

## Effect of Rotary Inertia on Vibrational Response of Embedded Graphene Sheets

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### Abstract:

*In the present study, influence of rotary inertia on the size-dependent free vibration analysis of embedded single-layered graphene sheets is examined based on modified couple stress theory. Governing differential equations and corresponding boundary conditions in motion are derived by implementing Hamilton's principle on the basis of Kirchhoff thin plate theory. Also, effect of elastic foundation is taken into consideration by using a two-parameter elastic foundation model. Influences of additional material length scale parameter, mode number, elastic foundation and rotary inertia on the natural frequencies are investigated in detail.*

**Keywords:** Scale effect, silicone matrix, sector graphene, discrete singular convolution, vibration.

### 1. Introduction

In the recent years, small-sized structural elements like rod, beam, plate and shells have a wide range of applications in micro- and nano-electro mechanical systems (MEMS and NEMS) with the rapid developments in nanotechnology. Carbon nanotube has a one-dimensional structure and is an allotrope of carbon, and one of the key structures in the nanotechnology applications. Carbon nanotubes were firstly discovered by Iijima, in 1991 as multi-walled carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs) [1]. Graphene sheets (GSs) have a two-dimensional structure and possess advanced mechanical, electrical, and thermal properties. Due to their unique properties, graphene based micro or nano-devices are generally used in MEMSs and NEMSs for high frequency and high sensitive purposes.

It has been observed from some experiments that there is a size effect on the deformation behavior of the micro-/nano-sized structures [2–4]. Because of the various difficulties in experimental studies, the researchers have tended to continuum mechanics approaches. However, the classical continuum models which are successful for modelling of macro-sized structural elements [5–22] fail to predict the mechanical behavior characteristics of small-sized structures. Consequently, several non-classical continuum theories have been developed such as couple stress theory [23–25], micropolar theory [26], nonlocal elasticity theory [27,28] and strain gradient theories [29–32] to determine the mechanical responses of such structures.

Modified strain gradient theory (MSGT) was introduced by Lam et al. [3] in which the strain energy density includes higher-order deformation gradient tensors besides classical symmetric strain tensor. For linear elastic isotropic materials, the formulations and governing

equations contain three additional material length scale parameters relevant to higher-order deformation gradients in addition to two classical ones. This non-classical theory has been frequently employed to investigate the microstructure-dependent mechanical responses of beam [33–49] and plates [50–55].

It is noted that if dilatation gradients and deviatoric stretch gradients are omitted, the formulation and governing equations of modified strain gradient theory will be turned into those of modified couple stress theory (MCST) elaborated by Yang et al. [56]. The difference between classical couple stress theory and this modified version is defined as the couple stress tensor is symmetric and only one material length scale parameter is included in MCST. This simpler theory has been utilized to analyze the bending, buckling and free vibration behaviors of microbeams [57–61] and microplates [62–72]. On the other hand, there are many studies in the scientific literature on the mechanical behavior characteristics of carbon nanotubes, microtubules, nanobeams and nanoplates based on nonlocal elasticity theory [73–86].

The purpose of this study is to examine the influence of rotary inertia on the micro-dependent free vibration analysis of embedded single-layered graphene sheets (SLGSs). Governing differential equations and corresponding boundary conditions in motion are derived by implementing Hamilton's principle on the basis of Kirchhoff thin plate theory in conjunction with modified couple stress theory. Also, effect of elastic foundation is taken into consideration via Pasternak elastic foundation model. Influences of additional material length scale parameter, mode number, elastic foundation and rotary inertia on the natural frequencies are investigated in detail.

## 2. Modified couple stress theory

The modified couple stress theory was elaborated by Yang et al. [56]. Unlike the classical continuum theory, this popular theory contains an additional material length scale parameter associated with the rotation gradient tensor for prediction the microstructure-dependent deformation behaviors. In the framework of this elasticity theory, the strain energy  $U$  in a linear elastic isotropic material occupying a volume  $V$  is

$$U = \frac{1}{2} \int_V (\sigma_{ij} \varepsilon_{ij} + m_{ij} \chi_{ij}) dV \quad (1)$$

