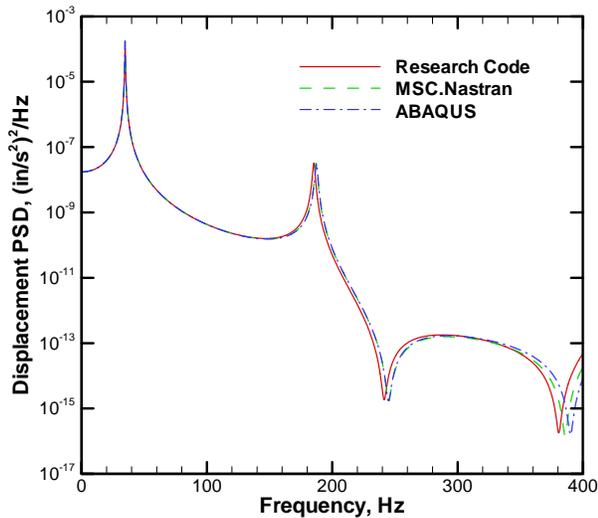


Figure 7: SMAHC beam random inertial response at 75°F (23.9°C).

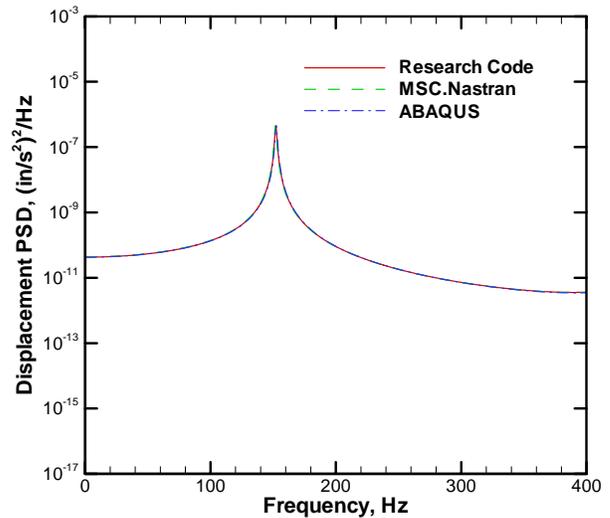


Figure 8: SMAHC beam random inertial response at 250°F (121.1°C).

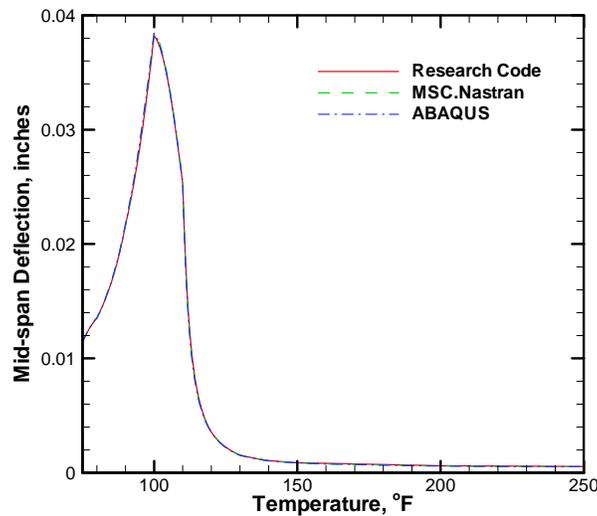


Figure 9: SMAHC beam post-buckling deflection, SMA/host mixture layers.

4.2. Cantilevered SMAHC Beam

Focus will now change to shape/deflection control of a cantilevered SMAHC beam. Consider a cantilevered SMAHC beam with dimensions of 9×1×0.078 inches (22.86×2.54×0.1872 cm), or half of the model in Figure 4. The same stacking sequence (45/0/-45/90)_{2s} was used, but with SMA ribbon material replacing a width of 0.45 inch (1.143 cm) about the beam centerline in *only* the 2nd 0° glass-epoxy layer. Again, the outer 0.275 inch (0.6985 cm) strips of the beam were modeled as glass-epoxy and the thickness of the glass-epoxy and SMA were taken to be 0.004875 inch (0.012383 cm) and 0.006 inch (0.01524 cm), respectively. The model was subjected to a uniformly distributed thermal

load of 250°F (121.1°C) to study the deflection response. No seeding of the deflection was necessary in this case due to the development of the thermal moment. The tip displacement of the beam, as predicted by the MSC.Nastran and ABAQUS, is shown in Figure 10.

