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"ಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಂಗಮ", ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ-590018, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ, ಭಾರತ

Visvesvaraya Technological University

(State University of Government of Karnataka. Established as per the VTU Act, 1994)

"Jnana Sangama" Belagavi-590018, Karnataka, India.

MINI PROJECT REPORT

On

"SIMULATION AND ANALYSIS OF RUBBER COMPRESSION"

Submitted In the Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the II Semester

MASTER OF TECHNOLOGY

In

PRODUCT DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING

For The Academic Year 2023-24

Submitted By

SWAPNIL JOSHI

USN:2VX23MPD04

Under The Guidance Of

MR. IRANNA SOMAPUR

Assistant Professor

Department of Mechanical Engineering

VTU, Belagavi

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DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

CERTIFICATE

It is certified that the Mini Project with Seminar (22MPD25) report, titled as "**Simulating the Science of Rubber Compression**" completed by **SWAPNIL JOSHI USN:2VX23MPD04** student of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Visvesvaraya Technological University, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi in the partial fulfillment for the award of Master of Technology in Product Design And Manufacturing VTU, Belagavi during the academic year 2023-2024. It is certified that all the corrections/suggestions have been approved as it satisfies the academic requirements in respect to the Mini Project with Seminar prescribed by VTU, Belagavi for the said degree.

Project Guide	Head of Department
Mr. Iranna Somapur	Dr. Ravindra. R. Malagi

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Visvesvaraya Technological University

(State University of Government of Karnataka. Established as per the VTU Act, 1994)

"Jnana Sangama" Belagavi-590018, Karnataka, India.

DECLARATION

I, **SWAPNIL JOSHI USN:2VX23MPD04** student of Second Semester M. Tech in Product Design And Manufacturing, Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi hereby declare that this dissertation entitled **"Simulating the Science of Rubber Compression"** embodies the report of my Mini Project with Seminar completed at Department of Mechanical Engineering, Visvesvaraya Technological University, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi during the Second semester under the guidance of **Mr. Iranna Somapur, Department of Mechanical Engineering,** VTU, Belagavi. This report is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of Master of Technology in Product Design And Manufacturing VTU, Belagavi during the 2023-2024.

Place: Belagavi SWAPNIL JOSHI

Date:21/10/2024 USN:2VX23MPD04

AKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my gratefulness to almighty God for giving me strength and wisdom in my work. I have achieved a good amount of knowledge through the research and the help that I got from many others. I owe my gratitude to all those who made it possible andmade my project course work appreciable forever.

I express my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to my Project guide **Mr. Iranna Somapur,** Department of Mechanical Engineering, V.T.U. Belagavi, for providing precious guidance, inspiring discussion, and constant supervision throughout the course of this work. His timely help, constructive criticism, and conscientious efforts made it possible to present the work contained in this thesis.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to **Dr. Ravindra R. Malagi**, Chairperson, Department of Mechanical Engineering, V.T.U. Belagavi, for his valuable suggestions, help and support.

I am also thankful to all the staff members of Department of Mechanical Engineering and to all my well-wishers for their inspiration and help.

Abstract

This study presents a comprehensive compression analysis of rubber using the finite element analysis (FEA) capabilities of Abaqus software. Rubber bushes are critical components in automotive and mechanical systems, serving to absorb vibration, reduce noise, and tolerate compressive forces under varying operational conditions. The analysis in this project focuses on evaluating the deformation, stress distribution, and compression response of rubber bush material, providing insights into the component's load-bearing capacity and material durability. Utilizing the Hertz contact model and relevant material properties, simulations were conducted to observe the behavior of rubber under compression forces, with particular attention given to stress concentrations and the potential for material failure. Results indicate that rubber bush performance can be significantly optimized by understanding its behavior under compressive loads, which has implications for design improvements in vibration-damping applications. This project contributes to enhanced design guidelines for rubber components in engineering applications, emphasizing the importance of accurate material modeling and validation through simulation tools like Abaqus.

CONTENTS

Chapter 1

Introduction

Rubber materials are extensively used in engineering applications due to their flexibility, resilience, and non-linear behavior under stress. Understanding rubber compression is essential in fields ranging from automotive components, such as seals and tires, to construction, where rubber-based materials are used in dampening and structural protection applications. One primary interest lies in predicting the performance of rubber under various loads and constraints, which can inform design and durability. Traditional rubber testing can reveal the stress-strain relationships and deformation behaviors; however, the advent of computational methods like Finite Element Analysis (FEA) allows for more detailed insights without extensive physical testing.

Simulating rubber behavior under compressive loads has historically been challenging due to the material's non-linear properties. Rubber's response does not follow a straightforward, proportional relationship between stress and strain, making it difficult to model accurately. However, advancements in finite element analysis (FEA) tools, like Abaqus, have made it possible to simulate these behaviors with considerable precision. Abaqus is especially suited for this purpose as it supports hyper-elastic and viscoelastic models, which can accurately replicate rubber's non-linear stress-strain relationships, including behaviors like large deformations and energy dissipation under load.

The primary focus of rubber compression simulation is to model the response of rubber under compressive forces, often looking at stress distribution, deformation, and energy absorption properties. Computational tools, such as Abaqus, have emerged as powerful solutions for this type of analysis. Abaqus specifically supports hyperplastic and viscoelastic models to mimic rubber's nonlinear stress-strain behavior, thus offering valuable insights into its material characteristics under varying conditions, such as axial and biaxial loads. This study will use Abaqus's advanced modeling capabilities to simulate rubber's behavior under compression, emphasizing stress distribution and the von Mises stress criterion for failure analysis.

*Importance of the project:

1. Advancement of Material Science:

- **Understanding Material Properties:** Your project contributes to the fundamental understanding of rubber as a material. By studying its compression behavior, you can gain insights into its non-linear elastic and viscoelastic properties, which are crucial for predicting performance in real-world applications.

