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Impact response of a Timoshenko-type viscoelastic beam considering the extension of its middle surface

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Abstract

In the present paper, the problem of low-velocity impact of an elastic sphere against a viscoelastic Timoshenko-type beam is studied considering the extension of its middle surface. The viscoelastic features of the beam out of the contact domain are governed by the standard linear solid model with derivatives of integer order, while within the contact domain the fractional derivative standard linear solid model is utilized, in so doing rheological constants of the material in both models are the same. However the presence of the additional parameter, i.e. fractional parameter which could vary from zero to unit, allows one to vary beam's viscosity, since the structure of the beam's material within this zone may be damaged, resulting in the decrease of the beam material viscosity in the contact zone. Consideration for transient waves (surfaces of strong discontinuity) propagating in the target out of the contact zone via the theory of discontinuities and determination of the desired values behind the surfaces of discontinuities upto the contact domain with the help of ray series, as well as the utilization of the Hertz theory in the contact zone allow one to obtain a set of two integro-differential equations, which govern the desired values, namely: the local bearing of the target and impactor's materials and the displacement of the beam within the contact domain.

Keywords: Impact response, Timoshenko viscoelastic beam, Rabotnov fractional exponential function

Background

For the first time the extension of the middle surface during impact upon a thin body has been taken into account in the problems of impact of an elastic sphere upon an elastic Timoshenko beam in (Rossikhin and Shitikova 1996) and upon an elastic Timoshenko-type thin-walled beam of open profile in (Rossikhin and Shitikova 1999). In the state-of-the-art article (Rossikhin and Shitikova 2007a) devoted to the wave theory of impact and published in 2007 in "The Shock and Vibration Digest", the impact response of an elastic Uflyand–Mindlin plane and a Timoshenko beam was analyzed in detail.

However, in 2014, Vershinin (2014) published a conference paper, wherein the problem of impact of an elastic sphere against an elastic Timoshenko beam was considered with due account for extension of the target middle surface, in so doing the solution was based on completely wrong formulas and equations. Thus, in page 345 of (Vershinin 2014) a reader could find incorrect formula (6)



$$[\nu] = -\frac{1-\nu}{\nu} G_1 \frac{\alpha}{h_h},$$

where $[\nu]$ is the discontinuity in the velocity of longitudinal displacement on the plane transient wave propagating along the beam during the impact process with the velocity $G_1 = \sqrt{E/\rho}$, E is Young's modulus, ρ is the density, ν is Poisson's ratio, h_b is the beam thickness, and α is the local bearing the target and impactor's materials. The above formula is valid for an elastic thin plate, but it is invalid for a beam.

However, the correct formula for the beam (which will be used further in the present paper) was derived 50 years ago in the classical work by Landau and Lifshitz (1965)

$$[\nu] = -\frac{1}{\nu} G_1 \frac{\alpha}{h_b}.$$

In the same page of (p. 345 in Vershinin 2014), the equation of motion of the contact zone was presented as

$$2N\frac{\partial w}{\partial z} + 2Q + P(t) = \rho h \pi a^2 \ddot{w},$$

where N is the longitudinal force, w and Q are transverse displacement and force, respectively, P(t) is the contact force, z is the coordinate directed along the beam axis, a dot denotes the time-derivative, a is the radius of the contact zone, in so doing the author of (Vershinin 2014) has considered that plane transient waves (surfaces of discontinuity) propagate from the contact zone during the process of impact. However, if the contact domain is a circular disk with a volume $h\pi a^2$, then the waves travelling from a circular contact zone are diverging circles.

In order the waves propagating from the contact zone to be the plane waves, the contact domain should be a rectangular parallelepiped with the volume 2aF, where F is the cross sectional area of the beam, and the equation should have the form

$$2N\frac{\partial w}{\partial z} + 2Q + P(t) = 2aF\rho\ddot{w}.$$

In the same page of (p. 345 in Vershinin 2014), the final equation was presented as

$$\ddot{\alpha} + \frac{1}{m}P(\alpha) + c_b \frac{d}{d\alpha} \left(\frac{P(\alpha)}{1 + e_b \alpha} \right) = 0,$$

where $c_b = (2\rho F G_2)^{-1}$, $G_2 = \sqrt{K\mu/\rho}$, $e_b = \frac{1-\nu}{\nu} \frac{G_1^2}{G_2^2} h_b$, K is the shear coefficient, and μ is the shear modulus. This equation is also incorrect.

The correct equation neglecting the inertia of the contact zone (this important assumption was not mentioned in Vershinin (2014)) has the form

$$\ddot{\alpha} + \frac{1}{m}P(\alpha) + c_b \frac{d}{d\alpha} \left(\frac{P(\alpha)}{1 + e\alpha}\right) \dot{\alpha} = 0$$

with the correct coefficient $e=rac{G_1^2}{G_2^2}rac{1}{vh_b}$.

Based on the aforesaid, the further numerical treatment presented in Vershinin (2014) occurs to be invalid.

In the present paper, we present not only the correct equation for the impact response of the elastic Timoshenko beam, but the deduction and analysis of equations describing the behaviour of a viscoelastic Timoshenko-type beam impacted by an elastic sphere are given considering the damage of the target material within the contact domain.

Problem formulation

Let an elastic sphere with the radius R and mass m move along the y-axis with a constant velocity V_0 towards a Timoshenko-type viscoelastic homogeneous isotropic beam of the width h (Fig. 1), viscoelastic features of which are described by the standard linear solid model with conventional derivatives. The dynamic behaviour of such a beam with due account for extension of its middle surface is described by the following set of equations:

$$\frac{\partial N}{\partial z} = \rho F \dot{v}, \quad \frac{\partial Q}{\partial z} = \rho F \dot{W}, \quad -\frac{\partial M}{\partial z} + Q = \rho I \dot{\Psi}, \tag{1}$$

$$N = FE_{\infty} \left[1 - \nu_{\varepsilon} \ni_{1}^{*} (\tau_{\varepsilon}) \right] \frac{\partial u}{\partial z}, \tag{2}$$

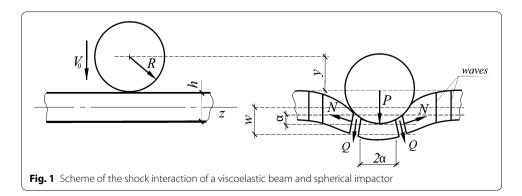
$$Q = KF\mu_{\infty} \left[1 - n \ni_{1}^{*} (t_{\varepsilon}) \right] \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial z} - \psi \right), \tag{3}$$

$$M = -IE_{\infty} \left[1 - \nu_{\varepsilon} \ni_{1}^{*} (\tau_{\varepsilon}) \right] \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial z}, \tag{4}$$

where M, Q, and N are the bending moment, the shear and longitudinal forces, respectively, u and w are longitudinal and transverse displacements, respectively, ψ is the angle of rotation of the cross section around the z-axis, $v = \dot{u}$, $W = \dot{w}$, $\Psi = \dot{\psi}$, F and I are the cross-sectional area and the moment of inertia with respect to the x-axis, respectively, ρ is the density, K is the shear coefficient dependent on beam's geometrical dimensions and the form of its cross section, and an overdot denotes the time derivative.