A similar comparison is shown in Figure 11 for the analogous case of uniformly distributed SMA throughout the 2nd 0° layer, which was modeled by a 55.38% SMA volume fraction in the SMAHC layer of 0.004875 inch (0.012383 cm) thickness. It can be seen that excellent correlation is achieved between MSC.Nastran and ABAQUS for this case also. The discrepancy between the two results starting at ~180°F (82.2°C) in Figure 10 is apparently attributable to a discontinuity in SMA actuation authority, which is more easily seen in the thermal strain version of the data shown in the Appendix. The reason the effect is so pronounced in this case is not known at this time. Results from the research code are excluded from the deflection control comparisons because the response is beyond the scope of the formulation.

The deflection control example provides an introduction to the concept of shape control of structures by embedded SMA actuation. This topic is currently of significant interest for a variety of advanced aerospace vehicle applications, e.g., see a related publication¹⁵. Note that use of the ECTE model for shape control applications should be limited to cases in which the recovered strain of the SMA actuators is small relative to the prestrain, unless accommodations are made to schedule diminishment of actuation authority.

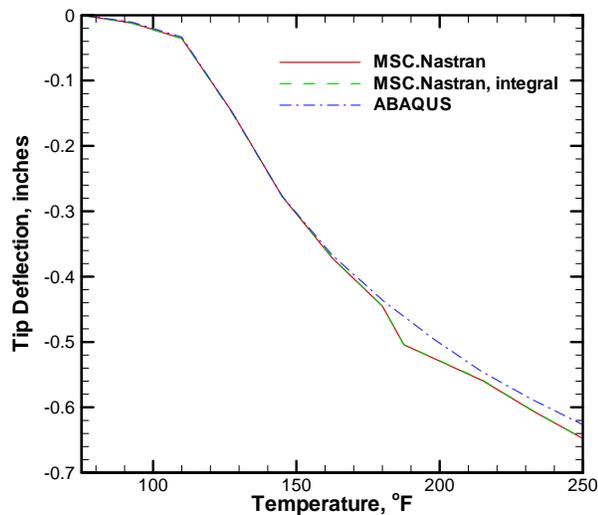


Figure 10: SMAHC cantilever deflection, SMA ribbon layers.

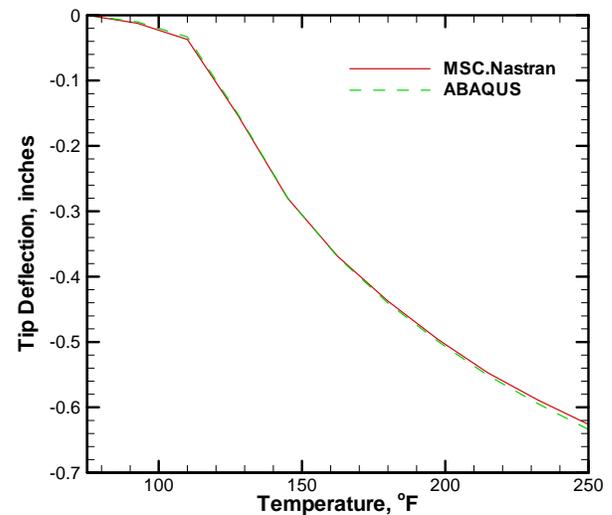


Figure 11: SMAHC cantilever deflection, SMA/host mixture layers.

The SMA and glass-epoxy temperature dependent material properties and the MSC.Nastran/ABAQUS input files used to generate the results presented in this paper are available from <http://stabserv.larc.nasa.gov>.

5. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

A thermomechanical model for shape memory alloy (SMA) and SMA hybrid composite (SMAHC) materials has been implemented in the commercial finite element codes MSC.Nastran and ABAQUS. The model is based upon definition of an effective coefficient of thermal expansion (ECTE). The model can be readily implemented in any code that has capability for structural analysis with temperature dependent material properties. A brief description of the ECTE model was presented for the particular case of laminated SMAHC materials. Methods for modeling two different types of SMAHC laminated materials, corresponding to inclusion of SMA actuators in ribbon and round wire product forms, within commercial codes were described. One method resulted in finite elements with layers composed of either host composite material or SMA material alone. The other method required calculation of effective properties for mixtures of host composite and SMA in the finite element layers. This calculation can be performed automatically in a suitable finite element pre-processor. Alternatively, the effective properties can be calculated externally, e.g., using the formulation presented, from the constituent properties and hand entered into the analysis input files.