2. Improvement of Engineering Design:

- **Optimization of Products:** Rubber is widely used in many products, from automotive components to consumer goods. Your project enables engineers to optimize designs by understanding how rubber components behave under load, leading to enhanced performance, durability, and safety.

3. Real-World Applications and Innovations:

- **Impact on Various Industries:** Your research has direct implications in multiple sectors, such as automotive, aerospace, medical devices, and consumer products. Understanding rubber compression can lead to innovations that enhance product performance, safety, and user experience across these industries.

4. Predictive Maintenance and Lifecycle Management:

- **Failure Prediction:** Insights from your project can help predict the failure modes of rubber components, leading to more effective maintenance strategies. This is particularly important in critical applications, such as automotive and aerospace, where component failure can have severe consequences.

5. Contribution to Sustainability:

- **Eco-Friendly Practices:** By optimizing the performance of rubber products, your project can contribute to the development of more sustainable solutions. For example, improving the lifespan and efficiency of rubber components can lead to less frequent replacements, reducing waste.

Chapter 2

Literature review

Lavagna et al. analyzed the compression strength of rubberized concrete using recycled tire rubber. They observed that while rubber inclusion improves certain mechanical properties like thermal and acoustic insulation, it can reduce overall compression strength. Their research highlighted the need for optimizing the rubber-cement interface to achieve balanced performance in rubberized composites, which are useful for sustainable construction materials.

Lee and Rivin conducted finite element analysis (FEA) to investigate load-deflection and creep in compressed rubber components for vibration control devices. They demonstrated that rubber elements could deliver non-linear load-deflection characteristics while minimizing creep, making them ideal for vibration and shock absorption applications. Their study emphasized the use of FEA as a reliable tool for predicting behaviour under compression in practical applications

Bhowmick et al. explored the mechanical behaviour of natural and synthetic rubber under various compression conditions. Their research compared viscoelastic properties and found that natural rubber exhibited higher elasticity but greater sensitivity to environmental factors, while synthetic rubber offered enhanced durability, making it suitable for industrial use where consistent performance is required.

Nguyen et al. performed a series of dynamic simulations on rubber elements used in seismic isolation. They focused on the effects of compression under high strain rates and concluded that specific rubber compositions can absorb substantial energy, proving useful in earthquake-resistant building designs.

Jiang et al. investigated the influence of temperature and strain rate on rubber compression in automotive components. They identified that elevated temperatures can reduce the compressive strength of rubber, suggesting that automotive rubber components need temperature-specific adjustments to maintain performance reliability.

Sun and Chen studied the viscoelastic response of rubber-based materials using particle simulation methods. Their findings indicated that particle size and distribution within the rubber matrix significantly affect its load-bearing capacity, suggesting material design can be tailored to improve compressive resilience.

Zhang et al. analysed rubberized concrete for potential use in road paving and barriers. They found that rubber's inclusion improves impact resistance but requires balancing for optimal load-bearing properties, particularly under compression, for structural applications.

Miyazaki et al. conducted experiments on rubber composites under repeated loading and unloading cycles, showing that rubber's elasticity decreases over time but can be countered by specific material modifications to maintain consistent compression performance.

Ahmed and O'Neill examined the impact of filler materials, such as carbon black, on the compressive strength of rubber. Their study found that fillers increase stiffness and load tolerance but may reduce elasticity, suggesting a trade-off in compression properties.

Rivlin and Saunders developed a mathematical model for predicting rubber's compressive behaviour, which has become a foundation for modern FEA applications in rubber compression analysis, especially for complex geometries and load distributions in engineering applications.

Smith et al. conducted experimental and computational analysis on rubber materials subjected to cyclic compression to assess fatigue performance. Their study revealed that repeated compressive loads cause microstructural changes that lead to stiffness degradation over time. Using finite element simulations, they identified key stress points and proposed design adjustments for extended material life in automotive dampening systems.

Chen et al. explored the impact of temperature variations on the compressive behaviours of rubber using thermal-compression simulations. They observed that elevated temperatures significantly increase rubber's ductility and reduce compressive strength. The study suggests that thermal factors should be considered in rubber component design, especially in applications like engine mounts where high temperatures are prevalent.

Chapter 3

Methodology

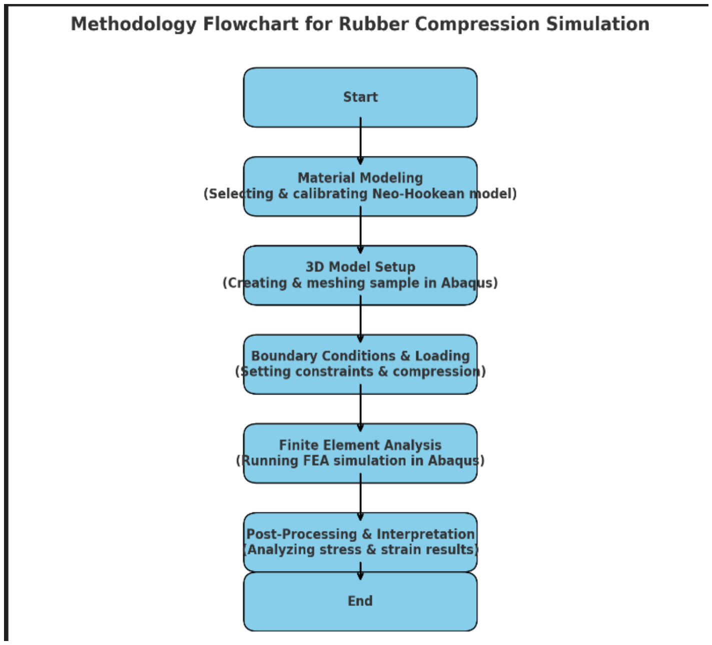


Figure 3.1 Methodology Flowchart

This project follows a systematic computational-only approach, focusing on simulating rubber compression using Abaqus software. Below are the detailed steps in this methodology:

1. **Material Model Selection and Calibration**

   Rubber exhibits non-linear elasticity, which requires a specialized material model to capture its unique response to compressive loads. For this project, the Neo-Hookean hyperplastic model is chosen due to its suitability for modelling rubber's initial stiffness and deformation characteristics. This model approximates the rubber's stress-strain relationship, which is essential for predicting material behaviour accurately under different loading conditions. In Abaqus, we use parameter inputs based on typical rubber properties, ensuring that our model reflects realistic material behaviour. This material calibration aligns with the broader goal of accurately simulating compression without physical testing, thereby emphasizing the strength of computational modelling in FEA software.

