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A PHOTOELASTIC STUDY OF STRAIN WAVES CAUSED BY CAVITATION

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Hydrodynamics Laboratory CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY Pasadena, California

Report No. 21-21 October. 1955

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ABSTRACT

Ultra-high-speed photoelastic techniques have been applied to a study of the transient stresses and strains in a photoelastic plastic when subject to cavitation. A photocell, used to detect the transient strains, indicated that the time duration of the strains was about 2 microseconds. Using an ultra-high-speed motion picture camera, ultrasonic cavitation bubbles have been photographed collapsing on the surface of a photoelastic specimen, and the resulting strain wave in the solid has been photographed.

The dynamic properties of a photoelastic material have been obtained in order to permit quantitative interpretation of the transients. This has indicated that the stresses due to cavitation may be as high as 2.8×10^5 psi.

The photoelastic plastic, CR-39, was found to exhibit strain birefringence, and its strain-optic constant was found to be independent of the rate of loading.



I. INTRODUCTION

Although the laws governing the gross behavior of cavitation are well established, the study of the microscopic details of the vapor bubble history and surface damage has been retarded by a lack of experimental techniques with adequate time resolution. Recently, acoustical methods of concentrating the vapor bubble cloud on a small area of surface and an ultra-high-speed motion picture camera have been developed by Dr. Albert T. Ellis^{1, 2} at the Hydrodynamics Laboratory of the California Institute of Technology. The shutter of this camera is a Kerr cell with crossed Polaroids on each side. This suggested immediately that the transient stress and strains due to cavitation could be investigated with photoelastic techniques. However, the laws concerning dynamic photoelasticity had not yet been accurately established; consequently, as a first step, a common photoelastic plastic, CR-39, was selected to make a comprehensive quantitative study of its static and dynamic photoelastic behavior.

II. STATIC PROPERTIES OF CR-39

It appeared advisable to determine the static properties of CR-39, for two reasons: first, to verify our experimental techniques by comparing the results of a static study with other similar studies; and second, to compare the static properties with the dynamic properties.

CR-39 was selected as the photoelastic plastic because of its availability and because a considerable amount of experience on its fabrication has been obtained at the Guggenheim Aeronautical Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology. CR-39 is a thermosetting polymer of allyl diglycol carbonate manufactured by the Cast Optic Corporation of Riverside, Conn., and according to Coolidge³,

"Essentially, its manufacture consists of reacting phosgene with diethylene glycol to obtain a chloroformate which is then esterified with allyl alcohol to produce the diglycol carbonate monomer. This monomer is polymerized by heating in the presence of a catalyst such as benzoyl peroxide to form the hard, strong, infusible, insoluble, clear, substantially colorless substance known as CR-39. The commercially obtainable sheets of CR-39 are cast-polymerized between glass plates producing optically beautiful surfaces."

A. Experimental Procedure

The static tests were made on a simple tensile specimen with a working section 0.252 inches thick, 0.500 inches wide, and 3 inches long. Baldwin A-8 wire strain gages, which are limited to strains up to 1%, were cemented to the front and back of the specimen in both the longitudinal and transverse directions. The strain was indicated directly by a Baldwin-Foxboro portable strain indicator which could be read to within 10 microinches. The strain gage constant was checked by comparing the wire strain gages against two calibrated Huggenberger mechanical extensometers.

The specimen was placed in the spherical mirror polariscope designed by Goetz⁴, for which the light source is a low pressure mercury vapor lamp, used with a Wratten 77A filter to produce monochromatic light of 5461Å wave length. The fringe order in the specimen was determined by a calibrated Babinet-Soleil compensator that could be read easily to within 1/100 of a fringe line with only visual observation.

Creep tests were made by applying constant loads to the specimen for 180 minutes during which time the strain and fringe order were determined; the load was then removed and readings were made for another 180 minutes.

B. Results

Figure 1 shows the indicated strain for a typical creep test, where it is evident that CR-39 is viscoelastic. Figure 2 shows the ratio of stress, based on original area, to strain plotted as a function of time, where it is evident that the secant modulus decreases with both time and stress. Figure 3 shows stress vs. strain at 10 minutes after the application of load, at which time the Young's modulus is 3.36×10^5 psi.

