

Dynamic stability and vibration responses of a volleyball game ball

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Abstract. This study investigates the vibrational response of a graphene oxide-reinforced volleyball under impact loading, aiming to enhance its dynamic stability. Employing Hamilton's principle and spherical shell coordinates, we derive the governing equations for the ball's motion under internal loading. These equations are solved using the generalized differential quadrature (GDQ) method and analytical techniques to analyze the vibrational modes. The results demonstrate a significant correlation between the ball's radius and its dynamic stability, with variations in radius substantially affecting vibrational characteristics. Notably, we find that increased ball mass, independent of size, contributes to enhanced stability upon ground impact. This observation suggests that heavier balls exhibit improved resistance to deformation and vibration, leading to more predictable trajectories. The findings provide a quantitative basis for optimizing volleyball design by elucidating the interplay between material reinforcement, geometry, and impact dynamics, thereby facilitating the development of volleyballs with improved stability and performance.

Keywords: ball's radius; GDQM; stability; vibration; volleyball game ball

1. Introduction

Tools in the sport games are essential part of most games. By tools, we mean clothing, balls, shoes and any other structures and devices used by athletes. It is obvious that quality and characteristics of the tools could make great influence on the performance of the athletes during a game. In addition, industries could produce tools with high-tech aiding the athletes show performance over their abilities. For an account, in the swimming field, there could be fabricated swimming suits for minimizing the surface roughness and friction and increasing the performance of the swimmer beyond bare skin swimming. Therefore, the concept of the healthiness and fair competitions in the sports could be nullified with the high technology. The international sports laws limits the performance of the tools in sports to maintain the philosophy behind the sport games. On the other hand, these limitation should not affect the durability of the tools (Karami *et al.* 2019, Bellal *et al.* 2020, Menasria *et al.* 2020, Bakoura *et al.* 2021, Hachemi *et al.* 2021, Tahir *et al.* 2021, Zerrouki *et al.* 2021a, b).

Balls are important tools in many games ranging of various size, weight, material and applications. Balls could be found in table tennis games to golf and to basketball plays. In all these applications, standards apply to the

characteristics of the balls. On the other hand, novel materials meeting the requirement and limitation of the standards could be utilized in the ball materials. New nanocomposite materials found applications in vast areas of today's life. One main application of the nanocomposite materials is in the field of sport. Arshid *et al.* (2021) examined three-layer sandwich nanocomposite structure for its vibrational responses in an elastic medium. In solving dynamics equations of complex composite structures and materials numerical methods are widely used (Bendenia *et al.* 2020, Heidari *et al.* 2021, Huang *et al.* 2021, Kumar *et al.* 2021, Van Vinh and Tounsi 2021, Zerrouki *et al.* 2021b). Several approaches with different advantages and disadvantages could be utilized in numerical solution of vibration problems. One of the most utilized methods is finite element method which is very effective in dealing with complicated geometries (Allam *et al.* 2020, Bekkaye *et al.* 2020, Bendenia *et al.* 2020, Bakoura *et al.* 2021). However, this method requires high computational resources to solve a problem in an accurate way (Zerrouki *et al.* 2021a, b, Wang *et al.* 2023b, Wang and Sigmund 2023). One another method is finite difference method for complicated geometries. However, with emerge of finite element method, the outdated finite difference solution is barely used nowadays. For structures with fairly simple geometries, the differential quadrature method is utilized widely in solving eigenvalue and nonlinear problems (Habibi *et al.* 2019a, 2021b, Al-Furjan *et al.* 2020b, 2021a). Beside high efficacy in solving nonlinear equations in a

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lower time and computational costs than other numerical methods, the DQM could provide satisfactory accurate results in buckling, vibration and nonlinear dynamic problems (Al-Furjan *et al.* 2021b, Safarpour *et al.* 2021, Xu *et al.* 2021).

Buckling analysis in nanocomposite structural components are also important in sport balls since in several occasion buckling would occur in these structures (Ebrahimi and Barati 2016, Matouk *et al.* 2020, Hadji and Avcar 2021, Kumar *et al.* 2021, Soleimani-Javid *et al.* 2021, Zhao *et al.* 2024). Zhang and Yu (2012) considered the buckling occurrence in table tennis balls under dynamic loading conditions. They also simulated the buckling forces and shapes using finite element numerical methods. The results of their study indicated that visco-elastic effects in impact loading conditions play important role in the energy absorption of the tennis balls. Hutchinson (Hutchinson 2016) reviewed the buckling studies on the spherical structures made of conventional materials. In the review, the main focus was on the analytical solutions of the buckling for both perfect and imperfect spherical shell structures. Habibi *et al.* (2019c) examined the buckling modes in imperfect shell structures made of nanocomposite materials. In their analyses, differential quadrature method was utilized to obtain the numerical solution of the governing equations of a functionally graded structure. The study was limited to the cylindrical shell structures. In another study Ebrahimi *et al.* (2019b) considered dynamic buckling in a cylindrical shell under the influence of the gyroscopic loads from spinning of the structure. They found, through numerical analysis, that the buckling critical load is highly dependent on the material properties as well as spinning velocity of the structure. Li *et al.* (2020) also examined buckling condition in nanocomposite shell structures using scale dependent elasticity theories. They included thermal loading effects in obtaining dynamic deflection and instability in the cylindrical shell structure.

In nano-scale structure and in parts composed of nano-size particles, conventional continuum mechanics theories are no capable of reflecting the most important features of the mechanical responses of the structure, i.e., size dependency. Size dependent properties of metals are a well-known properties for metallurgists since the yield strength is strongly dependent on the grain size of the metals in the annealed conditions. Other studies also confirms the dependency of the mechanical properties on the size of grains in small scales (Amelirad and Assempour 2019, 2021). Similar dependency on the microstructure length scale is observed in nanomaterials for different micro/nano effects. Therefore, with the assumption of continuity of small scale structures, it is more convenient to exploit scale dependent elasticity theories to have an insight into effects of small scale features like size of reinforcement particles and microcracks in composite materials. In this regard, several size-dependent theories to be utilized in small-scales have been proposed. The well-known nonlocal elasticity theory has been utilized in vibrational analysis of nanocomposite structures (Moayedi *et al.* 2019, Al-Furjan *et al.* 2020a). Other theories that are frequently used in small-scale analyses is strain gradient theory (Habibi *et al.*

2021a, Zhang *et al.* 2021, Al-Furjan *et al.* 2022), couple stress theory (Ghabussi *et al.* 2021, Liu *et al.* 2021b, Shamsaddini Lori *et al.* 2021, Shariati *et al.* 2021) and combinations of these theories (Ebrahimi *et al.* 2020, Ghabussi *et al.* 2020, Lori *et al.* 2020, Shi *et al.* 2020).

