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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 methods 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 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 iso-
tropic 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 longi-
tudinal 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 propa-
gation 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,

\[
\rho \frac{\partial^2 X}{\partial t^2} = \rho \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \rho \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x \partial t}
\]

and

\[
\frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} - \frac{\rho \partial^2}{\partial x^2} = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} - \frac{\rho \partial^2}{\partial x^2}
\]

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

\[
\sigma = \rho \frac{1}{\rho} \left( c_r \frac{u_x^2}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{u_y^2}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{v_y^2}{2} + \ldots \right)
\]
\[ \tau = c_s^2 \phi_x + \frac{1}{2} b_1 u_x + b_2 u_x + \frac{1}{2} b_3 v_x + \ldots \] (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 \( \rho_0, c_p, c_s, a_i \) and \( b_i \) to be functions of a long scale \( x \approx c x \), where \( c \) 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,

\[ P(x,0) = Q(x,0) = R(x,0) = S(x,0) = 0 \quad \text{for } x > 0 \] (6)

\[ P(0,t) = c_R(t), \quad Q(0,t) = c_Q(t) \quad \text{for } t > 0 \]

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

\[ P = P_0(s_1, s_2, x) + e P_1(s_1, s_2, x) + \ldots \] (9)

\[ Q = Q_0(s_1, s_2, x) + e Q_1(s_1, s_2, x) + \ldots \] (10)

\[ R = R_0(s_1, s_2, x) + e R_1(s_1, s_2, x) + \ldots \] (11)

\[ S = S_0(s_1, s_2, x) + e S_1(s_1, s_2, x) + \ldots \] (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 \( e \) on both sides, we obtain

\[ \frac{\partial P_1}{\partial s_1} + \frac{\partial R_1}{\partial s_2} + \frac{1}{c_p} \frac{\partial P_1}{\partial s_1} + \frac{1}{c_s} \frac{\partial P_1}{\partial s_2} = L(P_1, R_1) = 0 \] (14)

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

\[ P_1 = f(s_1, s_2), \quad R_1 = -c_p f(s_1, s_2) \]

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

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

\[ L_1(P_2, R_2) = -c_p \frac{\partial}{\partial s_1} \left[ c_p f \right] -a_1 \frac{\partial}{\partial s_1} \frac{\partial}{\partial s_1} \] (19)

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

\[ L_3(Q_2, S_2) = -c_s \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} \left[ c_s g \right] -b_2 \frac{\partial}{\partial s_1} \frac{\partial}{\partial s_1} \]
\[ L_2(Q_2, S_2) = -\frac{b_1}{c_p} (c_s g) \]

\[ J(s_2, x_1) = 2c_s^2 \frac{a_1}{c_p} (c_s g) \]

where

\[ H(s_1, x_1) = \frac{b_1}{c_p} (c_s g) \]

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

\[ P_{2p} = \frac{c_s}{c_p} (c_s - c_p) s_2 H(s_1, x_1) - \frac{a_1}{c_p} g^2 - F_1(s_1, s_2, x_1) \]

\[ R_{2p} = -\frac{c_s}{(c_p - c_s)} s_2 H(s_1, x_1) - \frac{a_1 c_s}{2(c_p - c_s)} g^2 - \frac{a_1 c_s}{2(c_p - c_s)} g + G_1(s_1, s_2, x_1) \]

\[ G_1 = -\frac{a_2 c_s}{2(c_p - c_s)} \int \frac{1}{A_2} \frac{3}{c_p} \frac{\partial^2 + \frac{2}{c_p c_s}}{\partial s_1^2} \frac{3}{c_p c_s} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial s_2^2} \]

\[ F_1(s_1, s_2, x_1) \]

\[ G_1 = -\frac{a_2 c_s}{2(c_p - c_s)} \int \frac{1}{A_2} \frac{3}{c_p} \frac{\partial^2 + \frac{2}{c_p c_s}}{\partial s_1^2} \frac{3}{c_p c_s} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial s_2^2} \]