Figure 4 shows the axial strain versus the transverse strain. For uniaxial stress, Poisson's ratio is given by the slope of the line, which

is 0.443.

Figure 5 shows the fringe order N as a function of the difference in principal strains, from which it is evident that the birefringence of CR-39 is proportioned to strain rather than to stress. The strain-fringe constant for plane stress defined as

$$G = (\epsilon_1 - \epsilon_2) W/N, \qquad (1)$$

is $3.48 \ge 10^{-4}$ in/fringe, where ϵ_1 and ϵ_2 are the principal strains normal to the light path, W is the width of the specimen, and N is the fringe order.

Finally, in Fig. 6, the fringe order at the time of loading, as determined by extrapolation, is plotted against the product of stress and specimen width. The slope of this curve is the so-called stressoptic constant F, and is 90.8 psi-in/fringe. This value decreases with time as the plastic creeps.

C. Discussion

Table I below is a summary of the author's date in comparison with the data by Coolidge³, and the manufacturer's data. The procedure by which the manufacturer obtained the data is not known, but the reasons for the discrepancy with Coolidge's data is evident from an examination of his experimental techniques.

TABLE I - Static Properties of CR-39

Property	Manufacturer's Data	Coolidge [†] s Data	Author's Data
Tensile Strength, psi	5000-6000 E	7000 [#] E	5#
Elastic Modulus, psi	$2.5 - 3.3 \times 10^{2}$	2.7×10^{2}	3.76 x 10
Poisson's Ratio			0.443
Strain Creep		yes	yes(see text)
Specific Gravity	1.31		1.326
Stress-Fringe Constant psi-in/fringe, 5461A	86.6	78.5 **	90.8*
Optical Creep	none	20%/180 min	yes(see text)
Strain-Fringe constant, in/fringe			3.48×10^{-4}
Refractive index ND	1.50398		

*Immediately after application of load.

** Stress was increased by increments to 4300 psi during 14 minutes; time between increments varied from one to two minutes. Coolidge determined the mechanical properties of CR-39 from a tensile specimen for which the load was increased every 10 minutes, but because CR-39 creeps, the elastic modulus thus obtained cannot be extrapolated to experiments in which the entire load is applied at one time. In addition, Coolidge determined a stress-fringe constant by applying incremental loads every one to two minutes, and using the definition of the stress fringe constant,

$$F = (\sigma_1 - \sigma_2) W/N$$
 (2)

where σ_1 is the axial stress, and σ_2 (in this case) was zero. The above comments also apply to this procedure; but more important, his assumption that CR-39 is stress-birefringent is incorrect.

In passing, it should also be noted that Coolidge did observe a change in the fringe pattern with time in a beam subject to pure bending. In reducing this data, however, Coolidge used the Bernoulli beam equations and did not take into account either the strain-creep characteristics or the nonlinearity of CR-39; hence his data on the change of fringe order with time does not correspond to that of Fig. 1.

It should also be noted that two other plastics have been reported as strain birefringent, namely, polyethylene by Fried and Shoup⁵, and a special nylon by Hetenyi.⁶ No other correlations of birefringence to strain for plastics have been found in the literature by the author.

III. DYNAMIC PROPERTIES OF CR-39

The foregoing static properties of CR-39 cannot be extrapolated to make quantitative photoelastic observations of stress waves for two reasons. First, the dynamic strain-fringe constant may differ from the static value; for instance, Senior and Wells⁷ and Flynn⁸ measured the dynamic stress-fringe constants for several other plastics and found them to be higher than the static value. Second, since CR-39 is viscoelastic, the velocity of compressional and shear waves will depend on the wavelengths of the Fourier components of the wave, and in addition, the waves will become attenuated as they travel through the plastic. One way of describing this phenomena is to ascribe to the material a complex modulus which is a function of the wave length or the frequency of the Fourier components of the wave.⁹