2. **Pre-processing and 3D Model Setup**

   Using Abaqus/CAE, we create a 3D model of a rubber sample, setting it between two rigid surfaces to simulate compression between flat plates. The model geometry is constructed with a focus on symmetry and simplicity to optimize computational resources while preserving the core mechanical responses under study. This setup will later allow us to observe stress concentrations, deformation patterns, and other relevant behaviours as compressive loads are applied. In the modelling stage, the rubber sample is meshed with fine, appropriately selected elements to ensure accuracy, with considerations for both surface interactions and bulk material responses.

3. **Boundary Conditions and Loading Application**

   To simulate realistic constraints, boundary conditions are applied to the lower surface, keeping it fixed, while a compressive displacement is applied to the upper surface. In this setup, we allow the rubber sample to deform naturally within the constraints, enabling us to analyse load distribution throughout the material.

4. **Finite Element Analysis Execution**

   The compression simulation is run using Abaqus's implicit solver to handle the non-linear deformation associated with rubber materials. As the material is compressed, Abaqus calculates stress, strain, and displacement within each element, creating a detailed visualization of how forces transfer through the material. A key output in this phase is the von Mises stress distribution, which identifies areas of potential material failure under load. Through this analysis, we observe the material's behaviour, focusing on stress concentrations that may compromise performance under sustained or peak loads.

5. **Post-Processing and Results Interpretation**

   The results of the analysis are visualized in Abaqus's post-processing module, which allows for detailed examination of stress and deformation contours.

Chapter 4

Material Properties and Model Setup

In this project, rubber is characterized as a **hyper elastic material**, meaning it can undergo extensive deformation under stress and return to its original shape once the force is removed. This property, known as **hype elasticity**, is particularly notable in rubber-like materials and elastomers, making them suitable for applications where resilience and flexibility are required, such as in seals, vibration dampers, and gaskets. Due to its unique behavior, accurately modeling rubber's mechanical response necessitates specialized material models in simulation software like Abaqus.

Material Modelling in Abaqus for Hyper elastic Rubber

The project employs **Mooney-Rivlin** and **Ogden hyper elastic models** in Abaqus to capture rubber's nonlinear stress-strain behaviour accurately. These models are specifically designed for hyper elastic materials and are based on strain energy potential functions, which describe the stored energy in the material as a function of its deformation.

Table 4.1 Material properties

Property	Symbol	Value	Unit
Density	ρ	1100	kg/m^3
Young's Modulus	E	1	MPa
Poisson's Ratio	ν	0.49	-
Mooney-Rivlin Constant 1	C10	69000	Pa
Mooney-Rivlin Constant 2	C01	175000	Pa
Compressibility Constant	D1	1.45×10^{-8}	Pa^{-1}

1. **Mooney-Rivlin Model**:

    - The Mooney-Rivlin model is particularly effective for rubber-like materials under moderate strain levels. It utilizes **two material constants**, C10C {10}C10 and C01C_ {01}C01, which are specific to the material's behaviour and must be determined experimentally. For natural rubber, typical values are:

        - C10=0.12 Mpa
        - C01=0.03 Mpa

    - These constants allow the model to capture the initial stiffness and nonlinearity in rubber's stress-strain response, helping to simulate the way rubber behaves under compression, tension, and shear.

2. **Ogden Model**:

    - The Ogden model is another hyper elastic material model suitable for large deformations and is commonly used when rubber is subjected to high strains. It employs several material constants that account for complex deformations, making it more adaptable to accurately represent rubber's behaviour in a wider range of loading conditions.
    - Mathematical Foundation:

    - The Ogden model is based on the strain energy density function, which represents the stored elastic energy as the material deforms. The model incorporates principal stretches (elongations in the principal directions) and describes the energy as a sum of terms involving powers of these stretches.

Material Properties for Natural Rubber

Natural rubber, specifically modelled here, is characterized by key physical and mechanical properties that influence its response under loads:

- **Density**: 1100 kg/m³ – This value is crucial in determining the mass distribution in simulations and the material's inertia, impacting its response under dynamic loading.
- **Poisson's Ratio**: 0.49 – Rubber is nearly incompressible, with a Poisson's ratio close to 0.5. This means that when rubber is compressed in one direction, it tends to expand significantly in the perpendicular directions, a typical trait in hyper elastic materials. A Poisson's ratio of 0.49 allows the simulation to realistically model this behaviour without numerical instabilities.

Relevance to the Project

Using these material properties and models, the project aims to simulate rubber compression accurately, providing insights into stress distribution, deformation patterns, and load-bearing capacity. Modelling hyper elastic rubber with Mooney-Rivlin and Ogden models allows the analysis to capture essential characteristics like **energy absorption, elasticity, and large deformations** under compression, which are critical for designing durable rubber components across various applications. These models offer a detailed understanding of rubber's mechanical response, ensuring that the simulation results align with the expected behaviour in real-world applications.

Chapter 5

Meshing and Boundary conditions

Meshing in Rubber Compression Analysis

Meshing is the process of dividing the rubber model into small, discrete elements, which allows Abaqus to solve complex equations across the model's entire geometry. For hyper elastic materials like rubber, meshing is particularly important because rubber can undergo large, nonlinear deformations, and a fine mesh is often required to capture these effects accurately.

