

ON THE PHENOMENOLOGICAL MODELLING OF YIELD SURFACE DISTORTION

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Abstract. A simple phenomenological approach to metal plasticity, including the description of the strain-induced plastic anisotropy, is considered. The advocated approach is exemplified by a two-dimensional rheological analogy. This analogy provides insight into modelling of nonlinear kinematic hardening of Armstrong-Frederick type combined with a nonlinear distortional hardening. In the previous publications of the authors, an interpolation rule between the undistorted yield surface of a virgin material and the saturated yield surface of a pre-deformed material was considered. In the current publication, a somewhat more flexible approach is considered. Given a set of convex symmetric key surfaces which correspond to different hardening stages, the form of the yield surface is smoothly interpolated between these key surfaces. Thus, any experimentally observed sequence of symmetric convex yield surfaces can be rendered. In particular, an arbitrary sharpening of the yield locus in the loading direction combined with a flattening on the opposite side can be taken into account. Moreover, the yield locus evolves smoothly and its convexity is ensured at each hardening stage.

Keywords: *Rheological model, Plastic anisotropy, Yield function, Yield surface, Distortional hardening.*

1. INTRODUCTION

It is well known that already very small plastic deformations may lead to a significant change of the yield surface compared to the initial state [3,19,8,9]. Such nonlinear effects like the residual stresses, springback, damage evolution, and failure are highly dependent on the accumulated plastic anisotropy of the material. Therefore, the proper description of the accumulated plastic anisotropy is a challenging task. Moreover, since the normality flow rule is implemented in most of phenomenological models, the form of the yield surface has a significant impact on the overall material response under non-proportional loading conditions. For that reason, we concentrate on the phenomenological modelling of plastic anisotropy with especial emphasis on the distortional hardening.

Some of the recently developed models of distortional hardening can be found, among others, in [7, 1, 4,16,11,2,15]. Probably, the most simple approach to the distortional hardening is based on the use of 2nd-rank tensors. Within this approach, backstress-like tensors (directors) are introduced [12]. The applicability of different constitutive assumptions was analyzed in [20] concerning the description of the distorted yield surface. The recent development of this approach is presented in [6,13,5,17,18].

In the previous publication of authors [18], an interpolation rule between the initial undistorted yield surface and the saturated one was considered. This saturated yield surface (which typically exhibits the maximum distortion) was considered to be a material property. The novelty of the current study as compared to previous publication is as follows. Now, a sequence of yield surfaces corresponding to different hardening stages can be prescribed. For instance, such key surfaces can be the initial undistorted one, some intermediate yield surfaces, and the saturated one. The interpolation between these key surfaces retains the convexity and smoothness of the yield locus.

In order to provide an insight into the constitutive modelling, a two-dimensional rheological model is considered in the current study, just as it was done in [18]. The translation and distortion of the yield surface as well as its rotation depending on the recent loading path are captured by the rheological model in a vivid way. The construction of the closed system of constitutive equations, basing on the rheological model, is straight-forward in the case of small strains [18]. In particular, the kinematics of the material model, the assumption for the energy storage and for the yield function are motivated by the rheological model. A strict proof of thermodynamic consistency can be provided, if the yield surface remains convex and the normality flow rule is considered, cf. [18]. Moreover, if finite strain plasticity is considered, a system of constitutive equations can be obtained using the elegant technique of Lion [10], which is based on the consideration of rheological analogies. As it was shown in [17], a similar technique can be successfully implemented using two-dimensional rheological models, as well.

2. TWO-DIMENSIONAL RHEOLOGICAL MODEL OF DISTORTIONAL HARDEN-ING

The idea to use two-dimensional rheological models to motivate the constitutive equations of plasticity/viscoplasticity with combined kinematic and distortional hardening was considered in [17]. A refined two-dimensional rheological model was presented later in [18]. Following [18], let us consider a mechanical system which consists of a tank filled with a viscous fluid, a heavy solid which rests on the flat bottom (m.StV), three elastic springs $(H_{\text{ext}}, H_{\text{kin}}, \text{ and } H_{\text{dis}})$ connected to the solid, and two spheres $(m.N_{\text{kin}} \text{ and } m.N_{\text{dis}})$ floating on the surface of the fluid (Fig. 1).¹

Let us recall the rheological properties of the idealized bodies (for more details, the reader is referred to [17,18]):

• (*H*): For the Hooke-bodies (see Fig. 2a), we put $\vec{\sigma}_H = c \vec{\varepsilon}_H$, where $\vec{\sigma}_H$ stands for the spring force, $\vec{\varepsilon}_H = \overrightarrow{AB} \in \mathbb{R}^2$ is the elongation of the spring, and $c \ge 0$ is a fixed stiffness.