The observations of the natural frequency in engineering materials and spherical structures could not be easily generalized to balls in sport. One important feature of ball mechanics in a game in the large deformation they endure in contrast to the small deformations in the other structures. On the other hand, effect of internal pressure is disregarded in most calculations where it has an influential role in determining vibration and other mechanical properties of the balls. One another differences between ball and other engineering structures are the loading condition and state of boundary conditions. The loading in the balls are mostly in the form impact loading and there are no detectable boundary conditions in a free ball. Therefore, in the analyses, some tricks have to be adopted to apply boundary conditions in mechanical analyses of the balls in sports. Zhang and Yu (2012) experimentally examined the condition of buckling in ping-pong balls using both quasi-static and impact loading conditions. The state of buckling as well as the mode shape of buckling during several tests were measured and simulated. The numerical simulations were similar to the experimental results in the condition of incorporating viscoelasticity properties of the ball. The dynamic buckling condition of sport balls with different materials and thicknesses were examined by Cross (Cross 2014). In another experimental examination of buckling condition in the ping-pong balls, Rémond *et al.* (2022) found that initiation of buckling occurs when deflection of the shell exceeds twice the thickness of the ball in both quasi-static and dynamic loadings. Moreover, they found that the most energy dissipation in the ball impact is due to friction energy loss. Asai *et al.* (2007) considered instability of ball in the air due to aerodynamic forces. They observed some phenomena in the air flow around soccer ball which were different from other balls with smooth and non-smooth surface conditions.

The unique demands placed on sports balls necessitate a departure from conventional engineering analyses. Unlike static structures or machine components, sports balls are subjected to dynamic, high-impact forces, often involving significant deformations. This dynamic loading regime introduces complexities that are not readily addressed by traditional linear elastic models. Furthermore, the interplay between material properties and aerodynamic forces becomes paramount. The spin imparted on a ball, for instance, significantly alters its trajectory due to the Magnus effect, a phenomenon that is highly sensitive to the ball's surface texture and aerodynamic properties. Additionally, the viscoelastic nature of the materials used in sports balls, which is often temperature-dependent, further complicates the analysis. These factors must be considered to accurately predict the performance of a sports ball under varying environmental and playing conditions. The design of a sport ball requires a multi-physics approach, considering structural mechanics, fluid dynamics, and material science, in order to create a model that accurately predicts the real world behavior of a ball.

Moreover, the human factor adds a layer of complexity not typically encountered in traditional engineering design. The tactile feedback perceived by the player is influenced by the ball's surface texture, stiffness, and damping characteristics, which in turn affects their performance. Consequently, the development of sports balls requires a multidisciplinary approach that integrates material science, biomechanics, and fluid dynamics, as well as considering the player's sensory experience. The interaction between the ball and the playing surface or the player's hand introduces further complexities that are often overlooked in conventional engineering analyses. The coefficient of restitution, which dictates the energy loss during impact, is highly dependent on the surface properties of both the ball and the contact surface. Surface roughness, material compliance, and impact velocity all play crucial roles in determining the rebound characteristics. This holistic approach ensures that the design of sports balls not only optimizes performance but also enhances the player's comfort and control. This research aims to contribute to this understanding by analyzing the vibrational characteristics of nanocomposite volleyballs, considering the unique loading conditions and material properties inherent in sports ball design.

This study investigates the vibrational response of a graphene oxide-reinforced volleyball under impact loading, aiming to enhance its dynamic stability. Employing Hamilton's principle and spherical shell coordinates, we derive the governing equations for the ball's motion under internal loading. These equations are solved using the generalized differential quadrature (GDQ) method and analytical techniques to analyze the vibrational modes. The results demonstrate a significant correlation between the ball's radius and its dynamic stability, with variations in radius substantially affecting vibrational characteristics. Notably, we find that increased ball mass, independent of size, contributes to enhanced stability upon ground impact. This observation suggests that heavier balls exhibit improved resistance to deformation and vibration, leading to more predictable trajectories. The findings provide a quantitative basis for optimizing volleyball design by elucidating the interplay between material reinforcement, geometry, and impact dynamics, thereby facilitating the development of volleyballs with improved stability and performance.

2. Underlying equations

This study utilizes a functionally graded graphene oxide powder-reinforced composite (FG-GOPRC) spherical shell as the primary model for analysis. To accurately represent the material distribution, Fig. 1 illustrates the geometric configuration of the spherical shell, alongside various distribution patterns of the graphene oxide powders (GOPs) across the shell's thickness.

It is essential to clarify the geometric parameters depicted in Fig. 1. The green arrows in the illustration denote the outer and inner radii of the spherical shell, respectively. These dimensions are critical for accurately defining the shell's geometry and subsequent analysis. To

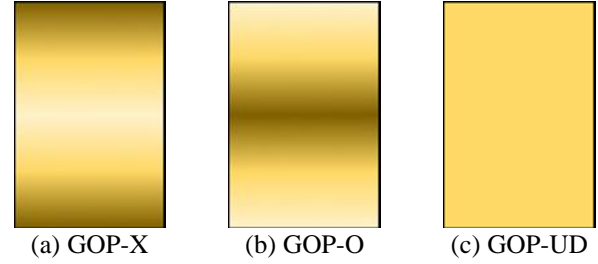


Fig. 1 Illustration depicting various graphene platelet (GPL) distribution patterns within the composite material

determine the effective material properties of the FG-GOPRC spherical shell, we employed the Halpin-Tsai homogenization method. This method is particularly suitable for predicting the mechanical properties of composite materials, such as Young's modulus, by considering the properties of the individual constituents (i.e., the base material and the graphene oxide powders) and their volume fractions. Specifically, the Halpin-Tsai method allows us to calculate the effective Young's modulus of the composite material as a function of the GOP distribution patterns illustrated in Fig. 1, thereby providing a robust foundation for our dynamic analysis (Zhang *et al.* 2020):