1. **Mesh Type and Quality**:
   - In the simulation, a **3D hexahedral (brick) mesh** or **tetrahedral mesh** is typically used. Brick elements tend to work well with relatively simple geometries like cylinders, as they provide better accuracy for stress-strain calculations. Tetrahedral elements, on the other hand, can be more flexible for complex geometries but might require refinement to avoid inaccuracies in stress predictions.
   - Given rubber's hyper elastic nature, **mesh refinement** around areas expected to experience high deformation (e.g., near the points of contact where compression is applied) is essential. This ensures that localized stresses and strains are accurately captured, which is vital for studying how rubber distributes and absorbs energy under load.
2. **Mesh Density**:
   - A **finer mesh** is generally applied in regions with anticipated high-stress gradients or where the contact occurs between the loading plate and the rubber surface. This increases the precision of the analysis in these critical areas, as a dense mesh provides more nodes and elements, capturing subtle changes in deformation and stress.

- To avoid excessive computation time, an **adaptive mesh** might also be used, where a fine mesh is applied to high-strain regions while maintaining a coarser mesh in less critical areas. Abaqus also offers options for adaptive meshing during analysis, which can further improve results by refining the mesh dynamically as the rubber deforms.

3. **Element Types**:

   - For hyper elastic simulations, elements capable of handling large deformations, such as **C3D8H** (hexahedral hybrid) or **C3D10M** (tetrahedral modified) elements, are preferable. Hybrid elements are suited for materials with near-incompressible properties, like rubber, as they provide additional stability in simulating rubber's unique stress-strain response.

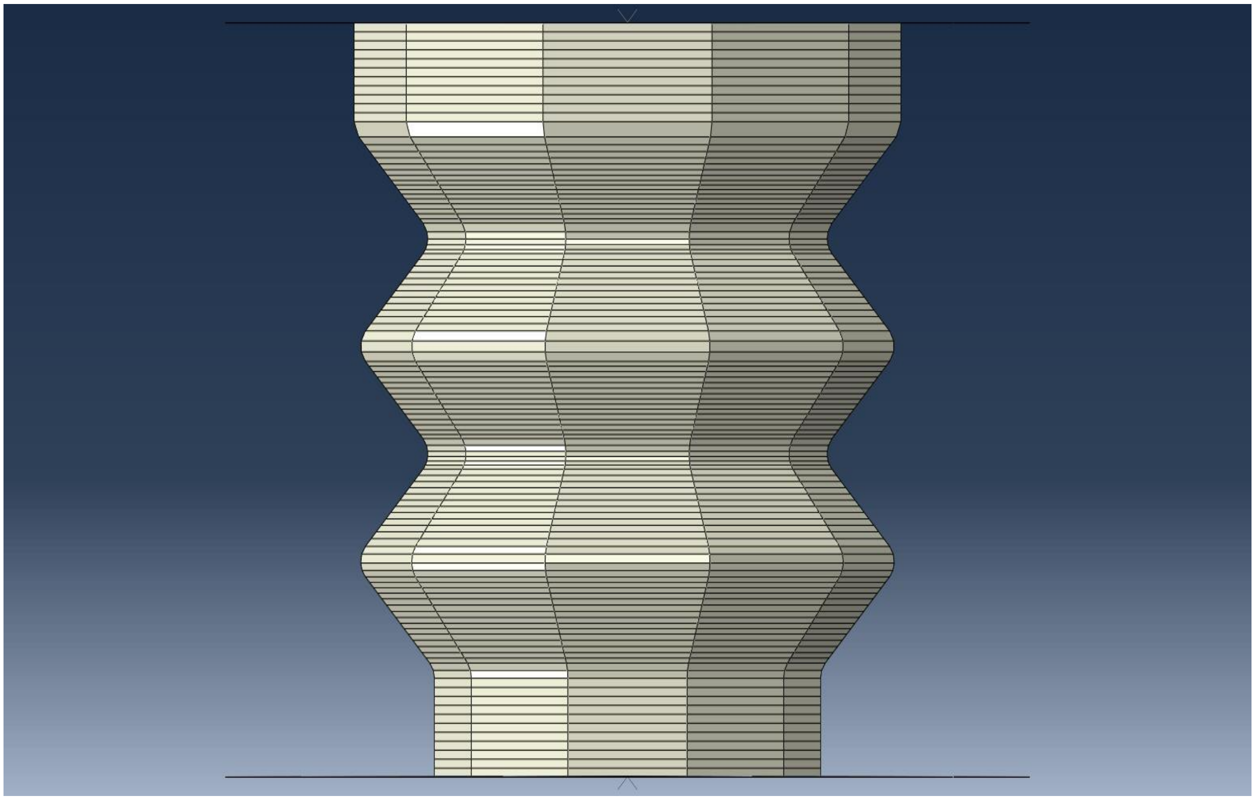


Figure 5.1 FEA MODEL

5.1 Boundary Conditions in Rubber Compression Analysis

Boundary conditions define the constraints on the model, determining how the rubber specimen interacts with other objects (e.g., a compression plate) and how it will behave under applied forces. In a rubber compression simulation, appropriate boundary conditions ensure that the model replicates real-world constraints and loading conditions accurately.

1. **Fixed Boundary Condition**:
   - Typically, the **bottom surface of the rubber cylinder** is fully constrained to prevent any movement. This is achieved by applying a **fixed boundary condition** that restricts translations in all three directions (X, Y, and Z) and rotations. This setup mimics a real-world scenario where one end of a rubber component is anchored, allowing it to resist movement and deformation.
2. **Compression Load or Displacement Boundary Condition**:
   - A **displacement-controlled boundary condition** is often applied at the top surface of the rubber cylinder to simulate compression. By moving this surface downward, the simulation mimics a compressive load applied on the rubber. This approach ensures more control over the deformation rate and is commonly used in FEA for hyper elastic materials.
   - Alternatively, a **force-controlled boundary condition** could be applied, where a specific compressive force is applied downward on the top surface.

