

Jan Frischkorn

New finite element modelling
techniques for functional materials
and devices

New finite element modelling techniques for functional materials and devices

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Acknowledgement

This document summarizes my work as a research associate at the Institute of Solid Mechanics (ifm) at TU Braunschweig (2006-2009) and the Institute of Applied Mechanics (ifam) at RWTH Aachen (2009-2013), both under the supervision of Prof. Dr.-Ing. Stefanie Reese. I would like to take the opportunity to express my words of gratitude to the persons who accompanied me during this time.

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In spring 2013 I left Aachen to start a new job in the chasis development at Volkswagen AG in Wolfsburg. I thankfully appreciate the support and motivation I recieved from my superiors Dr.-Ing. Thomas Kersten and Dr.-Ing. Georg Ungemach for finishing this thesis.

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Braunschweig, July 2019

Jan Frischkorn

Summary

In this thesis, focus is drawn to the modelling of the mechanical behaviour of two types of products that feature increased functionality. To this end, the finite element method (FEM) is utilized and enhancements of the FEM are presented which enable an improved modelling in order to simulate the mechanical behaviour of the two products of interest.

In the first application, a new hybrid production process regarding the production of large ring-shaped devices that feature a wear-resistant outer layer is proposed. The layer itself is produced from powdery metal matrix composite (MMC) and is applied onto a substrate ring. Before the layer is applied in the conventional process, the substrate ring gets its desired shape by means of radial axial ring rolling, an incremental bulk forming process. In the novel production process, ring rolling and compaction of the layer are combined into one production step. Thereby, current limitations like the maximal producible ring size can be exceeded. For an adequate modelling of the process, a material model is derived that is able to describe the compaction of metal powders. The model features finite strains, isotropic hardening and a so-called sintering stress that allows for a compaction in the absence of external loads. The latter is necessary to model pressureless sintering. An implementation of the model into the finite element code ABAQUS is presented. Finally, the material model is applied within longitudinal and ring rolling simulations of a powder-filled bar and ring, respectively. Based on the results of the longitudinal rolling simulations, first important design guidelines concerning the integration of the powdery layer into the substrate can be deduced. It is shown that the proposed modelling approach yields results in accordance with experimental findings and provides a promising tool to investigate the limitations of the new production process.

The second example of a product with increased functionality is concerned with stents made out of nickel-titanium alloys (Nitinol). Stents are tubular medical devices which are mostly applied to recover the lumen in stenotic arteries or to stabilize aneurysms. Nitinol stents offer a simplified application into the vessel. In contrast to stents made out of stainless steel which need to be expanded by a balloon catheter, Nitinol stents are self-expanding since they can undergo large recoverable strains based on a stress-induced phase transformation. In general, FEM simulations are utilized to guarantee a safe design of stents concerning their durability and to ensure the required opening forces. Due to the filigree structures of stents (beam-like structures with a high number of ramifications), appropriate finite element models feature a large number of degrees of freedom resulting in very long computing times. As a remedy, we present a novel finite element technology which we call solid-beam element. This element consists of an eight-noded hexahedral topology with a strongly modified description of the displacement and strain fields by means of enhanced assumed strain and assumed natural strain concepts as well as reduced integration. The element is able to adequately model beam structures with

trapezoidal cross-sections in an efficient manner by using only one element with respect to the thickness discretization. After an implementation of the novel FE technology into the FE codes FEAP and ABAQUS, the performance of the element is assessed using various benchmark problems from literature. Finally, the proposed finite element technology is successfully applied to the modelling of stent structures including a complete intracranial stent.

Zusammenfassung

Im Mittelpunkt dieser Arbeit steht die Modellierung des mechanischen Verhaltens zweier Produkte, die durch eine erhöhte Funktionalität entscheidende Vorteile bieten. Hierzu wird die Finite-Element-Methode (FEM) angewendet. In diesem Zusammenhang werden notwendige Weiterentwicklungen der FEM vorgestellt, die eine verbesserte Modellierung ermöglichen sollen.

