

On a Standard Parametric Modeling Method of Micro-Structure of Plain Woven Composite

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Abstract

A new standard parametric modeling method of the micro-structure of plain woven composite is proposed. It is based on good analysis of the mechanical property of the yarn, weaving law of plain woven, and other factors. The method implements a woven fabric composite visual engineering modeling process standardization, and it gives five steps to calculate the key micro-structural parameters of the yarn including the cross-section and the trajectory of the central Line. On the basis, the digital model of a plain woven composite has been constructed. The experimental result shows that the forecast for the mechanical property of the model using finite-element simulation analysis is consistent with the actual value. The shape and the structure of the model are also consistent with the solid.

Keywords

Plain Woven Composite, Micro-Structure, Parametric Modeling, Standardization Process

1. Introduction

Plain woven composite material is an important branch of the development of composite material. The mechanical property of it in weft direction and warp direction are similar and the surface of it is of high strength and high rigidity. It is widely used in aeronautics, astronautics, car engineering, architecture, traffic and many other fields. Also, it is a kind of designable material in structure and mechanical property. To identify the inner structure before production and predict the mechanical property are significant to improve efficiency. The modeling is the prerequisite of designing and prediction of mechanical property. The micro-structure visualization is the basis of optimization of the structure and the

micro-structure can be modified according to local performance requirement. A plain weave model is the basis of other fabric. Therefore, the model of a plain weave is important for the model of other 2D and 3D fabric. Many scholars have been carried out related valuable studies [1] [2]. The micro-structural modeling of plain woven composite material is the key point for design and manufacture.

The modeling method of plain woven composite material can be divided into two categories. The first one pays more attention to visualization. According to the pattern, each yarn can be recognized by the model, but it can't be used for mechanical property analysis. The second one pays more attention to mechanical analysis, while it can't be easily observed. Once the model needs amending, it has to be reworked from beginning.

The proposed modeling method is based on specific modeling software, but few references give a standard modeling process. The modeling process is completely dependent on experience and assumption of key parameters. The modeling component cannot be reused and the modeling process can't be copied. Therefore, it is difficult to design fast and flexible. The algorithm can't prevent the loss of the detail, but to repair any detail is very difficult. Because of the plain fabric performance prediction research is at the initial stage; determine the key parameter of it is difficulty. It has not formed the standardized modeling process and operation method. There are few reference documentation on the modeling method of the plain woven composite material, but found no woven composite standard modeling method is introduced [3].

In this paper, a standard parametric modeling method of micro-structure of plain woven composite is proposed. It can realize visual engineering modeling, and the standard of modeling process. The new model can not only be used for mechanical analysis, but also for the visualization of a plain woven composite material surface design. Then fast design and knowledge sharing of modeling can be realized.

2. Methodology

2.1. Summary

The proposed method identifies parameter in accordance with a fixed set of standard, which is the model of reinforcement yarn and assembly model is constructed according to parameters. The reinforcement yarn modeling is the process of constructing solid model which the yarn cross-section swept along the central line of the yarn. The assembly model is the process of waving yarn into plain enhancement according to the structure. So, the reinforcement yarn modeling is the key point and the difficult point, whose major influence factors are component material of the yarn, fabric density, process, the central line trajectory of the yarn, the shape of cross-section and the interweave mode of the yarn. The component material of the yarn, the fabric density and the process are decided by the designer. The central line trajectory of the yarn and the shape of the

cross-section are decided by many factors. So, the identifications of the two parameters are discussed in the following section.

In this paper, some key factors such as characteristic of the component material of the yarn, the spatial structure of the interlaced yarn, the axis curve of the yarn, the cross-section shape of the yarn and the loom tension are given due attention. The calculation method of the micro-structural parameter is proposed in this paper. The method can be described by the following five-steps: 1) Set the primary shape of the central line trajectory of the yarn. 2) Deform the cross-section. 3) Set the common tangent of the adjacent inter-weave yarn. 4) Surround and deform. 5) Fit and fix the shape. The detail of the method will be described as follows.

