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Natural Vibration of Axially Graded Multi‑cracked Nanobeams in Thermal Environment Using Power Series

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Abstract

Purpose In this study, a numerical investigation of the dynamic behavior of axially graded multi cracked nanobeams in a thermal environment is demonstrated. The nanobeam is axially graded where the material properties are varying exponentially from one end to another end. The nanobeam is subjected to thermal load due to temperature variation. Multiple open and stable cracks are considered on the beam.

Method Euler-Bernoulli beam theory and nonlocal theory of elasticity are employed for the modeling of the nanobeam. Each crack is modeled as a rotational spring. The power series solution technique is applied efectively to solve this problem. **Results** Mode shape diagrams are illustrated for single and multiple cracks to analyze the efects of nonhomogeneity and thermal load on the vibration of cracked nanobeams. The efects of crack severity, crack location, and nonlocal parameter on the vibration of nanobeams are presented.

Conclusion Mode shapes of the single and multi-cracked nanobeams are diverse for the diferent values of nonhomogeneity of the material. The outcomes of this analysis are verifed with the outcomes of other researchers in the existing literature.

Keywords Axially graded beams · Nonlocal theory · Power series solution · Mode shape · Multiple cracks · Thermal efect

Introduction

Nanomaterials have emerged as a potential element in numerous researches of modern science and technology. Nanomaterials [[1\]](#page-16-0) can be distinguished from their bulk counterparts by their exceptional properties such as high strength and stifness, high thermal conductivity, etc. Because of these properties, nanomaterials become a very attractive component in the application of nano-scale electromechanical systems. During this application, nanomaterials are subjected to various forces such as compression, tension, and vibration. To overcome the adverse efects of these forces, efective modeling is very essential. The classical linear theory of elasticity is not sufficient for the analysis

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of nanomaterials, because this theory cannot incorporate the small-scale effect [\[2](#page-16-1)]. Therefore, researchers extensively used two diferent types of gradient elasticity theories [[3–](#page-16-2)[8\]](#page-16-3) such as strain gradient theory and stress gradient theory. In strain gradient theory, the material response at a point depends not only on the classical strain but also on the strain gradients of diferential orders. On the other hand, in stress gradient theory, the material response depends on the stress as well as on the stress gradients up to some orders. Nonlocal elasticity theory is one of the forms of stress gradient theory. Generally, the nonlocal elasticity theory is an integro-differential equation whose solution is difficult. Eringen [\[9](#page-16-4)] proposed equivalent diferential nonlocal elasticity which has been widely accepted to analyze the nanomaterials.

In this paper, an axially graded $[10-13]$ $[10-13]$ beam is considered as a kind of nonhomogeneous beam where the material properties are varying along the x-axis exponentially. The axially graded beam $[14–16]$ $[14–16]$ $[14–16]$ is a type of composite where the material properties are varying smoothly from one end to another end for eliminate the stress concentration at any specifc cross-section. The demand for new advanced materials is increasing day by day. The axially functionally graded material is one of the exceptional innovations

In most cases, the thermal effect $[17-19]$ $[17-19]$ $[17-19]$ is ignored in the research. A small change in temperature can change the dynamic behavior of the beam which may cause the failure of the beam. When heat is applied to a body, it stores energy in its atom as kinetic energy that increases the vibration of the atom against the intermolecular forces. Due to this vibration, atoms move away from each other which increases the material size. Due to the rise in temperature, expansion occurs. On the other hand, contraction occurs because of loss of temperature. This expansion or contraction is proportional to the change in temperature. This proportionality can be expressed as linear thermal expansion of the material. According to the assumption of thermo-elasticity, thermal strain can be added with mechanical strain linearly. That is why, the equation of equilibrium is compatible with the thermal load.

A crack is a newly created surface that partially separates the body. Crack is not only a common defect but also very difficult to control $[20]$ $[20]$ $[20]$. Multiple cracks also can occur in nanomaterials. Formulation of multiple cracks problem is difficult and analysis is time-consuming. Cracks can decrease stifness and reduce the natural frequency [\[21](#page-16-12)[–26](#page-16-13)]. Therefore, cracks affect the dynamic behaviors of structures signifcantly. Cracks can be detected by modal parameters, such as natural frequencies, mode shapes, and damping factors [[27\]](#page-16-14). The mode shape of the vibration of nanomaterials is signifcantly changed by the presence of cracks. Mode shape is one of the popular techniques to detect a crack [[28,](#page-16-15) [29](#page-16-16)]. The mode shape diagram is very sensitive to cracks. The lower mode shape is less sensitive than the higher mode shape. Mode shape also explains the effects of crack severity very effectively.

The vibration of nanobeam has been analyzed using several techniques. Roostai and Haghpanahi [\[30\]](#page-16-17) studied the vibration of nanobeam with multiple cracks. They applied a modifed exact solution technique to analyze the multi-cracked nanobeam. Similarly, Loghmani and Yazdi [[31\]](#page-16-18) examined the vibration of multi-cracked and stepped nanobeams. They employed the wave approach to analyze their model. Aria et al. [\[32\]](#page-16-19) investigated the thermal vibration of cracked nanobeams on an elastic matrix. They described the efectiveness of the fnite-element method to analyze the model. Esen et al. [[33](#page-16-20)] represented free vibration of cracked FG microbeam embedded in elastic matrix with magnetic and thermal efect. They scrutinized this problem using the analytical method. Their results showed that the magnetic feld could be used to eliminate the negative efects of the temperature. Basically, the exact solution technique, perturbation method [[34,](#page-16-21) [35](#page-16-22)], diferential quadrature method [[36](#page-16-23), [37](#page-16-24)], and diferential transform method [38-40] are very popular among researchers to investigate the dynamic behavior of beams. Similarly, the power series solution technique [[41](#page-17-0)] has been used by a limited number of researchers for analyzing the dynamic problem of structures. However, this technique is rare to study the multi-cracked nanobeam.