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon &= 0.49 \times \frac{1 + \mathfrak{Q}_L \mathfrak{V}_L \mathcal{V}_{GOP}}{1 - \mathfrak{V}_L \mathcal{V}_{GOP}} \times \varepsilon_m \\ &+ 0.51 \times \frac{1 + \mathfrak{Q}_\mathfrak{V} \mathfrak{V}_\mathfrak{V} \mathcal{V}_{GOP}}{1 - \mathfrak{V}_\mathfrak{V} \mathcal{V}_{GOP}} \times \varepsilon_m \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

in which, $\mathfrak{Q}_L = \mathfrak{Q}_\mathfrak{V} = 2 \frac{d_{GOP}}{h_{GOP}}$, $\mathcal{V}_{GOP}^* = \frac{W_{GOP}}{W_{GOP} + (\frac{\rho_{GPL}}{\rho_m})(1 - W_{GOP})}$, $\mathfrak{V}_L = -\frac{1 - (\frac{\varepsilon_{GOP}}{\varepsilon_m})}{\mathfrak{Q}_L + (\frac{\varepsilon_{GOP}}{\varepsilon_m})}$ and $\mathfrak{V}_\mathfrak{V} = -\frac{1 - (\frac{\varepsilon_{GOP}}{\varepsilon_m})}{\mathfrak{Q}_\mathfrak{V} + (\frac{\varepsilon_{GOP}}{\varepsilon_m})}$.

In addition to Young's modulus (Ge *et al.* 2023, Habibi *et al.* 2024, He *et al.* 2024, Huang *et al.* 2024, Jin *et al.* 2024, Li *et al.* 2024, Man *et al.* 2024, Wang *et al.* 2024a, b, Zhang *et al.* 2024b, c, Zhao *et al.* 2024), the effective density and Poisson's ratio of the FG-GOPRC material were crucial for the dynamic analysis. These properties were calculated using the same Halpin-Tsai homogenization method. The resulting values are presented below: Also, the density as well as Poisson's ratio are as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \rho &= \rho_{GOP} \mathcal{V}_{GOP} + \rho_m (1 - \mathcal{V}_{GOP}), \\ \nu &= \nu_{GOP} \mathcal{V}_{GOP} + \nu_m (1 - \mathcal{V}_{GOP}) \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

The shear modulus of the FG-GOPRC system was subsequently derived using the established relationships between elastic moduli, as follows:

$$G = \frac{\varepsilon}{2(1 + \nu)} \quad (3)$$

Finally, the various distribution patterns of graphene oxide powders (GOPs) within the spherical shell's thickness were defined as follows (Zhang *et al.* 2020):

$$\mathcal{V}_{GOP}(k) = 2\mathcal{V}_{GOP}^* \left(\frac{[2k - N_L - 1]}{N_L} \right) \quad \text{GOP-X}, \quad (4a)$$

$$\mathcal{V}_{GOP}(k) = 2\mathcal{V}_{GOP}^* \left(1 - \frac{[N_L - 2k + 1]}{N_L} \right) \quad \text{GOP-O}, \quad (4b)$$

$$\mathcal{V}_{GOP}(k) = \mathcal{V}_{GOP}^* \quad \text{GOP-UD.} \quad (4c)$$

Here, $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots, N_L$.

2.1 Equation of motion

The displacement field of the spherical shell was defined using the following expressions:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{R}(\vartheta, \theta, \varpi, \mathfrak{Y}) &= \mathfrak{R}_0(\vartheta, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) + \varpi \mathfrak{R}_1(\vartheta, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) \\ &+ \varpi^2 \mathfrak{R}_2(\vartheta, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) + \varpi^3 \mathfrak{R}_3(\vartheta, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) \\ &+ \varpi^4 \mathfrak{R}_4(\vartheta, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) + \varpi^5 \mathfrak{R}_5(\vartheta, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) \end{aligned} \quad (5a)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{S}(\vartheta, \theta, \varpi, \mathfrak{Y}) &= \mathfrak{S}_0(\vartheta, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) + \varpi \mathfrak{S}_1(\vartheta, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) \\ &+ \varpi^2 \mathfrak{S}_2(\vartheta, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) + \varpi^3 \mathfrak{S}_3(\vartheta, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) \\ &+ \varpi^4 \mathfrak{S}_4(\vartheta, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) + \varpi^5 \mathfrak{S}_5(\vartheta, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) \end{aligned} \quad (5b)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{I}(\vartheta, \theta, \varpi, \mathfrak{Y}) &= \mathfrak{I}_0(\vartheta, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) + \varpi \mathfrak{I}_1(\vartheta, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) + \\ &+ \varpi^2 \mathfrak{I}_2(\vartheta, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) + \varpi^3 \mathfrak{I}_3(\vartheta, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) \\ &+ \varpi^4 \mathfrak{I}_4(\vartheta, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) + \varpi^5 \mathfrak{I}_5(\vartheta, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) \end{aligned} \quad (5c)$$

The strain components (Wang *et al.* 2023a, Alam *et al.* 2025, Yang *et al.* 2025), expressed as functions of the displacement field, were defined by the following strain-displacement relationships:

$$\begin{aligned} g_{\vartheta\vartheta} &= \frac{\partial \mathfrak{R}}{r \partial \vartheta} + \frac{\mathfrak{I}}{r}, \quad g_{\theta\theta} = \frac{\partial \mathfrak{S}}{r_1 \partial \theta} + \frac{\mathfrak{R}}{r r_1} \frac{\partial R_1}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\mathfrak{I}}{r}, \\ g_{\varpi\varpi} &= \frac{\partial \mathfrak{I}}{\partial \varpi} \\ g_{\vartheta\theta} &= \frac{\partial \mathfrak{S}}{r \partial \vartheta} - \frac{\mathfrak{S}}{r r_1} \frac{\partial R_1}{\partial \vartheta} + \frac{\partial \mathfrak{R}}{r_1 \partial \theta}, \\ g_{\vartheta\varpi} &= \frac{\partial \mathfrak{R}}{\partial \varpi} - \frac{\mathfrak{R}}{r} + \frac{\partial \mathfrak{I}}{r \partial \vartheta}, \quad g_{\theta\varpi} = \frac{\partial \mathfrak{S}}{\partial \varpi} - \frac{\mathfrak{S}}{r} + \frac{\partial \mathfrak{I}}{r_1 \partial \theta} \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