Assume the yarn of the plain woven fabric reinforcement is twist-less glass fiber, the fiber fineness of warp is expressed as N_p , the fineness of weft is expressed as N_w , the loom tension is expressed as F , the warp density of reinforcement is expressed as D_p , the weft density of reinforcement is expressed as D_w , the vertical Poisson ratio is expressed as ν , and the vertical elastic modulus is expressed as E . The original cross-section of glass fiber yarn is circular. The original radius of yarn can be computed out when the cross-section area is known. The cross-section radius of warp and weft are denoted as R_j and R_w respectively. Because of the change of the warp trajectory is obvious, the trajectory of the warp in a repeat unit is discussed in details.

2.2. Procedures of the Method

1) Identify original form of the central line of yarn

The reinforcement of a plain woven composite is usually glass fiber or carbon fiber. In this paper, glass fiber is taken for example. Glass fiber is fixed together into yarn using tow collecting technology. So, the appearance of the yarn is slender long cylindrical, and the original cross-section of the yarn can be assumed to be circle. The radius of original cross-section is expressed as R , and it satisfies Equation (1):

$$1000\pi R^2 \sigma \rho = T \quad (1)$$

where T is the mass of 1000 meters long yarn, ρ is the mass density of glass fiber, σ is the volume fraction of fiber. That is, R can be expressed as Equation (2)

$$R = \sqrt{\frac{T}{1000\pi\rho\sigma}} \quad (2)$$

In the process of interweaving, the warp and the yarn central line are bending before the F . The stress state of every interlacing is basically the same. The bending shape is symmetric. Under the action of the loom tension, the warp will move forward through the two adjacent weft yarns. The contact part of the weft with the warp produces the trace of interlacing part. The others are defined as transitional part. That is the central line trajectory is composed of the interlacing trajectory and the transitional part trajectory. The interlacing part trajectory is

arc. The transitional part trajectory is the combination of arc and segment.

Primarily, the yarn is interlaced into arc. In the rectangular coordinate system XOY , the centers of the three adjacent wefts cross-section are O_1 , O_2 and O_3 respectively. Draw three circles with a same radius of $R_j + R_w$ and with their center points O_1 , O_2 and O_3 named $\odot O_1$, $\odot O_2$ and $\odot O_3$ respectively. D_w is the distance between $\odot O_1$ and $\odot O_2$ or $\odot O_2$ and $\odot O_3$. If $D_w < R_j + R_w$, $\odot O_1$ and $\odot O_2$ or $\odot O_2$ and $\odot O_3$ are intersect with each other, as shown in **Figure 1**. The trajectory of the warp central line is the curve which is smooth joined by line segment and arc, as shown in **Figure 2**. If $D_w = R_j + R_w$, the relative situation of the central line trajectory and the weft is described as shown in **Figure 3**. The warp central line trajectory is shown in **Figure 4**. If $D_w > R_j + R_w$, the warp central line trajectory is shown in **Figure 5** and **Figure 6**.

2) Deformation of the yarn cross-section

The cross-section shape of the yarn will be changed on the effect of the loom

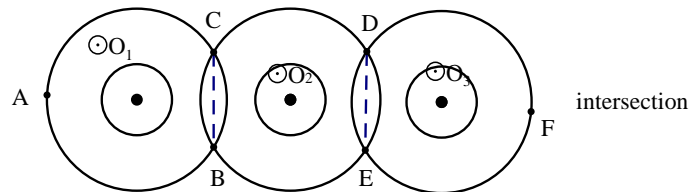


Figure 1. $D_w < R_j + R_w$ yarn relative position.

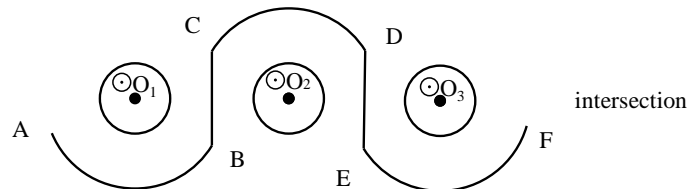


Figure 2. $D_w < R_j + R_w$ the trajectory of warp central line.