In equations (2) and (4), the operator corresponding to the Young modulus has the form

$$\widetilde{E} = E_{\infty} [1 - \nu_{\varepsilon} \ni_{1}^{*} (\tau_{\varepsilon})], \tag{5}$$



$$\widetilde{E}^{-1} = E_{\infty}^{-1} \left[1 + \nu_{\sigma} \ni_{1}^{*} (\tau_{\sigma}) \right], \tag{6}$$

$$\nu_{\varepsilon} = \frac{E_{\infty} - E_0}{E_{\infty}} = \frac{\Delta E}{E_{\infty}},\tag{7}$$

$$\ni_1^* (\tau_i) Z(t) = \frac{1}{\tau_i} \int_0^t e^{-(t-t')/\tau_i} Z(t') dt' \quad (i = \varepsilon, \sigma), \tag{8}$$

$$\ni_{1}^{*}(t_{i})Z(t) = \frac{1}{t_{i}} \int_{0}^{t} e^{-(t-t')/t_{i}} Z(t') dt' \quad (i = \varepsilon, \sigma), \tag{9}$$

where Z(t) is a desired function, E_{∞} and E_0 are the non-relaxed (instantaneous modulus of elasticity, or the glassy modulus) and relaxed elastic (prolonged modulus of elasticity, or the rubbery modulus) moduli which are connected with the relaxation time τ_{ε} and retardation time τ_{σ} by the following relationship:

$$\frac{\tau_{\varepsilon}}{\tau_{\sigma}} = \frac{E_0}{E_{\infty}}.\tag{10}$$

In equation (3), the operator corresponding to the shear modulus has the form

$$\widetilde{\mu} = \mu_{\infty} [1 - n \ni_{1}^{*} (t_{\varepsilon})], \tag{11}$$

where μ_{∞} is the nonrelaxed magnitude of the shear modulus, and n and t_{ε} are yet unknown constants.

Rossikhin and Shitikova (2013, 2015) have shown that if the operator \widetilde{E} is assumed to be assigned and the operator of the triaxial extension–compression \widetilde{K} , according to experimental data (Rabotnov 1966), is considered to be time-independent, i.e. $\widetilde{K}=K_{\infty}$, where K_{∞} is the non-relaxed module, then Poisson's coefficient becomes a time-dependent operator

$$\widetilde{\nu} = \nu_{\infty} + \frac{1}{2} (1 - 2\nu_{\infty}) \nu_{\varepsilon} \ni_{1}^{*} (\tau_{\varepsilon}), \tag{12}$$

as well as the Lamé constants λ and μ take the form of the time-dependent operators

$$\widetilde{\lambda} = \lambda_{\infty} \left[1 + n_1 \ni_1^* (t_{\varepsilon}) \right] \tag{13}$$

and $\widetilde{\mu}$ (11), respectively, where ν_{∞} and λ_{∞} are the non-relaxed magnitudes of the corresponding operators, and

$$\begin{split} n_1 &= \frac{(1-2\nu_\infty)\nu_\varepsilon}{2(1+\nu_\infty)A}, \quad n = \frac{3\nu_\varepsilon}{2(1+\nu_\infty)A}, \\ A &= \frac{2(1+\nu_\infty)+(1-2\nu_\infty)\nu_\varepsilon}{2(1+\nu_\infty)A} > 1, \quad t_\varepsilon = \tau_\varepsilon A^{-1}. \end{split}$$

The impact occurs at t = 0 (Fig. 1). When t > 0, the displacement of the sphere's center y could be represented in the form

$$y = w + \alpha, \tag{14}$$

where α is the quasi-static bearing of impactor and target's materials which is connected with the contact force by the following formula according to the generalized Hertzian law:

$$P(t) = \frac{4\sqrt{R}}{3} \,\widetilde{k} \,\alpha^{3/2},\tag{15}$$

where

$$\tilde{k}^{-1} = \frac{1 - \tilde{\nu}_1^2}{\tilde{E}_1} + \frac{1 - \nu_2^2}{E_2},\tag{16}$$

In formula (16) indices 1 and 2 refer to the viscoelastic beam and elastic sphere, respectively, in so doing the operators \widetilde{E}_1 and $\widetilde{\nu}_1$, which act within the contact domain, differ from operators (5), (6), and (12) valid within the other parts of the target, namely:

$$\widetilde{E}_1 = E_{\infty} \Big[1 - \nu_{\varepsilon} \ni_{\gamma}^* (\tau_{\varepsilon}^{\gamma}) \Big] \quad (0 \le \gamma \le 1), \tag{17}$$

$$\widetilde{E}_1^{-1} = E_\infty^{-1} \Big[1 + \nu_\sigma \ni_\gamma^* (\tau_\sigma^\gamma) \Big], \tag{18}$$

$$\widetilde{\nu} = \nu_{\infty} + \frac{1}{2} (1 - 2\nu_{\infty}) \nu_{\varepsilon} \ni_{\gamma}^{*} (\tau_{\varepsilon}^{\gamma}), \tag{19}$$

where all rheological constants for the fractional parameter γ remain the same as for $\gamma=1$,

$$\left(\frac{\tau_{\varepsilon}}{\tau_{\sigma}}\right)^{\gamma} = \frac{E_0}{E_{\infty}},\tag{20}$$

$$\ni_{1}^{*}(\tau_{i}^{\gamma})Z(t) = \int_{0}^{t} \ni_{\gamma} \left(\frac{t - t'}{\tau_{i}}\right) Z(t')dt' \quad (i = \varepsilon, \sigma),$$

$$\tag{21}$$

$$\ni_{\gamma} \left(\frac{t}{\tau_i} \right) = \frac{t^{\gamma - 1}}{\tau_i^{\gamma}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n (t/\tau_i)^{\gamma n}}{\Gamma[\gamma(n+1)]},\tag{22}$$

 $\Gamma[\gamma(n+1)]$ is the Gamma-function, $\ni_{\gamma}(t/\tau_i)$ is Rabotnov's fractional exponential function (Rabotnov 1948) which at $\gamma=1$ goes over into the ordinary exponent, and operator $\ni_{\gamma}(\tau_i)$ transforms into operator $\ni_1^*(\tau_i)$. When $\gamma \to 0$, the function $\ni_{\gamma}(t/\tau_i)$ tends to the Dirac delta-function $\delta(t)$.