5.2 Analysis in Abaqus

Introduction to Abaqus: Abaqus is a powerful and versatile finite element analysis (FEA) software suite widely used for simulating the behaviour of materials and structures under various conditions. It provides advanced capabilities for modelling, analysing, and visualizing complex physical phenomena, making it a preferred choice among engineers and researchers in various fields, including mechanical, civil, and aerospace engineering.

Key Features of Abaqus:

1. **Comprehensive Material Models:**
   - Abaqus supports a wide range of material models, including linear and non-linear elasticity, plasticity, and viscoelasticity. This is particularly important for rubber compression analysis, where accurate representation of material behavior is crucial.
2. **Advanced Meshing Capabilities:**
   - The software provides advanced meshing techniques that allow for the creation of complex geometries and high-quality finite element meshes. This ensures accurate results in simulations, particularly for materials like rubber, which exhibit complex deformation patterns.
3. **Robust Solver Options:**
   - Abaqus offers various solver options to handle different types of analyses, including static, dynamic, and thermal simulations. This flexibility allows for comprehensive investigation of how rubber components behave under different loading conditions.
4. **Post-Processing Tools:**
   - The built-in post-processing tools in Abaqus allow users to visualize and interpret simulation results effectively.

Why Use Abaqus CAE for Rubber Compression Analysis?

1. **Accurate Representation of Material Behavior:**
   - Rubber materials exhibit non-linear and time-dependent behavior, which requires sophisticated modelling techniques. Abaqus provides specialized material models that can accurately simulate the unique characteristics of rubber under compression.
2. **Flexibility in Simulation Setup:**

- Abaqus CAE allows for the easy creation of complex geometries and boundary conditions, enabling the modelling of real-world scenarios. This flexibility is essential for analysing rubber components that may have intricate shapes and varying loading conditions.

3. **Comprehensive Analysis Capabilities:**

   - The software's ability to perform both static and dynamic analyses makes it suitable for studying rubber behavior under different conditions. For instance, you can simulate both slow compression and rapid loading scenarios, providing a complete understanding of material performance.

4. **Integration with Experimental Data:**

   - Abaqus allows for the incorporation of experimental data into the simulation process. This capability is valuable for validating your analysis results against real-world experiments, enhancing the reliability of your findings.

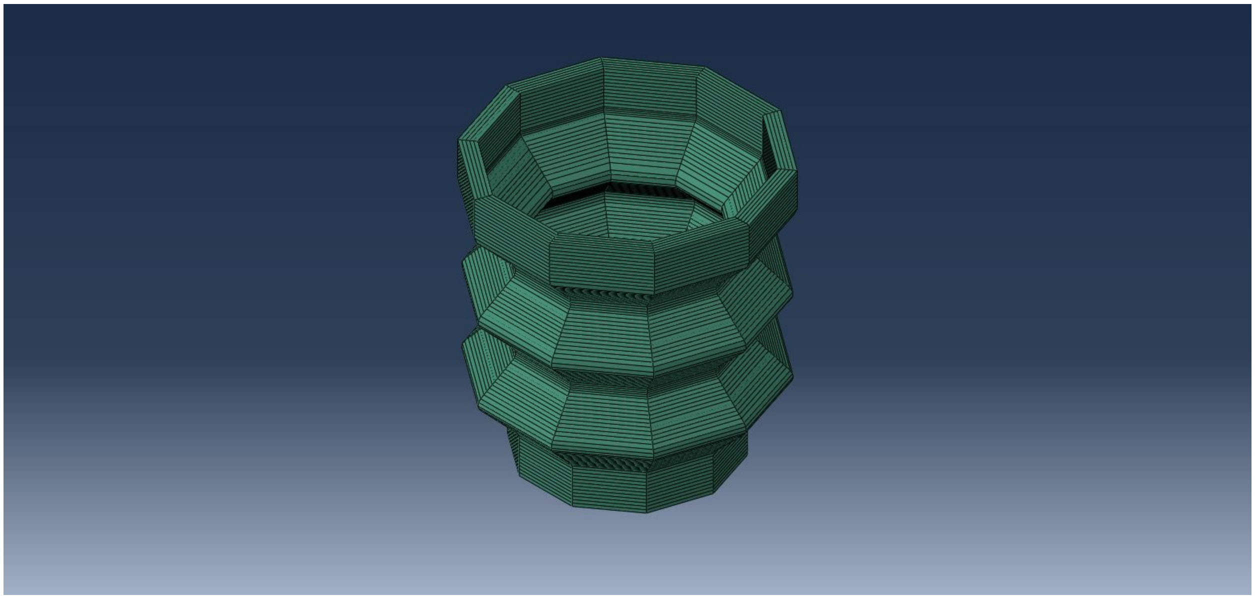


Fig 5.2 Meshed Model

Chapter 6

Results and Discussion

 Material **Property Calibration:**

- Key results demonstrate the calibration of hyper elastic material properties based on experimental data. The video showcases how the fitting process adjusts parameters to match stress-strain curves observed in physical tests, emphasizing the significance of accurate material characterization in predicting behavior under load.

 Load**-Displacement Response:**

- The main output presented includes the load-displacement curves obtained from the simulation. The curves typically show non-linear behavior, indicating how the rubber material responds to increasing compressive loads. The video highlights specific points on the curve, such as yield points and regions of elastic recovery.

 Von **Mises Stress Distribution:**

- Results illustrate the distribution of Von Mises stress within the rubber sample during compression. The video explains how areas of high stress correlate with deformation zones, providing insights into potential failure points in rubber components. This information is crucial for design optimization and ensuring component durability.

 Comparison **with Experimental Data:**

- The results section compares the simulation outputs with experimental results, demonstrating the accuracy and reliability of the Abaqus simulations. The video may present graphs and charts that visually represent the agreement between simulated and experimental data, underscoring the predictive capabilities of the FEA model.

