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Alexander Kolpakov

# Thin-Walled Structures with Initial Stresses

Multiscale Analysis of Classical and  
Non-Classical Problems

 Springer

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Alexander Kolpakov  
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# Preface

Published 20 years ago, book *Stressed Composite Structures: Homogenized Models for Thin-Walled Heterogeneous Structures with Initial Stresses* by Kolpakov has presented a method for deriving models of thin-walled structures (plates, membranes, beams, strings) with initial stresses directly from three-dimensional of elasticity theory problem. The method developed in the book was based on the observation that for a body with initial stresses, the equations relating additional stresses and additional strains are similar to Hooke's law, but the coefficients of the equations do not possess all symmetries of the elastic constants. In thin and small diameter regions, this loss of the symmetries leads to the appearance in the limit equations the terms known in the classical theories of thin-walled structures as "additional transverse forces" or "additional moments" (Timoshenko 1961, 1983).

Over the last 20 years, the method proposed in the above book has been tested and applied to new problems of bodies and structures with initial stresses. Generalization and organization of new results has led to the appearance of the present book.

The author includes in the book the chapters devoted to uniform plates (flat plates made of homogeneous material) and uniform beams (cylindrical beams made of homogeneous material) with initial stresses. This is done in order to demonstrate the origin of the "additional transverse forces" in the asymptotic theory in its "pure" form, without regard to the inhomogeneity of the structural elements. These chapters present an alternative method to deriving the classical stability equations for uniform plates and beams.

The author includes chapters about structural elements with initial stresses greater than usually considered in classical theories (such stresses arise, for example, as a result of thermal heating). Also, the local stresses are written for all the considered cases.

As a result, this book, in couple with the book mentioned above, covers all ranges of the resulting initial stresses in plates and beams. Recall that three ranges of resulting initial stresses are distinguished: stresses corresponding to axial or in-plane forces, stresses corresponding to moments, and stresses of the order of elastic constants.

Typically, engineering structures consist of structural elements of various types, assembled into a unit by using connections (joints). Thus, analyzing a structure,

one needs (1) to take into account the properties and characteristics of structural elements, and (2) to take into account the properties and structure of joints. It is obvious that the stress-strain state in the joints differs from the stress-strain state in the joined elements. However, the local stress-strain state in a joint is determined by that of all the structure. The classical structural mechanics, see, e.g., Hibbeler (2008), Ventsel and Krauthammer (2001), Washizu (1992) ignores specific properties of joints, operating by abstract notions of supports and connections. More precisely, the problems of computation of the local stress-strain states in joints and in the joined structural elements are quite freely divided between such disciplines as “Structural mechanics” (Hulse and Cain 1991) and “Mechanics of joints (connections, fasteners)” (Blake 1985; Norton 2008; Hudgins and James 2014). Currently, intensive research is being conducted to develop integrated approach(s) to calculating structural elements and connections (joints), see, e.g., Ciarlet (1990), Zhikov (2002), Zhikov and Pastukhova (2003), Gaudiello and Kolpakov (2011), Kolpakov (2011). This book treats the structural elements.

As it was noted, the theory of thin-walled heterogeneous elastic structures with initial stresses can be constructed on the basis of the observation of the loss of symmetry in the linearized model of an elastic body with initial stresses (Washizu 1992) and the application of two-scale expansion method (Sanchez-Palencia 2000). The beginning chapter of the book contains the condensed exposition of these theories. A more detailed exposition of the general theory of elastic bodies with initial stresses can be found in the book by Washizu “Variational Methods in the Theory of Elasticity and Plasticity” (Washizu 1992) and expositions of the homogenization method can be found in the book by Sanchez-Palencia “Non-Homogeneous Media and Vibration Theory” (Sanchez-Palencia 2000). The author also recommends books (Bakhvalov and Panasenko 1989; Bensoussan et al. 1978; Cioranescu and Donato 2000; Panasenko 2005; Trabucho and Viano 1996) as referenced books on the mathematical foundations of the homogenization method and books (Andrianov et al. 2004; Andrianov and Awrejcewicz 20024; Kalamkarov and Kolpakov 1997; Kolpakov 2004; Lewinski 2000; Mityushev 1997) as referenced books on the application of the homogenization method to the engineering problems. This list is not exhaustive, other works are mentioned in the text of the book, see also the bibliography.

The structure of the book is the following.

