

# Mechanics of Solids

Volume III

Theory of Viscoelasticity, Plasticity,  
Elastic Waves, and Elastic Stability

Editor: C. Truesdell



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# MECHANICS OF SOLIDS

VOLUME III

Theory of Viscoelasticity, Plasticity, Elastic Waves,  
and Elastic Stability

Editor

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## Preface.

### Reissue of Encyclopedia of Physics / Handbuch der Physik, Volume VIa

The mechanical response of solids was first reduced to an organized science of fairly general scope in the nineteenth century. The theory of small elastic deformations is in the main the creation of CAUCHY, who, correcting and simplifying the work of NAVIER and POISSON, through an astounding application of conjoined scholarship, originality, and labor greatly extended in breadth the shallowest aspects of the treatments of particular kinds of bodies by GALILEO, LEIBNIZ, JAMES BERNOULLI, PARENT, DANIEL BERNOULLI, EULER, and COULOMB. Linear elasticity became a branch of mathematics, cultivated wherever there were mathematicians. The magisterial treatise of LOVE in its second edition, 1906 – clear, compact, exhaustive, and learned – stands as the summary of the classical theory. It is one of the great “gaslight works” that in BOCHNER’s words<sup>1</sup> “either do not have any adequate successor[s] ... or, at least, refuse to be superseded ...; and so they have to be reprinted, in ever increasing numbers, for active research and reference”, as long as State and Society shall permit men to learn mathematics by, for, and of men’s minds.

Abundant experimentation on solids was done during the same century. Usually the materials arising in nature, with which experiment most justly concerns itself, do not stoop easily to the limitations classical elasticity posits. It is no wonder that the investigations LOVE’s treatise collects, condenses, and reduces to symmetry and system were in the main ill at ease with experiment and unconcerned with practical applications. In LOVE’s words, they belong to “an abstract conceptual scheme of Rational Mechanics”. He concluded thus his famous Historical Introduction:

The history of the mathematical theory of Elasticity shows clearly that the development of the theory has not been guided exclusively by considerations of its utility for technical Mechanics. Most of the men by whose researches it has been founded and shaped have been more interested in Natural Philosophy than in material progress, in trying to understand the world than in trying to make it more comfortable. From this attitude of mind it may possibly have resulted that the theory has contributed less to the material advance of mankind than it might otherwise have done. Be this as it may, the intellectual gain which has accrued from the work of these men must be estimated very highly. The discussions that have taken place concerning the number and meaning of the elastic constants have thrown light on most recondite questions concerning the nature of molecules and the mode of their interaction. The efforts that have been made to explain optical phenomena by means of the hypothesis of a medium having the same physical character as an elastic solid body led, in the first instance, to

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<sup>1</sup>SALOMON BOCHNER: “Einstein between centuries”, Rice Univ. Stud. 65 (3), 54 (1979).

the understanding of a concrete example of a medium which can transmit transverse vibrations, and, at a later stage, to the definite conclusion that the luminiferous medium has not the physical character assumed in the hypothesis. They have thus issued in an essential widening of our ideas concerning the nature of the aether and the nature of luminous vibrations. The methods that have been devised for solving the equations of equilibrium of an isotropic solid body form part of an analytical theory which is of great importance in pure mathematics. The application of these methods to the problem of the internal constitution of the Earth has led to results which must influence profoundly the course of speculative thought both in Geology and in cosmical Physics. Even in the more technical problems, such as the transmission of force and the resistance of bars and plates, attention has been directed, for the most part, rather to theoretical than to practical aspects of the questions. To get insight into what goes on in impact, to bring the theory of the behaviour of thin bars and plates into accord with the general equations – these and such-like aims have been more attractive to most of the men to whom we owe the theory than endeavours to devise means for effecting economies in engineering constructions or to ascertain the conditions in which structures become unsafe. The fact that much material progress is the indirect outcome of work done in this spirit is not without significance. The equally significant fact that most great advances in Natural Philosophy have been made by men who had a first-hand acquaintance with practical needs and experimental methods has often been emphasized; and, although the names of Green, Poisson, Cauchy show that the rule is not without important exceptions, yet it is exemplified well in the history of our science.

LOVE's treatise mentions experiment rarely and scantily. Its one passage concerning experiment in general, § 63, in effect warns its reader to have a care of experimental data because of their indirectness.

In an irony of history the ever-increasing use of mathematical notation in physical science, to the point that now often works on experiment are dominated by their authors' seemingly compulsive recourse to mathematical formulæ interconnected by copied or adapted bits of old mathematical manipulation, LOVE's treatise is sometimes in reproaches upon modern "pure" or "abstract" researchers held up as a model of practical, applied theory.