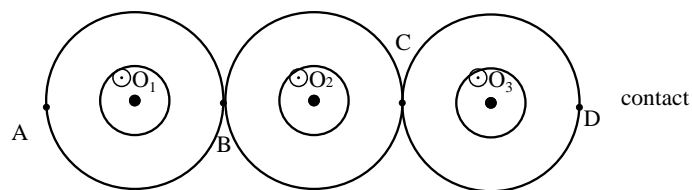


Figure 3. $D_w = R_j + R_w$ yarn relative position.

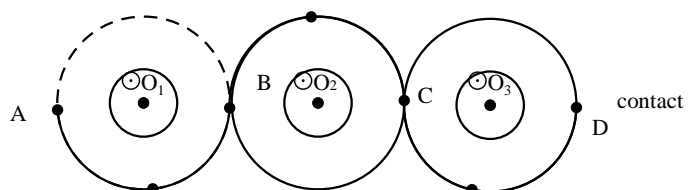


Figure 4. $D_w = R_j + R_w$ the trajectory of warp central line.

tension. The deformation is obvious on the interlacing section and it will decide the shape of the transitional part trajectory. Therefore, it is important to analyze the yarn shape and cross-section of interlacing section part. The geometrical property is decided by stress situation which is effected by the micro-structure, the loom tension and the interlacing type. They decide the deformation of interlacing yarn.

In the elastic range, most materials obey Hooke's law in the elastic range according to the reference [4]. In the range of small deformation, the simulation of the interlacing yarn can be regarded as the contacting problem of two elastic solid in material mechanics. If the warp and the weft yarn are in close contact with each other and the stress is P , as shown in **Figure 7**.

M_1 is a point on the warp and M_2 is a point on the weft yarn, M is the middle point in segment M_1M_2 , r is the distance between M_1 and M . M_1 and M_2 will be moved ω_1 and ω_2 away in Z -axis direction respectively. α is the distance between M_1 and M_2 , z_1 is the distance between a point which is very near to the contact point on the warp and the contact point. z_2 is the distance between a point which is very near to the contact point on the weft yarn and the contact point. R_1 is the radius of contact circle that is formed by the warp encircles the weft. R_2 is the radius of the weft cross-section. So, the Distance between M_1 and M_2 is shortening as $\alpha - (\omega_2 - \omega_1)$. After local deformation, point M_1 and point M_2 superpose each other to point M . q_0 is the force exerted on contact surface. a_r is the radius of contact surface. There is Equation (3),

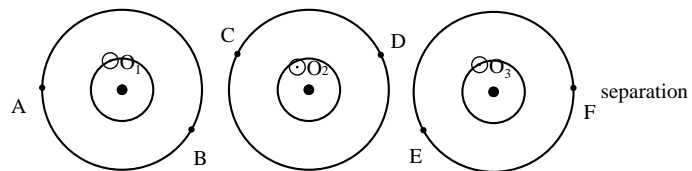


Figure 5. $D_w > R_j + R_w$ yarn relative position.

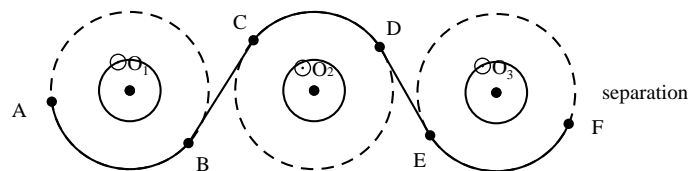


Figure 6. $D_w > R_j + R_w$ the trajectory of warp central line.

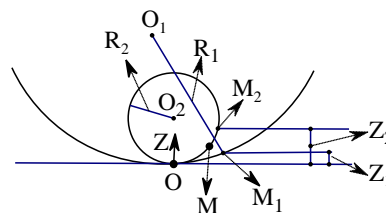


Figure 7. Yarn deformation by force.