In this paper, the power series solution technique is applied to investigate the efects of crack severity, crack location, nonhomogeneity, thermal effect, nonlocal parameter, and diferent boundary conditions on the vibration of axially graded multi-cracked nanobeams. The governing equation is derived by applying the Euler–Bernoulli beam theory and the theory of nonlocal elasticity. The beam is considered axially graded from one end to another end. Thermal load is also applied axially. Multiple stable and open cracks are considered on the beam where each crack is replaced by a rotational spring for modeling. Mode shape diagrams are also analyzed to describe the efect of nonhomogeneity and thermal load on the vibration of cracked nanobeams. In this paper, the efects of single and multiple cracks, location of cracks, nonhomogeneity, temperature, and nonlocal parameter on the vibration of nanobeams are studied. The outcomes of this analysis are examined with the outcomes of other researchers in the existing literature.

Mathematical Model

Description of the Problem

The geometry of an axially graded multi-cracked nanobeam is illustrated in Fig. [1.](#page-1-0) The left endpoint of the beam is located at the origin of the coordinate system. The neutral axis of the beam overlaps with the x-axis and the height of the beam is placed along the z-axis. *L*, *b*, and *h* describe the length, width, and height of the beam, respectively. Multiple open cracks are considered at the distance of a_i to a_n from the left endpoint. The material of the beam is axially graded along the x-axis. E and ρ are the elasticity and

Fig. 1 An axially graded multi-cracked nanobeam

density varying exponentially from one end to another end. The objective of this analysis is to examine the natural vibration of axially graded multi-cracked nanobeams.

Beam Theory with Nonlocal Elasticity

Euler–Bernoulli beam theory is extensively acceptable to the researcher to analyze the structural elements. This theory is based on some assumptions [\[42–](#page-17-1)[44](#page-17-2)] such as cross-sections of the beam are plane and perpendicular to the neutral axis during bending, transverse deformation is considered very small and shear deformation is neglected, and the beam is linearly elastic based on Hooke's law. According to the Euler–Bernoulli theory, the displacement felds [[45](#page-17-3)] can be expressed as

$$
V_1(x, z, t) = V(x, t) - z \frac{\partial W(x, t)}{\partial x}
$$
 (1)

$$
V_2(x, z, t) = 0\tag{2}
$$

$$
V_3(x, z, t) = W(x, t),\tag{3}
$$

where V_1 , V_2 , and V_3 express the deflection in *x*, *y*, and *z* axis, respectively, and $W(x, t)$ and $V(x, t)$ define the transverse and axial defection, respectively. One can write the axial strain as

$$
\varepsilon_{xx} = \frac{\partial V}{\partial x} - z \frac{\partial^2 W}{\partial x^2}.
$$
\n(4)

Considering axial load *N* and moment *M*, the Euler–Bernoulli equation for vibration can be presented as

$$
\frac{\partial^2 M}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(N \frac{\partial W}{\partial x} \right) - m_0 \frac{\partial^2 W}{\partial t^2} = 0, \tag{5}
$$

where $m_0 = \rho A$ is the mass per unit length. However, this theory directly is not applicable to nanomaterials. The physical properties of nano-scale materials are diferent from macro-materials. To incorporate this scale effect, Eringen proposed the nonlocal theory of elasticity. According to his theory, the stress–strain relationship [[46,](#page-17-4) [47\]](#page-17-5) for a threedimensional isotropic elastic solid can be expressed as

$$
\sigma_{ij}(x) = \int_V \alpha(|x - x'|, \tau) t_{ij}(x') dV(x'), \qquad (6)
$$

where

$$
t_{ij}(x') = \psi \varepsilon_{rr}(x') \delta_{ij} + 2\phi \varepsilon_{ij}(x'), \tag{7}
$$

where ψ and ϕ represent Lame's constants. $t_{ij}(x')$ and $\varepsilon_{ij}(x')$ are the classical stress tensor and linear strain tensor at any point *x'* in the body, respectively. $\alpha(|x - x'|, \tau)$ represents the nonlocal modulus to indicate the nonlocal effects into the constitutive equation for the reference point x and source

point *x'*, respectively. In Eq. ([6\)](#page-2-0), $|x'-x|$ represents the Euclidean distance and τ can be presented as

$$
\tau = \frac{e_0 a}{l};\tag{8}
$$

 τ is a constant that indicates the ratio of internal and external characteristic length of the nanomaterial, where e_0 is the material constant. According to the theory of nonlocal elasticity, the integral constitutive relations can be transformed into the equivalent diferential equation by substituting the kernel α (| $x' - x$ |, τ) as below

$$
(1 - (e_0 a)^2 \Delta^2) \sigma_{kl} = t_{kl},\tag{9}
$$

where Δ^2 indicates the Laplacian operator. Nonlocal theory depends on internal characteristic length *a*. When *a* becomes zero, the nonlocal constitutive relations transform to the classical theory of elasticity. In the one-dimensional case, the nonlocal stress–strain relationship can be presented as

$$
\sigma(x) - (e_0 a)^2 \frac{\partial^2 \sigma(x)}{\partial x^2} = E \varepsilon(x),\tag{10}
$$

where $\sigma(x)$ and $\varepsilon(x)$ represent the stress and strain along the x-axis. Therefore, the nonlocal elasticity theory can be presented in terms of bending moment *M*, as follows:

$$
M - (e_0 a)^2 \frac{\partial^2 M}{\partial x^2} = EI \left(-\frac{\partial^2 W}{\partial x^2} \right).
$$
 (11)