6.1 Applications:

1. Automotive Industry

- Tires: The performance of tires is heavily influenced by the rubber's ability to compress under load. Analysing compression behavior helps in optimizing tire design for grip, durability, and fuel efficiency. For example, the development of low rolling resistance tires enhances fuel economy while maintaining safety.
- Engine Mounts: Rubber engine mounts absorb vibrations and reduce noise. By studying their compression characteristics, engineers can design mounts that effectively dampen vibrations, leading to improved passenger comfort. Brands like BMW and Mercedes utilize advanced rubber compounds in their engine mounts for enhanced performance.

2. Consumer Products

- Footwear: Companies like Nike and Adidas utilize rubber cushioning technologies in their athletic shoes. Compression analysis helps in designing midsoles that provide optimal shock absorption and energy return, improving performance and comfort for athletes.
- Kitchenware: Rubber grips on kitchen utensils (e.g., knives, spatulas) are designed for comfort and safety. Analysing how these grips compress under pressure ensures that they provide adequate support without slipping, improving user experience.

3. Aerospace Industry

- Seals and Gaskets: In aerospace applications, rubber seals are used in fuel tanks and hydraulic systems. Compression analysis is crucial for ensuring that these seals maintain integrity under varying pressure and temperature conditions, preventing leaks. Boeing uses advanced rubber gaskets in their aircraft to enhance safety and reliability.
- Vibration Isolation: Rubber components are used in aircraft to isolate vibrations from engines and other machinery. By studying the compression behavior, engineers can optimize these components to minimize noise and vibrations, improving passenger comfort.

4. Industrial Applications

- Hydraulic Systems: Rubber seals in hydraulic systems prevent fluid leaks and maintain system pressure. Understanding compression behavior under high loads is vital for designing seals that withstand harsh operating conditions, such as those found in construction machinery like Caterpillar's heavy equipment.