Important analysis parameters and their proper use in the commercial codes were described. SMAHC structural analysis was demonstrated on SMAHC beams of two types; a beam clamped at each end and a cantilevered beam. Results from nonlinear static (post-buckling) and random vibration responses of the first specimen type showed excellent correlation between the two commercial implementations and the research code. Complex thermoelastic behavior and the enormous control authority of the SMA actuators were demonstrated. Secant CTE and integral thermal strain formulations were shown to produce equivalent results, as expected. Analysis of the two different SMAHC material configurations showed similar response, and equally good analysis comparison, but parametric studies for optimal design were implied. Analysis of the cantilevered specimen introduced the use of the ECTE model for shape control prediction. Results are presented from analysis with two material configurations. The deflection versus temperature response of the cantilevered beam demonstrated the efficient control authority of the embedded SMA. Excellent correlation was achieved between the two commercial codes. Research code results were excluded from these comparisons because the deformation is beyond the scope of the formulation.

A constitutive model for modeling the thermally induced shape memory effect of SMA actuators and SMAHC structures is commercially available. Sample material properties are available in the Appendix of this document and more comprehensive properties, as well as sample input files for MSC.Nastran and ABAQUS analysis, are available from <http://stabserv.larc.nasa.gov>.

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APPENDIX

Glass-Epoxy and Nitinol Material Properties (in-lbf-s-°F units)