¹An animated version of the rheological model with only one modified Newton element is available at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QEPc3pixbC0



Figure 1. a) Two-dimensional rheological model of combined kinematic and distortional hardening. The model is built up of a modified St.-Venant element (m.StV), Hooke-bodies H_{ext} , H_{kin} , H_{dis} , and modified Newton elements $m.N_{\text{kin}}$ and $m.N_{\text{dis}}$; b) Rheological model seen from above. The angle between the (m.StV)-axis and H_{dis} is denoted by θ . The critical friction force of the (m.StV)-element depends on θ .



Figure 2. Behavior of idealized two-dimensional bodies: a) Hooke-body H; b) Modified Newton-body m.N; c) Modified St.-Venant element m.StV. For this element, the friction depends on the angle θ .

(m.N): The two-dimensional Newton element is represented by a sphere which is floating on the surface. We assume that the fluid resistance \$\vec{\sigma}_N\$ to the motion of the sphere is proportional to its velocity \$\frac{d}{dt}\vec{\vec{c}}_N\$. Thus, \$\frac{d}{dt}\vec{\vec{c}}_N\$ = \$\vec{\vec{c}}\vec{\vec{c}}_N\$, where \$\vec{\vec{c}}\$ ≥ 0 is a fixed viscosity parameter. Next, in order to obtain rate-independent constitutive equations, the physical time t is formally replaced by the accumulated inelastic arc-length (Odqvist parameter) p. Thus, we get for the modified Newton element ((m.N)-element) (see Fig. 2b):

$$\frac{d}{dp}\vec{\varepsilon}_N = \varkappa \,\vec{\sigma}_N. \tag{1}$$

(m.StV): The heavy solid rests on the bottom of the tank and there is a friction between them. By σ, -x_k, and -x_d denote now the forces acting on this solid due to the elongation of the Hooke-bodies H_{ext}, H_{kin}, and H_{dis}, respectively (see Fig. 2c). The force σ will be understood as an external load; x_k and x_d will be responsible for the effects similar to kinematic and distortional hardening, respectively. The effective force acting on the solid is thus given by σ_{eff} = σ - x_k - x_d. Let the axis of the (m.StV)-element be always oriented along σ_{eff}. The (m.StV)-element remains at rest as long as ||σ_{eff}|| ≤ √2/3K, where √2/3K > 0 is a nonconstant friction. More precisely: Let θ be the angle between the (m.StV)-axis and x_d: θ = arccos ((d||σ_{eff} || ||x_d||)/(||σ_{eff} || ||x_d||). Moreover, let α = ||x_d||/x_d^{max} be a distortion parameter, which is a unique function of ||x_d||. Here, x_d^{max} > 0 is the upper bound for ||x_d||, therefore we get α ∈ [0, 1]. Finally, we

consider the friction to be a function of θ and α : $K = \bar{K}(\theta, \alpha) K_0$, where $K_0 > 0$ is a fixed parameter. A suitable ansatz for $\bar{K}(\theta, \alpha)$ is essential for the proper description of distortional hardening. One simple geometric ansatz was considered in [18]. An alternative rule will be presented in the next section.

3. CONSTRUCTION OF DIRECTION-DEPENDENT YIELD STRESS

In this section, a flexible rule for the computation of the friction function $\overline{K}(\theta, \alpha)$ is suggested. Note that this friction function can be interpreted as a non-dimensional yield stress (cf. [18]). Unlike the ansatz presented previously in [18], this rule is based on the interpolation between certain key surfaces. In particular, such key surfaces can be identified experimentally at different hardening stages (cf. Section 4).