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \omega_2 - \omega_1 = \alpha - (Z_1 - Z_2) = \alpha - r^2 \frac{R_1 - R_2}{2R_1R_2} \\ q_0 = \frac{3}{2\pi a_r^2} F \\ (k_1 + k_2) \frac{\pi^2 q_0 a_r}{2} = \alpha \\ (k_1 + k_2) \frac{\pi^2 q_0}{4a_r} = \frac{R_1 - R_2}{2R_1R_2} \end{array} \right. \quad (3)$$

The distance of successive approximations between the warp and the weft is expressed as Equation (4):

$$\alpha = \left[\frac{9\pi^2 F^2 (k_1 + k_2)^2 (R_1 + R_2)}{16R_1R_2} \right]^{\frac{1}{3}} \quad (4)$$

where, $k_1 = \frac{1-\nu_1^2}{\pi E_1}$, $k_2 = \frac{1-\nu_2^2}{\pi E_2}$, ν_1, ν_2 is the vertical Poisson ratio of the warp and the weft yarn respectively. E is the vertical Young's modulus. R_1 is the sum of the warp original radius and the weft original radius. That is, $R_1 = R_j + R_w$, R_2 is the weft original radius.

A yarn is composed of hundreds of glass fiber. The cross-section is similar with a circle. In the process of interweaving, the circle cross-section is stressed by F , and the inner fiber will float to two sides. Finally, the cross-section shape is changed into oval. The depressed distance of warp or weft is acquired according to Equation (4).

The cross-section area is invariant after the yarn is deformed [5]. Take weft yarn for example, the cross-section area is S . The long axis of the cross-section is a and the short axis is b . The aligned distance between two interlacing yarns can be calculated out using Equation (5). If the weft and warp are of the same material, plain fabric reinforcement is stressed by equal and opposite in direction force. The radius of warp or weft is decreased to half of α . So, there is Equation (5).

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} S = \pi R_w^2 \\ s = \pi ab \\ b = R_w - \frac{\alpha}{2} \end{array} \right. \quad (5)$$

Then, a and b can be expressed as Equation (6)

$$a = \frac{2R_w^2}{2R_w - \alpha}, b = \frac{2R_w - \alpha}{2} \quad (6)$$

3) Determine the common tangent

Now, the cross-section of the yarn is oval. It takes the sum of the semi-minor axis of the deformed weft cross-section and the semi-minor axis of warp as its semi-minor axis, which is denoted as a_r . It takes the sum of the semi-major axis of the deformed weft cross-section and the semi-minor axis of warp as the

semi-major axis, which is denoted as b_r . Draw two identical ellipses named interlacing part trajectory control ellipses whose semi-minor axis are a_i and semi-major axis are b_r . The distance between the two ellipses is D_w . Under the force of the loom tension, the central line of warp approaches the inner common tangent of the adjacent trajectory control ellipse of the interlacing yarn. The inner common tangent is called as interlacing common tangent. Next, critical influence factors are further discussed.

In the planar rectangular coordinate system the two ellipses are expressed as Equation (7) and Equation (8) respectively. The slope of the two ellipses common tangent is denoted as λ . The equation of the tangent is denoted as Equation (9). Where, c is an unknown parameter. Substitute the tangent equation into the two ellipse equations respectively, according to the equation of tangent property, the equation has repeat roots. So, the outer common tangents are meaningless. The slope of the inner common tangents is described as Equation (10)

$$\frac{x^2}{a_i^2} + \frac{y^2}{b_i^2} = 1 \quad (7)$$

$$\frac{(x - D_w)^2}{a_i^2} + \frac{y^2}{b_i^2} = 1 \quad (8)$$

$$y = \lambda x + c \quad (9)$$

$$\lambda = \frac{-mn \pm 2\sqrt{a^2 n^2 + b^2 m^2 - 4a^2 b^2}}{(4a^2 - m^2)} \quad (10)$$

4) Determine the wrap around angle

The trajectory of interlacing section is the two segment arc on the adjacent trajectory control ellipse, which corresponds with the wrap around angle between two inner common tangents. The around angle can be figured out according to the ellipse arc. On the basis of the symmetry of woven fabric, any gradient of the two warp cross-section common tangents can be written as Equation (9), substitute λ for λ_1, λ_2 respectively. The wrap around angle θ can be computed out according to Equation (11):

$$\theta = \arctan\left(\frac{\lambda_1 - \lambda_2}{1 + \lambda_1 \lambda_2}\right) \quad (11)$$

