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NONLINEAR WAVES IN HOMOGENEOUS AND HETEROGENEOUS ELASTIC SOLIDS

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Abstract.—The method of multiple scales is used to determine second-order uniform expansions for the displacements describing nonlinear plane waves propagating into an elastic half space. The material properties may be homogeneous or they may vary slowly in the direction of propagation. A discussion is presented for the interaction between dilatational and shear waves as well as the interaction between the nonlinearity and the heterogeneity. The present results and method of solution are compared with those obtained earlier for homogeneous and slightly heterogeneous media by using the analytic method of characteristics.

1. Introduction.—The method of multiple scales /1/ is used to analyse the propagation of finite-amplitude longitudinal and shear waves in a half space whose material properties vary slowly with position. The material constitutive relations are assumed to be elastic but nonlinear. For a comprehensive review of nonlinear propagation in heterogeneous materials, we refer the reader to Nayfeh and Mook /2/.

The problem of finite-amplitude longitudinal and shear waves propagating in a homogeneous isotropic half space was studied by Davison /3/. He obtained a second-order uniform expansion by using the analytic method of characteristics /4,1/. Nayfeh /1/ extended Davison’s work to the case of anisotropic materials, while Nair and Nemat-Nasser /5/ extended Davison’s work by including the effect of a small heterogeneity.

The purpose of the present paper is to analyze the propagation of finite-amplitude longitudinal and shear waves in a heterogeneous half space, whose material properties vary slowly with position but the heterogeneity need not be small. The analysis is carried out by using the method of multiple scales rather than the analytic method of characteristics; it is not clear yet how the latter method can be applied to this problem.

2. Problem Formulation.—We consider the propagation of plane longitudinal and shear waves in heterogeneous, nonlinear elastic solids. We introduce dimensionless quantities by using a reference length \( x_r \), a reference wave speed \( c_r \), and a reference density \( \rho_r \). If \((x,y)\) and \((X,Y)\) denote the positions of a particle in the undeformed and deformed states, respectively, and \((u,v)\) denote the displacements of this particle, then

\[
X = x + u(x,t) \quad \text{and} \quad Y = y + v(x,t)
\]

where the deformation is assumed to depend on \( x \) only. The equations governing the deformation are statements of the conservation of mass and linear momentum; that is,

\[
\rho \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \rho \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} = 0
\]

where \( \rho \) is the density of the medium in the undeformed state and \( \sigma \) and \( \tau \) are the longitudinal and shear stresses. In what follows, we assume that they are analytic functions of the strains \( u_x \) and \( v_x \), so that they can be expanded in Taylor series as

\[
\sigma = \rho e (c^2 p_x + 1 a u^2 + a u v_x + \frac{1}{2} a v^2 + \ldots)
\]
\[ \tau = \alpha \varepsilon^2 v_x^2 + \frac{1}{2} b_1 u_x^2 + b_2 u_x v_x + \frac{1}{2} b_1 v_x^2 + \ldots \] (5)

where \( c_p \) and \( c_s \) are the linear longitudinal and shear wave speeds. In what follows, we assume that the properties of the medium vary slowly with \( x \) so that we can consider \( \alpha, c_p, c_s, a_1, b_1 \) to be functions of a long scale \( x_1 = \varepsilon x \), where \( \varepsilon \) is a small but finite dimensionless quantity.

To complete the problem formulation, we need to specify the initial and boundary conditions. In this study, we consider the so-called signalling problem; that is,

\[ P(x,0) = Q(x,0) = R(x,0) = S(x,0) = 0 \quad \text{for } x > 0 \]

\[ P(0,t) = c \phi(t), \quad Q(0,t) = c \psi(t) \quad \text{for } t > 0 \] (6)

where

\[ P = u_x, \quad Q = v_x, \quad R = u_t, \quad S = v_t \] (7)

so that

\[ R_x - P_t = 0, \quad S_x - Q_t = 0 \] (8)

3. Approximate Solution.- We note that the initial conditions are taken to be small to enable us to determine a solution for small but finite amplitude waves. Following the method of multiple scales /1/, we let

\[ P = \varepsilon P_1(s_1, s_2, x_1) + \varepsilon^2 P_2(s_1, s_2, x_1) + \ldots \] (9)

\[ Q = \varepsilon Q_1(s_1, s_2, x_1) + \varepsilon^2 Q_2(s_1, s_2, x_1) + \ldots \] (10)

\[ R = \varepsilon R_1(s_1, s_2, x_1) + \varepsilon^2 R_2(s_1, s_2, x_1) + \ldots \] (11)

\[ S = \varepsilon S_1(s_1, s_2, x_1) + \varepsilon^2 S_2(s_1, s_2, x_1) + \ldots \] (12)

where

\[ s_1 = t - \int \frac{dx}{c_p}, \quad s_2 = t - \int \frac{dx}{c_s} \] (13)

are the linear characteristics for right-running waves.

