

Finite element formulation and vibration of nonlocal refined metal foam beams with symmetric and non-symmetric porosities

Ammar F.H. Al-Maliki, Nadhim M. Faleh* and Abbas A. Alasadi

Al-Mustansiriah University, Engineering Collage P.O. Box 46049, Bab-Muadum, Baghdad 10001, Iraq

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Abstract. In present article, a size-dependent refined thick beam element has been established based upon nonlocal elasticity theory. Next, it is used to explore vibration response of porous metal foam nanobeams on elastic medium. The established beam element introduces ten degrees of freedom. Different porosity distributions called uniform, symmetric and asymmetric will be employed. Herein, introduced thick beam element contains shear deformations without using correction factors. Convergence and verification studies of obtained results from finite element method are also provided. The impacts of nonlocality factor, foundation factors, shear deformation, slenderness ratio, porosity kinds and porosity factor on vibration frequencies of metal foam nano-sized beams have been explored.

Keywords: free vibration; refined beam theory; porous nanobeam; nonlocal elasticity; porosities

1. Introduction

Porosity-dependent materials are a kind of material in which all properties rely on the amount and distribution of pores. Such material introduces novel applications in civil and aerospace structures because of possessing low weight and high stiffness. Pore distribution kind plays a major role in structural performance of beam-type structures (Mirjavadi *et al.* 2018, 2019a,b). In fact, vibration behavior of beam-type structures made of porous material depends on the amount of pores (Bourada *et al.* 2019). Thus, vibrations of the beams made of porous material have been investigated by various researchers.

Small/large amplitude vibrations of a porous beam constructed from metal foam steel have been studied by Chen *et al.* (2016) accounting for pore distribution. Vibrational characteristics of a thick plate made of porous material of non-uniformly distributed pores have been explored by Rezaei and Saidi (2016). Analysis of frequencies of wave propagation in thick porous plates accounting for shear deformations has been performed by Yahia *et al.* (2015). Another investigation on vibrational behavior of a porous beam based on a thick shear deformable theory has been carried out by Atmane *et al.* (2015).

Many theories are available for presentation of the formulation for a nano-size beam such as nonlocal theory Eringen (1983) or strain gradient theory of elasticity. The theories introduced scale factors to describe the size-dependency which is reported for nano-size structures. The scale factor

*Corresponding author, Professor, E-mail: dr.nadhim@uomustansiriyah.edu.iq

makes us able to match the mathematical formulation, especially vibration frequencies, with exact experimental behavior of a size-dependent beam. Different beam or plate theories (Bousahla *et al.* 2016, El-Haina *et al.* 2017, Menasria *et al.* 2017, Abdelaziz *et al.* 2017, Chikh *et al.* 2017, Bakhadda *et al.* 2018, Fourn *et al.* 2018, Kaci *et al.* 2018) together with nonlocal elasticity theory have been used to formulate and analysis mechanical behaviors of nanobeams/nanoplates (Belkorissat *et al.* 2015, Bounouara *et al.* 2016, Ahouel *et al.* 2016, Zenkour 2016, Mouffoki *et al.* 2017, Khetir *et al.* 2017, Youcef *et al.* 2018, Mokhtar *et al.* 2018, Yazid *et al.* 2018, Semmah *et al.* 2019, Faleh *et al.* 2018). For analysis of mechanical characteristics of nanobeams, Zemri *et al.* (2015) introduced a novel nonlocal refined beam model based on shear deformation effects. Bellifa *et al.* (2017) presented a novel thick beam model for nonlinear mechanical behaviors of nanobeams based upon nonlocal theory.

This research is devoted to establish a size-dependent refined thick beam element based upon nonlocal elasticity theory. Next, it is used to explore vibration response of porous metal foam nanobeams on elastic medium. The established beam element introduces ten degrees of freedom. Different porosity distributions called uniform, symmetric and asymmetric will be employed. Herein, introduced thick beam element contains shear deformations without using correction factors. Convergence and verification studies of obtained results from finite element method are also provided. The impacts of nonlocality factor, foundation factors, shear deformation, slenderness ratio, porosity kinds and porosity factor on vibration frequencies of metal foam nano-sized beams have been explored.