\[ + \frac{1}{c_s} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial s_2^2} (fg) ds_1 ds_2 \]

where \( A_2 \) is the domain shown in Fig.1. In equations (25) and (26), there are cumulative (secular) terms which make \( e P_2 \) and \( e R_2 \) larger than the order of \( e P_1 \) and \( e R_1 \) for all \( x > 0 \) (1) or \( t > 0 \) (1). If \( \phi(t) \) and \( \psi(t) \) are periodic or if they are pulses, then \( F_1 \) and \( G_1 \) are bounded and hence not cumulative. In this case, the only cumulative terms are the ones proportional to \( s_3 H(s_1, x_1) \). Hence for a uniform expansion, \( H(s_1, x_1) = 0 \). Following Nayfeh \( /6/ \), we find that the solution of \( H(s_1, x_1) = 0 \) is

\[ P = -\frac{1}{c_p} R = \frac{\rho c^3}{c_p} \int_0^1 a_1 \frac{\rho c^3}{c_p} (\rho_0 c_0) \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \xi} dx_1 + \ldots \]

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.

4. Shock Waves.- The results of the preceding section show that to first order there is no interaction between longitudinal and shear waves. Hence, it is sufficient to analyze one of them, say longitudinal waves.

Equation (29) and (30) show that the speed of a longitudinal wave depends on its local amplitude. Thus, at some distance $x$, the solution (29) and (30) becomes multi-valued due to the steepening of the wave-form. Since neither the stress nor the strain can be multi-valued in space or time, a shock wave forms. The shock formation distance is the smallest distance at which the field variables exhibit infinite slopes in either space or time.

Differentiation of equation (29) with respect to $x$ shows that $\partial P/\partial x$ and $\partial R/\partial x$ first become infinite, and hence a shock develops, at a distance $x$ given by

$$1 - \frac{1}{2} \Phi'(c_s) \int_0^x \frac{1}{c_p} \left( \rho_s c_s^3 (0) \right) \psi(\eta) \frac{\partial s_0}{\partial x} d\eta = 0$$

(37)
where $\xi = \xi_S$ is the characteristic for which $\epsilon a_1 \phi' (\xi_S) > 0$ and $|\psi'(\xi_S)|$ attains its maximum. Similarly, a shear shock develops at an $x$ given by

$$1 - \frac{1}{2} \psi'(n_s) \int_{\xi}^{x} \frac{b_1}{c_s^2} \frac{\rho_0(0)}{\rho_0 c_s^2} \frac{c_1^2}{c_s^2} \frac{c_3^2}{c_s^2} \frac{1}{2} \, dx_1 = 0$$

(38)

where $n = n_S$ is the characteristic for which $\epsilon b_1 \psi'(n_S) > 0$ and $|\psi'(n_S)|$ 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]. 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/]

$$P = \epsilon \phi (\xi) + \ldots,$$

$$R = - \epsilon c_p \phi(\xi) + \ldots$$

$$Q = \epsilon \psi(n) + \ldots,$$

$$S = - \epsilon c_s \psi(n) + \ldots$$

(39)

where

$$t = -x = \frac{c_s}{c_p} \frac{\epsilon c_S}{2\epsilon_p (c_p^2 - c_s^2)} \left[ a_1 (\xi - n) \phi(\xi) \right.$$

$$- a_2 \int_{\xi}^{x} \psi(\xi) \, d\xi] + \ldots$$

(40)

$$t = -x = \frac{c_s}{c_p} \frac{\epsilon c_S}{2\epsilon_p (c_p^2 - c_s^2)} \left[ b_3 (n - \xi) \psi(n) \right.$$

$$- b_2 \int_{n}^{\xi} \phi(\xi) \, d\xi] + \ldots$$

(41)

We note that the last term on the right-hand sides of equations (40) and (41) describes a non-

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

$$c_p = c_p [1 + \epsilon c_p (x)], \quad c_s = c_s [1 + \epsilon c_s (x)]$$

(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