Experiment on the mechanical properties of solids became in the later nineteenth century a science nearly divorced from theory. Nevertheless, no great treatise on experiment fit to be set beside LOVE's on theory ever appeared. Even such books of experiment as were published seem to have in the main taken positions either dominated by theory, usually crude, verbose, and ill presented, or flatly opposed to theory.

The modern reader will cite as objections against the foregoing coarse summary many individual masterpieces that do not support it: brilliant comparisons of theory with experiment by ST. VENANT, independent experiments of fundamental importance by WERTHEIM, CAUCHY's marvellously clear mathematical apparatus for conceiving stress and arbitrarily large strains and rotations, theories of internal friction and plasticity proposed by BOLTZMANN, ST. VENANT, and others. If he is searching for antecedents of what has happened in the second half of the twentieth century, he is abundantly right in citing these and other achievements of the nineteenth while passing over the work of the ruck, but in that century's gross product of solid mechanics they are exceptions that prove rules.

In planning this volume on the mechanics of solids for the *Encyclopedia of Physics* I designed

- 1) To provide a treatise on experimental mechanics of solids that, not dominated by mathematical theory and not neglecting the work of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in favor of recent, more popular, and more costly forays, should be comparable in authority, breadth, and scholarship with LOVE's.
- 2) To provide treatises on basic, mathematical theory that would stand at the level of LOVE's while in their own, narrower scope supplanting it by compact and efficient development of fundamentals, making use of modern, incisive, yet elementary mathematics to weave together old and recent insights and achievements.
- 3) To illustrate the power of modern mathematical theory and modern experiment by articles on selected topics recently developed for their intellectual and practical importance, these two qualities being closer to each other than to some they may seem.

I encouraged the authors to meet the standard established by LOVE in just citation and temperate respect for the discoverers.

The reader will be able to form his own judgment of such success and failure as did accrue.

On the first head, experiment in general, the reader will find the treatise by Mr. BELL, filling all of Part 1. While it is not primarily a historical work, the historian S. G. BRUSH pronounced it in 1975 "the most important new publication by a single author" on the history of physics.

On the second head, the reader should not expect to find the basic ideas of solids treated *ab novo* or in isolation. The general and unified mechanics of EULER and CAUCHY, in which fluids, solids, and materials of other kinds are but instances, has come into its own in our day. No wise scientist now can afford to shut out solids when studying fluids or to forget the nature and peculiarities of fluids when studying solids. The two are but extreme examples in the class of systems comprised by mechanics. Articles in Parts 1 and 3 of Volume III of the *Encyclopedia: The Classical Field Theories* and *The Non-Linear Field Theories of Mechanics*, are cited so often by the authors writing in Volume VIa as to make it fatuous to deny that they provide the basic concepts, structures, and mathematical apparatus for the articles on theoretical mechanics of solids. In particular *The Non-Linear Field Theories* goes into such detail regarding large mechanical deformation as to allow most of the text in Volume VIa to concentrate upon small strain.

This much understood, we see that while Mr. BELL's volume provides, at last, a monument of exposition and scholarship on experiment, the articles by Messrs. GURTIN, CARLSON, FICHERA, NAGHDI, ANTMAN, and FISHER & LEITMAN, by Mrs. GEIRINGER, and by Mr. TING together provide a modern treatise on mathematical theories of the classical kinds. The survey of theories of elastic stability by Messrs. KNOPS & WILKES, now justly regarded as the standard reference for its field, necessarily considers deformations that need not be small.

Coming finally to application, in which theory and experiment complement one another, the reader will find major examples in the articles by Messrs. CHEN; NUNZIATO, WALSH, SCHULER and BARKER; and THURSTON. Many more topics of application might have been included. I regret that I could not secure articles about them. The



most serious want is a survey of applications of linear elasticity to problems of intrinsic or applied interest that have arisen in this century and that illustrate the power of new mathematical analysis in dealing with special problems. A long article of that kind, a veritable treatise, was twice contracted and twice defaulted. Fortunately the gap thus left has been abundantly and expertly filled by Mr. VILLAGGIO, *Qualitative Methods in Elasticity*, Leyden, Noordhoff, 1977.