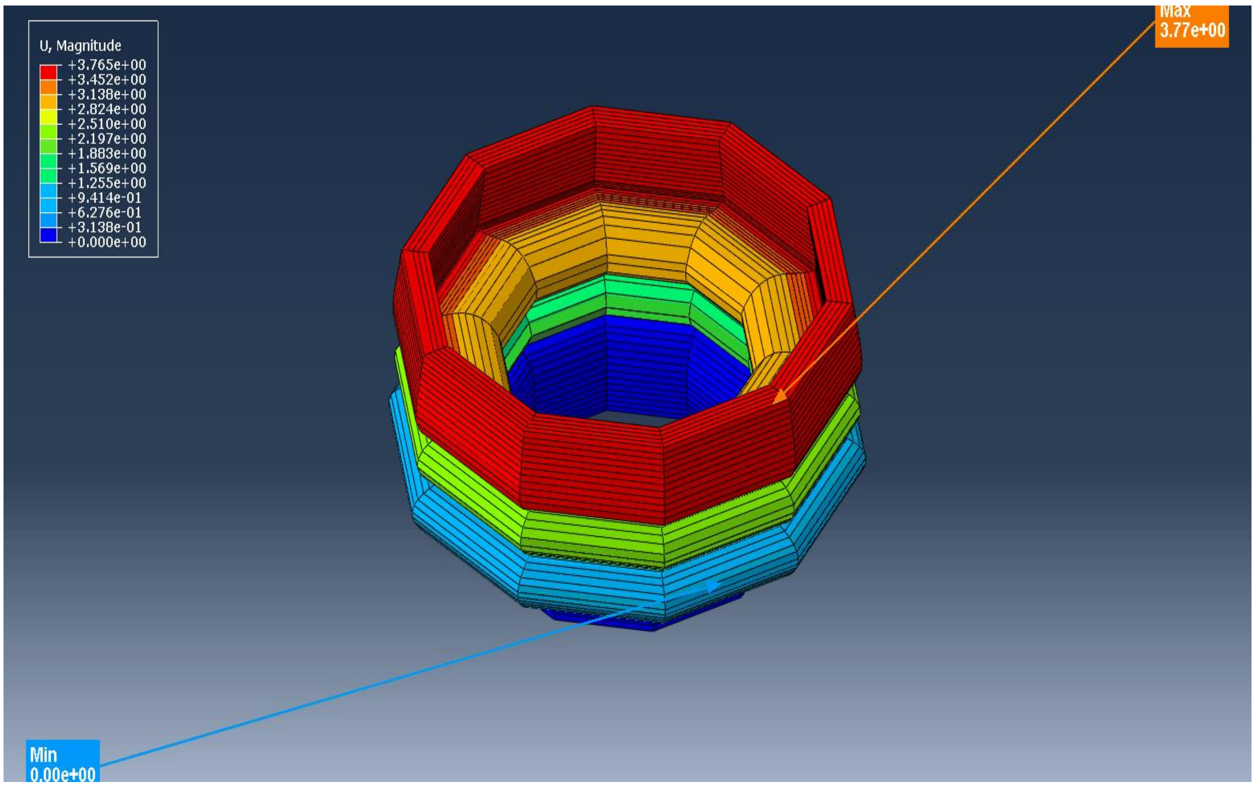


Figure 6.1 Displacement

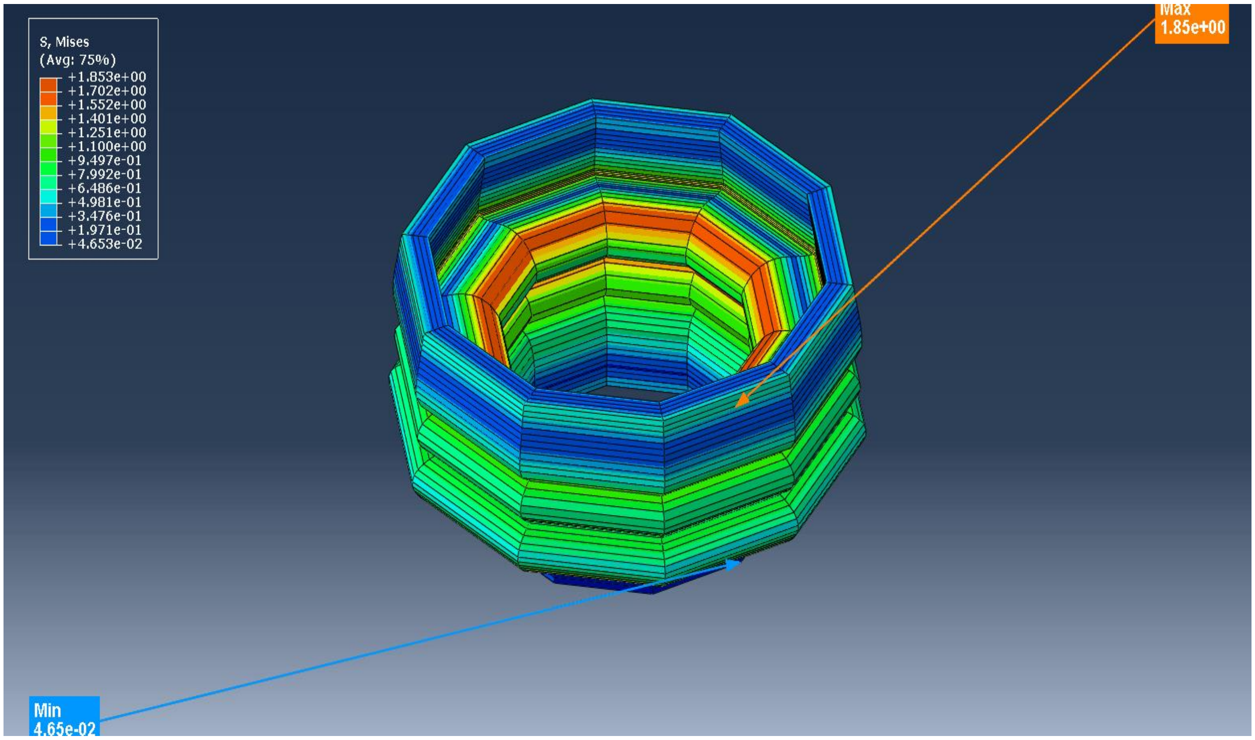
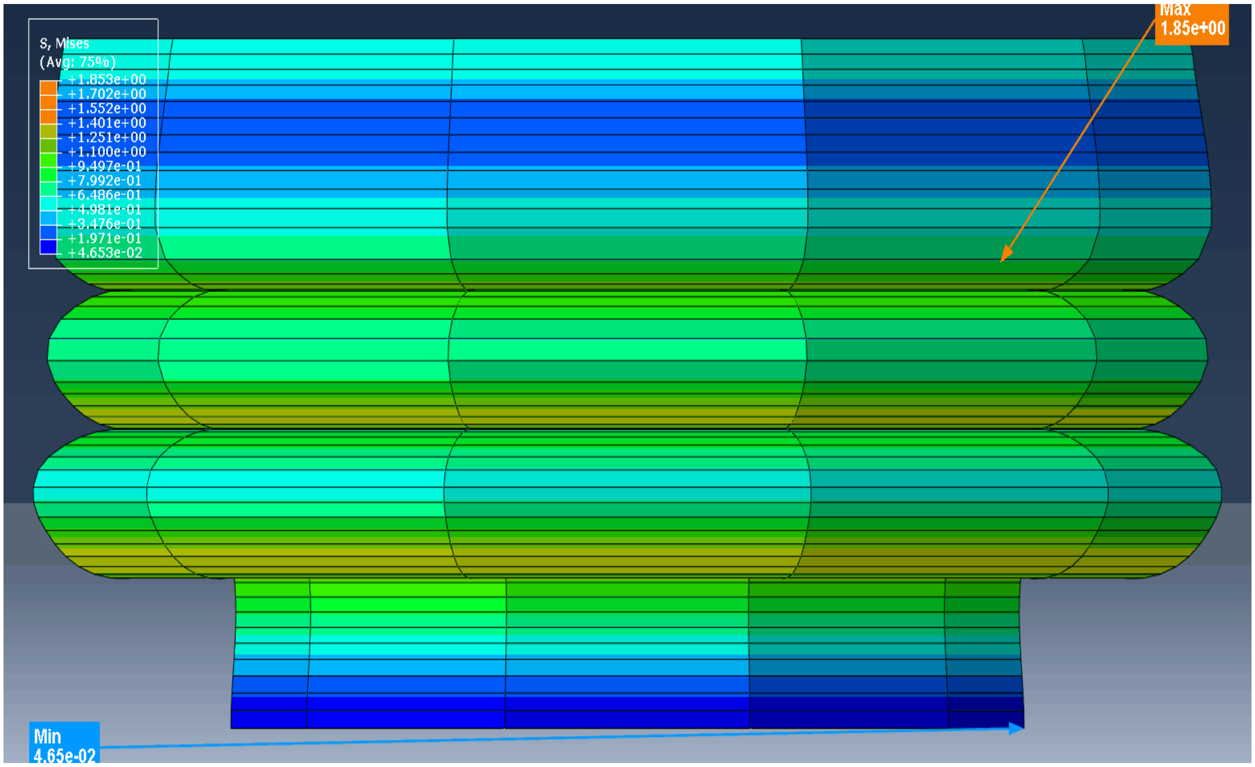