Figure 3. a) Interpretation of the function $\bar{K}(\cdot, \alpha)$ in terms of corresponding convex set $El(\bar{K}(\cdot, \alpha))$; b) Example of three key surfaces. Each key surface must be smooth and convex. The first key surface corresponds to zero distortion (surface with $\alpha = 0$). The last surface describes the fully saturated distortion (surface with $\alpha = 1$).

Let $\vec{e}_1 = (1,0) \in \mathbb{R}^2$. Similar to [18], for each distortion parameter $\alpha \in [0,1]$ we consider the set $\text{El}(\bar{K}(\cdot,\alpha))$ which consists of $\vec{y} \in \mathbb{R}^2$ such that $\|\vec{y}\| \leq \bar{K}(\theta,\alpha)$ (see Fig. 3a). Here, $\theta \in [0,\pi]$ is the angle between \vec{y} and \vec{e}_1 . In particular, the upper half of the boundary of this set is described by

$$\vec{y}(\theta,\alpha) = (y_1(\theta,\alpha), y_2(\theta,\alpha)) = K(\theta,\alpha)(\cos(\theta),\sin(\theta)), \quad \theta \in [0,\pi].$$
(2)

Let us consider M different convex symmetric subsets El_{key}^i , i = 1, ..., M, as shown in Fig. 3b. Each of these sets is related to a certain hardening stage, and each stage is characterized by the corresponding value of the distortion parameter α_{key}^i , i = 1, ..., M:

$$0 = \alpha_{key}^1 < \alpha_{key}^2 < \dots < \alpha_{key}^M = 1.$$
(3)

Assume that a unit disc corresponds to the initial (undistorted) stage ($\alpha = 0$).

Our goal now is to construct a continuous function $\overline{K}(\theta, \alpha)$, such that:

- i: $\bar{K}(\theta, \alpha) > 0$ for all $\theta \in [0, \pi], \alpha \in [0, 1]$,
- ii: $\bar{K}(0, \alpha) = 1$ for all $\alpha \in [0, 1]$,
- $\text{iii:} \quad \frac{\partial \bar{K}(\theta,\alpha)}{\partial \theta}|_{\theta=0} = \frac{\partial \bar{K}(\theta,\alpha)}{\partial \theta}|_{\theta=\pi} = 0 \ \text{ for all } \alpha \in [0,1],$

- iv: the set $El(\bar{K}(\cdot, \alpha))$ is convex for all $\alpha \in [0, 1]$,
- v: the boundary of $El(\bar{K}(\cdot, \alpha))$ is smooth for all $\alpha \in [0, 1]$,
- vi: the set $El(\bar{K}(\cdot, \alpha_{key}^i))$ coincides with El_{key}^i for all i = 1, ..., M.

Let $\vec{n}^{\alpha}(\theta)$ be the outward unit normal to the boundary of $\text{El}(\bar{K}(\cdot, \alpha))$ at the point $\vec{y}(\theta, \alpha)$. The angle between this normal and $\vec{e_1}$ will be denoted by $Y^{\alpha}(\theta)$ (see Fig. 4a). According to (ii), $\bar{K}(0, \alpha)$ is given. Thus, as it will be shown in the following, the function $\bar{K}(\cdot, \alpha)$ is uniquely determined by $Y^{\alpha}(\cdot)$, for each fixed $\alpha \in [0, 1]$.



Figure 4. a) Definition of the outward normal $\vec{n}^{\alpha}(\theta)$ and the angle $Y^{\alpha}(\theta)$. b) Geometric considerations behind equation (5). Here, $\Delta\theta$ is an infinitesimal perturbation of θ . The corresponding change in $\bar{K}(\theta, \alpha) = \|\vec{y}(\theta, \alpha)\|$ equals $\Delta \bar{K}(\theta, \alpha) = \bar{K}(\theta, \alpha) \tan(\theta - Y^{\alpha}(\theta))\Delta\theta$.