In Chap. 1, the aims and objectives of the book are discussed, in particular, the historical background of the problems of thin-walled structural elements with initial stresses is presented in condensed form.

Chapter 2 contains examples of thin-walled structural elements in which initial stresses are significantly used and/or manifested.

In Chap. 3, we briefly present the procedures of homogenization theory that are directly used in this book.

In Chap. 4, we discuss the elastic composite body model with initial stresses, which will be used as a first-principles model throughout the book.

In Chap. 5, we make a transition from the three-dimensional elasticity theory problem to the corresponding two-dimensional problem for uniform plates (plates of

constant thickness made of homogeneous material) with initial stresses. We consider the problems corresponding to in-plane resultant initial forces and moments of initial forces.

In Chap. 6, we consider plates of periodic structure with initial stresses. We consider the case corresponding to in-plane resultant initial forces.

In Chap. 7, we make a transition from the three-dimensional elasticity theory problem with initial stresses in a thin layer to the two-dimensional problem in the case when the initial stresses are of the same order as the elastic constants of the material of the plate. Although the initial stresses are of the same order as the elastic constants, they are small compared with the elastic constants in absolute value. Using this fact, we construct the first-order (linear) correctors in the problem under consideration.

In Chap. 8, we consider uniform beams with initial stresses, which are traditional and widely used structural elements.

In Chap. 9, we consider non-uniform beams of arbitrary periodic structure with initial stresses corresponding to axial resultant forces. We consider the case corresponding to the axial resultant initial force.

In Chap. 10, we make a transition from the three-dimensional problem of elasticity theory with initial stresses in a small-diameter body to a problem of beam theory when the initial stresses are of the same order as the elastic constants of the material from which the beam is made.

In Chap. 11, we compare the hypothesis of the classical theories of plates and beams with the terms of the asymptotic expansions obtained using the two-scale method and the homogenization method.

The “References” section contains a list of sources used in the book. Although this list includes over 300 references, it is far from exhaustive of the literature on thin-walled structures and homogenization.

The author thanks Prof. Dr. Sci. I. V. Andrianov (RWTH Aachen) for reading the manuscript and providing valuable comments, and Prof. Dr. Sci. V. V. Mityushev (Cracow University of Technology) for insightful discussions on random composites.

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2025

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction



The mechanics of structures with initial stresses is a traditional part of structural mechanics. It is closely related to the problem of stability (buckling) of structures and structural elements. Note that the theory of stability of beams arose earlier than the theory of elastic bodies with initial stresses. The basic concepts of elastic stability of structures go back to works by Euler (1759) (beams) and Bryan (1891, 1888) (plates). Later, Hill (1958), Marguerre (1938), Prager (1947), Timoshenko and Goodier (1951), Trefftz (1930), Washizu (1992), and other researchers demonstrated that the problem of deformation of solids with initial stresses is related to variational principles and nonlinear problems in elasticity.

The engineering analysis of stability (buckling) problems for thin plates and beams with initial stresses is based on the computation of additional normal force arising as a result of additional deformation of stressed structural element. An alternative approach is based on the computation of work of initial stresses on the additional displacements (Amabili 2008; Ventsel and Krauthammer 2001).

In the 1950s, composite materials began to be widely used in engineering, especially in aeronautics and spacecraft. It quickly became apparent that traditional computations and design methods developed for homogeneous materials and uniform structures were not applicable to composite structural elements. This initiated intensive research in the field of composite material and structure theory (Broutman and Krock 1974; Kelly and Rabotnov 1988), in particular, research on the buckling of composite structures (Boscolo et al. 2013; Zhang et al. 2024; Ghorbani et al. 2024; Turvey and Marshall 2012; Miller et al. 2011; Lopez Jimenez and Triantafyllidis 2013). This research continues to this day. The main directions of the research are the theory of stability of complex/nonhomogeneous thin-walled structures (Kesavan 1979; Ciarlet and Kesavan 1981; Mignot et al. 1980; Wang and Abdalla 2002; Marcal and Yamagata 2016), design of materials and structures possessing required properties (Alaire 2002; Bendsøe and Sigmund 2004; Haug et al. 1986; Kolpakov and Rakin 1986; Foraboschi 2013): (in particular, unusual properties: negative Poisson's ratio Almgren 1985; Kolpakov 1985; Lakes 1987; Novikov and Wojciechowski

1999, negative thermal expansions Kolpakov and Rakin 1986; Lakes 1996; Miller et al. 2009; Kelly et al. 2005, etc.), vibration of complex structures (Kaplunov et al. 2002; Kolpakov 2001, 2005; Pichugin and Rodgerson 2004; Wozniak et al. 2004). The lists of the problems and the references are not exhausting. Additional references may be found in the cited literature.