Baltimore, December, 1983

C. TRUESDELL

# Contents.

<b>The Linear Theory of Viscoelasticity.</b> By MARSHALL J. LEITMAN, Associate Professor of Mathematics, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio (USA) and Dr. GEORGE M. C. FISHER, Bell Telephone Laboratories, Holmdel, New Jersey (USA) . . .		1
<b>A. Introduction . . . . .</b>		
1. Plan and scope of this article . . . . .		1
2. Notation. Vectors, tensors, and linear transformations . . . . .		3
3. Processes and histories . . . . .		4
4. Convolutions . . . . .		8
5. The Boltzmann operator . . . . .		10
<b>B. Foundations of the linear theory . . . . .</b>		
6. Linear hereditary laws . . . . .		11
7. Boltzmann laws. Definitions . . . . .		12
8. Characterization of Boltzmann laws . . . . .		14
9. Constitutive relations. Linearly viscoelastic materials . . . . .		16
10. Constitutive equations. Boltzmann laws. Stress relaxation . . . . .		18
11. Relaxation and creep laws . . . . .		23
12. Isotropic materials . . . . .		29
13. Additional properties of Boltzmann laws. Mechanical forcing . . . . .		31
14. Differential operator laws . . . . .		34
15. Relaxation times and differential operator laws . . . . .		37
16. Special differential operators . . . . .		39
17. Field equations . . . . .		42
<b>C. Quasi-static linear viscoelasticity . . . . .</b>		
18. The quasi-static assumption . . . . .		42
19. Quasi-static viscoelastic processes . . . . .		42
20. Displacement equations of equilibrium . . . . .		44
21. Equations of compatibility . . . . .		45
22. Boundary data . . . . .		46
23. The quasi-static boundary value problem . . . . .		47
24. Synchronous and separable boundary data . . . . .		48
25. Initial response. Elastic states . . . . .		49
26. The past-history problem . . . . .		50
27. Integral theorems . . . . .		53
28. Uniqueness of quasi-static viscoelastic processes . . . . .		55
29. Existence of quasi-static viscoelastic processes . . . . .		59
30. Quasi-static variational principles . . . . .		64
31. Elastic-viscoelastic correspondence . . . . .		68
32. Stress functions for quasi-static viscoelastic processes . . . . .		73
33. Singular solutions . . . . .		77
34. Green's processes and integral solutions . . . . .		81
35. Saint-Venant's principle . . . . .		85
<b>D. Dynamic linear viscoelasticity . . . . .</b>		
36. Dynamic viscoelastic processes . . . . .		89
37. Field equations . . . . .		89
38. Complete dynamic displacement generating functions . . . . .		91
39. Power and energy . . . . .		92
40. Uniqueness. Boundary value problem . . . . .		95
41. Waves. Singular surfaces . . . . .		95
42. Initial value problem. Uniqueness and existence of solutions . . . . .		96
		104



43. Oscillatory displacement processes. Free vibrations . . . . .	106
44. Dynamic variational principles . . . . .	112
References . . . . .	115

<b>Theory of Elastic Stability.</b> By R. J. KNOPS, Professor of Mathematics, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, and E. W. WILKES, School of Mathematics, The University of Newcastle upon Tyne (Great Britain). (With 3 Figures) . . . . .	125
A. Introduction . . . . .	125
B. Abstract dynamical systems . . . . .	126
1. Introduction . . . . .	126
2. General features of a dynamical system . . . . .	127
3. Definition of a dynamical system . . . . .	128
4. The set of initial data and a related mapping . . . . .	130
C. Definitions of stability . . . . .	131
5. Introduction . . . . .	131
6. Definition of Liapounov stability . . . . .	133
7. Further definitions . . . . .	141
8. Continuous dependence . . . . .	145
9. Instability in the sense of Liapounov . . . . .	147
10. Boundedness and Liapounov stability . . . . .	148
11. Instability in the sense of Lagrange . . . . .	150
12. Stability and uniqueness . . . . .	151
D. Stability theorems for abstract dynamical systems . . . . .	152
13. Introduction . . . . .	152
14. Maximum principles . . . . .	152
15. Liapounov's theorems on stability. (The second method) . . . . .	153
16. Discussion of the theorems . . . . .	158
17. Examples . . . . .	160
18. Relation of stability to the calculus of variations . . . . .	163
19. Theorems on instability . . . . .	167
20. Boundedness and asymptotic stability . . . . .	169
E. Eigenfunction analyses . . . . .	170
F. Stability of elastic bodies . . . . .	171
21. Introduction . . . . .	171
22. Derivation of basic equations . . . . .	173
23. The equations of perturbed motion. Isothermal linear elasticity . . . . .	176
24. Incremental equations for thermoelasticity . . . . .	183
25. Some causes of perturbations . . . . .	186
G. Liapounov functions for finite thermoelasticity . . . . .	187
26. Introduction . . . . .	187
27. Liapounov functions from the energy balance equation . . . . .	188
28. Liapounov functions from the entropy production inequality . . . . .	189
H. Liapounov stability in the class of non-linear perturbations . . . . .	191
29. Introduction . . . . .	191
30. Sufficiency theorems . . . . .	192
I. The energy criterion for stability . . . . .	195
31. Statement and history of the criterion . . . . .	195
32. Necessary conditions . . . . .	199
33. Sufficient conditions . . . . .	203
34. Criticism of the energy criterion . . . . .	203
J. Stability for a fixed surface and under dead loads in the class of small incremental displacements . . . . .	206
35. Stability of equilibrium . . . . .	206
36. Stability of a body with time-dependent elasticities . . . . .	209
37. Discussion of choice of measure . . . . .	210
38. Stability with multipolar elasticity . . . . .	213
39. Incompressible media . . . . .	213