Combining the nonlocal theory ([11](#page-2-1)) and Euler–Bernoulli theory [\(5](#page-2-2)) can be presented as

$$
\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \left(EI \frac{\partial^2 W}{\partial x^2} \right) - (e_0 a)^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \left[\rho A \frac{\partial^2 W}{\partial t^2} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(N \frac{\partial W}{\partial x} \right) \right] \n- \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(N \frac{\partial W}{\partial x} \right) + \rho A \frac{\partial^2 W}{\partial t^2} = 0.
$$
\n(12)

Axially Graded Beam

An axially graded beam is a type of composite element that can avoid the point of stress concentration. It distributes stress gradually from one end to another end. Over the cross-section, the material properties are constant. Modulus of elasticity E and density ρ are varying along the length exponentially [[48,](#page-17-6) [49\]](#page-17-7). These can be expressed as

$$
E = E_0 e^{\lambda \frac{x}{L}}, \rho = \rho_0 e^{\lambda \frac{x}{L}}, \qquad (13)
$$

where E_0 and ρ_0 are the modulus of elasticity and density at the point $x = 0$, and λ is the coefficient of nonhomogeneity.

Thermal Load

Thermal load is created by the contraction and expansion of the material due to the temperature change. This load act as an axial load on the beam element. Thermal load [[50\]](#page-17-8) can be expressed as

$$
N = -E A \alpha_t \theta. \tag{14}
$$

Considering the varying modulus of elasticity, the thermal load can be presented as

$$
N = -E_0 e^{\lambda \frac{x}{L}} A \alpha_t \theta,\tag{15}
$$

where α_t is the coefficient of thermal expansion. According to the theory of Zarzycki 1982 and Kittel 1983 [[51](#page-17-9)], the coefficient of thermal expansion can be presented as

$$
\alpha_t = \frac{\gamma_G \rho c_V}{3E},\tag{16}
$$

where γ_G is the Grüneisen constant. Here, α_t depends on density and modulus of elasticity. Both of these parameters are varying equally along the x-axis. Therefore, α_t is constant over the length.

Modeling of Cracks

The mechanical properties of multiple open and stable cracks can be analyzed using the classical local stifness model. According to this model, the beam is separated into two sub-beams for each crack at the crack position. Every crack in the beam is replaced by a mass-less rotational spring that connects the two neighboring segments together. In this model, the crack creates a discontinuity in the rotational angle at the location of the crack. Due to the presence of a crack, the beam achieves additional strain energy to the rotational spring. Strain energy is the result of bending moment and axial stress. The change of strain energy [[32\]](#page-16-19) can be presented as

$$
\Delta s_c = \frac{1}{2} M \Delta \theta + \frac{1}{2} N \Delta u,\tag{17}
$$

where *M* and *N* represent the bending moment and axial load respectively. $\Delta\theta$ indicates the rotational angle because of the spring and Δ*u* represents the axial displacement at the location of the crack. Therefore, these can be expressed as

$$
\Delta \theta = K_{MM} \frac{\partial^2 W}{\partial x^2} + K_{MN} \frac{\partial U}{\partial x} \tag{18}
$$

$$
\Delta u = K_{NN} \frac{\partial U}{\partial x} + K_{NM} \frac{\partial^2 W}{\partial x^2},\tag{19}
$$

where K_{MM} , K_{MN} , K_{NN} , and K_{NM} are the flexibility constants. When the beam is subjected to transverse vibration, longitudinal displacement Δ*u* and the fexibility constants K_{MN} , K_{NN} , and K_{NM} are very small which can be neglected. Therefore, the discontinuity at the location of the crack can be expressed as

$$
\Delta \theta = \frac{K_{MM}}{L} \frac{\partial^2 W(x)}{\partial x^2} \big|_{x=a},\tag{20}
$$

where $\frac{K_{MM}}{L}$ can be replaced by *K* as

$$
\Delta \theta = K \frac{\partial^2 W(x)}{\partial x^2} \big|_{x=a} \, ; \tag{21}
$$

here, *K* is the crack severity. The crack severity depends on the crack depth and rotational spring stifness. It can be expressed as follows [\[52\]](#page-17-10):

$$
K = \frac{EI}{L} \frac{1}{\kappa_s},\tag{22}
$$

where κ ^{*s*} is the spring stiffness. It can be written as

$$
\kappa_s = \frac{EI}{h} \frac{1}{C(\gamma)}; \tag{23}
$$

here, $\gamma = \frac{d_{cr}}{h}$ is the crack depth and beam height ratio. $C(\gamma)$ is the local compliance that can be computed from the strain energy density function as follows:

$$
C(\gamma) = 5.346(1.86\gamma^2 - 3.95\gamma^3 + 16.375\gamma^4 - 37.226\gamma^5
$$

+ 76.81 γ^6 (24)
- 126.9 γ^7 + 172 γ^8 - 143.97 γ^9 + 66.56 γ^{10}).