This distinction is connected with the fact that during the impact process there occurs decrosslinking within the domain of the contact of the beam with the impactor, resulting in more freely displacements of molecules with respect to each other, and finally in the decrease of the beam material viscosity in the contact zone (Popov et al. 2015). This

circumstance allows one to describe the behaviour of the beam material within the contact domain by the standard linear solid model involving fractional derivatives, since variation in the fractional parameter (the order of the fractional derivative) enables one to control the viscosity of the beam material from its initial value at $\gamma = 1$ to its vanishing at $\gamma = 0$. Thus, the substitution of operators (5), (6), and (12) with operators (17)–(19), respectively, is quite reasonable.

Now the equation of motion of the sphere could be written in the form

$$m\ddot{y} = -P(t),\tag{23}$$

where P(t) is defined by formula (15), while the equation of motion of the contact zone, which is considered to be rigid and is restricted by the planes $z = \pm a$ (Fig. 1)

$$a(t) = \sqrt{\alpha R},\tag{24}$$

is written as

$$2N\frac{\partial w}{\partial z} + 2Q + P(t) = 2aF\rho\ddot{w}. (25)$$

Equations (23) and (25) are subjected to the following initial conditions

$$y|_{t=0} = 0, \quad \dot{y}|_{t=0} = V_0, \quad w|_{t=0} = \dot{w}|_{t=0} = 0.$$
 (26)

Under the assumptions made above with respect to the contact domain, transient longitudinal and transverse waves (surfaces of strong discontinuity) propagate from the boundary of the contact zone during the impact. A certain desired function Z(z, t) behind the front of the wave surface is represented in terms of the ray series (Rossikhin and Shitikova 1995)

$$Z(z,t) = \sum_{\alpha=1}^{2} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k!} \left[Z_{,(k)} \right] \Big|_{t=z/G^{(\alpha)}} \left(t - \frac{z}{G^{(\alpha)}} \right)^k H\left(t - \frac{z}{G^{(\alpha)}} \right), \tag{27}$$

where $\left[Z_{\prime(k)}\right]=Z_{\prime(k)}^{+}-Z_{\prime(k)}^{-}=\left[\partial^{k}Z/\partial t^{k}\right]$ are the discontinuities in the k-th order derivatives with respect to time t of the desired function Z(z,t) on the wave surface, the upper signs + and - denote that the given value is calculated immediately ahead of and behind the wave front, respectively, the index α labels the ordinal number of the wave, namely: $\alpha=1$ for the longitudinal wave, and $\alpha=2$ for the transverse wave, H(t) is the Heaviside function, and $G^{(\alpha)}$ is the normal velocity of the surface of discontinuity.

To determine coefficients of the ray series (27), it is necessary to differentiate the governing Eqs. (1)–(4) k times with respect to time, take their difference on the different sides of the wave surface Σ and apply the condition of compatibility for the k+1-order discontinuities of the function Z, which has the following form (Rossikhin and Shitikova 1995):

$$G\left[\frac{\partial Z_{\prime(k)}}{\partial z}\right] = -[Z_{\prime(k+1)}] + \frac{d[Z_{\prime(k)}]}{dt},\tag{28}$$

where d/dt is the complete time-derivative of the function $Z_{i,(k)}(z,t)$ on the moving surface of discontinuity.

Since the process of impact is a transient process, then, firstly, it is possible to limit ourselves by zeroth terms of the ray series (28), and secondly, to neglect the waves reflected from the end face of the beam considering that they reach the contact zone after impactor's rebound from the beam.

Further we shall interpret a shock wave in the beam (surface of strong discontinuity) as a layer of small thickness δ , the head front of which arrives at a certain point M with the coordinate z at the moment of time t, while the back front of the shock layer reaches this point at the moment $t + \Delta t$. The desired values Z(z, t) at the point M, such as velocity, generalized forces and deformations, during the time increment Δt change monotonically and uninterruptedly from the magnitude Z^- to the magnitude Z^+ , in so doing within the layer, according to the condition of compatibility (28), the relationship

$$\frac{\partial Z}{\partial z} \approx -G^{-1}\dot{Z} \tag{29}$$

is fulfilled, which is the more accurate the smaller the value of Δt .

Substituting the derivatives $\partial N/\partial z$, $\partial Q/\partial z$, and $\partial M/\partial z$ in (1) with $-G^{-1}\dot{N}$, $-G^{-1}\dot{Q}$, and $-G^{-1}\dot{M}$, respectively, integrating then the resulting equations from t to $t+\Delta t$, and tending Δt to zero, we find

$$[N] = -\rho FG[\nu], \quad [Q] = -\rho FG[W], \quad [M] = \rho I G[\Psi].$$
 (30)

Substituting in (2)–(4) the derivatives $\partial u/\partial z$, $\partial w/\partial z$, and $\partial \psi/\partial z$ by the expressions $-G^{-1}v$, $-G^{-1}W$, and $-G^{-1}\Psi$, respectively, and writing them at the moments t and $t+\Delta t$, we obtain

$$N^{-} = -FE_{\infty} \left[G^{-1}v^{-} - \nu_{\varepsilon} \frac{1}{\tau_{\varepsilon}} \int_{0}^{t} e^{-\frac{t-t'}{\tau_{\varepsilon}}} G^{-1}v(t')dt' \right], \tag{31}$$

$$N^{+} = -FE_{\infty} \left[G^{-1} v^{+} - \nu_{\varepsilon} \frac{1}{\tau_{\varepsilon}} \int_{0}^{t+\Delta t} e^{-\frac{t+\Delta t - t'}{\tau_{\varepsilon}}} G^{-1} \nu(t') dt' \right], \tag{32}$$

$$Q^{-} = -KF\mu_{\infty} \left[G^{-1}W^{-} + \psi^{-} - n_{\varepsilon} \frac{1}{t_{\varepsilon}} \int_{0}^{t} e^{-\frac{t-t'}{t_{\varepsilon}}} \left(G^{-1}W(t') + \psi(t') \right) dt' \right], \quad (33)$$

$$Q^{+} = -KF\mu_{\infty} \left[G^{-1}W^{+} + \psi^{+} - n_{\varepsilon} \frac{1}{t_{\varepsilon}} \int_{0}^{t+\Delta t} e^{-\frac{t+\Delta t-t'}{t_{\varepsilon}}} \left(G^{-1}W(t') + \psi(t') \right) dt' \right], \tag{34}$$

$$M^{-} = IE_{\infty} \left[G^{-1} \Psi^{-} - \nu_{\varepsilon} \frac{1}{\tau_{\varepsilon}} \int_{0}^{t} e^{-\frac{t-t'}{\tau_{\varepsilon}}} G^{-1} \Psi(t') dt' \right], \tag{35}$$

$$M^{+} = IE_{\infty} \left[G^{-1} \Psi^{+} - \nu_{\varepsilon} \frac{1}{\tau_{\varepsilon}} \int_{0}^{t+\Delta t} e^{-\frac{t+\Delta t - t'}{\tau_{\varepsilon}}} G^{-1} \Psi(t') dt' \right]. \tag{36}$$