K. Stability under dead surface loads in the class of small incremental displacements	215
40. Introduction	215
41. Stability analysis I	217
42. Stability analysis II	219
43. Note on Korn's inequality	221
L. Instability under dead surface loads from the equations of linear incremental displacement	222
44. Instability from negative-definite total energy	222
45. Non-uniqueness and instability	224
46. The method of adjacent equilibrium	224
47. History and application of the test	226
M. Logarithmic convexity	228
48. Introduction	228
49. Convexity of the function $F(t; \alpha, t_0)$	229
50. Applications	230
N. Extension of stability analysis for traction boundary conditions	239
51. Stability without an axis of equilibrium	239
52. Stability with an axis of equilibrium	242
53. Instability analysis	242
54. Incompressible media	244
O. Stability in special traction boundary value problems	244
55. Introduction	244
56. Isotropic compressible material under hydrostatic stress	244
57. Incompressible elastic material	248
P. Stability in the class of linear thermoelastic displacements under dead loads	249
58. Introduction	249
59. Liapounov stability	250
60. Instability	251
61. Hölder stability	252
62. Asymptotic stability	254
Q. Classification of stability problems with non-dead loading	256
63. Introduction	256
64. Group (a): Persistent stability	256
65. Group (b): Motion-dependent data	257
R. Stability under weakly conservative loads	258
66. Definitions	258
67. Characterisations of weakly conservative forces	260
68. Stability analyses	263
S. Stability with time-dependent and position-dependent data	264
69. Introduction	264
70. Prescribed surface traction with zero initial data	264
71. Prescribed surface traction with non-zero initial data	266
72. Prescribed surface displacement	268
73. Prescribed body force	269
74. Variation in the elasticities	271
75. Change in initial data under dead loading	272
76. Convexity arguments	273
77. Further arguments	275
T. Stability under follower forces	278
78. Introduction	278
79. Examples using the Liapounov theory	280
80. Adjacent equilibrium method. Instability by divergence	282
81. Eigenfunction expansions. Analyses depending upon separation of variables	284
U. Dissipative forces	285
82. Introduction	285
83. Snap-through	287
References	289