Crack severity can be written from Eqs. (22) (22) (22) and (23) (23) as

$$
K = \frac{h}{L}C(\gamma). \tag{25}
$$

Crack severity does not depend on the modulus of elasticity and density of the beam. Therefore, crack severity (*K*) is constant over the length of the axially graded beam.

Derivation of Governing Equation

In this paper, the beam is axially graded and also subjected to thermal load. Therefore, the material properties such as elasticity and density are varying along the x-axis. Similarly, the thermal load is also varying as an axial load. Considering these variations, Eq. (12) (12) (12) can be expressed as

$$
\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \left(E(x) I \frac{\partial^2 W}{\partial x^2} \right) - (e_0 a)^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2}
$$
\n
$$
\left[\rho(x) A \frac{\partial^2 W}{\partial t^2} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(N(x) \frac{\partial W}{\partial x} \right) \right]
$$
\n
$$
- \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(N(x) \frac{\partial W}{\partial x} \right) + \rho(x) A \frac{\partial^2 W}{\partial t^2} = 0.
$$
\n(26)

Applying the variable separation technique, defection can be presented as

$$
W(x,t) = \bar{W}(x)e^{i\omega_c t}.
$$
\n(27)

Using the above function (27) (27) , the partial differential form ([26\)](#page-4-1) can be converted into the ordinary diferential equation as

$$
\frac{d^2}{dx^2}(E(x)I\frac{d^2\bar{W}}{dx^2}) + (e_0a)^2\frac{d^2}{dx^2}(\rho(x)A\omega_c^2\bar{W})
$$

+ $(e_0a)^2\frac{d^3}{dx^3}\left(N(x)\frac{d\bar{W}}{dx}\right)$
- $\frac{d}{dx}\left(N(x)\frac{d\bar{W}}{dx}\right) - \rho(x)A\omega_c^2\bar{W} = 0.$ (28)

Applying the conditions of nonhomogeneity and thermal effect from (13) (13) , (15) (15) , then Eq. (28) (28) (28) can be written as

$$
E_0 I \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \left(e^{\lambda \frac{x}{L}} \frac{d^2 \bar{W}}{dx^2} \right) + (e_0 a)^2
$$

\n
$$
\rho A \omega_c^2 \frac{d^2}{dx^2} (e^{\lambda \frac{x}{L}} \bar{W})
$$

\n
$$
- (e_0 a)^2 E_0 A \alpha_t \theta \frac{d^3}{dx^3} \left(e^{\lambda \frac{x}{L}} \frac{d \bar{W}}{dx} \right)
$$

\n
$$
+ E_0 A \alpha_t \theta \frac{d}{dx} \left(e^{\lambda \frac{x}{L}} \frac{d \bar{W}}{dx} \right)
$$

\n
$$
- \rho_0 e^{\lambda \frac{x}{L}} A \omega_c^2 \bar{W} = 0.
$$

\n(29)

After diferentiating ([29](#page-4-3)), it can be written as

$$
E_0 I \left(\frac{\lambda^2}{L^2} \frac{d^2 \bar{W}}{dx^2} + 2 \frac{\lambda}{L} \frac{d^3 \bar{W}}{dx^3} + \frac{d^4 \bar{W}}{dx^4} \right) + (e_0 a)^2 \rho_0 A \omega_c^2 \left(\frac{\lambda^2}{L^2} \bar{W} + 2 \frac{\lambda}{L} \frac{d \bar{W}}{dx^2} \right) - (e_0 a)^2 E_0 A \alpha_t \theta (\frac{\lambda^3}{L^3} \frac{d \bar{W}}{dx} + 3 \frac{\lambda^2}{L^2} \frac{d^2 \bar{W}}{dx^2} + 3 \frac{\lambda}{L} \frac{d^3 \bar{W}}{dx^3} + \frac{d^4 \bar{W}}{dx^4} + E_0 A \alpha_t \theta \left(\frac{\lambda}{L} \frac{d \bar{W}}{dx} + \frac{d^2 \bar{W}}{dx^2} \right) - \rho_0 A \omega_c^2 \bar{W} = 0
$$
\n(30)

The nondimensional parameters can be introduced as follows:

$$
\xi = \frac{x}{L}, w = \frac{\overline{W}}{L}, \mu = \frac{e_0 a}{L}, n = \frac{E_0 A \alpha_t \theta L^2}{E_0 I},
$$

$$
\omega^2 = (\overline{\omega})^4 = \omega_c^2 L^4 \frac{\rho_0 A}{E_0 I}.
$$

Using the nondimensional parameters, Eq. (30) (30) can be transformed as

$$
\left(\lambda^{2} \frac{d^{2}w}{d\xi^{2}} + 2\lambda \frac{d^{3}w}{d\xi^{3}} + \frac{d^{4}w}{d\xi^{4}}\right) \n+ \mu^{2}\omega^{2}\left(\lambda^{2}w + 2\lambda \frac{dw}{d\xi} + \frac{d^{2}w}{d\xi^{2}}\right) \n- \mu^{2}n(\lambda^{3} \frac{dw}{d\xi} + 3\lambda^{2} \frac{d^{2}w}{d\xi^{2}} \n+ 3\lambda \frac{d^{3}w}{d\xi^{3}} + \frac{d^{4}w}{d\xi^{4}}) + n\left(\frac{dw}{d\xi} + \frac{d^{2}w}{d\xi^{2}}\right) - \omega^{2}w = 0
$$
\n(31)