Expanding the integrals entering in (32), (34), and (36) into the Taylor series with respect to the small parameter Δt and limiting ourselves by the zeroth and first approximations, we have

$$\int_{0}^{t+\Delta t} e^{-\frac{t+\Delta t - t'}{\tau_{\varepsilon}}} v(t')dt' = \int_{0}^{t} e^{-\frac{t - t'}{\tau_{\varepsilon}}} v(t')dt' + v(t)\Delta t$$
$$-\Delta t \frac{1}{\tau_{\varepsilon}} \int_{0}^{t} e^{-\frac{t - t'}{\tau_{\varepsilon}}} v(t')dt',$$
(37)

$$\begin{split} \int_{0}^{t+\Delta t} e^{-\frac{t+\Delta t-t'}{t_{\varepsilon}}} \Big[G^{-1}W(t') + \psi(t') \Big] dt' &= \int_{0}^{t} e^{-\frac{t-t'}{t_{\varepsilon}}} \Big[G^{-1}W(t') + \psi(t') \Big] dt' \\ &+ \Big[G^{-1}W(t') + \psi(t') \Big] \Delta t \\ &- \Delta t \, \frac{1}{t_{\varepsilon}} \int_{0}^{t} e^{-\frac{t-t'}{t_{\varepsilon}}} \Big[G^{-1}W(t') + \psi(t') \Big] dt', \end{split}$$
 (38)

$$\int_{0}^{t+\Delta t} e^{-\frac{t+\Delta t - t'}{\tau_{\varepsilon}}} \psi(t') dt' = \int_{0}^{t} e^{-\frac{t - t'}{\tau_{\varepsilon}}} \psi(t') dt' + \psi(t) \Delta t$$
$$-\Delta t \frac{1}{\tau_{\varepsilon}} \int_{0}^{t} e^{-\frac{t - t'}{\tau_{\varepsilon}}} \psi(t') dt'. \tag{39}$$

Subtracting (31), (33), and (35), respectively, from (32), (34), and (36) with due account for (37)–(39), and tending Δt to zero, we find

$$[N] = -FE_{\infty}G^{-1}[\nu], \quad [Q] = -KF\mu_{\infty}G^{-1}[W], \quad [M] = IE_{\infty}G^{-1}[\Psi]. \tag{40}$$

From relationships (30) and (40) it is possible to find the velocities of two types of transient waves:

longitudinal-flexural wave

$$G_{\infty}^{(1)} = \left(\frac{E_{\infty}}{\rho}\right)^{1/2},\tag{41}$$

and shear wave

$$G_{\infty}^{(2)} = \left(\frac{K\mu_{\infty}}{\rho}\right)^{1/2}.\tag{42}$$

Substituting the found velocities (41) and (42) in formulae (30) and limiting, as it has been already mentioned, by the zeroth terms of the ray series, we have

$$N = -\rho F G_{\infty}^{(1)} \nu, \quad Q = -\rho F G_{\infty}^{(2)} W, \quad M = \rho I G_{\infty}^{(1)} \Psi.$$
 (43)

Note that relationships (43) differ nothing from those for an elastic beam, since at the moment of impact a viscoelastic medium behaves as an elastic medium with the unrelaxed elastic modulus.

Now it is necessary to substitute the values of N and Q defined by (43) in (25). However the governing set of two equations, (23) and (25), should involve only two unknown values, α and w, while the force N entering in (25) depends on the velocity ν , as it follows from (43), and therefore ν should be expressed in terms of α and w.

For this purpose we write the relationship for the stress tensor in a viscoelastic medium

$$\sigma_{ij} = \lambda_{\infty} \left[1 + n_1 \ni_1^* (t_{\varepsilon}) \right] u_{l,l} \delta_{ij} + \mu_{\infty} \left[1 - n \ni_1^* (t_{\varepsilon}) \right] \left(u_{i,j} + u_{j,i} \right), \tag{44}$$

where summation is carried out over two repeated indices, an index after a comma labels the derivative with respect to the corresponding coordinate, σ_{ij} and u_i are the stress tensor and displacement vector components, respectively, $x = x_1$, $y = x_2$, $z = x_3$, and δ_{ij} is the Kronecker symbol (i, j = 1, 2, 3).

Using the procedure applied above to deduce formulae (40), from relationship (44) we obtain

$$[\sigma_{ij}] = \lambda_{\infty}[u_{l,l}]\delta_{ij} + \mu_{\infty}([u_{i,j}] + [u_{j,i}]). \tag{45}$$

Multiplying (45) sequentially by $k_i k_j$ and $s_i s_j$, and neglecting the press of layers within the front of the surface of strong discontinuity in the direction of the vectors \vec{k} and \vec{s} , i.e., considering that

$$[\sigma_{ij}]k_ik_j = [\sigma_{ij}]s_is_j = 0, (46)$$

we have

$$\lambda_{\infty}[u_{l,l}] + 2\mu_{\infty}[u_{x,x}] = 0,\tag{47}$$

$$\lambda_{\infty}[u_{l,l}] + 2\mu_{\infty}[u_{y,y}] = 0, \tag{48}$$

whence it follows the equality

$$[u_{x,x}] = [u_{y,y}]. (49)$$

Considering the generalized geometric conditions of compatibility (Rossikhin and Shitikova 2007b)

$$[u_{i,j}] = -G^{-1}[v_i]v_j + [u_{i,x}]k_j + [u_{i,y}]s_j,$$
(50)

$$[u_{l,l}] = -G^{-1}[v_l]v_l + [u_{x,x}] + [u_{y,y}], \tag{51}$$

relationships (47) and (48) could be rewritten in the form

$$[\nu] = [\nu_l]\nu_l = 2(\lambda_\infty + \mu_\infty)\lambda_\infty^{-1}[u_{x,x}]G_\infty^{(1)},\tag{52}$$

$$[\nu] = [\nu_l]\nu_l = 2(\lambda_\infty + \mu_\infty)\lambda_\infty^{-1}[u_{y,y}]G_\infty^{(1)}.$$
(53)

Since in further treatment one-term ray expansions will be used, then (52) and (53) take the form

$$u_{y,y} = u_{x,x} = G_{\infty}^{(1)^{-1}} v_{\infty} v = -v_{\infty} u_{z,z},$$
(54)

or

$$\nu = \nu_{\infty}^{-1} G_{\infty}^{(1)} u_{y,y} = -\nu_{\infty}^{-1} G_{\infty}^{(1)} \frac{\alpha}{h}.$$
 (55)

Note that formula (54) has been presented in Landau and Lifshitz (1965) for elastic beams.