By substituting $r_1 = r \sin \vartheta$ in Eq. (6)

$$\begin{aligned} g_{\vartheta\vartheta} &= \frac{\partial \mathfrak{R}}{r \partial \vartheta} + \frac{\mathfrak{I}}{r}, \\ g_{\theta\theta} &= \frac{1}{r \sin(\vartheta)} \frac{\partial \mathfrak{S}}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\cot(\vartheta) \mathfrak{R}}{r} + \frac{\mathfrak{I}}{r}, \quad g_{\varpi\varpi} = \frac{\partial \mathfrak{I}}{\partial \varpi} \\ g_{\vartheta\theta} &= \frac{\partial \mathfrak{S}}{r \partial \vartheta} - \frac{\cot(\vartheta) \mathfrak{S}}{r} + \frac{1}{r \sin(\vartheta)} \frac{\partial \mathfrak{R}}{\partial \theta}, \\ g_{\vartheta\varpi} &= \frac{\partial \mathfrak{R}}{\partial \varpi} - \frac{\mathfrak{R}}{r} + \frac{\partial \mathfrak{I}}{r \partial \vartheta}, \\ g_{\theta\varpi} &= \frac{\partial \mathfrak{S}}{\partial \varpi} - \frac{\mathfrak{S}}{r} + \frac{1}{r \sin(\vartheta)} \frac{\partial \mathfrak{I}}{\partial \theta} \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} g_{\vartheta\vartheta} &= g_{\vartheta\vartheta}^{(0)} + \varpi g_{\vartheta\vartheta}^{(1)} + \varpi^2 g_{\vartheta\vartheta}^{(2)} + \varpi^3 g_{\vartheta\vartheta}^{(3)} + \varpi^4 g_{\vartheta\vartheta}^{(4)} \\ &+ \varpi^5 g_{\vartheta\vartheta}^{(5)} \\ g_{\theta\theta} &= g_{\theta\theta}^{(0)} + \varpi g_{\theta\theta}^{(1)} + \varpi^2 g_{\theta\theta}^{(2)} + \varpi^3 g_{\theta\theta}^{(3)} + \varpi^4 g_{\theta\theta}^{(4)} \\ &+ \varpi^5 g_{\theta\theta}^{(5)} \\ g_{\varpi\varpi} &= g_{\varpi\varpi}^{(0)} + \varpi g_{\varpi\varpi}^{(1)} + \varpi^2 g_{\varpi\varpi}^{(2)} + \varpi^3 g_{\varpi\varpi}^{(3)} + \varpi^4 g_{\varpi\varpi}^{(4)} \\ &+ \varpi^5 g_{\varpi\varpi}^{(5)} \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

$$\begin{aligned} g_{\vartheta\varpi} &= g_{\vartheta\varpi}^{(0)} + \varpi g_{\vartheta\varpi}^{(1)} + \varpi^2 g_{\vartheta\varpi}^{(2)} + \varpi^3 g_{\vartheta\varpi}^{(3)} + \varpi^4 g_{\vartheta\varpi}^{(4)} \\ &+ \varpi^5 g_{\vartheta\varpi}^{(5)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} g_{\theta\varpi} &= g_{\theta\varpi}^{(0)} + \varpi g_{\theta\varpi}^{(1)} + \varpi^2 g_{\theta\varpi}^{(2)} + \varpi^3 g_{\theta\varpi}^{(3)} + \varpi^4 g_{\theta\varpi}^{(4)} \\ &+ \varpi^5 g_{\theta\varpi}^{(5)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} g_{\vartheta\theta} &= g_{\vartheta\theta}^{(0)} + \varpi g_{\vartheta\theta}^{(1)} + \varpi^2 g_{\vartheta\theta}^{(2)} + \varpi^3 g_{\vartheta\theta}^{(3)} + \varpi^4 g_{\vartheta\theta}^{(4)} \\ &+ \varpi^5 g_{\vartheta\theta}^{(5)} \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} g_{\vartheta\vartheta}^{(0)} &= \frac{\partial \mathfrak{R}_0}{r \partial \vartheta} + \frac{\mathfrak{I}_0}{r}, \quad g_{\vartheta\vartheta}^{(1)} = \frac{\partial \mathfrak{R}_1}{r \partial \vartheta} + \frac{\mathfrak{I}_1}{r}, \\ g_{\vartheta\vartheta}^{(2)} &= \frac{\partial \mathfrak{R}_2}{r \partial \vartheta} + \frac{\mathfrak{I}_2}{r}, \quad g_{\vartheta\vartheta}^{(3)} = \frac{\partial \mathfrak{R}_3}{r \partial \vartheta} + \frac{\mathfrak{I}_3}{r} \end{aligned}$$

$$g_{\vartheta\vartheta}^{(4)} = \frac{\partial \mathfrak{R}_4}{r \partial \vartheta} + \frac{\mathfrak{I}_4}{r}, \quad g_{\vartheta\vartheta}^{(5)} = \frac{\partial \mathfrak{R}_5}{r \partial \vartheta} + \frac{\mathfrak{I}_5}{r}$$