A. Dynamic Mechanical Properties of CR-39

It may be assumed that CR-39 is a Voigt solid at any one frequency. Then the stress-strain relationship may be expressed as follows:

$$\sigma = E^{\dagger} \epsilon + E^{\dagger} d\epsilon / dt$$
(3)

where σ and ϵ are the stress and strain respectively, t is time, and E' and E'' are functions of the frequency ω of the applied strain; that is,

$$\epsilon = \epsilon_0 e^{i\omega t} \tag{4}$$

Equation (3) then becomes

$$\sigma = (\mathbf{E}' + \mathbf{i}\omega \mathbf{E}'') \boldsymbol{\epsilon} \quad . \tag{5}$$

Therefore $E' + i\omega E''$ may be considered to be a complex modulus; that is,

$$E^* = E' + i\omega E'' = E_1 + iE_2 = E e^{i\varphi}$$
 (6)

where

1

$$E_{1} = E \cos \varphi$$

$$E_{2} = E \sin \varphi$$

$$\tan \varphi = E_{2}/E_{1}$$

$$(7)$$

For longitudinal stress waves in a bar, if the wave lengths are long in comparison to the thickness, Newton's law for a small element becomes

$$\rho \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = \frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial x}$$
(8)

where ρ is the mass per unit volume, t is time, x is the longitudinal coordinate of the bar, and u is the longitudinal displacement; that is,

$$\epsilon = \partial u / \partial x . \tag{9}$$

By substituting (5), (6) and (9) into (8), one obtains the following differential equation:

$$\rho \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = E e^{i\varphi} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} . \qquad (10)$$

When a bar of length L is executing free-free longitudinal vibrations, Eq. (10) may be solved for its motion, which is

$$u = \cos\left(\sqrt{\frac{E}{\rho}} \frac{\pi}{L} \cos{\frac{\varphi}{2}} t\right) e^{-\sin\left(\frac{\varphi}{2} \sqrt{\frac{E}{\rho}} \frac{\pi}{L} t\right)} \sin(\pi x/L). \quad (11)$$

It may be seen that the frequency f and period of oscillation τ are given by

$$f = \sqrt{\frac{E}{\rho}} \frac{1}{2L} \cos \frac{\phi}{2}$$
(12)

$$\tau = \sqrt{\frac{\rho}{E}} \frac{2L}{\cos\frac{\varphi}{2}}$$
(13)

and the wave length Λ , wave speed c, logarithmic decrement δ are given by

 $\Lambda = 2 L \tag{14}$

$$c = f \Lambda = \sqrt{E/\rho} \cos(\phi/2)$$
(15)

$$\delta = 2\pi \tan(\varphi/2) . \tag{16}$$

As a given wave travels along the bar, it is attenuated as $e^{-\alpha x}$; it may similarly be shown that the attenuation factor α is given by

$$\alpha = \delta / \Lambda . \tag{17}$$

The preceding constants were determined from free-free vibrations of various length bars of CR-39, in which the strain was measured by Baldwin C-19 wire strain gages. For the shorter bars, a correction was made for the thickness, using data from experiments made by Morse¹⁰, and from a theoretical analysis by Bancroft.¹¹ The results of the experiments on CR-39 are shown in Figs. 7, 8, and 9. From these, it is evident that with increasing frequency, the wave speed, logarithmic decrement, attenuation factor, and E all increase. All dynamic values of E are greater than any reported static values.

B. Dynamic Strain-Fringe Constant

Based on the correlation of the photoelastic fringe order to the strain, it appeared desirable to make similar measurements during transient stresses; that is, stresses caused by impacts. The dynamic loading apparatus is shown in Fig. 10 and a close-up of the specimen in Fig. 11. The procedure is to release a small hammer from the top of the loading frame, which then slides down a pair of vertical wires, and strikes the end of an aligned specimen of CR-39 which was 0.248 inches thick, 0.500 inches wide, and 10.75 inches long. Two Baldwin C-19 strain gages, the gage constant of which as given by the manufacturer was guaranteed to be within 3%, were cemented on the specimen in the longitudinal direction, and two in the transverse direction.