For each of the subsets $\operatorname{El}_{key}^{i}$ (i = 1, ..., M), let us consider the corresponding functions $Y_{key}^{i}(\theta)$. In other words, the functions $Y_{key}^{i}(\theta)$ describe the direction of the normality vector corresponding to the key surfaces. Since $\operatorname{El}_{key}^{i}$ are convex with a smooth boundary, the functions $Y_{key}^{i}(\theta)$ are continuous, monotonically increasing, $Y_{key}^{i}(0) = 0$, $Y_{key}^{i}(\pi) = \pi$, and $|Y_{key}^{i}(\theta) - \theta| \leq \pi/2$ for all $\theta \in [0, \pi]$. In what follows it will be shown that the problem (i)-(vi) can be reduced to an equivalent one: Find $Y^{\alpha}(\theta)$ such that:

- I: $|Y^{\alpha}(\theta) \theta| < \pi/2$ for all $\theta \in [0, \pi], \ \alpha \in [0, 1],$
- III: $Y^{\alpha}(0) = 0, Y^{\alpha}(\pi) = \pi$ for all $\alpha \in [0, 1]$,
- IV: $Y^{\alpha}(\theta)$ is a monotonically increasing function of θ , for each fixed $\alpha \in [0, 1]$,
- V: $Y^{\alpha}(\theta)$ is a continuous function of θ , for each fixed $\alpha \in [0, 1]$,
- VI: $Y^{\alpha_{key}^{i}}(\theta) = Y_{key}^{i}(\theta)$ for all $i = 1, ..., M, \theta \in [0, \pi]$.

In the current study, we use the following rule to construct $Y^{\alpha}(\theta)$ which satisfies (I)-(VI). We interpolate between two key surfaces: For $\alpha \in [\alpha_{key}^i, \alpha_{key}^{i+1}]$ we put

$$Y^{\alpha}(\theta) = \frac{\alpha_{key}^{i+1} - \alpha}{\alpha_{key}^{i+1} - \alpha_{key}^{i}} Y_{key}^{i}(\theta) + \frac{\alpha - \alpha_{key}^{i}}{\alpha_{key}^{i+1} - \alpha_{key}^{i}} Y_{key}^{i+1}(\theta), \quad \text{for all } \theta \in [0, \pi].$$
(4)

Now it remains to restore $\bar{K}(\cdot, \alpha)$ from $Y^{\alpha}(\cdot)$. Some geometric considerations (see Fig. 4b) yield the following differential equation:

$$\frac{\partial \bar{K}(\theta,\alpha)}{\partial \theta} = \bar{K}(\theta,\alpha) \tan(\theta - Y^{\alpha}(\theta)), \text{ for } \theta \in [0,\pi]; \quad \bar{K}(0,\alpha) = 1.$$
(5)

There exists a simple closed-form solution of problem (5), if $Y^{\alpha}(\theta)$ is a piecewise linear function of θ . Indeed, let us consider a subdivision

$$0 = \theta_1 < \theta_2 < \dots < \theta_N = \pi.$$
(6)

Suppose that the functions $Y_{key}^i(\theta)$ are linear within $[\theta_j, \theta_{j+1}]$. Thus, for $\theta \in [\theta_j, \theta_{j+1}]$, we get

$$Y^{\alpha}(\theta) = \frac{\theta_{j+1} - \theta}{\theta_{j+1} - \theta_j} Y^{\alpha}_j + \frac{\theta - \theta_j}{\theta_{j+1} - \theta_j} Y^{\alpha}_{j+1},$$
(7)

where the values $Y_j^{\alpha} = Y^{\alpha}(\theta_j)$ and $Y_{j+1}^{\alpha} = Y^{\alpha}(\theta_{j+1})$ are obtained using the interpolation rule (4).

Considering α as a fixed parameter, we get from (5)

$$d\big(\ln(\bar{K}(\theta,\alpha))\big) = \tan(\theta - Y^{\alpha}(\theta))d\theta.$$
(8)

Next, we abbreviate

$$k := 1 + \frac{Y_j^{\alpha} - Y_{j+1}^{\alpha}}{\theta_{j+1} - \theta_j}, \quad l := \frac{\theta_j Y_{j+1}^{\alpha} - \theta_{j+1} Y_j^{\alpha}}{\theta_{j+1} - \theta_j}.$$
(9)

Substituting (7) into (8), one gets for $\theta \in [\theta_j, \theta_{j+1}]$

$$d\big(\ln(\bar{K}(\theta,\alpha))\big) = \tan(k\theta + l)d\theta.$$
(10)