$$\begin{aligned} g_{\theta\theta}^{(0)} &= \frac{1}{r \sin(\vartheta)} \frac{\partial \mathfrak{S}_0}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\cot(\vartheta) \mathfrak{R}_0}{r} + \frac{\mathfrak{I}_0}{r}, \\ g_{\theta\theta}^{(1)} &= \frac{1}{r \sin(\vartheta)} \frac{\partial \mathfrak{S}_1}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\cot(\vartheta) \mathfrak{R}_1}{r} + \frac{\mathfrak{I}_2}{r} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} g_{\theta\theta}^{(2)} &= \frac{1}{r \sin(\vartheta)} \frac{\partial \mathfrak{S}_2}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\cot(\vartheta) \mathfrak{R}_2}{r} + \frac{\mathfrak{I}_2}{r}, \\ g_{\theta\theta}^{(3)} &= \frac{1}{r \sin(\vartheta)} \frac{\partial \mathfrak{S}_3}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\cot(\vartheta) \mathfrak{R}_3}{r} + \frac{\mathfrak{I}_3}{r} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} g_{\theta\theta}^{(4)} &= \frac{1}{r \sin(\vartheta)} \frac{\partial \mathfrak{S}_4}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\cot(\vartheta) \mathfrak{R}_4}{r} + \frac{\mathfrak{I}_4}{r}, \\ g_{\theta\theta}^{(5)} &= \frac{1}{r \sin(\vartheta)} \frac{\partial \mathfrak{S}_5}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\cot(\vartheta) \mathfrak{R}_5}{r} + \frac{\mathfrak{I}_5}{r} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} g_{\varpi\varpi}^{(0)} &= \mathfrak{I}_1, \quad g_{\varpi\varpi}^{(1)} = 2\mathfrak{I}_2, \quad g_{\varpi\varpi}^{(2)} = 3\mathfrak{I}_3, \\ g_{\varpi\varpi}^{(3)} &= 4\mathfrak{I}_4, \quad g_{\varpi\varpi}^{(4)} = 5\mathfrak{I}_5, \quad g_{\varpi\varpi}^{(5)} = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

$$\begin{aligned} g_{\vartheta\varpi}^{(0)} &= \frac{\partial \mathfrak{S}_0}{r \partial \vartheta} - \frac{\cot(\vartheta) \mathfrak{S}_0}{r} + \frac{1}{r \sin(\vartheta)} \frac{\partial \mathfrak{R}_0}{\partial \theta}, \\ g_{\vartheta\varpi}^{(1)} &= \frac{\partial \mathfrak{S}_1}{r \partial \vartheta} - \frac{\cot(\vartheta) \mathfrak{S}_1}{r} + \frac{1}{r \sin(\vartheta)} \frac{\partial \mathfrak{R}_1}{\partial \theta} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} g_{\vartheta\varpi}^{(2)} &= \frac{\partial \mathfrak{S}_2}{r \partial \vartheta} - \frac{\cot(\vartheta) \mathfrak{S}_2}{r} + \frac{1}{r \sin(\vartheta)} \frac{\partial \mathfrak{R}_2}{\partial \theta}, \\ g_{\vartheta\varpi}^{(3)} &= \frac{\partial \mathfrak{S}_3}{r \partial \vartheta} - \frac{\cot(\vartheta) \mathfrak{S}_3}{r} + \frac{1}{r \sin(\vartheta)} \frac{\partial \mathfrak{R}_3}{\partial \theta} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} g_{\vartheta\varpi}^{(4)} &= \frac{\partial \mathfrak{S}_4}{r \partial \vartheta} - \frac{\cot(\vartheta) \mathfrak{S}_4}{r} + \frac{1}{r \sin(\vartheta)} \frac{\partial \mathfrak{R}_4}{\partial \theta}, \\ g_{\vartheta\varpi}^{(5)} &= \frac{\partial \mathfrak{S}_5}{r \partial \vartheta} - \frac{\cot(\vartheta) \mathfrak{S}_5}{r} + \frac{1}{r \sin(\vartheta)} \frac{\partial \mathfrak{R}_5}{\partial \theta} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} g_{\vartheta\varpi}^{(0)} &= \mathfrak{R}_1 - \frac{\mathfrak{R}_0}{r} + \frac{\partial \mathfrak{I}_0}{r \partial \vartheta}, \\ g_{\vartheta\varpi}^{(1)} &= 2\mathfrak{R}_2 - \frac{\mathfrak{R}_1}{r} + \frac{\partial \mathfrak{I}_1}{r \partial \vartheta}, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} g_{\theta\eta}^{(2)} &= 3\mathfrak{R}_3 - \frac{\mathfrak{R}_2}{r} + \frac{\partial \mathfrak{I}_2}{r \partial \vartheta}, \\ g_{\theta z}^{(3)} &= 4\mathfrak{R}_4 - \frac{\mathfrak{R}_3}{r} + \frac{\partial \mathfrak{I}_3}{r \partial \vartheta}, \\ g_{\theta z}^{(4)} &= 5\mathfrak{R}_5 - \frac{\mathfrak{R}_4}{r} + \frac{\partial \mathfrak{I}_4}{r \partial \vartheta}, \\ g_{\theta z}^{(5)} &= -\frac{\mathfrak{R}_5}{r} + \frac{\partial \mathfrak{I}_5}{r \partial \vartheta} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} g_{\theta\theta}^{(0)} &= \mathfrak{C}_1 - \frac{\mathfrak{C}_0}{r} + \frac{1}{r \sin(\vartheta)} \frac{\partial \mathfrak{I}_0}{\partial \theta}, \\ g_{\theta\theta}^{(1)} &= 2\mathfrak{C}_2 - \frac{\mathfrak{C}_1}{r} + \frac{1}{r \sin(\vartheta)} \frac{\partial \mathfrak{I}_1}{\partial \theta} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} g_{\theta\theta}^{(2)} &= 3\mathfrak{C}_3 - \frac{\mathfrak{C}_2}{r} + \frac{1}{r \sin(\vartheta)} \frac{\partial \mathfrak{I}_2}{\partial \theta}, \\ g_{\theta\theta}^{(3)} &= 4\mathfrak{C}_4 - \frac{\mathfrak{C}_3}{r} + \frac{1}{r \sin(\vartheta)} \frac{\partial \mathfrak{I}_3}{\partial \theta} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} g_{\theta\theta}^{(4)} &= 5\mathfrak{C}_5 - \frac{\mathfrak{C}_4}{r} + \frac{1}{r \sin(\vartheta)} \frac{\partial \mathfrak{I}_4}{\partial \theta}, \\ g_{\theta\theta}^{(5)} &= \frac{\mathfrak{C}_5}{r} + \frac{1}{r \sin(\vartheta)} \frac{\partial \mathfrak{I}_5}{\partial \theta} \end{aligned}$$

