

A novel modelling framework to predict the high rate response of soft materials: From polymers to particulate composites

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Research conducted as part of a D.Phil. on the *High rate properties of particulate composites* at the University of Oxford.

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<u>Aim:</u> To obtain the mechanical properties of soft polymers and their composites at high strain rates using simple, reliable, quasi-static experiments.

<u>Why?</u> Conventional techniques for high strain rate experimentation for soft materials do not give accurate measurements due to experimental artefacts.





# Plasticised and unplasticised PVC



### Rate-temperature equivalence



#### Experimental



## **DMA** experiments

- Dual cantilever test from -100 °C to 120 °C
- Frequency sweep of 1, 10, 100 Hz
- Rectangular sample with dimensions 60 x 10 x 5 mm
- Master curve produced by shifting isotherms left or right in relation to the reference temperature of 25 °C
- Quadratic shift factor relationship observed



Experimental



# Modelling framework

Needed:

- Hyperelasticity for large strain behaviour
- Viscoplasticity for rate dependent plasticity
- Viscoelasticity for rate dependent elasticity
- Effects of adiabatic heating and subsequent temperature rise leading to thermal softening

Delivered by:

- Langevin chain statistics
- Mulliken-Boyce [5] model basis
- FD model fit to the DMA experiments
  - Viscoelastic modulus changed based on shifts derived from temperature rise



#### Experimental





# Fractional Derivative (FD) model



Experimental



# Modelling results: Langevin

- Two parameter Langevin hyperelasticity
- Fit to quasi-static compression test



$$\mathcal{L}(\beta) \equiv \coth(\beta) - \frac{1}{\beta}$$

$$\lambda_{chain}^{p} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{3} \left( \varepsilon_{n}^{2} + \frac{2}{\varepsilon_{n}} \right)}$$



$$\sigma_L = \frac{C_{\rm R}}{3} \frac{\sqrt{N}}{\lambda_{chain}^p} \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left( \frac{\lambda_{chain}^p}{\sqrt{N}} \right) (\varepsilon_n^2 - \varepsilon_n^{-1})$$

 $C_{\rm R}$ , rubbery modulus  $\sqrt{N}$ , limiting chain extensibility  $\varepsilon_n$ , nominal strain

#### Experimenta



## Modelling results: Alpha + Beta



Time-Temperature Superposition principle is key to this approach

Experimental

#### **Constitutive Modelling**

α



## Adiabatic effects

- At higher rates, compression transitions from isothermal to adiabatic
- Two fits either side of the Tg on the DSC results were used to approximate the heat capacity of the PVC
- All mechanical work assumed to be converted to heat; temperature rise calculated assuming adiabatic process
- The temperature rise leads to thermal softening of the modulus as shown

DSC: Differential Scanning Calorimetry



#### Experimental



# High rate prediction and validation



Experimental



# Virgin natural rubber



### Results of varying temperature tests



### Characteristic stress (at $\varepsilon = 0.1$ )



Results of varying rate tests



### Stress-strain curves at varying rates



Experimental



# Glass filled natural rubber



### **Composite experiments**



Experimental



### LN Immersion Chiller for SHPB





LN: Liquid nitrogen

SHPB: Split Hopkinson pressure bar

#### Experimental



# Conclusions

- Modelling framework has been effective at *predicting* not only the yield stresses the full stress-strain response of high rate compression experiments
- A new modelling framework has been presented that minimises parameterisation to purely simple, quasi-static reliable experiments.
- A Fractional Derivative model has been used to enable a reduction from 25 parameters of the conventional Prony series to only 10 parameters
- The Mulliken Boyce model has been used as a foundation and modified with the addition of:
  - Dynamically adjusted heat capacity
  - Temperature dependent modulus reflected in modelling process with use of DMA data

Challenges (i.e. Future research opportunities):

- Constant activation energy in model for  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  components despite spectrum of relaxations
- Very sensitive to C<sub>p</sub> and Taylor-Quinney coefficient values
- Adapt model to (un)filled natural rubber incorporating a damage effect



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### Thank you for listening Any questions?



Take a picture for contact details and more research!

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