5) Central line trajectory of the yarn

In the planar rectangular coordinate system XOY , O_{21} , O_{22} and O_{23} are the center points of three adjacent wefts, $O_{21}O_{22} = O_{22}O_{23} = D_w$. Draw three ellipses, O_{21} , O_{22} and O_{23} are their center points respectively, as shown in **Figure 8**. Draw three around angles, whose vertexes are O_{21} , O_{22} or O_{23} respectively. The bisectors of the around angles are parallel with Y-axis. The two sides of the angle tangent to ellipse sections at point N, P, S, Q respectively, as shown in **Figure 8**. The warp central line trajectory is structured by Connecting point N and point P, connecting point S and point Q. That is the curve MNPSQ, as shown in **Fig-**

ure 9.

The central line trajectory of plain yarn is acquired. The yarn model can be constructed by the cross-section sweeps along the central line trajectory. According to enhancement structure, assemble the weft and warp, the enhancement model is set up. A visual model of a plain woven composite can be set up while the enhancement solid model is immersed in the matrix resin.

3. Experiments and Conclusion

3.1. Fabric Modeling and the Mechanical Property Prediction

In this part, a plain woven composite will be made, and its specific parameters are as follows. Warp and weft are made in 60 tex alkali free glass fiber. The warp density is 98 per 100 mm and the weft density is 70 per 100 mm. The yarn is stressed by 40 g (That is 0.0392 N.) loom tension in weaving process. The mechanical properties of the plain woven fabric are shown in **Table 1**. Experiments were done to test the mechanical property of the plain woven composite. The tensile modulus of the plain woven composites in warp direction is 7.74 GPa. Tensile modulus of the plain woven composites in weft direction is 6.21 GPa.

According to the above data, the visualization of enhancement model is shown as **Figure 10**.

The cycle unit size is 1.9 mm × 1.6 mm × 0.7 mm. Import the model into the finite element analysis software. The searching distance between two adjacent curves is 0.01 mm. A force of 100 N is added in the warp direction (Y-axis). Its deformation is shown in **Figure 11**. In accordance with the displayed displacement

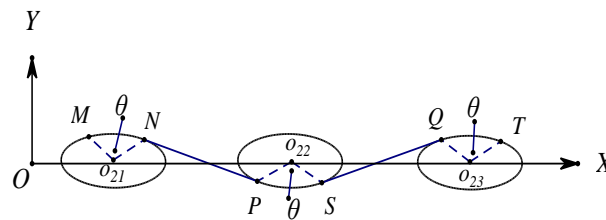


Figure 8. Controlling ovals of yarn trajectory.

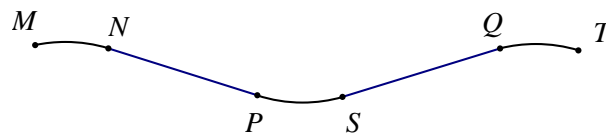


Figure 9. Yarn central line.

Table 1. The mechanical property of plain woven fabric.

	glass fiber	resin
tensile modulus (MPa)	2.77×10^4	3.01×10^3
cutting modulus (MPa)	1.065×10^4	1.10×10^3
Poisson ratio	0.3	0.36