Substituting equations (9) - (13) into equations (3) - (5) and (8), using equation (7), and equating the coefficients of \( \varepsilon \) on both sides, we obtain

\[ \frac{\partial R_1}{\partial s_1} + \frac{\partial R_1}{\partial s_2} + \frac{\partial P_1}{\partial s_1} + \frac{\partial P_1}{\partial s_2} = L_1(P_1, R_1) = 0 \] (14)

\[ \frac{1}{c_p} \frac{\partial R_1}{\partial s_1} + \frac{1}{c_s} \frac{\partial R_1}{\partial s_2} + \frac{\partial P_1}{\partial s_1} + \frac{\partial P_1}{\partial s_2} = L_2(P_1, R_1) = 0 \] (15)

\[ \frac{\partial S_1}{\partial s_1} + \frac{\partial S_1}{\partial s_2} + c_s^2 \left[ \frac{1}{c_p} \frac{\partial Q_1}{\partial s_1} + \frac{1}{c_s} \frac{\partial Q_1}{\partial s_2} \right] = L_3(Q_1, S_1) = 0 \] (16)

\[ L_2(Q_1, S_1) = 0 \] (17)

Since in the initial state the medium was at rest and since it is assumed to be semi-infinite, the solution of the first-order problem consists of right-running waves only; that is,

\[ P_1 = f(s_1, x_1), \quad R_1 = -c_p f(s_1, x_1) \]

\[ Q_1 = g(s_2, x_1), \quad S_1 = -c_s g(s_2, x_1) \] (18)

Substituting equations (9) - (13) into equations (3) - (5) and (8), using equations (7) and (18), and equating the coefficients of \( \varepsilon^2 \) on both sides, we obtain

\[ L_1(P_2, R_2) = -c_p \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} (c_p f) - a_1 \left[ \frac{1}{c_p} \frac{\partial}{\partial s_1} \frac{\partial}{\partial s_1} \left( f g \right) \right] \frac{a_2}{c_s} g \frac{\partial}{\partial s_2} + H(s_1, x_1) \] (19)

\[ L_2(P_2, R_2) = -\frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} (c_p f) \] (20)

\[ L_3(Q_2, S_2) = -c_s \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} (c_s g) - b_2 \left[ \frac{1}{c_p} \frac{\partial}{\partial s_1} \frac{\partial}{\partial s_1} \left( f g \right) \right] \frac{a_2}{c_s} g \frac{\partial}{\partial s_2} + H(s_1, x_1) \]
where

\[ H(s_1, x_1) = \frac{a_1}{c_p} \int \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1} \left[ \ln(c_0 c_0^2) \right] \]

and

\[ J(s_2, x_1) = \frac{a_2}{c_s} \int \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_1} \left[ \ln(c_0 c_0^2) \right] \]

The second and third terms on the right-hand side of equation (19) account for the effect of the shear wave on the longitudinal wave, while the remaining terms account for the effect of the longitudinal wave on itself. Similarly, the second and third terms on the right-hand side of equation (21) account for the effect of the longitudinal wave on the shear wave, while the remaining terms account for the effect of the shear wave on itself.

A particular solution of equations (19) and (20) is

\[ R_{2p} = \frac{c_s}{c_p} s_2 H(s_1, x_1) - \frac{a_1}{c_p} s_2 \int \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1} \left[ \ln(c_0 c_0^2) \right] + F_1(s_1, s_2, x_1) \]

and

\[ G_1 = - \frac{a_2 c_s}{2(c_p - c_s)} \int \frac{1}{c_p} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_1^2} \left( \frac{1}{c_p} + \frac{1}{c_s} \right) \frac{\partial^2}{\partial s_1 \partial s_2} \]

and

\[ A_L = \frac{a_2 c_s}{2(c_p - c_s)} \int \frac{1}{c_p} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_1^2} \left( \frac{1}{c_p} + \frac{1}{c_s} \right) \frac{\partial^2}{\partial s_1 \partial s_2} \]

Thus, to first order the shear wave does not affect the longitudinal wave. However, equations (25) and (26) show that the shear wave does affect the longitudinal wave at second order.