where  $\sigma_{ij}$ ,  $\varepsilon_{ij}$ ,  $m_{ij}$ ,  $\chi_{ij}$  are the components of classical stress and strain tensors, deviatoric part of the couple stress tensor, and symmetric curvature tensor, respectively [56]

$$\sigma_{ij} = \lambda \varepsilon_{kk} \delta_{ij} + 2G \varepsilon_{ij} \quad (2)$$

$$\varepsilon_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} (u_{i,j} + u_{j,i}) \quad (3)$$

$$m_{ij} = 2Gl^2 \chi_{ij} \quad (4)$$

$$\chi_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} (\theta_{i,j} + \theta_{j,i}) \quad (5)$$

$$\theta_i = \frac{1}{2} e_{ijk} u_{k,j} \quad (6)$$

where  $\lambda$  and  $G$  are the well-known Lamé constants,  $\delta_{ij}$  is the Kronecker delta,  $e_{ijk}$  is the alternating symbol,  $l$  is the additional material length scale parameter,  $u_i$  and  $\theta_i$  are the components of displacement vector  $\mathbf{u}$  and rotation vector  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ , respectively.

### 3. Dynamical model for a rectangular microplate

The displacement fields for time-dependent deformations based on Kirchhoff's plate theory can be expressed by considering a rectangular graphene sheet (see Fig. 1) as

$$u(x, y, z, t) = -z \frac{\partial w}{\partial x}, \quad v(x, y, z, t) = -z \frac{\partial w}{\partial y}, \quad w(x, y, z, t) = w(x, y, t) \quad (7)$$

where  $u$ ,  $v$ , and  $w$  denote the displacement components in  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  directions, respectively. Substitution of Eq. (7) in Eqs. (3), (5) and (6) yields the non-zero strain and rotation components of the SLGS as

$$\varepsilon_{xx} = -z \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2}, \quad \varepsilon_{yy} = -z \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y^2}, \quad \varepsilon_{xy} = \varepsilon_{yx} = -z \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x \partial y} \quad (8)$$

$$\theta_x = \frac{\partial w}{\partial y}, \quad \theta_y = -\frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \quad (9)$$

$$\chi_{xx} = \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x \partial y}, \quad \chi_{yy} = -\frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x \partial y}, \quad \chi_{xy} = \chi_{yx} = -\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} - \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y^2} \right) \quad (10)$$

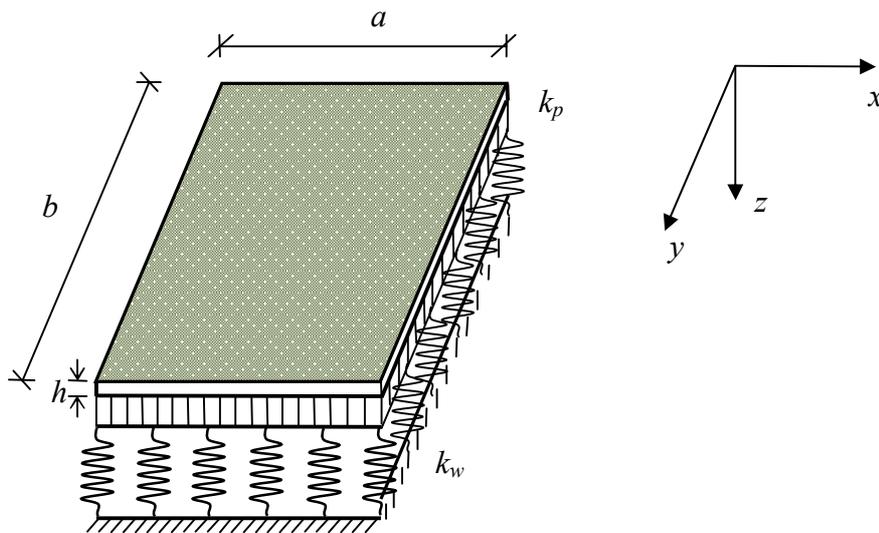


Fig. 1. Coordinate system and continuum model of an embedded single-layered graphene sheet