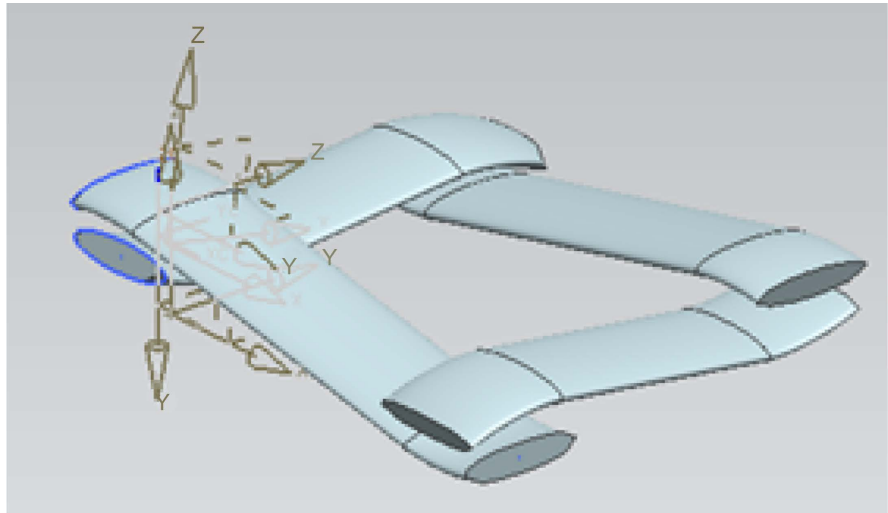


Figure 10. Visualization of enhancement mode 1.

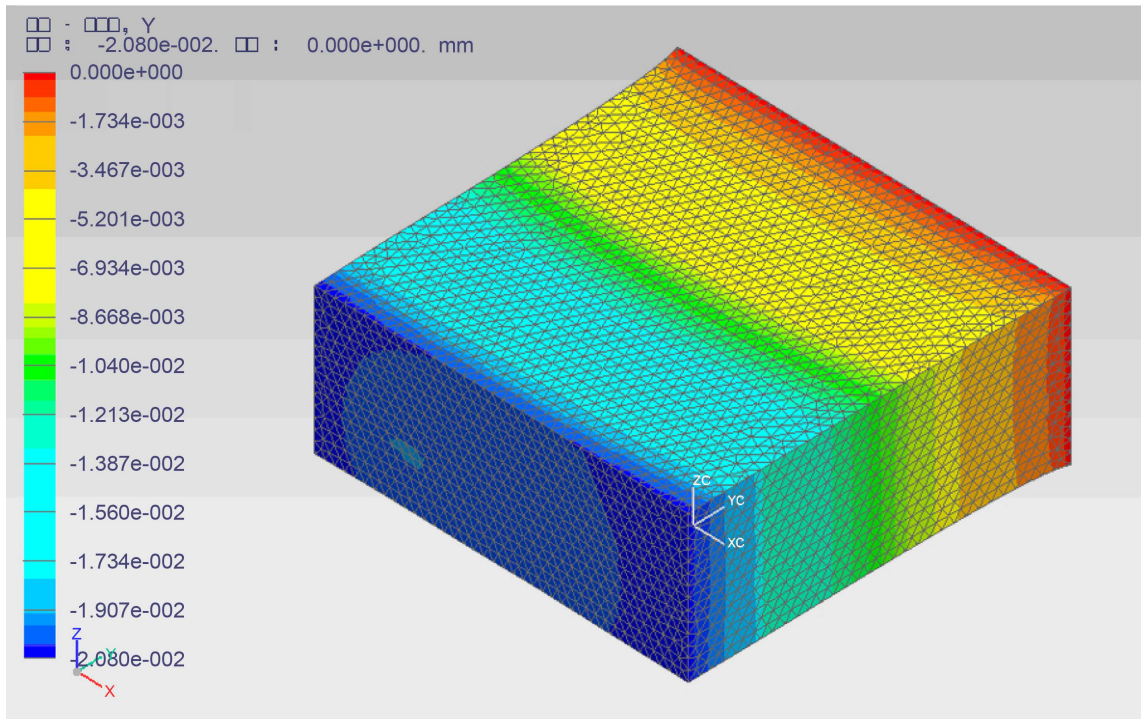


Figure 11. Visualization of loading when 100 N tensile load is used in y-axis.

2.080e-002, and tensile modulus in warp direction can be computed using Equation (12).

$$E = \frac{F}{A} \times \frac{l}{\Delta l} = \frac{100}{1.6 \times 0.7} \times \frac{2}{2.08 \times 10^{-2}} \approx 8.16(\text{GPa}) \quad (12)$$

If a 300 N tensile load is used in lateral direction (X-axis), the longitudinal stretch modulus can be computed out. The finite analysis result is shown as **Figure 12**. The Equation (13) is shown in the following.