Therefore, Eq. ([31\)](#page-4-5) can be presented in a simplifed form as

$$
\frac{d^4w}{d\xi^4} + \beta_1 \frac{d^3w}{d\xi^3} + \beta_2 \frac{d^2w}{d\xi^2} + \beta_3 \frac{dw}{d\xi} + \beta_4 w = 0,
$$
 (32)

where

$$
\beta_1 = \frac{2\lambda - 2\lambda\mu^2 n}{1 - \mu^2 n}, \beta_2 = \frac{\lambda^2 + \mu^2 \omega^2 - 3\mu^2 n \lambda^2 + n}{1 - \mu^2 n},
$$

$$
\beta_3 = \frac{2\mu^2 \omega^2 \lambda - \mu^2 n \lambda^3 + n}{1 - \mu^2 n}, \beta_4 = \frac{\mu^2 \omega^2 \lambda^2 - \omega^2}{1 - \mu^2 n}.
$$

In this nanobeam, multiple cracks are considered where *n* number of cracks separates the beam into $n + 1$ segments. Finally, the governing equations for $n + 1$ number of segments can be expressed as

$$
\frac{d^4w_i}{d\xi^4} + \beta_1 \frac{d^3w_i}{d\xi^3} + \beta_2 \frac{d^2w_i}{d\xi^2} + \beta_3 \frac{dw_i}{d\xi} + \beta_4 w_i = 0,
$$
 (33)

where $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n + 1$. Equation ([33\)](#page-4-6) represents the set of governing equations considering the $n + 1$ segments that are separated at the location of cracks a_j . Where $j = 1, 2, ..., n$. Boundary conditions for the beam can be presented as follows:

For the simply supported beam:

$$
w_1(0) = 0, \frac{d^2 w_1(0)}{d \xi^2} = 0, w_{n+1}(1) = 0, \frac{d^2 w_{n+1}(1)}{d \xi^2} = 0.
$$

For the fully clamped beam:

$$
w_1(0) = 0, \frac{dw_1(0)}{d\xi} = 0, w_{n+1}(1) = 0, \frac{dw_{n+1}(1)}{d\xi} = 0.
$$

For the clamped simply beam:

$$
w_1(0) = 0, \frac{dw_1(0)}{d\xi} = 0, w_{n+1}(1) = 0, \frac{d^2w_{n+1}(1)}{d\xi^2} = 0.
$$

For the clamped free beam:

$$
w_1(0) = 0, \frac{dw_1(0)}{d\xi} = 0, \frac{d^2w_{n+1}(1)}{d^2\xi} = 0, \frac{d^3w_{n+1}(1)}{d\xi^3} = 0.
$$

In-between conditions at the location of cracks are as follows:

$$
w_i(a_i) - w_{i+1}(a_i) = 0
$$

\n
$$
\frac{dw_i(a_i)}{d\xi} + K \frac{d^2w_i(a_i)}{d\xi^2} - \frac{dw_{i+1}(a_i)}{d\xi} = 0
$$

\n
$$
\frac{d^2w_i(a_i)}{d\xi^2} - \frac{d^2w_{i+1}(a_i)}{d\xi^2} = 0
$$

\n
$$
\frac{d^3w_i(a_i)}{d\xi^3} + \mu^2 \omega^2 \frac{dw_i(a_i)}{d\xi} - \frac{d^3w_{i+1}(a_i)}{d\xi^3}
$$

\n
$$
-\mu^2 \omega^2 \frac{dw_{i+1}(a_i)}{d\xi} = 0.
$$

One can solve these equations [\(33](#page-4-6)) by applying in-between conditions at the crack locations and any one set of end conditions for the boundary supports.

Power Series Solution

The power series solution [[41](#page-17-0)] is a semi-analytical technique. In this technique, a power series is considered as a solution of the function. Therefore, the diferential equation transforms into a set of algebraic equations. Linear, and nonlinear diferential equations can be solved using the power series solution technique. Let us consider a series for the defection of the beam as

$$
w = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} A_k \xi^k.
$$
 (34)

Similarly, derivatives of defection can be written as

$$
\frac{dw}{d\xi} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k A_k \xi^{k-1}
$$
\n(35)

$$
\frac{d^2w}{d\xi^2} = \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} k(k-1)A_k \xi^{k-2}
$$
 (36)

$$
\frac{d^3w}{d\xi^3} = \sum_{k=3}^{\infty} k(k-1)(k-2)A_k \xi^{k-3}
$$
 (37)

$$
\frac{d^4w}{d\xi^4} = \sum_{k=4}^{\infty} k(k-1)(k-2)(k-3)A_k \xi^{k-4}.
$$
 (38)

Substituting above derivatives into Eq. (33) (33) as follows:

$$
\sum_{k=4}^{\infty} k(k-1)(k-2)(k-3)A_k \xi^{k-4}
$$

+ $\beta_1 \sum_{k=3}^{\infty} k(k-1)(k-2)A_k \xi^{k-3}$
+ $\beta_2 \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} k(k-1)A_k \xi^{k-2}$
+ $\beta_3 \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} kA_k \xi^{k-1} + \beta_4 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} A_k \xi^k = 0.$ (39)

Shifting the power of ξ , Eq. ([39\)](#page-5-0) can be written as

$$
\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+4)(k+3)(k+2)(k+1)A_{k+4}\xi^{k}
$$