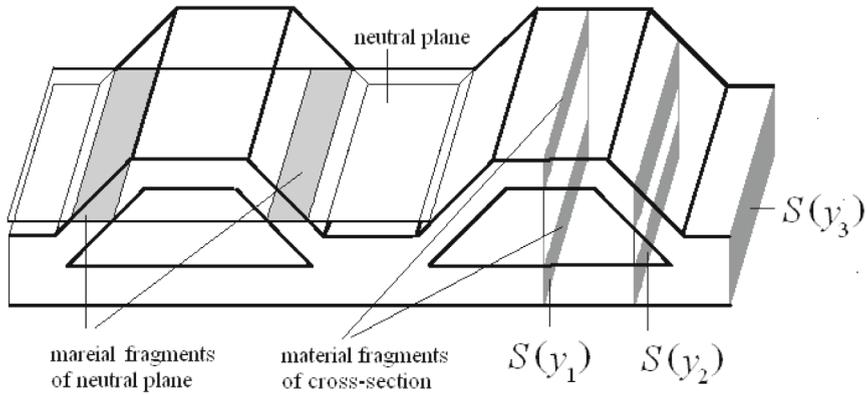
This book is devoted to a particular problem—the construction of the low-dimensional and homogenized models of elastic composite thin-walled structural elements with initial stresses. The analysis is carried out in the framework of a linear (linearized Washizu 1992) approach. Both uniform and nonhomogeneous plates and beams are considered in the book.

No doubt, there are many interesting and important problems outside the frame of our consideration, for example, a local loss of stability (Li et al. 2015; Sun et al. 2023) or substantially non-linear problems of loss of stability (Chakraborty et al. 2024a, b; Lal and Markad 2021; Hu et al. 2021; Goriely et al. 2008; Machado 2008).

Historically, the basic concepts of structural mechanics were developed for uniform structural elements: flat plates, beams and membranes, cylindrical beams and strings, etc. made of homogeneous materials. When dealing with composite plates and beams or structural elements of complex geometry (such as ribbed plates or lattice masts), one finds that many concepts of classical theory cannot be transferred to the mechanics of heterogeneous structure. To illustrate this point, we discuss the following two concepts of classical theory.

1. *Cross-section*. The notion of cross-section plays a important role in the classical theory of beams and plates. In particular, the classical notions of the resultant forces and moments in a plate or beam assume the integration over cross-section. In an inhomogeneous plate/beam, the geometry and/or material characteristics of the cross-section change from one to another adjacent section, see Fig. 1.1. In Fig. 1.1, three cross-sections:  $S(y_1)$ ,  $S(y_2)$ , and  $S(y_3)$  of a plate of a complex structure are displayed. These cross-sections are very different. This example demonstrated that we are usually unable to introduce either a standard cross-section or a representative section for plates or beams of complex geometry.
2. *Neutral plane (axis)*. Considering a non-flat plate, we have two possibilities to introduce neutral surfaces. The first is to introduce a neutral plane as the median surface of the actual plate. In this case, the neutral plane may be a curved surface. With respect to this curved neutral surface, one can write the formulas of the classical theory. Note that this procedure is not possible for an arbitrary plate. For example, it is possible for a simple corrugated plate, but it is impossible for the plate displayed in Fig. 1.1, which consists of a corrugated plate connected with a carrier plane. An alternative way is to introduce a flat neutral plane for the plate as a whole. It may happen that a large part of such neutral plane will be located outside the physical plate, as shown in Fig. 1.1. In addition, it will be necessary to predict the position of the neutral plane. It is not easy to do for the plate displayed in Fig. 1.1.

As a result, we arrive at the conclusion that it would be useful to have a theory of thin-walled inhomogeneous structures developed on the basis of three-dimensional



**Fig. 1.1** A complex geometry plate

elasticity theory with no simplifying assumptions (in particular, with no a priori hypothesis). The need for such a theory was noted not only in connection with problems of stability, but also in connection with other problems with thin-walled structures, see e.g., Ball (2002), Ciarlet (1990), Kalamkarov (1992), Kaplunov et al. (1998), Smirnov and Tovstik (2001).