By comparing the strain in the two directions during the passage of a stress wave, Poisson's ratio was found to be 0.44, which is the static value within experimental error.

To determine the strain-fringe constant, the loading frame was placed in a polariscope and a monochromatic circularly-polarized light beam of 5461Å was directed through the space between the strain gages (see Fig. 12). The light intensity was detected by an IP21 multiplier phototube whose output was amplified and displayed on one of the Tektronix oscilloscopes; the strain in the longitudinal direction was simultaneously detected by a bridge circuit similar to one used by Ripperger¹², and displayed on the other Tektronix oscilloscope. Oscillograms were made with Dumont-Land oscillograph cameras. Figure 13 shows two such oscillograms, together with the fringe order, which is given by

$$N(t) = \frac{1}{\pi} \sin^{-1} \sqrt{I(t)/I_{o}}$$
(18)

where I_0 is the peak light intensity, and I(t) and N(t) are the instantaneous light intensity and fringe order, respectively. The oscillograms are for the leading edge of the strain wave, the rise time of which was about 25 microseconds. The fringe order versus strain for the leading edge is shown in Fig. 14 and the slope, which is the strain fringe constant is $3.42 \times 10^{-4} \pm 3\%$ in/fringe. This value is the same as the static value within experimental error.

These tests also indicate that CR-39 is strain-birefringent rather than stress-birefringent, which is the usual relation used in photoelasticity. Note that both Eqs. (1) and (2) are valid for an elastic material, the birefringent constants being related by:

$F = GE/(1+\nu)$

and stress-birefringence cannot be distinguished from strain-birefringence in an isotropic solid subject to plane stress. However, plastics are viscoelastic to some extent; that is, E increases with increasing frequency, so that the dynamic value of E is greater than the static value, the exact dynamic value depending upon the frequency components of the transient situation. Therefore, if a plastic is strain birefringent, the dynamic value of F will be greater than the static value. This effect has been observed by other investigators, ^{7,8} but unfortunately transient strains were not measured in those experiments. Hence, although those plastics are definitely not stress-birefringent, it cannot be concluded that they are strain-birefringent.

IV. TIME DURATION OF STRAINS DUE TO CAVITATION

A. Experimental Apparatus

To study the strains caused by cavitation, the acoustic method devised by Ellis¹³ was used. The essential apparatus is shown in Fig. 15, and consisted of a glass beaker, a barium titanate ferroelectric ring surrounded by closed-cell sponge rubber, and a specimen holder, which in this case is a one-inch thick base of stainless steel. A $1/16 \times 1/16$ $\times 1/8$ inch specimen of CR-39 was held in the center of the base, and the beaker was filled with distilled and deaerated water. The electrode surfaces of the barium titanate ring were connected to an audio-oscillator amplifier circuit, which excited the first mode of the oscillations of the water-base system when tuned to 22,000 cycles per second. The maximum pressure amplitude of the water is on the centerline of the beaker at the base. As the power to the barium titanate is increased, the minimum pressure during the negative part of the cycle drops below vapor pressure and cavitation forms on the upper surface of the specimen. The cavitation is visible in Fig. 15 in the form of a small bubble cloud.

The beaker was placed in a polariscope with a modified optical system so that a magnified image of the specimen was projected onto a screen in which a square hole was cut. In this way, only the light from an area 0.004 inch square on the specimen passed through the slit, the intensity of which was detected by an IP21 multiplier phototube, which was immersed in liquid nitrogen to reduce the noise level. The phototube output was amplified by a Tektronix Type 121 amplifier, and displayed on a Tektronix Type 513D oscilloscope. The frequency response of the amplifier is 12 megacycles and of the oscilloscope 18 megacycles. The frequency response of the phototube, as determined by light impulses through a Kerr cell of 0.08 microsecond duration was at least as high as that of the oscilloscope.

