University of Zambia School of Engineering Department of Mechanical Engineering

Strength of Materials II

Thick Spherical Shells

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Fig. 4.0: Thick hemispherical shell element

Consider a thick hemispherical shell element of radius *r*, under a compressive radial stress *P*, as shown in Figure 4.0

Let w be the radial deflection at any radius r, so that

Hoop strain(σ_{θ}) = $^{W}/_{r}$ Radial strain(P) = $^{dW}/_{dr}$

From three-dimensional stress-strain relationships,

$$E\frac{w}{r} = \sigma - \nu\sigma + \nu P$$

$$E\frac{dw}{dr} = -P - \nu\sigma - \nu\sigma = -P - 2\nu\sigma$$
4.1
4.2

Multiplying 4.1 by r

$$Ew = \sigma * r - \nu \sigma * r + \nu P * r$$

And differentiating with respect to r

$$E\frac{dw}{dr} = \sigma + r\frac{d\sigma}{dr} - \nu\sigma - \nu r\frac{d\sigma}{dr} + \nu P + \nu r\frac{dP}{dr}$$

Which gives,

$$E\frac{dw}{dr} = (1-\nu)\left(\sigma - r\frac{d\sigma}{dr}\right) + \nu\left(P + r\frac{dP}{dr}\right)$$

Equating 4.2 to 4.3,

4.3

$$P - 2\nu\sigma = (1 - \nu)\left(\sigma - r\frac{d\sigma}{dr}\right) + \nu\left(P + r\frac{dP}{dr}\right)$$

Simplifying, we get

$$(1+\nu)(\sigma+P) + r(1-\nu)\frac{d\sigma}{dr} + \nu r\frac{dP}{dr} = 0$$

$$4.4$$

Considering now the equilibrium of the hemispherical shell element,

$$\sigma * 2\pi r * dr = P * \pi r^2 - (P + dP) * \pi * (r + dr)^2$$
 4.5

Neglecting higher order terms, we get

$$\sigma + P = \left(\frac{-r}{2}\right) \frac{dP}{dr}$$

$$4.6$$

Substituting equation (4.6) into equation (4.4),

$$\left(\frac{-r}{2}\right)\frac{dP}{dr}(1+\nu) + r(1-\nu)\left(\frac{d\sigma}{dr}\right) + \nu r\left(\frac{dP}{dr}\right) = 0$$

$$4.7$$

Simplifying, we get

 $\frac{d\sigma}{dr} - \frac{1}{2}\frac{dP}{dr} = 0$

Integrating, we get

$$\sigma - \frac{P}{2} = A \implies \sigma = A + \frac{P}{2}$$

Substituting equation (4.8) into equation (4.6)

$$A + \frac{P}{2} + P = \left(\frac{-r}{2}\right)\frac{dP}{dr} \qquad \qquad \frac{3P}{2} + A = \left(\frac{-r}{2}\right)\frac{dP}{dr}$$

We get,

$$3P + (r)\frac{dP}{dr} = -2A$$
 $\Rightarrow \frac{d(Pr^3)}{dr} = -2Ar^2$

Integrating,

$$\frac{d(Pr^3)}{dr} = -2Ar^2$$
$$Pr^3 = \frac{-2Ar^3}{3} + B$$
$$P = \frac{B}{r^3} - \frac{2A}{3}$$

4.9

Substituting equation (4.9) into equation (4.8)

$$\sigma = A + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{B}{r^3} - \frac{2A}{3} \right)$$
$$\sigma = A + \left(\frac{1}{2} * \frac{B}{r^3} - \frac{A}{3} \right)$$
$$\therefore \qquad \sigma_\theta = \frac{2A}{3} + \frac{B}{2r^3}$$

4.10

By putting: $a = \frac{2A}{3}$ and b = 8BWe then have the general equations:

$$P = -a + \frac{b}{d^3} \tag{4.11}$$

and

$$\sigma_{\theta} = a + \frac{b}{2d^3} \tag{4.12}$$

If the inside and outside diameters are d_1 and d_2 and the pressures on these surfaces are P_1 and P_2 respectively, we can write Equation (4.11):

$$P_1 = -a + \frac{b}{d_1^3}$$
 and $P_2 = -a + \frac{b}{d_2^3}$

Solving these equations for a and b gives:

$$b = \frac{(P_1 - P_2)d_1^3 d_2^3}{d_2^3 - d_1^3}$$

and

$$a = \frac{b}{d_1^3} - P_1 = \frac{P_1 d_1^3 - P_2 d_2^3}{d_2^3 - d_1^3}$$

Hence, from Equations (4.11) and (4.12);

$$P = \frac{P_2 d_2^3 - P_1 d_1^3}{d_2^3 - d_1^3} + \frac{(P_1 - P_2) d_1^3 d_2^3}{(d_2^3 - d_1^3) d^3}$$
(4.13)

and

$$\sigma_{\theta} = \frac{P_1 d_1^3 - P_2 d_2^3}{(d_2^3 - d_1^3)} + \frac{(P_1 - P_2) d_1^3 d_2^3}{(d_2^3 - d_1^3)^2 d^3}$$
(4.14)

Equations (4.13) and (4.14) are the general equations for thick spherical shells whose inside and outside diameters are d_1 and d_2 and whose pressures on these surfaces are P_1 and P_2 , respectively.

Specific cases are then determined according to specific scenarios.

1. If there is internal pressure only $(P_2 = 0)$: The Equations (4.13) and (4.14) become:

$$P = \frac{P_1 d_1^3}{d_2^3 - d_1^3} \left(\frac{d_2^3}{d^3} - 1 \right)$$
(4.15)

and

$$\sigma_{\theta} = \frac{P_1 d_1^3}{d_2^3 - d_1^3} \left(\frac{d_2^3}{2d^3} + 1 \right) \tag{4.16}$$

The Maximum Stress is the value of σ_{θ} at the inside radius i.e.

$$\sigma_{\theta_{\max}} = \frac{P_1(d_2^3 + 2d_1^3)}{2(d_2^3 - d_1^3)} \tag{4.17}$$

And the maximum Shear Stress, at the inner radius:

$$\tau_{\max} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\sigma_{\theta} + P_1 \right) = \frac{3P_1 d_2^3}{4(d_2^3 - d_1^3)} \tag{4.18}$$

2. If there is external pressure only $(P_1 = 0)$:

This is an unusual situation for thick spherical shells, but the student may easily determine the equations for radial and hoop stresses at any diameter, d, using equations (4.13) and (4.14).



A thick spherical shell of 200mm internal diameter is subjected to an internal fluid pressure of 7N/mm². If the permissible stress in the shell material is 8N/mm², compute the;

- (a) thickness of the shell
- (b) minimum value of the hoop stress
- (c) maximum shear stress

Assignment 2

For a thick spherical shell of internal and external radii r_1 and r_2 , respectively, under external pressure p_0 , find the expressions for the following:

- (a) The radial stress at any radius *r*;
- (b) The circumferential stress at any radius *r*;
- (c) The maximum radial stress and where it occurs;
- (d) The maximum circumferential stress and where it occurs; and
- (e) The maximum shear stress and where it occurs.

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