2. Models of porosities

Pore distribution types have been considered as three models in this article. These models (uniform, symmetric and asymmetric) have been shown in Fig. 1, while the porous beam has been depicted in Fig. 2. Knowing the fact that maximum elastic modulus, shear modulus and mass density are denoted by E_2 , G_2 and ρ_2 , the materials characteristics based on the type of porosities might be expressed as

- Uniformly

$$E = E_2(1 - e_0\chi) \quad (1a)$$

$$G = G_2(1 - e_0\chi) \quad (1b)$$

$$\rho = \rho_2\sqrt{1 - e_0\chi} \quad (1c)$$

- Symmetrically

$$E(z) = E_2\left(1 - e_0 \cos\left(\frac{\pi z}{h}\right)\right) \quad (2a)$$

$$G(z) = G_2\left(1 - e_0 \cos\left(\frac{\pi z}{h}\right)\right) \quad (2b)$$

$$\rho(z) = \rho_2 \left(1 - e_m \cos\left(\frac{\pi z}{h}\right) \right) \tag{2c}$$

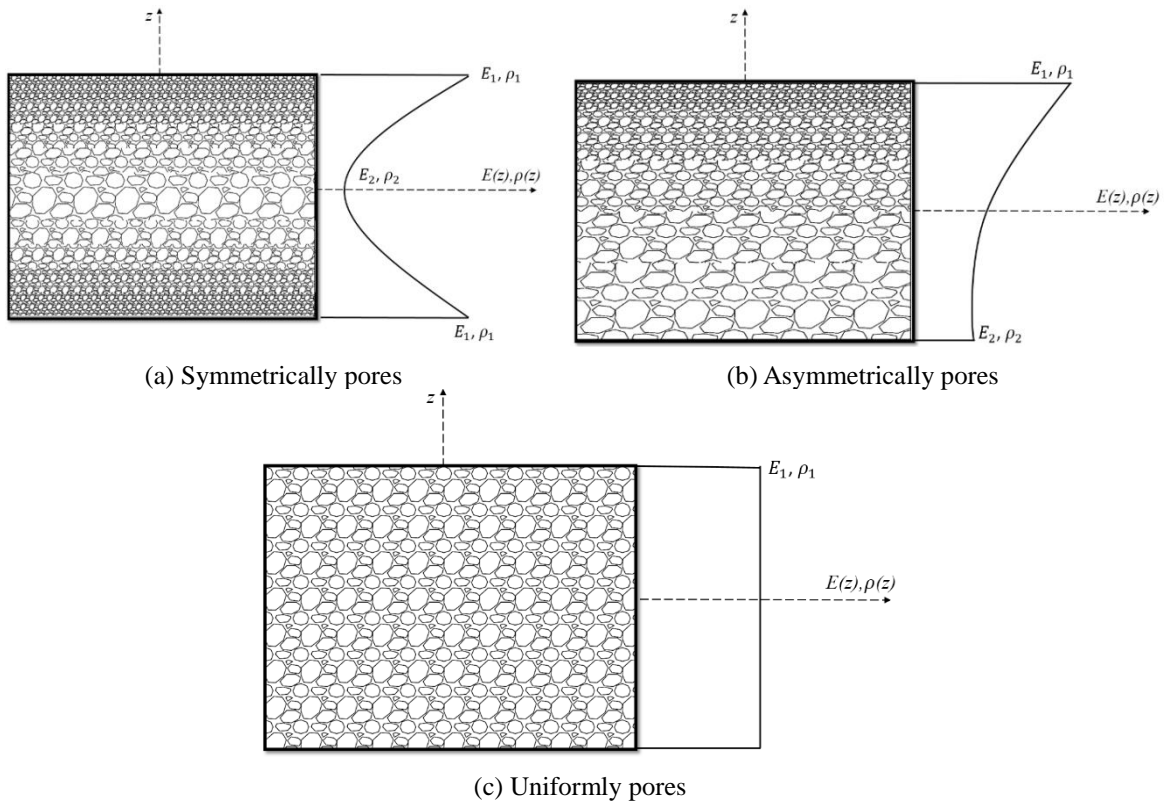


Fig. 1 The kinds of pore dispersions

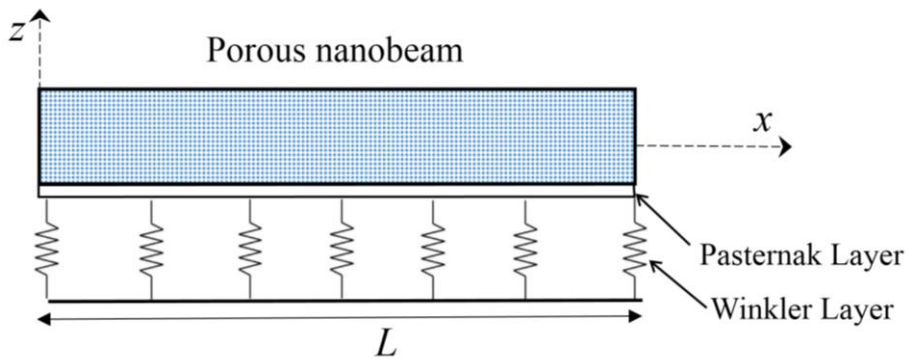


Fig. 2 Configuration and coordinates of nanobeam

- Asymmetrically

$$E(z) = E_2 \left(1 - e_0 \cos \left(\frac{\pi z}{2h} + \frac{\pi}{4} \right) \right) \quad (3a)$$