B. Experimental Results

The light slit was centered 0.006 inches below the upper surface of the CR-39 specimen. As the oscillator amplitude was increased, a distinct sine wave became visible on the oscilloscope, the frequency of which corresponded to that of the oscillator. As the oscillator was tuned to the lowest resonant frequency, 22,000 cps, the wave form of the light intensity became distorted from sinusoidal toward a saw-tooth form. When the bubble cloud formed, a spike appeared on the oscilloscope screen, at the part of the cycle where the pressure becomes positive. Typical oscillograms are shown in Fig. 16. The spikes were present only when the bubble cloud was present. The lower oscillogram, a double exposure, shows that the time between spikes is not constant. The time duration of the spike was about 2 microseconds. When the slit was moved down away from the upper end of the specimen, or toward either side of the specimen, the spikes gradually decreased in amplitude, but the time duration of the spike remained constant. The amplitude of the spike corresponds to about one-quarter of a fringe-line, and was apparently insensitive to the bubble cloud size or amplitude of the exciting pressure cycle. It should be mentioned that the concentration of vapor bubbles seemed to be greatest at the center of the bubble cloud, just above the surface of the specimen.

Figure 17 shows photomicrographs of the top and sides of a specimen that had been subject to about 5 minutes of cavitation. There is a large irregular hole in the center, surrounded by individual holes which are about 0.001 inches in diameter.

The strain wave due to the cavitation did not exhibit the viscoelastic dispersion or dissipation that is typical of CR-39 at lower frequencies; this indicates the internal damping is negligible and the wave speed, and hence the elastic modulus, is approximately constant for the higher frequency components of the spike.

V. ULTRA-HIGH-SPEED MOTION PICTURES

Experimental Apparatus

In order to photograph the transient isochromatic pattern due to the strains caused by cavitation, the ultra-high-speed motion picture camera developed by Ellis¹ was utilized. This camera has a repetition rate up to one million frames per second for about a millisecond with a frame exposure of about 0.08 microsecond. Figure 18 shows the camera set up to photograph cavitation bubbles.

The camera is a revolving mirror type; the mirror distributes a series of images onto the inner periphery of a stationary drum in which a 7-1/2 foot length of 35 mm Tri-X film has been placed. The exposure for each frame is achieved by a Kerr cell. The Kerr cell consists of a glass container, on the front and back of which are crossed Polaroids so that normally no light is transmitted through the cell. On either side of the cell are two flat electrodes spaced 0.25 inches apart; when a voltage difference of 13,000 volts exists across the electrodes, the

nitrobenzene in the container becomes sufficiently optically active to rotate the plane of the light that had been polarized by the front polaroid so that it passes through the rear polaroid.

The Kerr cell is electrically pulsed for about 0.08 microseconds to achieve each frame, and is pulsed continuously only during one revolution of the mirror. During this revolution, a General Electric FT 524 flash tube is illuminated by discharging through it the energy stored in a bank of capacitors. Suitable inductances cause the light intensity to be almost constant for about a millisecond.

To photograph the strains due to cavitation, a slightly different cavitation beaker was used. A circularized light polariscope with a light background was used so that the entire field, including the cavitation bubbles, would be visible; specimens with thicknesses of 0.25, 0.0625, and 0.020 inch were used. The resonant frequency for this beaker was 10 kilocycles per second.

Results

Figure 19 shows a series of consecutive frames taken at 150,000 frames per second of a 0.25-inch thick specimen. The lower right-hand line represents the edge of the specimen; it is blurred because of the small depth of field of the lens. The other two dark lines are time-edge isochromatics, caused by leaving the specimen immersed in water for too long a period of time. However, they provided a sensitive means to detect fractional changes in the isochromatics due to transient strains. The twelfth frame shows a shift of about 1/4 of a fringe just after the collapse of the bubble cloud. In addition, the entire specimen is also darkened. Only one frame is affected; this is caused by the short time duration of the transient and the large speed of propagation of the stress wave.