The first problem one encounters when analyzing a composite plate or a plate of complex structure is the problem of approximating such a plate with a suitable homogeneous plate. The reason for searching for an approximation is that a composite plate is formed from many constituent elements. A direct solution for many elements is impossible even on a modern computer. For example, the number of simple (basic) elements that form a plate with a honeycomb core varies from  $10^4$  to  $10^6$ . Solving a problem of joint deformation of so many elements is difficult (often impossible) even with a modern computer. Direct numerical analysis of large systems may not give us an exact solution, even if we use a powerful computer. For example, numerical analysis of the strength of a composite in the key paper (Babūshka et al. 1999) did not detect the energy localization effect between the closely placed particles (Kolpakov 2007; Kolpakov and Kolpakov 2007, 2010). It was because the finite elements mesh was regular and not condensed in the necks between closely placed particles. Obviously, one could have made the mesh finer in the necks if one had known about the (at that time unknown) localization effect. Note that the localization effect was discovered later numerically (Kolpakov 2007; Rakin 2014).

Returning to the two examples above, we can indicate the way of resolution to the problems by using the homogenization theory (the justifications and details of solutions will be presented below, see also Kolpakov 2004).

1. *Cross-section.* The resultant forces and moments in the plate or beam are determined by integration over the three-dimensional periodicity cell or representative cell of the plate or beam. In this case, the mechanical concept of a cross-section is absent altogether. It does not lead to a contradiction with classical theory

because for uniform (classical) plate the periodicity cell is cylinder with the base coinciding with the cross-section.

2. *Neutral plane/axis*. It was demonstrated (Kolpakov 2004) that there exist the “invariant” forms of the plate/beam model which do not depend (have the same form) on translation of the coordinate system in the direction normal to the plate plane or beam axis.

If we decide that it would be useful to have a theory of fine heterogeneous structures developed on the basis of three-dimensional elasticity theory without any a priori hypotheses, we are faced with the question:

- (1) what can be adopted as the first-principles model(s) and
- (2) what methods can be used to investigate the adopted model(s) to achieve the goal.

The author takes the linearized model of an elastic body with initial stresses (Washizu 1992) as the starting (the first principle) model. A weighty argument for this choice is that all classical models of structural elements subjected to initial stresses: composite solids, plates and membranes, beams and strings; can be derived from that model (it was done in Kolpakov 2004). All the derived models coincide in form with the corresponding engineering models, when the corresponding engineering model exists.

The author considers the asymptotic homogenization method as suitable for solving the second problem. The possibility of examining a homogeneous solid instead of examining the original inhomogeneous composite solid, was one of the principal results of the mathematical theory of homogenization, see Bensoussan et al. (1978), Oleinik et al. (1962), Jikov et al. (1994). Now, the asymptotic method is successfully applied to many problems in the theory of composite materials and complex structures. The advantage of asymptotic homogenization is that it uses three-dimensional elasticity models as the starting point, analyzes these models without any simplified hypothesis, and it can be applied to all types of structural elements: solids, plates, rods (see Caillerie 1984; Trabucho and Viano 1996; Kolpakov 1991). On the basis of the homogenization theory, engineering methods for analysis of composite materials and structures were developed, see, e.g., Annin et al. (1990), Kalamkarov (1992), Kalamkarov and Kolpakov (1997), Oskay and Pal (2010). The homogenization theory does not assume a direct full-size solution to the original problem. In the homogenization theory, it is sufficient to solve so-called periodicity cell problems (or local perturbation problems Gaudiello and Kolpakov 2011; Kolpakov 2011, if joints are considered).

It should be noted that the linearized elasticity problem, in the form as it was formulated in Washizu (1992) was used as a starting point for the analysis of bodies subjected to initial stresses, including the problem of the stability theory, for a long time (Timoshenko 1961; Biot 1939; Green et al. 1952; Machado and Cortinez 2007). The disadvantage of earlier approaches was that the linearized elasticity model was used in the couple with the Kirchhoff-Love hypothesis. Note that most works based at the linearized elasticity model (Washizu 1992) were devoted to volumetric bodies, see e.g., Guz (1999), Guz (1986), Pan'kov (2022).