MSC.Nastran Input

\$ Record : SMAHClam
PCOMP,1,,,,,75.,0
,1.,004875,45.,YES,2.,006,0.,YES,
,1.,004875,-45.,YES,1.,004875,90.,YES,
,1.,004875,45.,YES,2.,006,0.,YES,
,1.,004875,-45.,YES,1.,004875,90.,YES,
,1.,004875,90.,YES,1.,004875,-45.,YES,
,2.,006,0.,YES,1.,004875,45.,YES,
,1.,004875,90.,YES,1.,004875,-45.,YES,
,2.,006,0.,YES,1.,004875,45.,YES,
\$ Record : GLEPlam
PCOMP,1,,,,,75.,0
,1.,004875,45.,YES,1.,004875,0.YES,
,1.,004875,-45.,YES,1.,004875,90.,YES,
,1.,004875,45.,YES,1.,004875,0.,YES,
,1.,004875,-45.,YES,1.,004875,90.,YES,
,1.,004875,90.,YES,1.,004875,-45.,YES,
,1.,004875,0.,YES,1.,004875,45.,YES,
,1.,004875,90.,YES,1.,004875,-45.,YES,
,1.,004875,0.,YES,1.,004875,45.,YES,
\$ Glass-epoxy
MAT8,1,0.7150+7,0.2900+7,0.2900+0,0.1400+7,,,0.1900-3,
,0.2928-5,0.6139-5, 75.
MATT8,1,1,2,3,4,
, 5,6
TABLEM1, 1,
, 60.,0.7150+7, 70.,0.7150+7, 80.,0.7150+7, 90.,0.7140+7,
,100.,0.7130+7,110.,0.7120+7,120.,0.7110+7,130.,0.7095+7,
,140.,0.7080+7,150.,0.7070+7,160.,0.7070+7,170.,0.7065+7,
,180.,0.7060+7,190.,0.7055+7,200.,0.7050+7,210.,0.7050+7,
,220.,0.7050+7,230.,0.7045+7,240.,0.7040+7,250.,0.7040+7,
,260.,0.7050+7,270.,0.7055+7,280.,0.7060+7,290.,0.7070+7,
,300.,0.7080+7,310.,0.7080+7, ENDT
TABLEM1, 2,
, 60.,0.2900+7, 70.,0.2900+7, 80.,0.2900+7, 90.,0.2860+7,
,100.,0.2820+7,110.,0.2785+7,120.,0.2750+7,130.,0.2715+7,
,140.,0.2680+7,150.,0.2640+7,160.,0.2580+7,170.,0.2525+7,
,180.,0.2470+7,190.,0.2410+7,200.,0.2350+7,210.,0.2285+7,
,220.,0.2220+7,230.,0.2155+7,240.,0.2090+7,250.,0.2030+7,
,260.,0.1950+7,270.,0.1875+7,280.,0.1800+7,290.,0.1725+7,
,300.,0.1650+7,310.,0.1650+7, ENDT
TABLEM1, 3,
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,100.,0.2900+0,110.,0.2900+0,120.,0.2900+0,130.,0.2900+0,
,140.,0.2900+0,150.,0.2900+0,160.,0.2900+0,170.,0.2900+0,
,180.,0.2900+0,190.,0.2900+0,200.,0.2900+0,210.,0.2900+0,
,220.,0.2900+0,230.,0.2900+0,240.,0.2900+0,250.,0.2900+0,
,260.,0.2900+0,270.,0.2900+0,280.,0.2900+0,290.,0.2900+0,
,300.,0.2900+0,310.,0.2900+0, ENDT
TABLEM1, 4,
, 60.,0.1400+7, 70.,0.1400+7, 80.,0.1400+7, 90.,0.1370+7,
,100.,0.1340+7,110.,0.1315+7,120.,0.1290+7,130.,0.1265+7,
,140.,0.1240+7,150.,0.1220+7,160.,0.1200+7,170.,0.1175+7,
,180.,0.1150+7,190.,0.1125+7,200.,0.1100+7,210.,0.1040+7,
,220.,0.9800+6,230.,0.9250+6,240.,0.8700+6,250.,0.8100+6,
,260.,0.7500+6,270.,0.6850+6,280.,0.6200+6,290.,0.5600+6,
,300.,0.5000+6,310.,0.5000+6, ENDT
TABLEM1, 5,
, 60.,0.2928-5, 70.,0.2985-5, 80.,0.3155-5, 90.,0.3313-5,
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,140.,0.3761-5,150.,0.3771-5,160.,0.3766-5,170.,0.3750-5,
,180.,0.3735-5,190.,0.3716-5,200.,0.3696-5,210.,0.3683-5,
,220.,0.3671-5,230.,0.3670-5,240.,0.3669-5,250.,0.3677-5,
,260.,0.3691-5,270.,0.3708-5,280.,0.3726-5,290.,0.3747-5,
,300.,0.3767-5,310.,0.3767-5, ENDT
TABLEM1, 6,
, 60.,0.6139-5, 70.,0.6417-5, 80.,0.7253-5, 90.,0.8221-5,
,100.,0.9190-5,110.,0.9935-5,120.,0.1068-4,130.,0.1112-4,
,140.,0.1157-4,150.,0.1184-4,160.,0.1202-4,170.,0.1211-4,
,180.,0.1220-4,190.,0.1222-4,200.,0.1224-4,210.,0.1224-4,
,220.,0.1223-4,230.,0.1224-4,240.,0.1225-4,250.,0.1228-4,
,260.,0.1233-4,270.,0.1240-4,280.,0.1247-4,290.,0.1255-4,
,300.,0.1264-4,310.,0.1264-4, ENDT
\$ Nitinol
MAT8,2,0.3940+7,0.3940+7,0.3000+0,0.1515+7,,,0.5349-3,
,0.3670-5,0.3670-5, 75.
MATT8,2,7,7,8,9,
, 10,11
TABLEM1, 7,
, 60.,0.3940+7, 70.,0.3940+7, 80.,0.3597+7, 90.,0.3253+7,
,100.,0.2910+7,110.,0.3728+7,120.,0.4546+7,130.,0.5364+7,
,140.,0.6182+7,150.,0.7000+7,160.,0.7956+7,170.,0.8912+7,
,180.,0.9312+7,190.,0.9156+7,200.,0.9000+7,210.,0.9270+7,
,220.,0.9540+7,230.,0.9810+7,240.,0.1008+8,250.,0.1035+8,
,260.,0.1027+8,270.,0.1020+8,280.,0.1012+8,290.,0.1005+8,
,300.,0.9970+7,310.,0.9970+7, ENDT
TABLEM1, 8,
, 60.,0.3000+0, 70.,0.3000+0, 80.,0.3000+0, 90.,0.3000+0,
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,140.,0.3000+0,150.,0.3000+0,160.,0.3000+0,170.,0.3000+0,
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TABLEM1, 9,
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TABLEM1, 10,
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