$$G(z) = G_2 \left(1 - e_0 \cos \left(\frac{\pi z}{2h} + \frac{\pi}{4} \right) \right) \quad (3b)$$

$$\rho(z) = \rho_2 \left(1 - e_m \cos \left(\frac{\pi z}{2h} + \frac{\pi}{4} \right) \right) \quad (3c)$$

Herein, e_0 and e_m pore and mass factors which are

$$e_0 = 1 - \frac{E_2}{E_1} = 1 - \frac{G_2}{G_1} \quad (4a)$$

$$e_m = 1 - \frac{\rho_2}{\rho_1} \quad (4b)$$

and

$$\frac{E_2}{E_1} = \left(\frac{\rho_2}{\rho_1} \right)^2 \quad (5a)$$

$$e_m = 1 - \sqrt{1 - e_0} \quad (5b)$$

Herein, the following function will be used for uniform pore dispersion as

$$\chi = \frac{1}{e_0} - \frac{1}{e_0} \left(\frac{2}{\pi} \sqrt{1 - e_0} - \frac{2}{\pi} + 1 \right)^2 \quad (6)$$

2.1 Formulation based on refined beam theory

Based on the refined beam model accounting for axial (u_0) and transverse (w_b , w_s) displacements, the following 3D field might be defined

$$u_x(x, z, t) = u_0(x, t) - z \frac{\partial w_b}{\partial x} - f(z) \frac{\partial w_s}{\partial x} \quad (7a)$$

$$u_y(x, z, t) = 0 \quad (7b)$$

$$u_z(x, z, t) = w_b(x, t) + w_s(x, t) \quad (7c)$$

Based upon above definition, the strain field might be defined as

$$\epsilon_x = \frac{\partial u_0}{\partial x} - z \frac{\partial^2 w_b}{\partial x^2} - f(z) \frac{\partial^2 w_s}{\partial x^2} \quad (8a)$$

$$\epsilon_y = \epsilon_z = \gamma_{xy} = \gamma_{yz} = 0 \quad (8b)$$

$$\gamma_{xz} = 2\epsilon_{xz} = g(z) \frac{\partial w_s}{\partial x} \quad (8c)$$

where $g(z) = 1 - f'(z)$.

2.2 A nonlocal refined nanobeam model

In order to formulate a refined beam model at nano-scale, the nonlocal relation in the following form might be used accounting for nonlocal factor (e_0a)

$$(1 - (e_0a)^2 \nabla^2) \sigma_{kl} = t_{kl} \quad (9)$$

The stress field based on nonlocal theory might be defined as

$$\sigma_{xx} - \mu \frac{\partial^2 \sigma_{xx}}{\partial x^2} = E(z) \epsilon_{xx} \quad (10)$$

$$\sigma_{xz} - \mu \frac{\partial^2 \sigma_{xz}}{\partial x^2} = G(z) \gamma_{xz} \quad (11)$$

Next, with the help of the principle of minimum total potential energy, one can get to the following relation

$$\delta \Pi = \delta(U - V - K) = 0 \quad (12)$$

Herein, U is strain energy and T is kinetic energy. The strain energy using Eq. (12) can be stated as

$$\begin{aligned} U &= 0.5 \int_0^L \int_{-\frac{h}{2}}^{\frac{h}{2}} (\sigma_{ij} \delta \epsilon_{ij}) dz dx \\ &= \int_0^L \int_{-\frac{h}{2}}^{\frac{h}{2}} (\sigma_x \delta \epsilon_x + \tau_{xz} \delta \gamma_{xz}) dz dx = \int_0^L \left(A_{11} \frac{du_0}{dx} \frac{du_0}{dx} - 2B_{11} \frac{du_0}{dx} \frac{d^2 w_b}{dx^2} + D_{11} \frac{d^2 w_b}{dx^2} \frac{d^2 w_b}{dx^2} \right. \\ &\quad \left. - 2B_{11}^s \frac{du_0}{dx} \frac{d^2 w_s}{dx^2} - (2D_{11}^s + 0.5 * (A_{13} + B_{13})) \frac{d^2 w_b}{dx^2} \frac{d^2 w_s}{dx^2} + H_{11}^s \right) dx \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