Thus, considering formulae (43) and (55), the force N could be rewritten in the form

$$N = \rho F G_{\infty}^{(1)2} \nu_{\infty}^{-1} \alpha h^{-1}. \tag{56}$$

Considering (56) and (24), as well as relationship

$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial z} = -G_{\infty}^{(2)^{-1}} W,\tag{57}$$

Eq. (25) could be rewritten in the form

$$(e\alpha + g)W + l\alpha^{1/2}\dot{W} = P(t), \tag{58}$$

where $e = 2\rho F G_{\infty}^{(1)^2} \left(G_{\infty}^{(2)} \nu_{\infty} h \right)^{-1}$, $g = 2\rho F G_{\infty}^{(2)}$, and $l = 2\rho F \sqrt{R}$. Substituting (14) in (23) yields

$$m\dot{W} + m\ddot{\alpha} = -P(t). \tag{59}$$

Adding Eqs. (58) and (59), we find

$$m\dot{W} + m\ddot{\alpha} + l\alpha^{1/2}\dot{W} + (e\alpha + g)W = 0. \tag{60}$$

As it has been shown in Rossikhin and Shitikova (2013), the operator \widetilde{k} entering in (15) has the form

$$\widetilde{k} = \left(\frac{1 - \widetilde{v}_1^2}{\widetilde{E}_1} + \frac{1 - v_2^2}{E_2}\right)^{-1} = d^{-1} \left[1 - e_1 \ni_{\gamma}^* (t_1^{\gamma}) - e_2 \ni_{\gamma}^* (t_2^{\gamma})\right],\tag{61}$$

where

$$\begin{split} t_{1,2}^{-\gamma} &= \frac{1}{2} \left[\tau_{\varepsilon}^{-\gamma} (1+g_1) + \tau_{\sigma}^{-\gamma} (1+g_2) \right] \\ &\quad \pm \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{ \left[\tau_{\varepsilon}^{-\gamma} (1+g_1) - \tau_{\sigma}^{-\gamma} (1+g_2) \right]^2 + 4 \tau_{\varepsilon}^{-\gamma} \tau_{\sigma}^{-\gamma} g_1 g_2} \;, \\ d &= \frac{1 - \nu_{\infty}^2}{E_{\infty}} + \frac{1 - \nu_{2}^2}{E_{2}}, \quad g_1 = \frac{(1 - 2\nu_{\infty})^2 \nu_{\varepsilon}}{4E_{\infty}}, \quad g_2 = \frac{3\nu_{\sigma}}{4E_{\infty}d}, \\ e_1 &= \frac{b_2 - a_2}{a_1 b_2 - a_2 b_1} > 0, \quad e_2 = \frac{a_1 - b_1}{a_1 b_2 - a_2 b_1} > 0, \\ a_1 &= \frac{t_{1}^{-\gamma}}{t_{1}^{-\gamma} - \tau_{\varepsilon}^{-\gamma}} > 0, \quad a_2 = \frac{t_{2}^{-\gamma}}{t_{2}^{-\gamma} - \tau_{\varepsilon}^{-\gamma}} > 0, \\ b_1 &= \frac{t_{1}^{-\gamma}}{t_{1}^{-\gamma} - \tau_{\sigma}^{-\gamma}} < 0, \quad b_2 = \frac{t_{2}^{-\gamma}}{t_{2}^{-\gamma} - \tau_{\sigma}^{-\gamma}} > 0. \end{split}$$

Thus Eq. (58) takes the form

$$m\dot{W} + m\ddot{\alpha} = -k_1 \left[\alpha^{3/2}(t) - e_1 \int_0^t \exists_{\gamma} \left(-\frac{t - t'}{t_1} \right) \alpha^{3/2}(t') dt' - e_2 \int_0^t \exists_{\gamma} \left(-\frac{t - t'}{t_2} \right) \alpha^{3/2}(t') dt' \right], \tag{62}$$

where $k_1 = \frac{4}{3} \sqrt{R} d^{-1}$.

A solution of the set of two equations, involving differential equation (60) and integrodifferential equation (62), allows one to find the time-dependence of the values W and α .

Note that since the impact process is of short duration, then in the integrals entering in (62)

$$\ni_{\gamma} \left(-\frac{t}{t_j} \right) \approx \frac{t^{\gamma - 1}}{t_j^{\gamma} \Gamma(\gamma)} \quad (j = 1, 2). \tag{63}$$

Equations (60) and (62) are subjected to the initial conditions (26).

Solution of the problem in the case of neglecting the extension of the beam's middle surface

If the extension of the middle surface is excluded from consideration, then the set of the governing equations (60) and (62) with due account for (63) is reduced to the following:

$$m\dot{W} + m\ddot{\alpha} = -k_1 \left[\alpha^{3/2} - \Delta_{\gamma} \int_0^t (t - t')^{\gamma - 1} \alpha^{3/2} (t') dt' \right],\tag{64}$$

$$\dot{W} + \frac{g}{m} W = - \ddot{\alpha},\tag{65}$$

where

$$\Delta_{\gamma} = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\gamma)} \left(\frac{e_1}{t_1^{\gamma}} + \frac{e_2}{t_2^{\gamma}} \right).$$

The solution of (65) could be constructed in the form

$$W = C(t)e^{-\frac{g}{m}t},\tag{66}$$

where the function C(t) could be found using the method of variation of an arbitrary constant, resulting in

$$m\dot{W} + m\ddot{\alpha} = g\dot{\alpha} - \frac{g^2}{m}\alpha - gV_0. \tag{67}$$

Substituting (67) in (62), we arrive at the governing integro-differential equation

$$\dot{\alpha} - \frac{g}{m}\alpha = -f_1 \left[\alpha^{3/2} - \Delta_{\gamma} \int_0^t (t - t')^{\gamma - 1} \alpha^{3/2} (t') dt' \right] + V_0 \tag{68}$$

subjected to the initial conditions

$$\dot{\alpha}|_{t=0} = V_0, \quad \alpha|_{t=0} = 0,$$
 (69)

where $f_1 = \frac{k_1}{g} = \frac{k_1}{2\rho FG_{\infty}^{(2)}}$.