For the elastic system we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{N}_{\theta\theta} &= (\mathring{A}_{11}g_{\theta\theta} + \mathring{A}_{12}g_{\theta\theta\theta} + \mathring{A}_{13}g_{\theta\eta\eta}), \\ \mathfrak{N}_{\theta\theta\theta} &= (\mathring{A}_{12}g_{\theta\theta\theta} + \mathring{A}_{22}g_{\theta\theta\theta} + \mathring{A}_{23}g_{\eta\eta\eta}), \\ \mathfrak{N}_{\eta\eta\eta} &= (\mathring{A}_{13}g_{\theta\theta\theta} + \mathring{A}_{23}g_{\theta\theta\theta} + \mathring{A}_{33}g_{\eta\eta\eta}), \\ \mathfrak{N}_{\theta\eta\eta} &= (\mathring{A}_{44}g_{\theta\eta\eta}), \\ \mathfrak{N}_{\theta\eta} &= (\mathring{A}_{55}g_{\theta\eta}), \\ \mathfrak{N}_{\theta\theta\theta} &= (\mathring{A}_{66}g_{\theta\theta\theta}), \end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathring{A}_{11} &= \frac{\varepsilon(1-\nu)}{(1+\nu)(1-2\nu)}, \quad \mathring{A}_{33} = \mathring{A}_{22} = \mathring{A}_{11}, \\ \mathring{A}_{12} &= \frac{\varepsilon\nu}{(1+\nu)(1-2\nu)}, \quad \mathring{A}_{13} = \mathring{A}_{23} = \mathring{A}_{12}, \\ \mathring{A}_{44} &= \frac{\varepsilon}{2(1+\nu)}, \quad \mathring{A}_{66} = \mathring{A}_{55} = \mathring{A}_{44}. \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

The equations that describe the motion of a system are derived through the application of Hamilton's principle (Dai *et al.* 2023a, b, Gu *et al.* 2023, Li *et al.* 2023, Peng *et al.* 2023, Sabzevari *et al.* 2023, Shariati *et al.* 2023, Xiang *et al.* 2023, Yang *et al.* 2023, Zhang *et al.* 2023a, b, Zhao *et al.* 2023, Zheng *et al.* 2023). This principle provides a variational framework from which the dynamics of a system can be determined by finding the path that minimizes the action integral. By employing this approach, the governing equations of motion are obtained, offering a comprehensive description of the system's behavior.

$$\delta \int_{\mathfrak{y}_1}^{\mathfrak{y}_2} (\Pi_k - (\Pi_e + \Pi_w)) d\mathfrak{y} = 0 \tag{12}$$

In these equations, Π_k denotes the kinetic energy, Π_e the potential energy, and Π_w the work performed by the system (Habibi *et al.* 2016, 2018a, b, 2019b, d, e, Ebrahimi *et al.* 2019a, Esmailpoor Hajilak *et al.* 2019, Pourjabari *et al.* 2019, Safarpour *et al.* 2019a, Zhu *et al.* 2022, Dai *et al.* 2023b, Lu *et al.* 2023a, b, Ma *et al.* 2023, Tang *et al.* 2023, Wang *et al.* 2023b, Zheng *et al.* 2023). The kinetic energy is indicated as follows:

$$\Pi_k = \int_V \frac{1}{2} \rho(\vartheta, \theta, z) \left[\left(\frac{\partial \mathfrak{R}}{\partial \mathfrak{y}} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial \mathfrak{C}}{\partial \mathfrak{y}} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial \mathfrak{I}}{\partial \mathfrak{y}} \right)^2 \right] dV \tag{13}$$

The potential energy of the encompassing strain energy and potential from external forces, is expressed as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_u &= \int_V \frac{1}{2} [\mathfrak{N}_{\theta\theta\theta}g_{\theta\theta\theta} + \mathfrak{N}_{\theta\theta\theta}g_{\theta\theta\theta} + \mathfrak{N}_{\eta\eta\eta}g_{\eta\eta\eta} + \mathfrak{N}_{\theta\eta\eta}g_{\theta\eta\eta} \\ &\quad + \mathfrak{N}_{\theta\eta\eta}g_{\theta\eta\eta} + \mathfrak{N}_{\theta\theta\theta}g_{\theta\theta\theta}] dV \end{aligned} \tag{14}$$

The work done by the system is expressed as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_u &= \int_A \frac{P}{2} \left\{ \frac{1}{r^2 \sin(\vartheta)} \frac{\partial}{\partial \vartheta} \left(\sin(\vartheta) \frac{\partial \mathfrak{I}_0}{\partial \vartheta} \right) \right\} \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2(\vartheta)} \frac{\partial^2 \mathfrak{I}_0}{\partial \theta^2} \mathfrak{I}_0 dA \end{aligned} \tag{15}$$

where P indicates the In-plane mechanical loading.

By substituting the expressions for kinetic energy, potential energy, and work from Eqs. (13)-(15) into the governing principle in Eq. (12), we obtain the equations of motion.