+ $\beta_1 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+3)(k+2)(k+1)A_{k+3}\xi^{k}$
+ $\beta_2 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+2)(k+1)A_{k+2}\xi^{k}$
+ $\beta_3 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+1)A_{k+1}\xi^{k}$
+ $\beta_4 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} A_k \xi^{k} = 0.$ (40)

Equating the coefficients of ξ^k can be expressed as

$$
(k+4)(k+3)(k+2)(k+1)A_{k+4}
$$

+ $\beta_1(k+3)(k+2)(k+1)A_{k+3}$
+ $\beta_2(k+2)(k+1)A_{k+2} + \beta_3(k+1)A_{k+1}$
+ $\beta_4A_k = 0$. (41)

Simplifying Eq. [\(41\)](#page-5-1) can be written as

$$
A_{k+4} = -\frac{\beta_1}{(k+4)} A_{k+3}
$$

-
$$
\frac{\beta_2}{(k+4)(k+3)} A_{k+2}
$$

-
$$
\frac{\beta_3}{(k+4)(k+3)(k+2)} A_{k+1}
$$

-
$$
\frac{\beta_4}{(k+4)(k+3)(k+2)(k+1)} A_k.
$$
 (42)

Using the above relation (42) (42) (42) , one can calculate the series coefficients as follows:

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$$
A_4 = -\frac{1}{4}\beta_1 A_3 - \frac{1}{12}\beta_2 A_2 - \frac{1}{24}\beta_3 A_1 - \frac{1}{24}\beta_4 A_0 \tag{43}
$$

$$
A_5 = \frac{1}{20}(\beta_1^2 - \beta_2)A_3 + \frac{1}{60}(\beta_1\beta_2 - \beta_3)A_2
$$

+
$$
\frac{1}{120}(\beta_1\beta_3 - \beta_4)A_1 + \frac{1}{120}\beta_1\beta_4A_0
$$
 (44)

$$
A_6 = -\frac{1}{120}(\beta_1^3 - 2\beta_1\beta_2 + \beta_3)A_3
$$

$$
-\frac{1}{360}(\beta_1^2\beta_2 - \beta_1\beta_3 - \beta_2^2 + \beta_4)A_2
$$

$$
-\frac{1}{720}(\beta_1^2\beta_3 - \beta_1\beta_4 - \beta_2\beta_3)A_1 - \frac{1}{720}(\beta_1^2\beta_4 - \beta_2\beta_4)A_0.
$$

(45)

Applying the series coefficients, the solution for the each segment of the beam can be written as

$$
w_i = A_{i,0} + A_{i,1}\xi + A_{i,2}\xi^2 + A_{i,3}\xi^3 + \sum_{k=4}^{\infty} A_{i,k}\xi^k,
$$
 (46)

where $i = 1, ..., n + 1$. Using the simply supported boundary conditions and intermediate conditions for cracks, one can eliminate constant coefficients (A_{ik}) and solve these equations to form matrix as follows:

$$
\begin{bmatrix} m_{1,1} & \dots & \dots & m_{1,4(n+1)} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ m_{4(n+1),1} & \dots & \dots & m_{4(n+1),4(n+1)} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A_{1,0} \\ \dots \\ A_{(n+1),3} \end{bmatrix} . \tag{47}
$$

The value of natural frequency for multi-cracked nanobeams can be determined by solving the above matrix. In this paper, single, double, and triple cracked nanobeams are analyzed.

Numerical Results and Discussion

In this section, parametric analysis is performed to scrutinize their impacts on the natural frequency of axially graded multi-cracked nanobeams in a thermal environment. First of all, the efficiency of the solution technique is measured by comparing the obtained results with the results of relevant papers in the existing literature. In addition, the infuences of crack position on the various modes of natural frequency for several values of the gradient parameter are studied and presented graphically. Moreover, the efects of temperature and nonhomogeneity on the frequency ratio of intact and cracked nanobeams are illustrated. Furthermore, the efects of temperature, nonhomogeneity, and nonlocal parameter on the natural frequency are presented in tabular forms. Finally, the mode shapes are depicted to investigate the axially graded multi-cracked nanobeam with diferent support conditions, and to study the effects of nonhomogeneity, temperature, and a number of cracks on the transverse defection.

Comparison of Results

In this section, the outcomes of the study are compared with the outcomes of some benchmark studies in the existing literature. This comparison is performed by investigating the effects of nonlocal parameter (μ) , thermal load (n) , and crack severity on diferent modes of natural frequency. In Table [1,](#page-8-0) the frst mode of natural frequency (square root) for simply supported and fully clamped nanobeam is presented. The effect of crack is not considered as well as the beam is considered uniform and homogeneous in this section of calculation. Different values of nonlocal parameter (μ) and thermal load (*n*) are considered. It is understandable from these tabular data that natural frequency decreases for the increase of the nonlocal parameter. Therefore, the natural frequency increases for the decrease of temperature. Outcomes are verifed with the results of Esen et al. [[33](#page-16-20)] and Aria et al. [[32\]](#page-16-19) where they analyzed the cracked nanobeam on elastic matrix with temperature. During this comparison, specifc results are selected from their paper where those data ignore the efects of crack and elastic matrix. Similarly, in Table [2,](#page-8-1) diferent modes of natural frequency (square root) for simply supported single cracked nanobeam are demonstrated. Nonhomogeneity of nanobeam is ignored in this section of calculation. Diferent values of crack positions (*a*), crack severity (K) , and nonlocal parameter (μ) are also considered. It is comprehensible from these tabular data that the natural frequency decreases for the increase of crack severity. Frequency shows the lower value at the crack position of $a = 0.5$ than $a = 0.25$. This table data also matched with the results of Esen et al. [\[33](#page-16-20)] and Aria et al. [[32\]](#page-16-19). However, specific tabular data are selected from their paper where these data ignore the efect of elastic matrix and temperature. These evaluations show a good understanding of these outcomes. In Table [3](#page-9-0), diferent modes of natural frequency for a double-cracked beam with diferent values of the nonlocal parameter and crack severity are studied. Two cracks in the beam are located at $a_1 = 0.3$ and $a_2 = 0.7$, respectively. It is obvious from these tabular data that frequency decreases with the increases of the nonlocal parameter. The crack severity and boundary supports also infuence the values of frequency. These table data also compare with the results of Roostai and Haghpanahi [\[30](#page-16-17)]. This comparison shows a close match among these results.