The kinetic energy of nanobeam might be defined by

$$\begin{aligned}
K &= \int_0^L \int_{-\frac{h}{2}}^{\frac{h}{2}} \rho(z) [\dot{u}_x \dot{u}_x + \dot{u}_y \dot{u}_y] dz dx \\
&= \int_0^L \left\{ I_0 \left[\dot{u}_0 \dot{u}_0 + \mu \left(\frac{d^2 \dot{u}_0}{dx^2} \frac{d^2 \dot{u}_0}{dx^2} \right) \right] + (\dot{w}_b + \dot{w}_s)(\dot{w}_b + \dot{w}_s) \right. \\
&\quad + \mu \left(\frac{d^2(\dot{w}_b + \dot{w}_s)}{dx^2} \frac{d^2(\dot{w}_b + \dot{w}_s)}{dx^2} \right) \left. - 2 \left[I_1 \left(\dot{u}_0 \frac{d\dot{w}_b}{dx} \right) + \mu \left(\frac{d^2 \dot{u}_0}{dx^2} \frac{d^3 \dot{w}_b}{dx^3} \right) \right] \right. \\
&\quad + I_2 \left[\left(\frac{d\dot{w}_b}{dx} \frac{d\dot{w}_b}{dx} \right) + \mu \left(\frac{d^3 \dot{w}_b}{dx^3} \frac{d^3 \dot{w}_b}{dx^3} \right) \right] - 2J_1 \left[\left(\dot{u}_0 \frac{d\dot{w}_s}{dx} \right) + \mu \left(\frac{d^2 \dot{u}_0}{dx^2} \frac{d^3 \dot{w}_s}{dx^3} \right) \right] \\
&\quad \left. + K_2 \left[\left(\frac{d\dot{w}_s}{dx} \frac{d\dot{w}_s}{dx} \right) + \mu \left(\frac{d^3 \dot{w}_s}{dx^3} \frac{d^3 \dot{w}_s}{dx^3} \right) \right] + 2J_2 \left[\left(\frac{d\dot{w}_b}{dx} \frac{d\dot{w}_s}{dx} \right) + \mu \left(\frac{d^3 \dot{w}_b}{dx^3} \frac{d^3 \dot{w}_s}{dx^3} \right) \right] \right\} dx
\end{aligned} \tag{14}$$

Also, the mass inertias might be expressed as

$$(I_0, I_1, J_1, I_2, J_2, K_2) = \int_{-\frac{h}{2}}^{\frac{h}{2}} (1, z, f, z^2, zf, f^2) \rho(z) dz \tag{15}$$

Next, we define the work of exerted forces in following form

$$\begin{aligned}
V &= 0.5 \int_0^L \left[k_p \left(\frac{\partial(w_b + w_s)}{\partial x} \frac{\partial(w_b + w_s)}{\partial x} + \mu \frac{\partial^2(w_b + w_s)}{\partial x^2} \frac{\partial^2(w_b + w_s)}{\partial x^2} - k_w(w_b + w_s) \right. \right. \\
&\quad \left. \left. + \mu k_w \frac{\partial(w_b + w_s)}{\partial x} \frac{\partial(w_b + w_s)}{\partial x} \right) dx \right]
\end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

where k_w and k_p are Winkler and Pasternak factors and the following edge conditions have for derived for $x = 0$ and $x = L$.

$$\text{Specify } u_0 \text{ or } N \tag{17}$$

Specify

$$w_b \text{ or } V_b = \frac{dM_b}{dx} - I_1 \ddot{u}_0 + I_2 \frac{d\ddot{w}_b}{dx} + J_2 \frac{d\ddot{w}_s}{dx} \tag{18}$$

Specify

$$w_s \text{ or } V_s = \frac{dM_s}{dx} + Q - J \ddot{u}_0 + J_2 \frac{d\ddot{w}_b}{dx} + K_2 \frac{d\ddot{w}_s}{dx} \tag{19}$$

$$\text{Specify } \frac{dw_b}{dx} \text{ or } M_b \tag{20}$$

$$\text{Specify } \frac{dw_s}{dx} \text{ or } M_s \tag{21}$$

where A_{11} , B_{11}^S , etc., are the beam stiffness, defined by

$$(A_{11}, B_{11}, D_{11}, B_{11}^S, D_{11}^S, H_{11}^S) = \int_{-\frac{h}{2}}^{\frac{h}{2}} E(z) (1, z, z^2, f, zf, f^2) dz \tag{22}$$