Figure 6.2 Von Mises Stresses



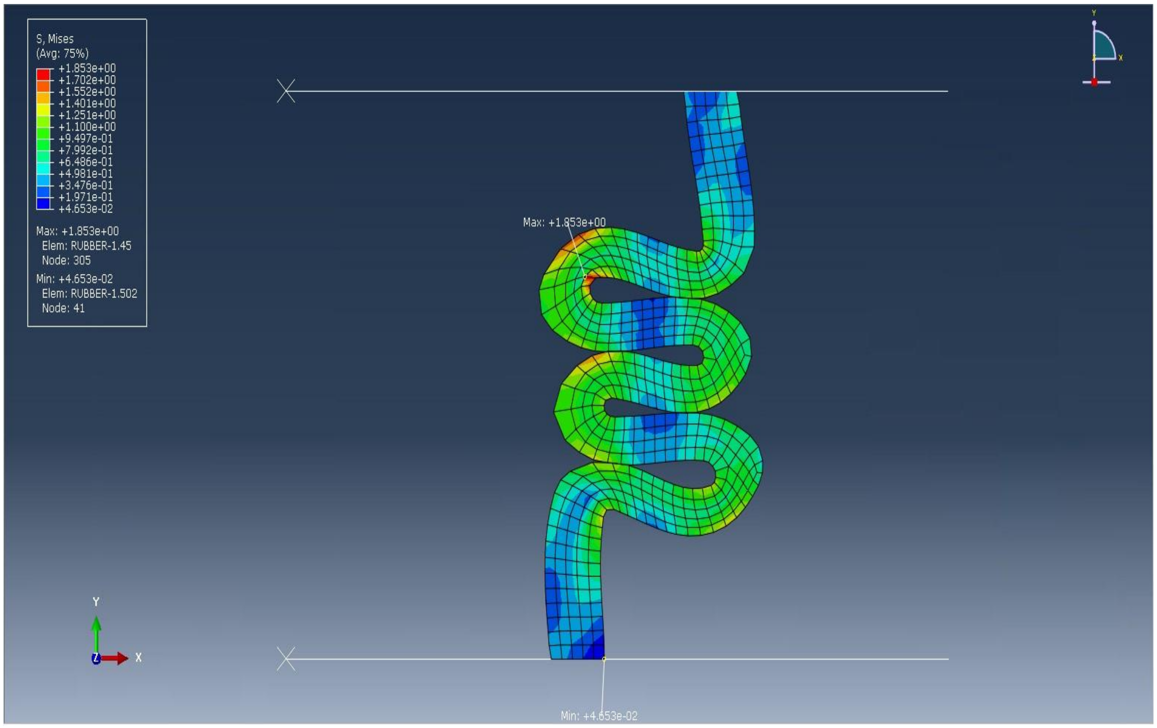


Figure 6.3 Max and Min Stress

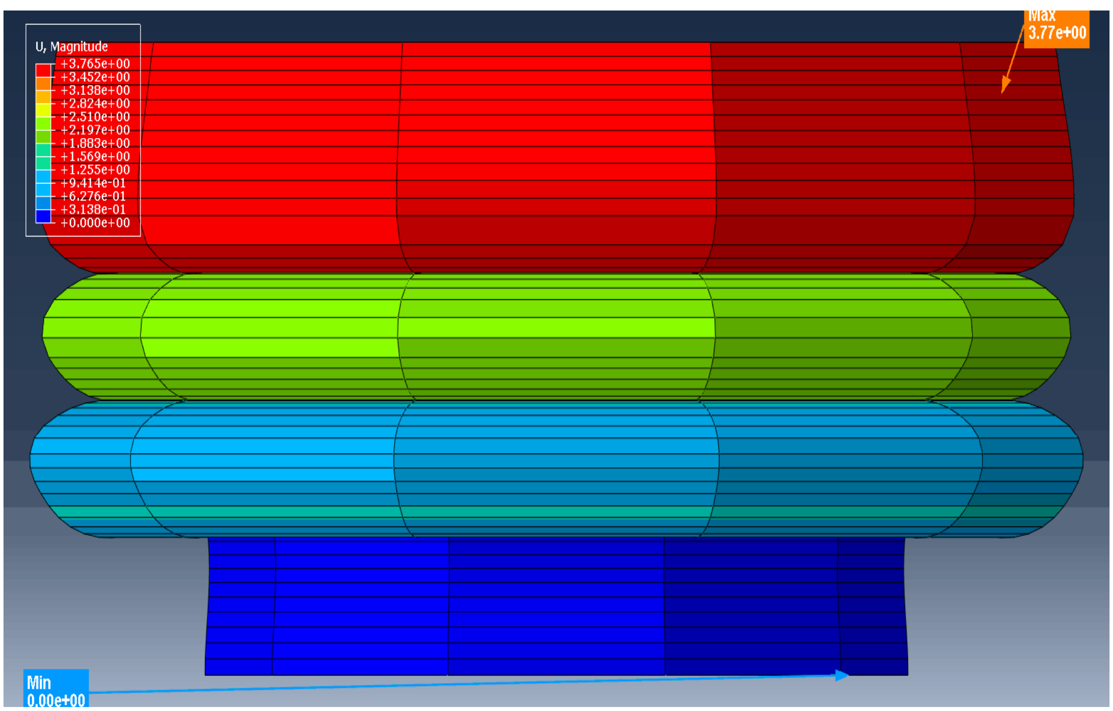


Figure 6.4 Max and Min Displacement(U)

Chapter 7

Conclusion

This study effectively demonstrates the application of Abaqus for simulating the compression behavior of hyper elastic rubber materials. Through detailed finite element analysis, we gained valuable insights into the non-linear elastic properties of rubber, which are essential for optimizing designs in various applications, including automotive, aerospace, and medical devices.

The findings highlight the potential for enhancing product performance, safety, and durability while promoting cost-effectiveness and sustainability in material use. By accurately modelling the compression behavior, this research allows engineers to make informed decisions during the design process, ultimately leading to better-performing rubber components.

Furthermore, this study validates the capabilities of Abaqus as a robust tool for analysing hyper elastic materials, contributing to advancements in material science and engineering practices. The methodologies and insights gained from this research will serve as a foundation for future studies, paving the way for innovations in rubber-based products and applications.

Chapter 8

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