<b>Growth and Decay of Waves in Solids.</b> By Dr. PETER J. CHEN, Sandia Laboratories, Albuquerque, New Mexico (USA). (With 1 Figure) . . . . .	303
I. Introduction . . . . .	303
1. Nature of this article . . . . .	303
2. General scheme of notation . . . . .	304
II. Preliminaries . . . . .	304
3. Basic kinematical concepts . . . . .	304
4. Theory of singular surfaces . . . . .	305
5. Definition of shock waves and acceleration waves . . . . .	309
III. Acceleration waves in elastic bodies . . . . .	315
6. Longitudinal waves in anisotropic elastic bodies . . . . .	315
7. Transverse waves in anisotropic elastic bodies . . . . .	321
8. Thermodynamic influences on waves in anisotropic elastic bodies . . . . .	323
9. Waves in isotropic elastic bodies . . . . .	325
10. Waves of arbitrary shape in isotropic elastic bodies . . . . .	328
11. Thermodynamic influences on waves in isotropic elastic bodies . . . . .	333
IV. One dimensional waves in bodies of material with memory . . . . .	334
12. Acceleration waves in bodies of material with memory . . . . .	334
13. The local and global behavior of the amplitudes of acceleration waves . . . . .	339
14. Acceleration waves entering homogeneously deformed bodies of material with memory . . . . .	344
15. Thermodynamic influences on acceleration waves in bodies of material with memory . . . . .	348
16. Shock waves entering unstrained bodies of material with memory . . . . .	349
17. Consequences of the existence of steady shock waves . . . . .	354
V. One dimensional waves in elastic bodies . . . . .	356
18. Acceleration waves in elastic bodies . . . . .	356
19. Shock waves in elastic bodies . . . . .	357
VI. One dimensional waves in elastic non-conductors of heat . . . . .	362
20. Acceleration waves in elastic non-conductors of heat . . . . .	362
21. Acceleration waves entering deformed elastic non-conductors . . . . .	363
22. Shock waves in elastic non-conductors of heat . . . . .	369
23. Shock waves entering deformed elastic non-conductors . . . . .	376
VII. One dimensional waves in inhomogeneous elastic bodies . . . . .	378
24. Acceleration waves in inhomogeneous elastic bodies . . . . .	378
25. Acceleration waves in inhomogeneous elastic bodies at rest . . . . .	379
26. Shock waves in inhomogeneous elastic bodies . . . . .	382
27. Shock waves in inhomogeneous elastic bodies at rest . . . . .	384
Appendix . . . . .	385
1. Existence of the one dimensional kinematical condition of compatibility . . . . .	385
2. Proofs of Theorems 13.2, 13.3, 13.4 and 13.5 . . . . .	387
3. Derivation of (16.12) . . . . .	395
References . . . . .	398
List of works cited . . . . .	398
Additional references . . . . .	401
 <b>Ideal Plasticity.</b> By HILDA GEIRINGER, Professor Emer. of Mathematics, Cambridge, Massachusetts (USA). (With 50 Figures). . . . .	 403
A. The basic equations . . . . .	403
I. The three-dimensional problem . . . . .	403
1. Quadratic yield condition . . . . .	403
2. Some basic formulas. Mohr circles . . . . .	407
3. Plastic potential . . . . .	408
4. Tresca's yield criterion. "Singular" yield conditions . . . . .	411

5. "Compatibility" relations . . . . .	411
6. The flow equations of Prandtl and Reuss . . . . .	412
7. Further stress strain laws . . . . .	414
8. Remarks on some three-dimensional problems . . . . .	415
8 bis. Remarks on uniqueness for rigid plastic solids . . . . .	416
II. Discontinuous solutions . . . . .	416
a) Characteristics. Application to the three-dimensional problem of the perfectly plastic body . . . . .	416
9. Introduction . . . . .	416
10. Examples . . . . .	417
11. Systems of differential equations . . . . .	420
12. Characteristics of the v. Mises plasticity equations . . . . .	422
13. Further results and comments . . . . .	424
b) Continuation . . . . .	424
14. Characteristic surfaces. Characteristic condition . . . . .	424
15. Compatibility conditions . . . . .	426
16. Discontinuous solutions . . . . .	426
17. Preliminary comments on discontinuous solutions in plasticity . . . . .	427
c) Hadamard's theory . . . . .	428
18. Moving surfaces . . . . .	428
19. Geometrical and kinematical discontinuity conditions . . . . .	429
19 bis. Continuation . . . . .	430
20. Application to a system of equations . . . . .	431
21. Compatibility conditions . . . . .	432
d) Shock conditions. Stress discontinuities . . . . .	433
22. "Shock conditions" . . . . .	433
23. On the classification of discontinuities . . . . .	434
24. Stress discontinuities . . . . .	434
B. Plane problems . . . . .	436
I. Plane strain, plane stress, and generalizations . . . . .	436
25. Plane strain with v. Mises' or with Tresca's yield condition derived from three-dimensional problem . . . . .	436
26. Plane strain under general yield condition . . . . .	437
27. Plane stress with quadratic yield condition . . . . .	438
27 bis. Plane stress. Continued . . . . .	439
28. Generalized plane stress . . . . .	440
II. The theory of plane strain . . . . .	440
a) Differential relations . . . . .	440
29. Basic equations . . . . .	440
30. Continuation. Slip line field . . . . .	445
b) Integration. Particular solutions . . . . .	449
31. Integration . . . . .	449
32. Examples of exact particular solutions . . . . .	452
33. Discontinuities . . . . .	456
C. The general plane problem . . . . .	458
I. Basic theory . . . . .	458
a) The equations . . . . .	458
34. Linearization . . . . .	458
35. Various yield conditions . . . . .	461
b) Characteristics of the complete plane problem . . . . .	464
36. Characteristic directions and compatibility relations . . . . .	464
37. Continuation. Relation to O. Mohr's theory. Differential equations in characteristic coordinates . . . . .	468
38. Examples for Sects. 36 and 37 . . . . .	471
c) Remarks on integration. Examples . . . . .	474
39. On integration . . . . .	474