Efect of Crack Locations

The crack location is also crucial like crack severity for analyzing the cracked beam. In Figs. $(2, 3, 4 \text{ and } 5)$ $(2, 3, 4 \text{ and } 5)$, different

Fig. 2 Frequency ratio versus crack position (SS, 1st Mode)

Fig. 3 Frequency ratio versus crack position (SS, 2nd Mode)

Fig. 4 Frequency ratio versus crack position (CC, 1st Mode)

Fig. 5 Frequency ratio versus crack position (CC, 2nd Mode)

modes of frequency and two diferent support systems such as simply supported and fully clamped nanobeam are demonstrated. Thermal load is ignored in this section of the calculation. The frequency ratio is calculated by the frequency at any point with nonhomogeneity and the frequency at the initial point without considering nonhomogeneity. In this section, nonlocal parameter $\mu = 0.1$ and crack severity $K = 0.35$ are applied. It is evident from these figures that in the case of simply supported and the frst mode of frequency, the frequency ratio slightly decreases for the presence of nonhomogeneity. However, in other cases, frequency increases with the presence of nonhomogeneity. It is very important in these curves that the frequency ratio is not afected by the positive or negative sign of nonhomogeneity. The effect of crack location is also influenced by the end support systems.

Frequency for Axially Graded Intact and Cracked Nanobeams Under Thermal Load

In Table [4,](#page-13-0) the natural frequency for a triple cracked beam with several values of the nonlocal parameter and crack severity is demonstrated. Three specifc cracks are considered at the position of $a_1 = 0.3$, $a_2 = 0.5$, and $a_3 = 0.7$, respectively. The efects of nonhomogeneity and temperature are not considered. It is understandable in these tabular data that the frequency decreases for the increase of the value of the nonlocal parameter and crack severity. In this section, Table [5](#page-14-0) and Table [6](#page-15-0) represent the effect of temperature on natural frequency for axially graded intact or cracked nanobeam, respectively. The interactions between temperature, nonhomogeneity, nonlocal parameter, end supports, and different modes of frequency of intact and cracked nanobeam

Table 1 Natural frequency (square root) for varying nonlocal parameter, thermal load, and diferent end supports

Table 2 Natural frequency (square root) for simply supported cracked nanobeams in diferent modes with varying nonlocal parameter

Table 3 Natural frequency for double-cracked beams with diferent values of nonlocal parameter and crack severity

are very diverse. Table [5](#page-14-0) represents the relationship between the nonlocal parameter, thermal load, and nonhomogeneity in absence of crack. In this section, three diferent values of the nonlocal parameter, thermal load from − 2 to 2, and nonhomogeneity − 2 to 2 are considered. The effect of crack is ignored in this part of the calculation. It is very clear that the frequency decreases for the increase of the nonlocal parameter. On the other hand, frequency increases for the decrease of temperature. The relationship between thermal load, nonhomogeneity, and natural frequency is very fuctuating for the mode of frequency and end supports. Table [6](#page-15-0) represents the relationship between the nonlocal parameter, thermal load, and nonhomogeneity in the presence of a crack. In this section, diferent values of the nonlocal parameter, thermal load, and nonhomogeneity are considered as like in Table [4.](#page-13-0) In addition, a crack is considered at crack location $a = 0.25$ with the crack severity $K = 0.35$. The relationship between thermal load, nonhomogeneity, and natural frequency becomes more changeable in the presence of crack for various modes of frequency and various support systems.

Mode Shape Illustration

Mode shape is one of the very important characteristics that explain the vibration of structural components. It describes the transverse displacement from the beam axis during vibration. It is a very signifcant measure that exhibits the pattern of vibration. In this section, the efects of nonhomogeneity, thermal load, and the number of cracks on the mode shape of cracked nanobeam are illustrated for diferent support systems. To understand the dynamic behavior of cracked nanobeam, mode shape analysis is necessary. In this section, three diferent sets of mode shape diagrams are presented for diferent values of nonhomogeneity and thermal

Fig. 6 Mode shape for diferent values of gradient parameter (1st mode, SS)

Fig. 7 Mode shape for diferent values of gradient parameter (1st mode, CC)

Fig. 8 Mode shape for diferent values of gradient parameter (2nd mode, SS)

Fig. 9 Mode shape for diferent values of gradient parameter (2nd mode, CC)

Fig. 10 Mode shape for diferent values of thermal load (1st mode, SS)

Fig. 11 Mode shape for different values of thermal load (1st mode, CC)

Fig. 12 Mode shape for diferent values of thermal load (2nd mode, SS)

Fig. 13 Mode shape for diferent values of thermal load (2nd mode, CC)