$$A_{55}^s = \int_{-\frac{h}{2}}^{\frac{h}{2}} G(z) g^2 dz \quad (23)$$

3. Finite element method

Based on present section, finite element approach has been utilized to solve the free vibrational problem of nonlocal porous nanobeams with S-S and C-C boundary conditions. Here, linear shape functions are considered for axial displacement, while Hermitian shape functions are considered for bending and shear displacement components. Accordingly, the displacement field is considered as

$$u_0(x,t) = \sum_{i=1}^2 U_i(t) N_i(x) = N_1 U_1 + N_2 U_2 \quad (24)$$

$$w_b(x,t) = \sum_{i=1}^4 W_{bi}(t) \tilde{N}_i(x) = \tilde{N}_1 W_{b1} + \tilde{N}_2 W'_{b1} + \tilde{N}_3 W_{b2} + \tilde{N}_4 W'_{b2} \quad (25)$$

$$w_s(x,t) = \sum_{i=1}^4 W_{si}(t) \tilde{N}_i(x) = \tilde{N}_1 W_{s1} + \tilde{N}_2 W'_{s1} + \tilde{N}_3 W_{s2} + \tilde{N}_4 W'_{s2} \quad (26)$$

where, U_i , W_{bi} and W_{si} are unknown coefficients and

$$N_1 = 1 - \frac{x}{L_e} \quad (27)$$

$$N_2 = \frac{x}{L_e} \quad (28)$$

$$\tilde{N}_1 = \frac{1}{L_e^3} (2x^3 - 3x^2 L_e + L_e^3) \quad (29)$$

$$\tilde{N}_2 = \frac{1}{L_e^3} (x^3 L_e - 2x^2 L_e^2 + x L_e^3) \quad (30)$$

$$\tilde{N}_3 = \frac{1}{L_e^3} (-2x^3 + 3x^2 L_e) \quad (31)$$

$$\tilde{N}_4 = \frac{1}{L_e^3} (x^3 L_e - x^2 L_e^2) \quad (32)$$

where L_e is the length of master element.

Substituting Eqs. (24)-(26) in Eq. (12) and minimizing it to the unknown undetermined coefficients U_i , W_{bi} , and W_{si} , the following expression yields simultaneous algebraic equations in terms of the unknown coefficients.

$$\frac{\partial \Pi}{\partial U_i} = \frac{\partial \Pi}{\partial W_{bi}} = \frac{\partial \Pi}{\partial W_{si}} \quad (33)$$

Next, the solution trend gives

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} [k_{11}] & [k_{12}] & [k_{13}] \\ [k_{21}] & [k_{22}] & [k_{23}] \\ [k_{31}] & [k_{32}] & [k_{33}] \end{array} \right\}_{10 \times 10} + \bar{\omega}_n^2 \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} [m_{11}] & [m_{12}] & [m_{13}] \\ [m_{21}] & [m_{22}] & [m_{23}] \\ [m_{31}] & [m_{32}] & [m_{33}] \end{array} \right\}_{10 \times 10} \left\{ \begin{array}{c} U_i \\ W_{bi} \\ W_{si} \end{array} \right\} = 0 \quad (34)$$

in which k_{ij} and m_{ij} are stiffness and mass matrices of master element, respectively. Eq.(34) might be defined as an eigenvalue problem to find vibration frequencies. This is done by defining the determinant of coefficients in this equation and setting it to be zero.

Also, non-dimensional parameters are defined as

$$\hat{\omega} = \omega L^2 \sqrt{\frac{\rho_2 A}{E_2 I}}, K_w = \frac{k_w L^4}{D_2}, K_p = \frac{k_p L^2}{D_2}, D_2 = \frac{E_2 h^3}{12(1-\nu^2)}, \mu = \frac{e_0 a}{L} \quad (35)$$

4. Numerical results and discussions

Based on established size-dependent refined thick beam element using nonlocal elasticity theory, this section explore vibration response of porous metal foam nanobeams on elastic medium. The established beam element introduces ten degrees of freedom. Different porosity distributions called uniform, symmetric and asymmetric will be employed. Herein, introduced thick beam element contains shear deformations without using correction factors. Convergence and verification studies of obtained results from finite element method are also provided. The impacts of nonlocality factor, foundation factors, shear deformation, slenderness ratio, porosity kinds and porosity factor on vibration frequencies of metal foam nano-sized beams have been explored. Also, the vibration frequency of the present study is validated with those of classical nanobeam model obtained by Ebrahimi and Salari (2015) based on simple supported edge conditions as presented in Table 1. Herein, the material property for the beam might be selected as:

- $E_2 = 200 \text{ GPa}$, $\rho_2 = 7850 \text{ kg/m}^3$, $\nu = 0.33$,

Fig. 3 depicts the influence of nonlocality factor (μ) and porosity factor on the vibrational characteristics of porous nano-sized beams at $L/h=10$ and $K_w=K_p=0$ based on uniformly pores. A variety of pore factor have been selected ($e_0=0.2, 0.4, 0.6$ and 0.8). Vibration frequencies of a macro size beam will be driven by selecting $\mu = 0$. It might be seen that nonlocal factor introduces a stiffness decline behavior which yields lower vibration frequencies for all values of porosity coefficient. Thus, non-local models of nanobeams give lower frequencies compared to local models. Also, increase of uniformly porosity factor results in lower frequencies at a fixed nonlocal parameter. This is owing to a remarkable decline in stiffness of nanobeam with presence of pores in material texture.

Pore factor influence on the vibrational frequencies of porous nanobeam has been illustrated in Fig. 4 when $\mu=0.2$, $K_w=0$ and $K_p=0$. An increase in porosity coefficient yields larger frequencies

for nanobeams with symmetrically pores while lower frequencies for nanobeams with uniformly and asymmetrically pores. Obtained results demonstrate that as the pore factor gets larger, the nanobeams with symmetrically pores have the highest vibration frequency whereas the results of the nanobeam with uniformly and asymmetrically pores become closer. Hence, pore type indicates a notable role on vibrational properties a nano-sized.

In Fig.5, the variation of non-dimensional frequency of nanobeam versus slenderness ratios (L/h) is presented for different types of porosity distribution. One can confirm that a nano-sized beam is less rigid based on a large slenderness ratio. Thus, derived natural frequencies become lower by the growth of slenderness ratio. But, non-dimensional frequency presented increases with the rise of slenderness ratio. However, non-dimensional vibration frequency is more affected by the lower values of slenderness ratio. It can be seen from the figure that shear deformation effect is important at smaller slenderness ratios (larger thickness). While, the effects of shear deformation and slenderness ratio are negligible at high values of slenderness ratio. Once again, one can see that uniform porosity distribution yields smaller vibration frequencies than non-uniform porosity distributions 1 and 2 at a fixed slenderness ratio. While, the results from asymmetrically pores are always between the frequency results of uniformly and symmetrically pores.

Table 1 Comparison of the dimensionless frequency for nonlocal nanobeams ($L/h=20$)

μ (nm)	Ebrahimi and Salari (2015)	Present
0	9.8594	9.8567
1	9.4062	9.4036
2	9.0102	9.0077
3	8.6603	8.6579

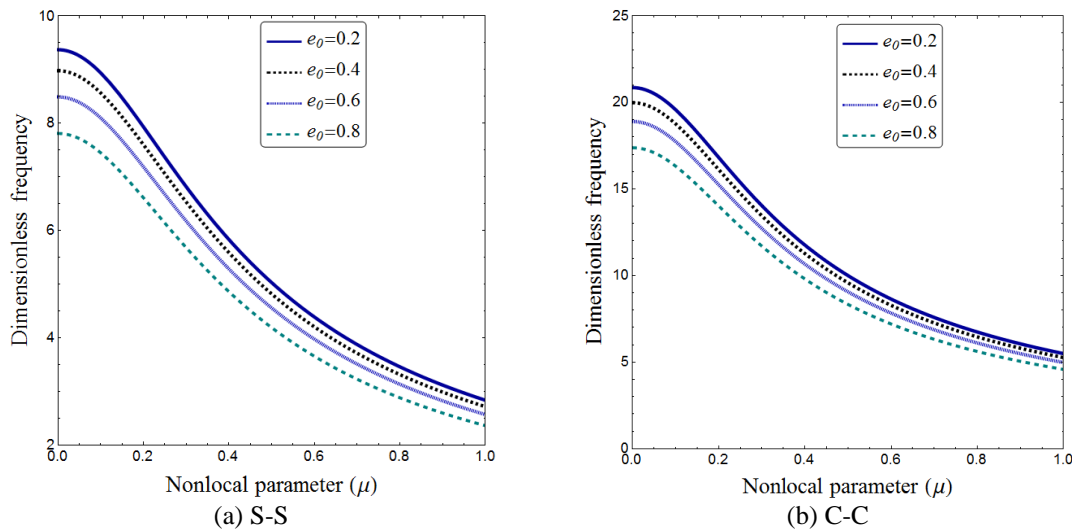


Fig. 3 Variation of dimensionless frequency versus nonlocal parameter for different uniform porosity coefficient ($L/h=10, K_w=0, K_p=0$)