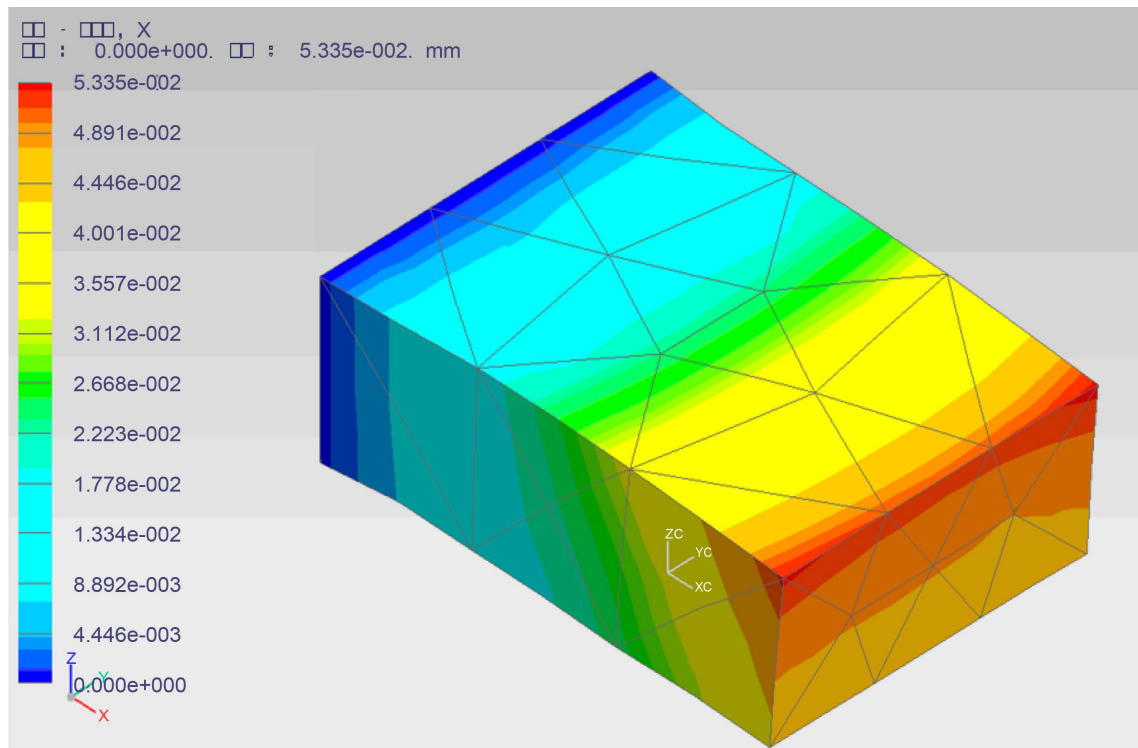


Figure 12. Visualization of displacement when 300 N tensile load is used in x-axis.

$$E = \frac{F}{A} \times \frac{l}{\Delta l} = \frac{300}{1.9 \times 0.7} \times \frac{1.6}{5335 \times 10^{-2}} \approx 6.77 (\text{GPa}) \quad (13)$$

3.2. Conclusion

In the experiment, the lateral tensile modulus of elasticity is 7.74 GPa; the transverse tensile modulus of elasticity is 6.21 GPa. By the model analysis, the lateral tensile modulus of elasticity is 8.16 GPa. The transverse tensile modulus of elasticity is 6.77 GPa. It is identical to compare the answer by the model analysis with the data of the experiment. The deviation of lateral tensile modulus is 5.43%. The deviation of transverse tensile modulus is 8.94%. The prediction result is little larger than the experimental result. The major reason is the two adjacent units are considered. Therefore, the result is accepted. The visualization is consistent with observation. The result is consistent with the reference [6].

A standard parametric modeling method of the plain woven composite is proposed. As an example, a plain woven composite model is constructed. The experimental results show that the appearance of the solid and mechanical property analysis is within the acceptable range. It concludes that the method is feasible and the method constructs model on the basis of parameters thoroughly. It has the potential to be widely used and shared. The micro-structure modeling of a plain woven composite can be used to observe and predict the mechanical property; it can fulfill the goal of visual engineering modeling.

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