II. Singular solutions and various remarks . . . . .	477
a) Limit line singularities and branch line singularities . . . . .	477
40. Limit line singularities . . . . .	477
41. Limit line singularities. Continuation . . . . .	480
42. Branch line singularities . . . . .	483
b) Simple waves . . . . .	484
43. Definition . . . . .	484
44. Simple waves. Continuation . . . . .	486
45. Simple waves for particular yield conditions . . . . .	487
c) Various remarks . . . . .	491
46. Remarks on the approximate solution of initial-value problems . . . . .	491
47. Summary remarks on some further problems . . . . .	494
D. Boundary-value problems . . . . .	495
I. Some elastic-plastic problems . . . . .	495
a) The torsion problem . . . . .	495
48. Fully elastic and fully plastic torsion . . . . .	495
49. Elastic-plastic torsion . . . . .	499
50. Examples, further problems and concluding remarks . . . . .	502
b) The thick walled tube . . . . .	506
51. Expansion of a cylindrical tube . . . . .	506
52. Partly plastic tube . . . . .	508
53. Further solutions. Comments . . . . .	511
c) Flat ring and flat sheet in plane stress. Further elastic-plastic problems . . . . .	515
54. Flat ring radially stressed as a problem of plastic-elastic equilibrium . . . . .	515
55. Continuation: Plastic-elastic equilibrium . . . . .	516
56. Expansion of a circular hole in an infinite sheet . . . . .	519
57. A few further elastic-plastic problems . . . . .	521
II. Some plastic-rigid problems . . . . .	523
a) Various remarks . . . . .	523
58. The plastic-rigid body . . . . .	523
58 bis. Axial symmetry. A few remarks . . . . .	525
b) Wedge with pressure on one face . . . . .	526
59. General discussion and velocity distribution . . . . .	526
c) Plastic mass between rough rigid plates . . . . .	529
60. Infinite slab . . . . .	529
61. Slab of material with overhanging ends between rough plates . . . . .	531
Some reference books . . . . .	533
<b>Topics in the Mathematical Theory of Plasticity.</b> By TSUAN WU TING, Professor of Mathematics, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois (USA). (With 2 Figures) . . . . .	535
A. Introduction . . . . .	535
B. Foundation of the theory . . . . .	535
I. Thermodynamics for elastic-plastic materials . . . . .	536
1. Motion and deformation history . . . . .	536
2. Constitutive functionals . . . . .	537
3. Elastic-plastic resolution of deformations . . . . .	538
4. Consequences of the Clausius-Duhem inequality . . . . .	539
5. Rate independent materials . . . . .	542
6. Isotropy and principle of frame indifference . . . . .	544
II. Prandtl-Reuss theory . . . . .	545
7. Flow rule . . . . .	546
8. Prandtl-Reuss equations . . . . .	547
III. St. Venant-Lévy-v. Mises theory . . . . .	548
IV. Theory of Hencky . . . . .	549

C. General theorems . . . . .	551
I. Intrinsic formulation of the variational principle . . . . .	551
II. Examples . . . . .	554
9. Elastic-plastic torsion in the sense of Hencky . . . . .	555
10. Stationary creep deformation of a plate . . . . .	555
11. Plane stress and plane deformation problems . . . . .	555
III. Existence of certain steady plastic flows . . . . .	556
12. Formulation of a weak problem . . . . .	556
13. Existence of solution of certain weak problems . . . . .	557
D. Torsion problems . . . . .	560
I. Completely plastic torsion . . . . .	560
14. Variational formulation of the problem . . . . .	561
15. Solution of the problem . . . . .	561
16. St. Venant's conjecture and its extension . . . . .	562
II. Elastic-plastic torsion . . . . .	562
17. Formal statement of the problem . . . . .	563
18. Variational formulation of the problem . . . . .	563
19. Existence and uniqueness of the extremal . . . . .	564
20. Hölder continuity of the extremal . . . . .	565
21. The existence of an elastic core . . . . .	568
22. Continuity of stress . . . . .	574
23. Natural partition of the cross section . . . . .	578
24. Some properties of $E$ and $P$ . . . . .	579
25. Elastic-plastic boundary . . . . .	580
26. Dependence upon angle of twist . . . . .	581
27. Dependence upon the yield strength . . . . .	584
28. Dependence upon the angle of twist, continued . . . . .	588
References . . . . .	589

Namenverzeichnis — Author Index . . . . .	591
Sachverzeichnis (Deutsch-Englisch) . . . . .	597
Subject Index (English-German) . . . . .	623

# The Linear Theory of Viscoelasticity.

By

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## A. Introduction.