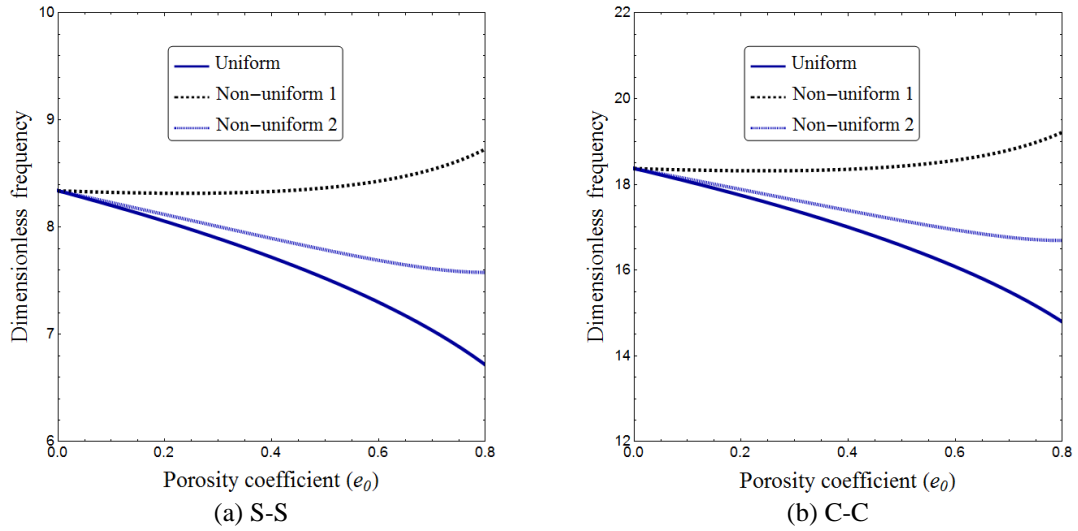


Fig. 4 Variation of dimensionless frequency versus porosity coefficient for different porosity distributions ($L/h=15$, $K_w=0$, $K_p=0$, $\mu=0.2$)

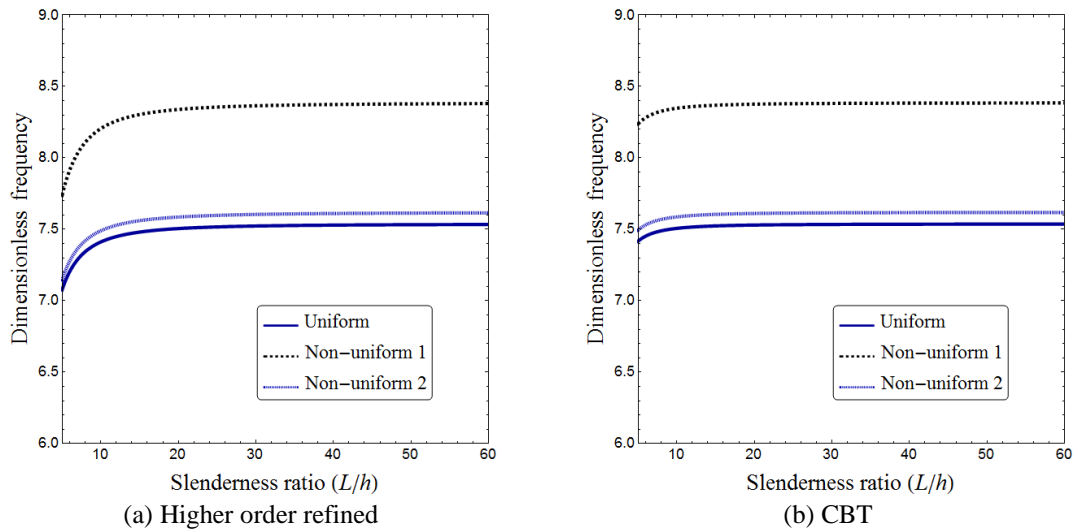


Fig. 5 Variation of dimensionless frequency versus slenderness ratio for different porosity distributions ($K_w=0$, $K_p=0$, $\mu=0.2$, $e_0=0.5$)