Integrating (10) from θ_j to θ , we get for all $\theta \in [\theta_j, \theta_{j+1}]$

$$\ln(\bar{K}(\theta,\alpha)) = -\frac{1}{k} \ln\left|\frac{\cos k\theta + l}{\cos k\theta_j + l}\right| + \ln(\bar{K}(\theta_j,\alpha)) \quad \text{for } k \neq 0,$$
(11)

$$\ln(\bar{K}(\theta,\alpha)) = \tan(l)(\theta - \theta_j) + \ln(\bar{K}(\theta_j,\alpha)) \quad \text{for } k = 0.$$
(12)

Taking into account that $\ln(\bar{K}(0,\alpha)) = 0$, $\ln(\bar{K}(\theta,\alpha))$ can be computed through sequential evaluation of $\ln(\bar{K}(\cdot,\alpha))$ for all $\theta_i \leq \theta$.

Remark 1 Let us show that the inequality (I) implies (i). Indeed, if (I) holds, then $\tan(\theta - Y^{\alpha}(\theta)) > -\infty$. Combining this with (8), one gets $\ln(\bar{K}(\theta, \alpha)) > -\infty$, or, equivalently, $\bar{K}(\theta, \alpha) > 0$.

Remark 2 Observe that the outward normal is explicitly given by $\vec{n}^{\alpha}(\theta) = (\cos(Y^{\alpha}(\theta)), \sin(Y^{\alpha}(\theta)))$. This expression can be utilized by constructing an appropriate flow rule (cf. equation (43) in [18] for the normality flow rule).

Remark 3 In this study we assume that the key surfaces are given. Indeed, it was shown in [18] that the form of the key surface can be directly associated to the form of the corresponding yield surface in $(\sigma_1, \sqrt{3}\sigma_{12})$ -space. Moreover, if some yield surfaces in (σ_1, σ_2) -space are available, they also can be used after an appropriate affine transformation.



Figure 5. a) Experimental data for commercially pure aluminum 1100-0 at room temperature [14]; b) The three key surfaces. The form of the key surfaces coincides with the form of the experimentally measured yield surfaces.

4. EXAMPLE

Let us consider the experimental data on the evolution of the yield surface under uniaxial tension, presented by Phillips and Tang in [14]. The progressing plastic anisotropy in commercially pure aluminum 1100-0 at room temperature is shown in Fig. 5a. As it can be seen, the plastic deformation involves isotropic softening, kinematic translation of the yield surface, and its distortion.² The yield surfaces, which are considered as key surfaces, are depicted in Fig. 5b. Here, we put $\alpha_{key}^1 = 0$, $\alpha_{key}^2 = 0.5$, $\alpha_{key}^3 = 1.^3$ Note that the size of the elastic domain for all key surfaces is the same along $\vec{e_1} = (1,0)$, and the origin (0,0) is located exactly in the middle. It is done so in order to decouple the yield surface distortion from the kinematic and isotropic hardening. The corresponding functions $Y^{\alpha}(\theta)$ are plotted in Fig.6a against θ . These functions are monotonically increasing and continuous. The interpolation results are shown in Fig. 6b for different values of the distortion parameter α . As it can be seen, all surfaces remain convex and smooth.

5. CONCLUSION

In this work, the main emphasis is made on the phenomenological description of the yield surface distortion. Toward that end, a practical construction of the function $\bar{K}(\theta, \alpha)$ is considered. In terms of the two-dimensional rheological interpretation, this function represents a direction-dependent friction of the modified St.-Venant element (m.StV). On the other hand, in terms of a plasticity model, this function plays a role of the yield stress. The approach advocated in this study utilizes an interpolation between certain key surfaces (boundaries of El_{key}^i , i = 1, ..., M). In particular, it can be guaranteed that the resulting surfaces are convex and smooth, such that the outward normal is well defined. The proposed interpolation rule is simple and easy to implement. Using this approach, any experimentally observed sequence

²The reduction of the elastic range *under proportional loading conditions* is referred to as isotropic softening. ³In general, α_{key}^2 should be considered as a material parameter.



Figure 6. a) Plots of $Y^{\alpha}(\theta)$ for different values of α ; b) Interpolation results for $\alpha = 0, 0.1, 0.2, ..., 1$. Only the upper half is shown.

of symmetric convex yield surfaces can be rendered with desired accuracy. Such property is especially important, if the normality flow rule is used as a constitutive assumption.

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6. REFERENCES

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