The corresponding boundary conditions are defined as

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{\mathfrak{N}_{\theta\theta\theta}}{r} \right) \hat{\vartheta}_\vartheta + \left(\frac{\mathfrak{N}_{\theta\theta\theta}}{r \sin(\vartheta)} \right) \hat{\vartheta}_\theta &= 0, \\ \left(\frac{\mathfrak{N}_{\theta\theta\theta}}{r} \right) \hat{\vartheta}_\vartheta + \left(\frac{\mathfrak{N}_{\theta\theta\theta}}{r \sin(\vartheta)} \right) \hat{\vartheta}_\theta &= 0, \\ \left(\frac{\mathfrak{N}_{\theta z}}{r} \right) \hat{\vartheta}_\vartheta + \left(\frac{\mathfrak{N}_{\theta\eta}}{r \sin(\vartheta)} \right) \hat{\vartheta}_\theta &= 0, \\ \left(\frac{\mathfrak{M}_{\theta\theta\theta}}{r} \right) \hat{\vartheta}_\vartheta + \left(\frac{\mathfrak{M}_{\theta\theta\theta}}{r \sin(\vartheta)} \right) \hat{\vartheta}_\theta &= 0, \\ \left(\frac{\mathfrak{M}_{\theta\theta\theta}}{r} \right) \hat{\vartheta}_\vartheta + \left(\frac{\mathfrak{M}_{\theta\theta\theta}}{r \sin(\vartheta)} \right) \hat{\vartheta}_\theta &= 0, \\ \left(\frac{\mathfrak{M}_{\theta\eta}}{r} \right) \hat{\vartheta}_\vartheta + \left(\frac{\mathfrak{M}_{\theta\eta}}{r \sin(\vartheta)} \right) \hat{\vartheta}_\theta &= 0, \\ \left(\frac{\mathfrak{P}_{\theta\theta\theta}}{r} \right) \hat{\vartheta}_\vartheta + \left(\frac{\mathfrak{P}_{\theta\theta\theta}}{r \sin(\vartheta)} \right) \hat{\vartheta}_\theta &= 0, \\ \left(\frac{\mathfrak{P}_{\theta\theta\theta}}{r} \right) \hat{\vartheta}_\vartheta + \left(\frac{\mathfrak{P}_{\theta\theta\theta}}{r \sin(\vartheta)} \right) \hat{\vartheta}_\theta &= 0, \\ \left(\frac{\mathfrak{P}_{\theta z}}{r} \right) \hat{\vartheta}_\vartheta + \left(\frac{\mathfrak{P}_{\theta\eta}}{r \sin(\vartheta)} \right) \hat{\vartheta}_\theta &= 0, \\ \left(\frac{\mathfrak{Q}_{\theta\theta\theta}}{r} \right) \hat{\vartheta}_\vartheta + \left(\frac{\mathfrak{Q}_{\theta\theta\theta}}{r \sin(\vartheta)} \right) \hat{\vartheta}_\theta &= 0, \end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

$$\left(\frac{Q_{\theta\theta}}{r}\right)\hat{\theta}_\theta + \left(\frac{Q_{\theta\theta}}{r\sin(\theta)}\right)\hat{\theta}_\theta = 0,$$

$$\left(\frac{Q_{\theta\eta}}{r}\right)\hat{\theta}_\theta + \left(\frac{Q_{\theta\eta}}{r\sin(\theta)}\right)\hat{\theta}_\theta = 0,$$

$$\left(\frac{R_{\theta\theta}}{r}\right)\hat{\theta}_\theta + \left(\frac{R_{\theta\theta}}{r\sin(\theta)}\right)\hat{\theta}_\theta = 0,$$

$$\left(\frac{R_{\theta\theta}}{r}\right)\hat{\theta}_\theta + \left(\frac{R_{\theta\theta}}{r\sin(\theta)}\right)\hat{\theta}_\theta = 0,$$

$$\left(\frac{R_{\theta\eta}}{r}\right)\hat{\theta}_\theta + \left(\frac{R_{\theta\eta}}{r\sin(\theta)}\right)\hat{\theta}_\theta = 0,$$

$$\left(\frac{S_{\theta\theta}}{r}\right)\hat{\theta}_\theta + \left(\frac{S_{\theta\theta}}{r\sin(\theta)}\right)\hat{\theta}_\theta = 0,$$

$$\left(\frac{S_{\theta\theta}}{r}\right)\hat{\theta}_\theta + \left(\frac{S_{\theta\theta}}{r\sin(\theta)}\right)\hat{\theta}_\theta = 0,$$

$$\left(\frac{S_{\theta\eta}}{r}\right)\hat{\theta}_\theta + \left(\frac{S_{\theta\eta}}{r\sin(\theta)}\right)\hat{\theta}_\theta = 0.$$

$$\begin{Bmatrix} P_{\theta\eta} \\ P_{\theta\eta} \\ P_{\theta\theta} \end{Bmatrix} = \int_V \begin{Bmatrix} \eta^2 \mathbf{N}_{\theta\eta} \\ \eta^2 \mathbf{N}_{\theta\eta} \\ \eta^2 \mathbf{N}_{\theta\theta} \end{Bmatrix} dV$$

$$\begin{Bmatrix} Q_{\theta\eta} \\ Q_{\theta\eta} \\ Q_{\theta\theta} \end{Bmatrix} = \int_V \begin{Bmatrix} \eta^3 \mathbf{N}_{\theta\eta} \\ \eta^3 \mathbf{N}_{\theta\eta} \\ \eta^3 \mathbf{N}_{\theta\theta} \end{Bmatrix} dV,$$

$$\begin{Bmatrix} R_{\theta\eta} \\ R_{\theta\eta} \\ R_{\theta\theta} \end{Bmatrix} = \int_V \begin{Bmatrix} \eta^4 \mathbf{N}_{\theta\eta} \\ \eta^4 \mathbf{N}_{\theta\eta} \\ \eta^4 \mathbf{N}_{\theta\theta} \end{Bmatrix} dV$$

$$\begin{Bmatrix} S_{\theta\eta} \\ S_{\theta\eta} \\ S_{\theta\theta} \end{Bmatrix} = \int_V \begin{Bmatrix} \eta^5 \mathbf{N}_{\theta\eta} \\ \eta^5 \mathbf{N}_{\theta\eta} \\ \eta^5 \mathbf{N}_{\theta\theta} \end{Bmatrix} dV$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \{\mathfrak{M}_0, \mathfrak{M}_1, \mathfrak{M}_2, \mathfrak{M}_3, \mathfrak{M}_4, \mathfrak{M}_5, \mathfrak{M}_6\} \\ & = \int_V (\{1, \eta, \eta^2, \eta^3, \eta^4, \eta^5, \eta^6\} \rho) r^2 \sin(\theta) d\theta dz d\phi \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{Bmatrix} N_{\theta\theta} \\ N_{\theta\theta} \\ N_{\eta\eta} \end{Bmatrix} = \int_V \begin{Bmatrix} \mathbf{N}_{\theta\theta} \\ \mathbf{N}_{\theta\theta} \\ \mathbf{N}_{\eta\eta} \end{Bmatrix} dV,$$