1. **Plan and scope of this article.** It has long been known that material behavior is not always elastic. Indeed, many substances exhibit the property of hereditary response. That is, the present state of stress depends not only upon the present state of deformation, but also upon previous states. This property is revealed experimentally in the phenomena of creep, stress relaxation, and the intrinsic attenuation of propagating waves. The nonlinear mechanical theories of materials with memory have been developed to characterize such behavior.<sup>1</sup> More specifically, the linearly viscoelastic material is a model which seeks to characterize hereditary effects within the context of an infinitesimal linearized theory. A theory based on this model should, in the absence of hereditary effects, reduce to the classical linearized theory of elasticity.

The linear theories of elasticity and viscoelasticity have much in common. Indeed, there is considerable formal similarity in their developments. This is not illusory since many results from the elastic theory have direct generalizations to the viscoelastic theory.

In this article we focus not only upon the formal similarities but also upon the intrinsic differences of the two theories. We attempt to isolate those conceptual and mathematical difficulties which arise over and above those inherent in elastic problems. The greatest of these arises directly from the inclusion of hereditary effects. In elastic theories the relationship between stress and strain is finite-dimensional, whereas, in a hereditary theory this relationship is generally infinite-dimensional. Even within the context of a linear theory, the additional complications may be formidable. It will be seen that the ramifications of this assertion permeate the entire body of the theory.

We develop our subject entirely within the context of an infinitesimal linearized theory. In this respect our presentation is phenomenological and follows

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<sup>1</sup> GREEN and RIVLIN [1957, 2], NOLL [1958, 16], COLEMAN and NOLL [1961, 2], [1964, 5], COLEMAN [1964, 4], COLEMAN and MIZEL [1966, 5].



the ideas set down first by BOLTZMANN<sup>2</sup> and later by VOLTERRA.<sup>3</sup> Mathematically, our formulation is patterned after the more recent work of KÖNIG and MEIXNER<sup>4</sup> and GURTIN and STERNBERG.<sup>5</sup> We have been greatly influenced by the investigations of the non-linear theories of mechanics and the concept of fading memory. Most significant of these are the fundamental studies of GREEN and RIVLIN, NOLL, COLEMAN and NOLL, COLEMAN, and COLEMAN and MIZEL.<sup>6</sup>

We have attempted throughout to adopt a style which may be rendered precise, in the mathematical sense, without overburdening the reader with cumbersome notation. This article is intended as a sequel to the Linear Theory of Elasticity (LTE) by GURTIN, which appears in the preceding part of this volume. The completeness of that article enables us to use it as a primary reference.

Our survey is divided into four chapters. In Chap. A we provide some requisite technical background and notation. Since we adopt most of the notation and results developed in LTE, we are able to concentrate on those mathematical concepts which are central to the viscoelastic theory but absent in the elastic theory. A self-contained formulation of the foundations of the linear theory is presented in Chap. B. We do not approach this theory as a linear approximation to a non-linear theory but proceed directly within the phenomenological framework of a linear theory. In Chap. C we present the fundamental mathematical results of the quasi-static theory. By the term "quasi-static" we mean that all inertial effects are systematically neglected. We include the inertial effects in Chap. D, which concerns the full dynamic theory and the propagation of waves in viscoelastic media. Throughout, we concentrate on presentation of results without usually giving detailed proofs.

We are cognizant of certain omissions which might properly belong in an article of this type. However, our selection of topics has been based upon limitations of space coupled with a desire to give precedence to fundamental mathematical aspects of the theory.

We have made only casual reference to the vast experimental literature. For more information in this regard, the reader is referred to the reviews of FERRY and KOLSKY.<sup>7</sup>

We have paid little attention to the differential models for viscoelastic behavior—finite networks of springs and dashpots. These models are somewhat special and a separate treatment using them is unnecessary. We do, however, include a discussion of their place in the general linear theory. We take as fundamental the classical Boltzmann model and the notion of linear superposition.