A solution of (68) could be found using the method of successive approximations. Thus, a particular solution of (68) neglecting its terms in square brackets has the form

$$\alpha(t) = \frac{m}{g} V_0 \left(e^{\frac{g}{m}t} - 1 \right). \tag{70}$$

Expanding exponent

$$e^{\frac{g}{m}t} \approx 1 + \frac{g}{m}t,\tag{71}$$

and substituting (71) in (70) yield

$$\alpha \approx V_0 t.$$
 (72)

Now substituting (72) in the right-hand side of (68), we could find the general solution of the obtained nonhomogeneous equation in the form

$$\alpha = C_1(t)e^{\frac{g}{m}t} - V_0 \frac{m}{g},\tag{73}$$

where the function $C_1(t)$ could be found by the method of variation of an arbitrary constant

$$C_1(t) = -f_1 V_0^{3/2} \left(\frac{2}{5} t^{5/2} - \Delta_{\gamma} \int_0^t dt'' \left[\int_0^{t''} (t'' - t')^{\gamma - 1} t'^{3/2} (t') dt' \right] \right) + C_0, \quad (74)$$

where C_0 is the constant of integration, resulting in the following final solution:

$$\alpha = \frac{m}{g} V_0 \left(e^{\frac{g}{m}t} - 1 \right) - f_1 V_0^{3/2} \left(\frac{2}{5} t^{5/2} - \Delta_{\gamma} \int_0^t dt'' \left[\int_0^{t''} (t'' - t')^{\gamma - 1} t'^{3/2} (t') dt' \right] \right) e^{\frac{g}{m}t}.$$
(75)

Considering (71), solution (75) for two limiting cases is reduced to the following: at $\gamma = 0$

$$\alpha = V_0 t - \frac{2}{5} f_1 V_0^{3/2} t^{5/2} e^{\frac{g}{m}t}, \tag{76}$$

and at $\gamma = 1$

$$\alpha = V_0 t - \frac{2}{5} f_1 V_0^{3/2} t^{5/2} e^{\frac{g}{m}t} + \frac{4}{35} \Delta f_1 V_0^{3/2} t^{7/2} e^{\frac{g}{m}t}, \tag{77}$$

where

$$\Delta = \frac{e_1}{t_1} + \frac{e_2}{t_2}.$$

Relationships (76) and (77) allow one to estimate for the limiting cases the time of impactor's rebound from the target $t_{\rm reb}$ and the time $t_{\rm max}$ at which the indentation attains its maximal magnitude $\alpha_{\rm max}$, i.e., at $\gamma=0$

$$t_{\rm reb}^0 = \left(\frac{5}{2f_1} V_0^{-1/2}\right)^{2/3},\tag{78}$$

$$t_{\text{max}}^0 = \left(\frac{1}{f_1} V_0^{-1/2}\right)^{2/3},\tag{79}$$

$$\alpha_{\text{max}}^{0} = V_0 t_{\text{max}}^{0} - \frac{2}{5} f_1 V_0^{3/2} \left(t_{\text{max}}^{0} \right)^{5/2} = \frac{3}{5} V_0^{2/3} f_1^{-2/3}, \tag{80}$$

and at $\gamma = 1$

$$t_{\rm reb}^1 = t_{\rm reb}^0 + \frac{4}{21} \Delta \left(t_{\rm reb}^0 \right)^2,$$
 (81)

$$t_{\text{max}}^{1} = t_{\text{max}}^{0} + \frac{4}{15} \Delta \left(t_{\text{max}}^{0} \right)^{2}, \tag{82}$$

$$\alpha_{\text{max}}^{1} = \alpha_{\text{max}}^{0} + \frac{4}{35} \Delta f_1 V_0^{3/2} \left(t_{\text{max}}^{0} \right)^{7/2}. \tag{83}$$

Reference to formulas (78)–(83) shows that the increase in the parameter γ from 0 to 1 results in the increase of the duration of contact between the impactor and the viscoelastic target, and this increase rises with the increase in the defects of moduli e_1 and e_2 and with the decrease in the relaxation times t_1 and t_2 . Moreover, within the variation of the parameter γ from 0 to 1, the maximal magnitude of the value α , as well as the time, at which the indentation attains its maximum, increase. All enumerated peculiarities are governed by the increase in viscosity of the material, from which the viscoelastic beam is made of, with the increase of the fractional parameter γ .

Solution of the problem in the case of considering the extension of the beam's middle surface

Elastic target

If the term $\alpha^{1/2}\dot{W}$ is omitted in (58) due to its small magnitude, i.e. the inertia of the contact domain is neglected, then this equation for an elastic beam is reduced to

$$W = \frac{P(\alpha)}{e\alpha + g}. (84)$$

Substituting (84) in (59), we obtain the equation for determining $\alpha(t)$

$$\ddot{\alpha} + \frac{d}{d\alpha} \left(\frac{P(\alpha)}{e\alpha + g} \right) \dot{\alpha} = -\frac{1}{m} P(\alpha), \tag{85}$$

or, after the substitution $A = \dot{\alpha}$,

$$A\frac{dA}{d\alpha} + \frac{d}{d\alpha} \left(\frac{P(\alpha)}{e\alpha + g}\right) A = -\frac{1}{m} P(\alpha). \tag{86}$$

To find the solution of (86), it is necessary to use the initial condition

$$A|_{\alpha=0} = V_0. (87)$$

The governing Eq. (85) differs from the corresponding equation presented in Vershinin (2014) not only by its coefficients (due to the fact that an incorrect formula was used for transverse deformation) but by its structure as well, namely: the multiplier $\dot{\alpha}$ was missed

out in the second term, though the inertia of the contact zone was not neglected in the cited paper (Vershinin 2014).