In subsequent runs, half a dozen cases of fringe shift just after bubble collapse were observed; this was also observed in the 0.0625 specimen, but not in the 0.020 specimen. When the fringe shift was observed, it always occurred in the immediate vicinity of the bubble collapse. These bubbles did not exhibit spherical symmetry; on the other hand, the affected area in the specimen was always spherical, centered below the Because of the blurring of the edge of the specimen, it was not possible to determine photographically the initially strained area. However, it may be postulated that initially, the cavitation pressure acts only on the area corresponding to a small pit; that is, a diameter of 0.001 inch. It may be assumed that during the initial pulse, the lateral elongations are zero; then the observed fringe order is

$$N = \frac{1}{G} \int \epsilon_1 dx$$
 (19)

where ϵ_1 is the strain normal to the surface. Now, for plane strain, the stress σ_1 normal to the surface is given by

$$\sigma_1 = \frac{(1-\nu) \to \epsilon_1}{(1+\nu)(1-2\nu)}$$
(20)

where ν is Poisson's ratio. When ϵ_1 is eliminated from Eqs. (19) and (20), the following expression is obtained for the average stress $\overline{\sigma_1}$:

$$\overline{\sigma_1} = \frac{1}{d} \int_{-d/2}^{+d/2} \sigma_1 \, dx = \frac{EGN(1-\nu)}{d(1+\nu)(1-2\nu)}$$
(21)

where d is the diameter over which the stress acts initially. The elastic modulus is not known accurately for ultra-high-frequency components, but to obtain an order of magnitude estimate of the average stress, it may be estimated as 10^6 psi. With G = 3.42 x 10^{-4} in/fringe N = 1/4 and d = 0.001 inch, the average stress $\overline{\sigma_1}$ is about 2.8 x 10^5 psi.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The ultra-high-speed photoelastic techniques have yielded quantitative information on the time duration of stresses due to cavitation and the magnitude of the stresses. Additional study of the behavior of photoelastic materials at higher frequencies and stresses is required, as well as a method of direct calibration of axially symmetric impacts. It also appears desirable to obtain better depth of field and magnification of the photographic image.

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Typical creep test of CR-39, showing strain and birefringence for 2100 psi tension, specimen 0.252 inches thick. Fig. 1



Ratio of stress to strain during creep tests of CR-39 tension specimen. Fig. 2



Fig. 3 Tensile stress vs. longitudinal strain after 10 minutes of creep for CR-39 tensile specimen.



Lateral vs. longitudinal strain during creep tests of CR-39. Fig. 4

-e2, lateral strain, per cent





Fig. 7 Wave speed and logarithmic decrement vs. frequency and wave number for CR-39.



Fig. 8 Elastic modulus and ratio of real to imaginary parts of elastic modulus vs. frequency and wave number for CR-39.



Fig. 9 Attenuation factor a vs. wave number



Fig. 10 Dynamic loading apparatus. Left: photomultiplier. Center: loading frame with wire strain gages cemented to the specimen. Right: strain gage bridge and oscilloscope.







Fig. 12 Apparatus for determining the dynamic strainfringe constant. From left to right, multiplier photocell with filter, analyzer, and quarter-wave plate; loading frame; quarter-wave plate, polarizer and condensing lens; strain gage bridge; Hg lamp; two oscilloscopes; square wave generator; amplifier.



Fig. 13 (a) Oscillograph record of longitudinal strain on leading edge of stress wave, (b) oscillograph record of transmitted light, (c) fringe order vs. time, from (b).



Fig. 14 Number of fringes vs. strain for leading edge of stress wave for CR-39. Eight runs. Light wave length 5461Å



Fig. 15 Acoustic cavitation in water. A small bubble cloud can be seen on top of the photoelastic specimen.



Fig. 16 Oscillographs of the light intensity through a $0.004 \ge 0.004$ in. slit centered 0.006 in. below the surface of a $1/16 \ge 1/16 \ge 1/8$ in. CR-39 specimen when cavitation is occurring. Horizontal sweep-time 10 microseconds per division.



Fig. 18 Ultra-high-speed motion picture apparatus. Left foreground: cage containing flash tube capacitors. Center: timing and pulsing apparatus. Rear: camera and flash tube.



Fig. 17 Photomicrographs of a 1/16 x 1/16 inch specimen of CR-39 after 5 minutes of cavitation damage.



Fig. 19 - 10 kc. bubble cloud cycle, taken with ultra-high-speed camera. Magnification: 10X.



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