Our treatment of material symmetry is brief. It is readily seen that the concept is the same for both elastic and viscoelastic materials. There is an extensive treatment of this topic in LTE which obviates a parallel treatment in this article. The only type of symmetry singled out for special consideration is that of isotropy. Furthermore, we do not separately consider the problems associated with constrained materials such as incompressible media. Our discussion is restricted to general compressible viscoelastic solids. The extension to constrained solids and fluids may be effected along lines of the general theories of mechanics.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>2</sup> BOLTZMANN [1874, I], [1878, I].

<sup>3</sup> VOLTERRA [1909, I], [1913, I].

<sup>4</sup> KÖNIG and MEIXNER [1958, II].

<sup>5</sup> GURTIN and STERNBERG [1962, 10].

<sup>6</sup> Cited in footnote 1, p. 1.

<sup>7</sup> FERRY [1970, 4], KOLSKY [1963, 10], [1969, 3].

<sup>8</sup> Cf. TRUESDELL and NOLL [1965, 29].

Only the linearization based upon infinitesimal deformations is considered. It is possible, however, to develop a linear theory based upon finite deformations. This has been done, for example, by COLEMAN and NOLL.<sup>9</sup>

For brevity we have omitted completely the important discussion of thermodynamics for viscoelastic materials. A sound basis for this theory is presented in the work of COLEMAN.<sup>10</sup> Other work of interest includes that of BIOT and SCHAPERY<sup>11</sup> as well as the research concerning free energy, recoverable work, and related work bounds as exemplified by the articles of DAY, BREUER, MARTIN and PONTER, and BREUER and ONAT.<sup>12</sup> Furthermore, BIOT's<sup>13</sup> well known development of the concept of hidden variables has led VALANIS<sup>14</sup> to an interesting discussion of the viscoelastic potential function. COLEMAN and GURTIN<sup>15</sup> have generalized the internal state variables approach in the context of modern thermodynamics. THURSTON<sup>16</sup> has identified a set of hidden variables as ensemble-averaged occupation numbers which obey a relaxation type of differential equation and has subsequently derived, from microscopic concepts, the macroscopic theory of linear viscoelasticity as the appropriate linearization.

We do not mention the notion of thermorheologically simple materials in the sense of SCHWARZL and STAUERMAN.<sup>17</sup> Although this concept seems quite useful, especially for experimental investigations, the subject is still in a state of growth and the reader is referred to the works of LEADERMAN, FERRY, MUKI and STERNBERG, and MORLAND and LEE<sup>18</sup> for additional information.

Stability analysis for functional differential equations as applied to materials with memory is still a subject in its infancy. Even at this stage, however, we can refer to the works of COLEMAN and MIZEL and DAFERMOS,<sup>19</sup> who shed some light on the subject.

Throughout, we have not examined solutions to particular problems in linear viscoelasticity. This has meant the exclusion of, among others, the general boundary value problem, which includes the contact problem, the problem of ablating boundaries, numerical techniques, and the effect of boundaries in wave propagation.

Finally, we observe that no precise relationship between the quasi-static and dynamic theories has yet been revealed.

**2. Notation. Vectors, tensors, and linear transformations.** The primary source for notation and basic mathematical notions is the article in the preceding part of this volume entitled *The Linear Theory of Elasticity (LTE)* by M. E. GURTIN. We use the notation in Subchaps. B. I and B. II of LTE virtually without change. However, we depart from this procedure for Subchap. B. III of LTE (Functions of position and time) since our requirements in this regard are somewhat different. *All definitions and notation not explicitly established in this article are established by GURTIN in LTE.*

<sup>9</sup> COLEMAN and NOLL [1961, 2], [1964, 5].

<sup>10</sup> COLEMAN [1964, 4].

<sup>11</sup> BIOT [1958, 3], [1965, 2], SCHAPERY [1962, 20], [1964, 23], [1965, 26].

<sup>12</sup> DAY [1970, 2], BREUER [1969, 1], MARTIN and PONTER [1966, 17], BREUER and ONAT [1963, 1], [1964, 1].

<sup>13</sup> BIOT [1965, 2].

<sup>14</sup> VALANIS [1968, 6].

<sup>15</sup> COLEMAN and GURTIN [1967, 2].

<sup>16</sup> THURSTON [1968, 5].

<sup>17</sup> SCHWARZL and STAUERMAN [1952, 2].

<sup>18</sup> LEADERMAN [1958, 12], MUKI and STERNBERG [1961, 5], MORLAND and LEE [1960, 13].

<sup>19</sup> COLEMAN and MIZEL [1968, 2], DAFERMOS [1970, 1].