Equation (86) could be rewritten in the form

$$A\frac{dA}{d\alpha} + k_1 \frac{e\alpha^{3/2} + 3/2 g\alpha^{1/2}}{(e\alpha + g)^2} A = -\frac{k_1}{m} \alpha^{3/2}.$$
 (88)

If we neglect the term $e\alpha$ with respect to $g(\alpha)$ is small) in (88), then it is reduced to

$$A\frac{dA}{d\alpha} + \frac{3}{2}f_1\alpha^{1/2}A + f_2\alpha^{3/2}A = -\frac{k_1}{m}\alpha^{3/2},\tag{89}$$

where

$$f_2 = \frac{k_1 e}{g^2} = f_1 \frac{G_{\infty}^{(1)^2}}{G_{\infty}^{(2)^2}} \frac{1}{\nu_{\infty} h}.$$

The solution of (89) can be constructed analytically in terms of a series

$$A = V_0 + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a_i \alpha^{(2i+1)/2} + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} b_i \alpha^i,$$
(90)

where

$$\begin{split} a_1 &= -f_1, \quad a_2 = -\frac{2}{5} \, \frac{k_1}{V_0 m} - \frac{2}{5} f_2, \quad a_3 = a_4 = 0, \quad a_5 = \frac{5}{11} \, \frac{a_1^2 (a_2 + f_2)}{V_0^2}, \\ a_6 &= \frac{5}{104} \, \frac{a_1 \left(a_2 + \frac{2}{5} f_2\right) (21 a_2 + 2 f_2)}{V_0^2}, \quad a_7 = \frac{1}{6} \, \frac{a_2 \left(a_2 + \frac{2}{5} f_2\right) (3 a_2 + \frac{2}{5} f_2)}{V_0^2}, \\ b_1 &= b_2 = b_3 = b_6 = 0, \quad b_4 = -\frac{5}{8} \, \frac{a_1 \left(a_2 + \frac{2}{5} f_2\right)}{V_0}, \\ b_5 &= -\frac{1}{2} \, \frac{a_2 \left(a_2 + \frac{2}{5} f_2\right)}{V_0}, \quad b_7 = -\frac{5}{14} \, \frac{a_1^3 \left(a_2 + \frac{2}{5} f_2\right)}{V_0^3}. \end{split}$$

From (90) it is seen that all coefficients a_i ($i \ge 5$) and b_i ($i \ge 4$) are expressed in terms of the coefficients a_1 and a_2 , which are defined by three different processes being caused by the shock interaction. The coefficient a_1 is responsible for the dynamic processes arising in the beam during the propagation of shear wave, but the coefficient a_2 answers for the quasistatic process occurring at local bearing of the material due to Hertz's theory and for the dynamic processes arising in the beam during the propagation of the longitudinal wave.

When g = 0, which is realized at an infinitely large speed of the shear wave propagation, the solution (90) for small α goes over into the quasi-static solution obtained by Timoshenko (1934) for the Bernoulli–Euler beam.

If we put $f_2 = 0$ in (90) in order to neglect membrane effects at e = 0, then the series (90) is the solution to equation

$$A\frac{dA}{d\alpha} + \frac{3}{2}f_1\alpha^{1/2}A = -\frac{k_1}{m}\alpha^{3/2},\tag{91}$$

which was presented in Rossikhin and Shitikova (2007a).

Viscoelastic target

Neglecting the inertia of the contact domain in (60), expressing $\dot{W} + \ddot{\alpha}$ from (62) with due account for (63), and substituting the resulting expression in (60) yield

$$W = \frac{f_1}{\frac{g}{m} + \frac{e}{m}\alpha} \left[\alpha^{3/2} - \Delta_{\gamma} \int_0^t (t - t')^{\gamma - 1} \alpha^{3/2} (t') dt' \right]. \tag{92}$$

Considering that α is a small value, expanding $\left(\frac{g}{m} + \frac{e}{m}\alpha\right)^{-1}$ into a Taylor series, and limiting ourselves by two terms, Eq. (92) is reduced to

$$W = f_1 \left[\alpha^{3/2} - \Delta_{\gamma} \int_0^t \alpha^{3/2}(t')dt' \right] \frac{m}{g} \left(1 - \frac{e}{g} \alpha \right). \tag{93}$$

Now substituting (72) in the right-hand side of (93) and putting $\gamma = 1$, we could find

$$W = f_1 V_0^{3/2} t^{3/2} \left(1 - \frac{2}{5} \Delta t - \frac{e}{g} V_0 t \right). \tag{94}$$

Substituting (94) in (65) and integrating twice yield

$$\alpha = V_0 t - \frac{2}{5} f_1 V_0^{3/2} t^{5/2} + \frac{2}{7} f_1 V_0^{3/2} \left(\frac{2}{5} \Delta + \frac{e}{g} V_0 \right) t^{7/2}.$$
 (95)

Putting $\gamma = 0$ in (94) and (95), we could find the solution for this limiting case

$$W = f_1 V_0^{3/2} t^{3/2} \left(1 - \frac{e}{\sigma} V_0 t \right), \tag{96}$$

$$\alpha = V_0 t - \frac{2}{5} f_1 V_0^{3/2} t^{5/2} + \frac{2}{7} f_1 \frac{e}{g} V_0^{5/2} t^{7/2}.$$
(97)

Relationships (95) and (97) allow one to estimate for the limiting cases the time of impactor's rebound from the target $t_{\rm reb}^{\rm ex}$ and the time $t_{\rm max}^{\rm ex}$ at which the indentation attains its maximal magnitude $\alpha_{\rm max}^{\rm ex}$ with due account for extension of the beam's middle surface, i.e., at $\gamma=0$

$$t_{\text{reb}}^{0 \, \text{ex}} = t_{\text{reb}}^{0} + \frac{10}{21} V_0 \frac{e}{g} \left(t_{\text{reb}}^{0} \right)^2,$$
 (98)

$$t_{\text{max}}^{0 \, \text{ex}} = t_{\text{max}}^{0} + \frac{2}{3} V_0 \frac{e}{g} \left(t_{\text{max}}^{0} \right)^2, \tag{99}$$

$$\alpha_{\text{max}}^{0\,\text{ex}} = \alpha_{\text{max}}^{0} + \frac{2}{7} f_1 \, \frac{e}{g} \, V_0^{5/2} \Big(t_{\text{max}}^0 \Big)^{7/2}, \tag{100}$$

and at $\gamma = 1$

$$t_{\text{reb}}^{1\,\text{ex}} = t_{\text{reb}}^1 + \frac{10}{21} V_0 \frac{e}{g} \left(t_{\text{reb}}^0 \right)^2,$$
 (101)

$$t_{\text{max}}^{1\,\text{ex}} = t_{\text{max}}^{1} + \frac{2}{3} V_{0} \frac{e}{g} \left(t_{\text{max}}^{0} \right)^{2}, \tag{102}$$

$$\alpha_{\text{max}}^{1 \text{ ex}} = \alpha_{\text{max}}^{1} + \frac{2}{7} f_{1} \frac{e}{g} V_{0}^{5/2} \left(t_{\text{max}}^{0} \right)^{7/2}. \tag{103}$$

Comparison of formulas (98)–(103) with the corresponding formulas in (78)–(83) shows that the account for extension of the target's middle surface results in the increase of the duration of contact between the impactor and the target, the maximal magnitude of the value α , as well as the time, at which the indentation attains its maximum, and this increase rises with the increase in the coefficient e/g governing the extension of the beam's middle surface.