The governing differential equations and associated boundary conditions for embedded SLGS can be obtained by implementing Hamilton's principle [5]

$$0 = \int_0^T (\delta T - (\delta U - \delta W)) dt \quad (11)$$

where  $\delta T$ ,  $\delta U$  and  $\delta W$  are the first variations of kinetic energy, strain energy, and work done by external applied forces, respectively. In view of Eq. (11), the following expression can be written on the time interval  $[0, T]$  as [62]

$$\begin{aligned} 0 = \int_0^T \left\{ \int_{\Omega} \left[ - \left( \frac{\partial^2 M_{xx}}{\partial x^2} + 2 \frac{\partial^2 M_{xy}}{\partial x \partial y} + \frac{\partial^2 M_{yy}}{\partial y^2} - \frac{\partial^2 Y_{xx}}{\partial x \partial y} + \frac{\partial^2 Y_{xy}}{\partial x^2} - \frac{\partial^2 Y_{xy}}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 Y_{yy}}{\partial x \partial y} \right. \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. - k_w w + k_p \nabla^2 w - I_0 \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial t^2} + I_2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \left( \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y^2} \right) \right) \delta w \right] dx dy \\ + \oint_{\Gamma} \left[ \left( \left( \frac{\partial M_{xx}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial M_{xy}}{\partial y} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial Y_{xx}}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial Y_{xy}}{\partial x} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial Y_{yy}}{\partial y} + I_2 \frac{\partial \ddot{w}}{\partial x} \right) n_x \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. + \left( \frac{\partial M_{yy}}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial M_{xy}}{\partial x} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial Y_{xx}}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial Y_{xy}}{\partial y} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial Y_{yy}}{\partial x} + I_2 \frac{\partial \ddot{w}}{\partial y} \right) n_y \right) \delta w \right. \\ \left. - \left( (M_{xx} + Y_{xy}) n_x + \left( M_{xy} - \frac{1}{2} Y_{xx} + \frac{1}{2} Y_{yy} \right) n_y \right) \frac{\partial \delta w}{\partial x} \right. \\ \left. - \left( \left( M_{xy} - \frac{1}{2} Y_{xx} + \frac{1}{2} Y_{yy} \right) n_x + (M_{yy} - Y_{xy}) n_y \right) \frac{\partial \delta w}{\partial y} \right] ds \right\} dt \quad (12) \end{aligned}$$

where  $\Omega$  is the area of the plate middle surface,  $k_w$  and  $k_p$  are the Winkler and shear modulus of the elastic foundation,  $M_{xx}, M_{xy}, M_{yy}$  and  $Y_{xx}, Y_{xy}, Y_{yy}$  are the classical and non-classical moments, and also  $I_0$  and  $I_2$  the mass moments of inertia terms defined as [65]

$$\begin{Bmatrix} M_{xx} \\ M_{yy} \\ M_{xy} \end{Bmatrix} = -\frac{Eh^3}{12(1-\nu^2)} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \nu & 0 \\ \nu & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1-\nu \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} \\ \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y^2} \\ \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x \partial y} \end{Bmatrix}, \quad \begin{Bmatrix} Y_{xx} \\ Y_{yy} \\ Y_{xy} \end{Bmatrix} = Gl^2 h \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} \\ \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y^2} \\ \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x \partial y} \end{Bmatrix} \quad (13)$$

$$I_0 = \rho h, I_2 = \frac{\rho h^3}{12} \quad (14)$$

where  $h$  is the thickness of graphene sheet. After some mathematical manipulations, the equations of motion for the SLGSs in an elastic matrix can be expressed from Eq. (12) as:

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial^2 M_{xx}}{\partial x^2} + 2 \frac{\partial^2 M_{xy}}{\partial x \partial y} + \frac{\partial^2 M_{yy}}{\partial y^2} - \frac{\partial^2 Y_{xx}}{\partial x \partial y} + \frac{\partial^2 Y_{xy}}{\partial x^2} - \frac{\partial^2 Y_{xy}}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 Y_{yy}}{\partial x \partial y} \\ & - k_w w + k_p \left( \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y^2} \right) = I_0 \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial t^2} - I_2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \left( \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y^2} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