In spite of the contradiction in the Kirchhoff-Love hypothesis (the main one of which is that the thickness of the plate does not change during deformation despite the Poisson effect Timoshenko and Woinowsky-Krieger 1959) they provide us with two-dimensional models, which are confirmed by centuries of engineering practice. A similar situation takes place for Euler-Bernoulli beam model. One meets here the situations where contradictory hypotheses lead to the correct final results. Note, that the fact that a wrong premise can lead to correct results is well-known from the course of logic (Walicki 2011). It is also known from a logic course that the incorrect premise can lead to both the correct and the incorrect result. Therefore, the argument “the theory contains contradictions, but it works”, generally, cannot be accepted.

Once one wants to develop a consistent theory of thin-walled structures, the solution comes from the use of asymptotic methods. An early example of the application of asymptotic methods to problems with no initial stresses are the papers (Gol'denveizer 1961, 1962, 1963) devoted to the “asymptotic integration of the equations of the theory of elasticity”. An early example of the application of asymptotic methods to the problem with initial stress is the paper (Alekseev 2002). In Alekseev (2002), an expansion in the Legendre series was used. The proposal to use a power series for the same purpose was expressed in Washizu (1992). The mentioned above approaches have a significant limitation, they are suitable for homogeneous plates of constant thickness, but not for non-homogeneous plates. Note that the use of asymptotic methods in engineering was, if not blocked, then restricted. There were weighty reasons for this restriction. On the one hand, conflicting hypotheses of Kirchhoff-Love, still lead to correct results for uniform plates. On the other hand, asymptotic methods are beyond the standard courses of mathematics for engineers. The problem became actual when the use of composite plates and plates of complex structure was started.

Historically, the first works in which a rigorous model of composite plate was derived from a three-dimensional elasticity theory problem by using a modification of the homogenization method were (Caillerie 1982, 1984). They were followed by works by other authors, see, e.g., Babūshka and Li (1991), Destuynder (1981), Mielke (1995), Nazarov (2002). Note that the computations based on the asymptotic homogenization method were more compact and rigorous rather than the “asymptotic integration” computations. It is because the asymptotic homogenization method uses the methods of functional analysis and modern methods of partial differential equations (Bensoussan et al. 1978; Duvaut 1976; Jikov et al. 1994).

For plates with initial stresses, the homogenization method was used for the first time for the analysis of two-dimensional models (Kolpakov 1987; Mignot et al. 1980). The results of these studies are valid if the characteristic dimension of inhomogeneities is large as compared to the thickness of the plate. This condition is not fulfilled for many structures used in practice, for example, for lattice plates (Pshenichnov 1993) or perforated plates (Andrianov et al. 1995), but not for plates made of composite materials or plates with rapidly varying thickness. In the last cases, the three-dimensional elasticity problem should be taken as the original model.

Analysis of the inhomogeneous thin-walled structural elements subjected to initial stresses on the basis of the asymptotic homogenization method as applied to a

three-dimensional elasticity theory problem started in 1990s. In Kolpakov (1992), Kolpakov (2001), asymptotic analysis was applied to three-dimensional composite solids of small diameter with initial stresses, and a one-dimensional model for an inhomogeneous beam with initial stresses was obtained. In Kolpakov (1995), Kolpakov and Sheremet (2004), the homogenization method was applied to a body of small thickness, and a two-dimensional model for an inhomogeneous plate with initial stresses was obtained. In Kolpakov and Sheremet (1997) two-dimensional membrane model and one-dimensional string model were derived from a three-dimensional elasticity theory problem. The results of the mentioned investigations corresponding to the classical thin-walled structures were summarized in Kolpakov (2004).

The new approach to inhomogeneous structures subjected to initial stresses leads to some significant changes in the concepts of thin-walled structures.

It should be noted that the analysis of problems in the mechanics of composites using the homogenization method requires knowledge of mathematics beyond what is typically covered in traditional textbooks on structural mechanics and the strength of materials. While the level of mathematics used in the book does not exceed the level of modern university mathematics courses, the reading of the book may require some mathematical efforts from an engineer. As a generous reward for some mathematical effort, the reader will gain access to a thorough theory of composite materials and structures with initial stresses. The examples given in the book will show readers that the behavior of composite materials and structures is not always similar to that of homogeneous materials and structures. However, the book also demonstrates that for homogeneous materials and structures, an approach based on homogenization theory leads to classical models. In addition to the fact that homogenization is a mathematically rigorous method, this will give the reader another reason to trust the methods and models presented in the book.

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