Numerical example

For numerical analysis it is convenient to rewrite formulas (78)–(83) and (98)–(103) in the dimensionless form:

the case without considering the middle surface extension at $\gamma = 0$

$$t_{\text{reb}}^{0*} = \frac{t_{\text{reb}}^{0}}{t_{\text{max}}^{0}} = \left(\frac{5}{2}\right)^{2/3},$$
 (104)

$$t_{\text{max}}^0 = \frac{t_{\text{max}}^0}{t_{\text{max}}^0} = 1,$$
 (105)

$$\alpha_{\text{max}}^{0} = \frac{\alpha_{\text{max}}^{0}}{V_{0} t_{\text{max}}^{0}} = \frac{3}{5},\tag{106}$$

and at $\gamma = 1$

$$t_{\text{reb}}^{1}^{*} = \frac{t_{\text{reb}}^{1}}{t_{\text{max}}^{0}} = \left(\frac{5}{2}\right)^{2/3} \left[1 + \frac{4}{21} \chi_{1} \left(\frac{5}{2}\right)^{2/3}\right],$$
 (107)

$$t_{\text{max}}^{1}^{*} = \frac{t_{\text{max}}^{1}}{t_{\text{max}}^{0}} = 1 + \frac{4}{15} \chi_{1},$$
 (108)

$$\alpha_{\text{max}}^{1}^{*} = \frac{\alpha_{\text{max}}^{1}}{V_{0}t_{\text{max}}^{0}} = \frac{3}{5} + \frac{4}{35}\chi_{1};$$
 (109)

the case with due account for extension of the beam's middle surface at $\gamma=0$

$$t_{\text{reb}}^{0 \, \text{ex}^*} = \frac{t_{\text{reb}}^{0 \, \text{ex}}}{t_{\text{max}}^0} = \left(\frac{5}{2}\right)^{2/3} \left[1 + \frac{10}{21} \, \chi_2 \left(\frac{5}{2}\right)^{2/3}\right],\tag{110}$$

$$t_{\text{max}}^{0\,\text{ex}\,*} = \frac{t_{\text{max}}^{0\,\text{ex}}}{t_{\text{max}}^{0}} = 1 + \frac{2}{3}\,\chi_{2},\tag{111}$$

$$\alpha_{\text{max}}^{0 \, \text{ex} \, *} = \frac{\alpha_{\text{max}}^{0 \, \text{ex}}}{V_0 t_{\text{max}}^0} = \frac{3}{5} + \frac{2}{7} \, \chi_2, \tag{112}$$

and at $\gamma = 1$

$$t_{\text{reb}}^{1 \text{ ex}*} = \frac{t_{\text{reb}}^{1 \text{ ex}}}{t_{\text{max}}^{0}} = \left(\frac{5}{2}\right)^{2/3} \left[1 + \frac{4}{21} \chi_{1} \left(\frac{5}{2}\right)^{2/3}\right] + \frac{10}{21} \chi_{2} \left(\frac{5}{2}\right)^{4/3}, \tag{113}$$

$$t_{\text{max}}^{1 \text{ ex}*} = \frac{t_{\text{max}}^{1 \text{ ex}}}{t_{\text{max}}^{0}} = 1 + \frac{4}{15} \chi_{1} + \frac{2}{3} \chi_{2}, \tag{114}$$

$$\alpha_{\text{max}}^{1\,\text{ex}\,*} = \frac{\alpha_{\text{max}}^{1\,\text{ex}}}{V_0 t_{\text{max}}^0} = \frac{3}{5} + \frac{4}{35} \chi_1 + \frac{2}{7} \chi_2,\tag{115}$$

where $\chi_1 = \Delta t_{\rm max}^0$ and $\chi_2 = V_0 \, eg^{-1} t_{\rm max}^0$ are dimensionless parameters, and all dimensionless values are marked by asterisk.

The dimensionless time $t^* = t \left(t_{\max}^0\right)^{-1}$ dependence of the dimensionless value $\alpha^* = \alpha \left(V_0 t_{\max}^0\right)^{-1}$ characterizing the local bearing of impactor and target materials for different values of the fractional parameter γ , which are indicated by figures near the corresponding curves, is shown in Fig. 2. Solid curves are calculated without considering the extension of the target middle surface, while dashed lines correspond to the case with due account for middle surface extension at $\chi_1 = 2$ and $\chi_2 = 0.5$.

The character of curves behaviour in Fig. 2 verifies conclusions made on the basis of the approximate calculations.

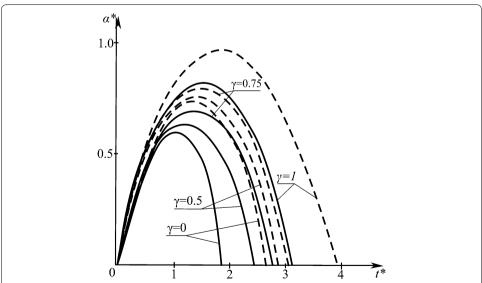


Fig. 2 The dimensionless time dependence of the dimensionless value characterizing the local bearing of impactor and target materials

Conclusion

The main goal of this paper is to bring to light the physical sense of the fractional parameter in problems on impact, since one and the same question arises very often, namely: Why is it needed to introduce a fractional derivative in problems of mechanics? The authors have tried to answer this question at least for the problems of impact by connecting the fractional parameter with the changes in microstructure of beam's material within the contact domain. For this purpose we have assumed that viscoelastic features of the beam outward the contact zone is determined by the standard linear solid with ordinary derivatives, while the contact force is also viscoelastic and its features are governed by the standard linear solid model with fractional derivatives, in so doing relaxed and non-relaxed moduli and relaxation and retardation times coincide with the corresponding moduli and times for the viscoelastic medium out of the contact zone, and the fractional parameter varies from zero till unit controlling the viscosity within the contact domain. This is connected with the fact that during the low-velocity impact there could occur decrosslinking within the domain of the contact of the beam with the sphere, resulting in more freely displacements of molecules with respect to each other, and finally in the decrease of the beam material viscosity in the contact zone without discontinuity of the target medium within this zone.

Authors' contributions

Professors YAR and MVS formulated the problem, suggested the methods of solution and wrote the text of the manuscript. PhD student MGEM contributed in making mathematical treatment. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Acknowledgements

The research described in this publication has been supported by the international project from the Russian Foundation for Basic Research No.14-08-92008-HHC-a and Taiwan National Science Council No. NSC 103-2923-E-011-002-MY3.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Received: 2 September 2015 Accepted: 12 February 2016

Published online: 27 February 2016

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