The analysis of equations (21) and (22) is analogous to equations (19) and (20). Again the wave-interaction terms do not give rise to cumula-
The domain $A_s$ is shown in Fig. 2. Again, if $\phi(t)$ and $\psi(t)$ are periodic or pulses, the integrals in equations (33) and (34) are bounded and hence not cumulative. Therefore, the expansion (31) and (32) is uniform and the shear wave is not affected by the longitudinal wave to first order.
where $\xi$ is the characteristic for which $\varepsilon_0 \phi' + \varepsilon_1 \psi' (\xi) > 0$ and $|\psi' (\xi)|$ attains its maximum. Similarly, a shear shock develops at an $x$ given by

$$1 - \frac{1}{2} \psi' (n_s) \int_0^{x} \frac{b_1}{c_s^2} \frac{\rho_0 (0) c_s^2 (0)}{c_s^2} \frac{1}{2} \, dx = 0$$  \hspace{1cm} (38)$$

where $n = n_s$ is the characteristic for which $\varepsilon_0 \psi' (n) > 0$ and $|\psi' (n)|$ attains its maximum.

Shock waves can also be located by determining the deformations $u$ and $v$ from $P$ and $Q$. Then the shocks can be located by following Nayfeh and Kluwick /7/ and imposing the condition that the displacements are continuous across the shocks.

5. Comparison with the Method of Characteristics.- The propagation of finite-amplitude waves in homogeneous elastic solids was studied by Davison /3/ by using the analytic method of characteristics /4,1/. Davison's results were extended to solids with a more general constitutive equation by Nayfeh /1/ and to heterogeneous solids by Nair and Nemat-Nasser /5/.

Using the analytic method of characteristics, one expands both the dependent and independent variables in terms of the exact outgoing characteristics. In the case of homogeneous solid, one obtains /1/

$$P = \varepsilon_0 \phi (\xi) + \ldots, \quad R = - \varepsilon_0 \psi (\xi) + \ldots$$
$$Q = \varepsilon_0 \psi (n) + \ldots, \quad S = - \varepsilon_0 \psi (n) + \ldots$$ \hspace{1cm} (39)

where

$$t - x = \xi - \frac{\varepsilon_0}{c_p} \left[ a_1 (\xi - n) \phi (\xi) \right.$$

$$- a_2 \int_\xi^n \psi (\tau) \, d\tau + \ldots \hspace{1cm} (40)$$

$$t - x = n - \frac{\varepsilon_0}{c_s} \left[ b_1 (n - \xi) \psi (n) \right.$$

$$- b_2 \int_n^\xi \phi (\tau) \, d\tau + \ldots \hspace{1cm} (41)$$

We note that the last term on the right-hand sides of equations (40) and (41) describes a nonlin- near interaction between the longitudinal and shear waves. Other interaction terms are present in the second-order quantities /3/. If the integrals of $\phi$ and $\psi$ are bounded, then the interaction terms are small compared with the remaining terms in equations (40) and (41) which are unbounded with either $x$ or $t$. Hence, one can expand equations (39) in Taylor series by assuming the terms proportional to $a_2$ and $b_2$ to be small. The result is the same as the one obtained from our solution in the case of a homogeneous medium. If the integrals of $\phi$ and $\psi$ are unbounded, one can include these terms in the condition for the elimination of secular terms and hence obtain a solution in agreement with equations (39) - (41). Alternatively, one can inspect the expressions for $P_2$, $R_2$, $Q_2$ and $S_2$, use the method of renormalization /1/ in conjunction with the already obtained solution of Sect. 3, and obtain an expansion that reduces to (39) - (41) for a homogeneous solid. In the case of the weakly heterogeneous medium studied by Nair and Nemat-Nasser /5/, we have

$$c_p = \rho_0 \left[ 1 + \varepsilon c_p (x) \right], \quad c_s = c_s \left[ 1 + \varepsilon c_s (x) \right]$$ \hspace{1cm} (42)

Substituting these expressions into equations (29) - (32) shows that the resulting expansion is equivalent to that of Nair and Nemat-Nasser when the interaction terms are negligible. If they are not, our results can be modified as discussed above to obtain an expansion that is the same as that of Nair and Nemat-Nasser. However, whereas the method of multiple scales can treat systems with slowly varying properties which need not be small, the analytic method of characteristics has not been applied yet to cases of large heterogeneities.

References