and the associated boundary conditions are defined as

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( \frac{\partial M_{xx}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial M_{xy}}{\partial y} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial Y_{xx}}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial Y_{xy}}{\partial x} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial Y_{yy}}{\partial y} \right) n_x \\ & + \left( \frac{\partial M_{xy}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial M_{yy}}{\partial y} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial Y_{xx}}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial Y_{xy}}{\partial y} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial Y_{yy}}{\partial x} \right) n_y \text{ or } w = 0 \\ & - (M_{xx} + Y_{xy}) n_x + \left( -M_{xy} + \frac{1}{2} Y_{xx} - \frac{1}{2} Y_{yy} \right) n_y = 0 \text{ or } \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} = 0 \\ & \left( -M_{xy} + \frac{1}{2} Y_{xx} - \frac{1}{2} Y_{yy} \right) n_x + (-M_{yy} + Y_{xy}) n_y = 0 \text{ or } \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

where  $(n_x, n_y)$  denote the direction cosines of the unit normal to the boundary of the middle plane. The governing equation of motion for embedded SLGS surrounded by an elastic medium can be rewritten in terms of displacements by taking into consideration the effect of rotary inertia as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & D \left( 1 + \frac{6I^2(1-\nu)}{h^2} \right) \nabla^2 \nabla^2 w + k_w w - k_p \left( \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y^2} \right) \\ & = I_2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \left( \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y^2} \right) - I_0 \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial t^2} \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

where  $D$  is the classical bending rigidity

$$D = \frac{Eh^3}{12(1-\nu^2)} \quad (18)$$

#### 4. Analytical solution of free vibration problem

In this section, the governing partial differential equation is analytically solved for free vibration of all edges simply supported embedded single-layered graphene sheets. In order to solve this equation, the following solution procedure is employed by using the separation of variables technique as

$$w(x, y, t) = W(x, y)(A \sin \omega t + B \cos \omega t) \quad (19)$$

where  $A$  and  $B$  are the integral constants. These constants are easily found by using the initial conditions. Also,  $W(x, y)$  is shape function and  $\omega$  is the natural frequency of the SLGS. Substitution of Eq. (19) into Eq. (17) yields

$$D \left( 1 + \frac{6l^2(1-\nu)}{h^2} \right) \nabla^4 W + k_w W - k_p \nabla^2 W - \omega^2 I_0 W + \omega^2 I_2 \nabla^2 W = 0 \quad (20)$$

where  $\nabla^4$  is the biharmonic operator. On the other hand, the shape function can be expressed as the following Fourier series solutions

$$W(x, y) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_{mn} \sin \frac{m\pi x}{a} \sin \frac{n\pi y}{b} \quad (21)$$

where  $C_{mn}$  is the undetermined Fourier coefficient. This means that Eq. (21) must satisfy the associated boundary conditions. By using Eq. (21) into Eq. (20), one expression can be obtained as

$$D \left( 1 + \frac{6l^2(1-\nu)}{h^2} \right) \pi^4 \lambda^2 + k_w + k_p \pi^2 \lambda = \omega_{mn}^2 (I_0 + I_2 \pi^2 \lambda) \quad (22)$$

where

$$\lambda = \frac{m^2}{a^2} + \frac{n^2}{b^2} \quad (23)$$

Finally, the natural frequency of SLGS with rotary inertia term ( $I_2$ ) is expressed on the basis of modified couple stress theory as following

$$\omega_{mn} = \sqrt{\frac{D \left( 1 + \frac{6l^2(1-\nu)}{h^2} \right) \pi^4 \lambda^2 + k_w + k_p \pi^2 \lambda}{I_0 + I_2 \pi^2 \lambda}} \quad (24)$$

#### 5. Numerical results and discussion

In this section, several illustrative examples are given to show the effects of size dependency, foundation parameters and rotary inertia on the natural frequencies of simply supported square single layered graphene sheets surrounded by an elastic medium. Following

geometrical and material properties are used as:  $E = 1.06 \text{ TPa}$ ,  $\nu = 0.25$ ,  $h = 0.34 \text{ nm}$ ,  $\rho = 2250 \text{ kg/m}^3$  [62]. Also, the dimensionless foundation parameters are defined as  $K_w = \frac{k_w a^4}{D}$  and  $K_G = \frac{k_G a^2}{D}$ .