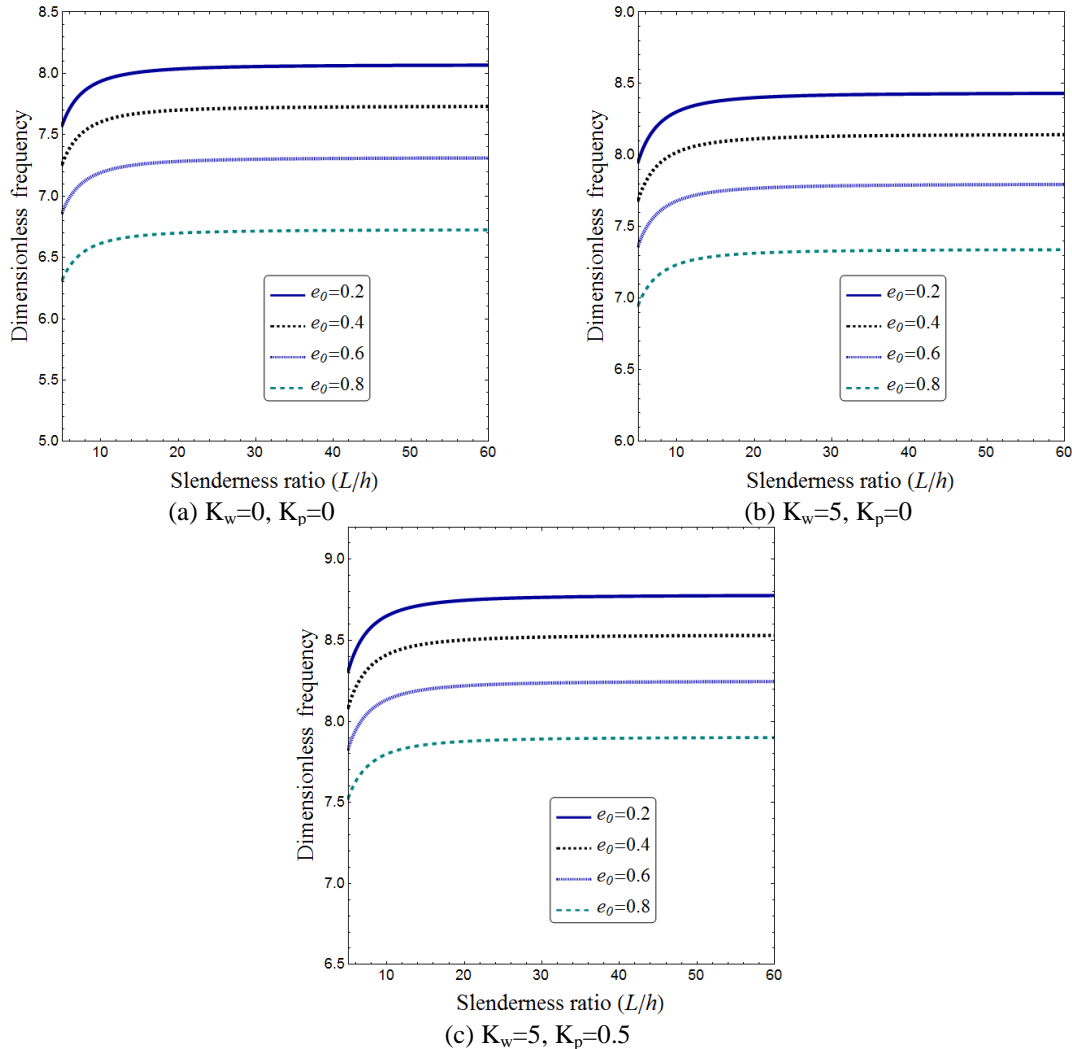


Fig. 6 Variation of dimensionless frequency versus slenderness ratio for various elastic foundation parameters ($\mu=0.2$)

In Fig. 6, the impacts of Winkler-Pasternak factors on vibration frequencies of porous nanobeams versus slenderness ratio with different pore factors are demonstrated when $L/h=10$ and $\mu=0.2$. It will be understood that vibration frequencies rely on the amounts of both Winkler and Pasternak factors. Growth of Winkler and Pasternak factors leads to enlargement of the transverse stiffness and vibration frequency of the nano-sized beam. Owing to the fact that Pasternak substrate introduces a continual interaction with the nano-sized beam, its impact on vibration frequencies is more tangible compared to Winkler substrate. At fixed Winkler and Pasternak constant, one can again see that dimensionless vibration frequency increases significantly at lower slenderness ratios, but it remains approximately unchanged at larger slenderness ratios.

5. Conclusions

Based on established size-dependent refined thick beam element using nonlocal elasticity theory, this paper explored vibration response of porous metal foam nanobeams on elastic medium. The established beam element introduced ten degrees of freedom. Different porosity distributions called uniform, symmetric and asymmetric were employed. The impacts of nonlocality factor, foundation factors, shear deformation, slenderness ratio, porosity kinds and porosity factor on vibration frequencies of metal foam nano-sized beams were explored. An increase in porosity coefficient led to larger frequencies for nanobeams with symmetrically pores while lower frequencies for nanobeams with uniformly and asymmetrically pores.

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