Fig. 14 Mode shape for double cracks and diferent values of crack severity (1st mode, SS)

Fig. 15 Mode shape for double cracks and diferent values of crack severity (1st mode, CC)

load. In Figs. ([6,](#page-9-1) [7](#page-9-2), [8,](#page-10-0) [9](#page-10-1), [10,](#page-10-2) [11](#page-10-3), [12](#page-10-4) and [13\)](#page-10-5), different support conditions of the nanobeam are demonstrated where the location of crack $a = 0.25L$, value of the nonlocal parameter $\mu = 0.1$, and crack severity $K = 0.35$ are considered. Figures [\(6,](#page-9-1) [7](#page-9-2), [8](#page-10-0) and [9](#page-10-1)) represent mode shapes of axially graded cracked nanobeam for diferent values of nonhomogeneity. In this section of calculation, thermal load $n = 1$ is considered. Different values of nonhomogeneity $\lambda = 2$, $\lambda = 0$, and $\lambda = -2$ are applied. It is comprehensible from these figures that mode shapes of cracked nanobeam are considerably changed by the nonhomogeneity. Variation changes with the change of the value of nonhomogeneity. This variation also increases in the higher mode of frequency. Figures ([9,](#page-10-1) [10](#page-10-2), [11](#page-10-3), [12](#page-10-4) and [13](#page-10-5)) represent mode shapes of axially graded

Fig. 16 Mode shape for double cracks and diferent values of crack severity (2nd mode, SS)

Fig. 17 Mode shape for double cracks and diferent values of crack severity (2nd mode, CC)

Fig. 18 Mode shape for triple cracks and diferent values of crack severity (1st mode, SS)

Fig. 19 Mode shape for triple cracks and diferent values of crack severity (1st mode, CC)

Fig. 20 Mode shape for triple cracks and diferent values of crack severity (2nd mode, SS)

Fig. 21 Mode shape for triple cracks and diferent values of crack severity (2nd mode, CC)

Fig. 22 Mode shape for double cracks and diferent values of nonhomogeneity (1st mode, SS)

Fig. 23 Mode shape for double cracks and diferent values of nonhomogeneity (1st mode, CC)

Fig. 24 Mode shape for double cracks and diferent values of nonhomogeneity (2nd mode, SS)

Fig. 25 Mode shape for double cracks and diferent values of nonhomogeneity (2nd mode, CC)

cracked nanobeam for various values of thermal load. In this section of calculation, nonhomogeneity $\lambda = 1$ is considered. Three different values of thermal load $n = 2$, $n = 0$, and $n = -2$ are applied. It is very clear from these figures that mode shapes are slightly infuenced by the thermal load. It can be concluded that the nonhomogeneity is more efective on mode shape than the thermal load. Figures ([14,](#page-11-0) [15](#page-11-1), [16](#page-11-2), [17](#page-11-3), [18](#page-11-4), [19](#page-12-0), [20](#page-12-1) and [21\)](#page-12-2) represent the mode shapes of double and triple cracked nanobeam with fully clamped and simply supported boundary conditions. The nonhomogeneity and thermal efect are not considered. Three specifc values of crack severity $K = 0$, $K = 0.3$, $K = 0.7$ are used. Figures ([14](#page-11-0), [15,](#page-11-1) [16](#page-11-2) and [17\)](#page-11-3) describe the mode shape for double-cracked nanobeam. Two similar cracks at $a = 0.3$ and $a = 0.7$ are considered. Similarly, Figs. $(18, 19, 20, 20)$ $(18, 19, 20, 20)$ $(18, 19, 20, 20)$ $(18, 19, 20, 20)$ $(18, 19, 20, 20)$ $(18, 19, 20, 20)$ [21\)](#page-12-2) reveal the mode shape for triple cracked nanobeam. Three similar cracks at $a = 0.2$, $a = 0.4$, and $a = 0.7$ are considered, respectively. From these fgures, it is seen that the number of cracks signifcantly changes the mode shape diagram. Figures ([22,](#page-12-3) [23,](#page-12-4) [24](#page-12-5) and [25](#page-13-1)) reveal the mode shapes of double-cracked nanobeam with various nonhomogeneity. In these figures, crack severity $K = 0.35$, crack locations $a = 0.3, b = 0.7$, nonlocal parameter $\mu = 0.1$, and thermal load $n = 0$ are considered. Three different values of nonhomogeneity are used in this analysis. It is evident that the mode shape is signifcantly afected by the nonhomogeneity of the beam.

Conclusion

In this study, the dynamic behavior of axially graded cracked nanobeams with thermal load is analyzed using the power series solution technique. Mode shapes have been illustrated to analyze the efects of nonhomogeneity and thermal load on the vibration of cracked nanobeams. The power series solution technique is employed to study the problem and to illustrate the mode shapes that analyze the natural vibration of multi-cracked nanobeams. Frequency is afected by the crack position as well as the nonhomogeneity. It is shown that the efects of nonhomogeneity and thermal load together on intact and cracked nanobeams are very diverse in diferent modes of frequency and diferent end supports. It is evident from these mode shape studies that mode shapes of the single- and multi-cracked nanobeams are very fuctuating for the nonhomogeneity of the material. The thermal load is less efective on the mode shape of cracked nanobeams than the

nonhomogeneity without crack

Table 6 Frequency for several values of nonlocal parameter, thermal load, and nonhomogeneity with crack

nonhomogeneity. This analysis can be used to design nanoscale electromechanical systems.

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