Im ersten Beispiel geht es um die Herstellung großer ringförmiger Bauteile mit einer äußeren Verschleißschuttschicht mittels eines neuen hybriden Produktionsverfahrens. Der Verschleißschutz wird dabei aus einem pulverförmigen Metall-Matrix-Verbundwerkstoff (metal matrix composite – MMC) auf den Substrating aufgebracht. Zuvor erfolgt die Formgebung des Substratinges durch Radial-Axial-Ringwalzen, ein inkrementelles Massivumformverfahren, welches bei erhöhter Temperatur stattfindet. In dem neuen Herstellungsverfahren erfolgt das Walzen des Ringes und das Kompaktieren des Schichtwerkstoffes in einem Prozessschritt. Dadurch können bestehende Grenzen bezüglich der maximal produzierbaren Ringgröße überwunden werden. Zur Modellierung dieses Prozesses wird ein Materialmodell zur Beschreibung von Verdichtungsprozessen in Metallpulvern hergeleitet. Das Modell basiert auf großen Deformationen, berücksichtigt isotrope Verfestigung und eine sogenannte Sinterspannung, die eine Verdichtung ohne Einwirkung einer externen Last ermöglicht. Letztere ist zur Modellierung des drucklosen oder freien Sinterns notwendig. Eine Implementierung des Materialmodells in das kommerzielle FEM-Programm ABAQUS dient zur FEM-Simulation von Längs- und Ringwalzprozessen des hybriden Herstellungsverfahrens. Aus Simulationen des Längswalzprozesses können bereits wichtige Richtlinien zur Gestaltung der Pulverintegration in das Substrat abgeleitet werden. Längs- sowie Ringwalzsimulationen zeigen eine gute Übereinstimmung mit experimentellen Ergebnissen, so dass hiermit ein vielversprechendes Werkzeug zur Verfügung steht um die Grenzen dieses neuen Produktionsverfahrens simulativ zu erfassen.

Das zweite Beispiel für ein Produkt mit erhöhter Funktionalität befasst sich mit Stents aus Nickel-Titan-Legierungen (Nitinol). Stents sind röhrenförmige medizinische Geräte, die weitestgehend dazu verwendet werden um den Blutfluss in, durch Stenose verengten, Blutgefäßen wieder herzustellen oder um Aneurysmen zu stabilisieren. Nitinol-Stents bieten ein vereinfachtes Einsetzen in den menschlichen Körper und haben Vorteile bezüglich der Biokompatibilität. Im Gegensatz zu Stents aus rostfreiem Stahl, welche durch einen Ballonkatheter aufgeweitet werden müssen, sind Nitinol-Stents selbstexpandierend. Verantwortlich hierfür ist eine spannungsinduzierte Phasentransformation im Nitinol, welche sehr große pseudoelastische Deformationen ermöglicht. Allgemein werden mittlerweile FEM-Simulationen dazu genutzt um eine sichere Konstruktion von Stents bezüglich Dauerfestigkeit und Funktionalität zu gewährleisten. Die filigrane Topologie von Stents (balkenförmige Strukturen mit vielen Verästelungen) bedingt jedoch FEM-Modelle mit einer

hohen Anzahl an Freiheitsgraden, was zu sehr langen Rechenzeiten führt. Die in dieser Arbeit vorgestellte 'solid-beam' Finite-Elemente-Technologie (FET) kann eine Verbesserung hinsichtlich dieser Problematik leisten. Diese Technologie basiert auf einer achtknotigen Hexaedertopologie mit einer stark modifizierten Beschreibung der Verschiebungs- und Dehnungsfelder auf Basis der Konzepte 'Enhanced Assumed Strains' und 'Assumed Natural Strains' sowie reduzierter Integration. Somit ist eine adäquate Modellierung von Balken trapezförmiger Querschnitte bereits mit einem Element in Dickenrichtung möglich. Die Leistungsfähigkeit der neuen Elementformulierung wird anhand zahlreicher Beispiele aus der Literatur gezeigt und dabei mit herkömmlichen Balkenformulierungen verglichen. Hierzu wird die neue FET in die Finite-Elemente-Programme FEAP und ABAQUS integriert. Abschließend wird gezeigt, dass die neue FET bei der Modellierung von Nitinol-Stents entscheidende Vorteile gegenüber der Verwendung herkömmlicher 'Solid'-Elemente bietet. Dies wird abschließend anhand eines Faltvorganges eines kompletten intrakraniellen Stents demonstriert.

Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Motivation	1
1.2	Focus of the thesis	2
1.3	Relevance of the presented work	2
1.3.1	Simulation methods for process-integrated powder coating	3
1.3.2	Simulation of Nitinol stents	4
1.4	Outline of the thesis	5
2	Functional materials and devices – Two exemplary applications	7
2.1	Process-integrated powder coating by radial axial rolling of rings	7
2.1.1	Material concepts facing abrasive wear	7
2.1.2	Radial-axial ring rolling	8
2.1.3	The conventional production process	9
2.1.4	A new hybrid production process	11
2.1.5	Materials of choice	13
2.2	Nitinol stents	13
2.2.1	Cardiovascular disease	13
2.2.2	Treatment of CVD – Stenting	16
2.2.3	Stent types	18
3	Material modelling	19
3.1	Material model for sintering and compaction of metal powder	19
3.1.1	Introduction	19
3.1.2	Finite deformation	20
3.1.3	Continuum approach for a porous solid	20
3.1.4	Thermodynamically consistent material model	23
3.1.5	Thermo-mechanical coupling	27
3.1.6	Numerical implementation	28
3.1.7	Model validation and parameter identification	33
3.1.7.1	Evolving yield surface with respect to the relative density	33
3.1.7.2	Closed-die experiment and convergence at the quadrature point level	37
3.2	Review of a material model that covers the pseudoelastic behaviour of Nitinol	45
3.2.1	Rheological model	45
3.2.2	Three-dimensional model at finite strains	46
3.3	Consistent tangent operators	48
3.3.1	General considerations	48

3.3.2	Concretization for material models based on isotropic evolution equations defined in principle axes	52
4	A solid-beam finite element for small and large deformations	57
4.1	Introduction	57
4.1.1	Large deformation beam finite elements	57
4.1.2	Solid-shell concepts	59
4.1.3	Outline	60
4.2	Kinematics	60
4.3	Mixed Variational Formulation	61
4.4	Interpolation	63
4.5	Modification of the standard interpolation	65
4.5.1	ANS-modified compatible strain field	67
4.5.2	Enhanced strain field	69
4.6	Discretized Weak Form and Static Condensation	70
4.7	Reduced Integration Concept	73
4.7.1	Taylor expansion of the Cartesian Green-Lagrange strain	74
4.7.2	Taylor expansion of second Piola-Kirchhoff stress	75
4.7.3	Analytical integration of Hourglass parts	76
4.8	Differences to the solid-shell element Q1STs	76
4.9	Numerical Examples	77
4.9.1	Geometrically linear problems	77
4.9.1.1	Constant stress patch test	77
4.9.1.2	Mesh distortion sensitivity	79
4.9.2	Geometrically non-linear problems	79
4.9.2.1	Straight elastic cantilever beam under shear- and pure bending	79
4.9.2.2	45°-arc elastic cantilever beam	84
4.9.2.3	I-shaped slotted circular ring	86
4.9.2.4	Quasi-incompressible problems	88
4.9.2.5	Elasto-plastic cantilever beam under shear bending	91
4.9.2.6	Elasto-plastic right angle bend	92
4.9.2.7	Haunched beam	95
4.10	Conclusion	98
5	Finite element simulations of the process-integrated powder coating	103
5.1	Introduction	103
5.2	Compaction analysis by means of a compound ring's section	104
5.3	Process-integrated powder coating by longitudinal rolling of a bar	104
5.4	Process-integrated powder coating by radial axial rolling of a ring	111
5.5	Conclusion	115

6	Finite element analysis of Nitinol stents	119
6.1	Introduction	119
6.2	Examples	120
6.2.1	Stent strut	121
6.2.1.1	Thick strut	121
6.2.1.2	Thin strut	126
6.2.1.3	Torsion of a straight strut	128
6.2.2	Intracranial Nitinol stent	130
6.3	Conclusion	136
7	Summary & Conclusion	139
7.1	Process-integrated powder coating by radial axial rolling of rings	139
7.2	Finite element modelling of NTINOL stents by means of the solid-beam element technology	140
A	Solid-beam finite element	141
A.1	Derivation of the consistent deformation gradient	141
A.2	Covariant Green-Lagrange strain coefficients	141
A.2.1	In-plane parts	142
A.2.2	Out-of-plane parts	143
A.3	Covariant polynomial coefficient matrices of the B-operator	144
A.3.1	In-plane parts	144
A.3.2	Out-of-plane parts	146
A.4	Covariant polynomial coefficient matrices of the third order B-operator	146
A.4.1	In-plane parts	147
A.4.2	Out-of-plane parts	148
	List of Figures	151
	List of Tables	157
	Bibliography	159