Table 1. Effects of size dependency and elastic foundation parameters on the fundamental frequency values (THz) of square graphene sheet with rotary inertia effect ( $a=b=15h$ ,  $l=h$ ,  $I_2 \neq 0$ )

$K_w$	$K_G=0$		$K_G=15$		$K_G=30$	
	CT	MCST	CT	MCST	CT	MCST
0	0.2648	0.6210	0.3465	0.6600	0.4123	0.6968
20	0.2711	0.6237	0.3513	0.6625	0.4164	0.6992
60	0.2833	0.6291	0.3608	0.6676	0.4244	0.7044
100	0.2949	0.6344	0.3700	0.6726	0.4323	0.7088

Table 2. Effects of size dependency and elastic foundation parameters on the fundamental frequency values (THz) of square graphene sheet without rotary inertia effect ( $a=b=15h$ ,  $l=h$ ,  $I_2=0$ )

$K_w$	$K_G=0$		$K_G=15$		$K_G=30$	
	CT	MCST	CT	MCST	CT	MCST
0	0.2658	0.6232	0.3478	0.6624	0.4138	0.6993
20	0.2721	0.6260	0.3526	0.6649	0.4179	0.7017
60	0.2843	0.6314	0.3621	0.6700	0.4260	0.7066
100	0.2960	0.6367	0.3714	0.6751	0.4339	0.7114

Influences of size dependency and elastic foundation parameters on the fundamental frequency values of square graphene sheet with and without rotary inertia effect are tabulated in Tables 1 and 2, respectively. It is clearly seen that an increase in Winkler and Pasternak foundation parameters leads to an increment in the fundamental frequencies. Also, it is observed that the natural frequencies evaluated by MCST are larger than those predicted by CT. Moreover, it can be concluded from the tables that the rotary inertia term has a decreasing effect on the frequency values.

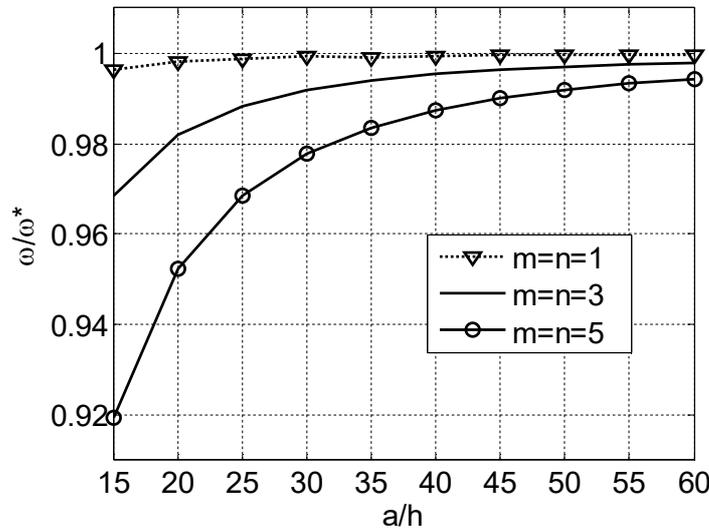


Fig. 2. Variation of the frequency ratio (with rotary inertia/without rotary inertia) with respect to  $a/h$  and mod number ( $K_w=K_G=10$ ,  $a=b$ ,  $l=h$ )

In Fig. 2, variation of the frequency ratio (with rotary inertia/without rotary inertia) is depicted for different  $a/h$  and mode number. It is observed that the ratio is almost equal to one for larger values of  $a/h$  while it tends to decrease by decreasing the length-to-thickness ratio. Also, it is found from the figure that the divergence between the frequencies is more considerable for greater mode numbers.

## 6. Conclusions

Effect of rotary inertia on the size-dependent free vibration analysis of embedded single-layered graphene sheets is investigated via modified couple stress theory. Governing differential equations and related boundary conditions in motion are derived with the aid of Hamilton's principle on the basis of Kirchhoff plate theory. Also, the interactions between the surrounding elastic medium and graphene sheet are simulated by Pasternak elastic foundation model. Influences of additional material length scale parameter, mode number, elastic foundation and rotary inertia on the natural frequencies are investigated in detail. It is concluded from the obtained results that the rotary inertia term has a decreasing effect on the natural frequency values of graphene sheets. In addition, it can be interpreted that this effect is more prominent for smaller  $a/h$  ratio and higher modes.

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