$$\begin{Bmatrix} M_{\theta\theta} \\ M_{\theta\theta} \\ M_{\eta\eta} \end{Bmatrix} = \int_V \begin{Bmatrix} \eta \mathbf{N}_{\theta\theta} \\ \eta \mathbf{N}_{\theta\theta} \\ \eta \mathbf{N}_{\eta\eta} \end{Bmatrix} dV,$$

$$\begin{Bmatrix} P_{\theta\theta} \\ P_{\theta\theta} \\ P_{\eta\eta} \end{Bmatrix} = \int_V \begin{Bmatrix} \eta^2 \mathbf{N}_{\theta\theta} \\ \eta^2 \mathbf{N}_{\theta\theta} \\ \eta^2 \mathbf{N}_{\eta\eta} \end{Bmatrix} dV$$

$$\begin{Bmatrix} Q_{\theta\theta} \\ Q_{\theta\theta} \\ Q_{\eta\eta} \end{Bmatrix} = \int_V \begin{Bmatrix} \eta^3 \mathbf{N}_{\theta\theta} \\ \eta^3 \mathbf{N}_{\theta\theta} \\ \eta^3 \mathbf{N}_{\eta\eta} \end{Bmatrix} dV,$$

$$\begin{Bmatrix} R_{\theta\theta} \\ R_{\theta\theta} \\ R_{\eta\eta} \end{Bmatrix} = \int_V \begin{Bmatrix} \eta^4 \mathbf{N}_{\theta\theta} \\ \eta^4 \mathbf{N}_{\theta\theta} \\ \eta^4 \mathbf{N}_{\eta\eta} \end{Bmatrix} dV,$$

$$\begin{Bmatrix} S_{\theta\theta} \\ S_{\theta\theta} \\ S_{\eta\eta} \end{Bmatrix} = \int_V \begin{Bmatrix} \eta^5 \mathbf{N}_{\theta\theta} \\ \eta^5 \mathbf{N}_{\theta\theta} \\ \eta^5 \mathbf{N}_{\eta\eta} \end{Bmatrix} dV$$

$$\begin{Bmatrix} N_{\theta\eta} \\ N_{\theta\eta} \\ N_{\theta\theta} \end{Bmatrix} = \int_V \begin{Bmatrix} \mathbf{N}_{\theta\eta} \\ \mathbf{N}_{\theta\eta} \\ \mathbf{N}_{\theta\theta} \end{Bmatrix} dV,$$

$$\begin{Bmatrix} M_{\theta\eta} \\ M_{\theta\eta} \\ M_{\theta\theta} \end{Bmatrix} = \int_V \begin{Bmatrix} \eta \mathbf{N}_{\theta\eta} \\ \eta \mathbf{N}_{\theta\eta} \\ \eta \mathbf{N}_{\theta\theta} \end{Bmatrix} dV,$$

(17)

3. Solution methodology

The Harmonic Differential Quadrature Method (HDQM) (Fazaeli *et al.* 2016, Habibi *et al.* 2017, 2019a, c, Safarpour *et al.* 2018, 2019b, 2020, Alipour *et al.* 2020, Ebrahimi *et al.* 2020, Ghazanfari *et al.* 2020, Chen *et al.* 2022) is a numerical technique designed for the efficient and accurate solution of differential equations, particularly those arising in structural mechanics and vibration analysis. Unlike traditional differential quadrature methods that rely on polynomial approximations, HDQM employs harmonic functions, such as trigonometric functions, as basis functions. This choice is particularly advantageous when dealing with problems exhibiting periodic or oscillatory behavior, as harmonic functions naturally capture these characteristics. The method discretizes the solution domain into a set of grid points, and the derivatives of the unknown function at these points are approximated as weighted sums of the function values at other grid points. The key to HDQM's efficiency lies in the determination of these weight coefficients, which are derived from the properties of the chosen harmonic basis functions. By leveraging the orthogonality and periodicity of these functions, HDQM can achieve high accuracy with relatively few grid points, leading to reduced computational cost compared to other numerical methods like the finite element method. Furthermore, HDQM is particularly well-suited for problems with complex geometries and boundary conditions, as it can handle non-uniform grid distributions and incorporate various types of boundary conditions effectively. The method's ability to accurately approximate derivatives, even at high orders, makes it a powerful tool for solving eigenvalue problems, nonlinear differential equations, and dynamic analysis problems, providing a balance between accuracy, efficiency, and versatility. For

the purpose of demonstrating the approximation procedure within the harmonic differential quadrature method (HDQM) using a one-dimensional function, the subsequent relation defines the p -th derivative of $\mathcal{F}(\varnothing)$ in terms of \varnothing :

$$\frac{\partial^p \mathcal{F}(\varnothing)}{\partial \varnothing^p} = \sum_{j=1}^N G_{ij}^{(p)} \mathcal{F}(\varnothing) \tag{18}$$

For $i = 1, 2, \dots, N_\varnothing$ and $p = 1, 2, \dots, N_\varnothing - 1$

In this context, N_\varnothing signifies the total count of discrete grid points employed within the solution domain. The symbol $G_{ij}^{(p)}$ represents the weight coefficients, with j ranging from 1 to N_\varnothing , associated with the i th grid point in the solution domain. To calculate the weight coefficients for first-order derivatives, $G_{ij}^{(1)}$, when i is not equal to j , the following relation is used:

$$G_{ij}^{(1)} = \frac{\pi P(\varnothing_i)}{2P(\varnothing_j) \sin[(\varnothing_i - \varnothing_j)/2\pi]}, i, j = 1, 2, \dots, N_\varnothing \tag{19}$$

here

$$P(\varnothing_i) = \prod_{j=1, j \neq i}^{N_\varnothing} \sin\left(\frac{\pi(\varnothing_i - \varnothing_j)}{2}\right), \text{ for } j = 1, 2, 3, \dots, N_\varnothing \tag{20}$$

To determine the weight coefficients for the first-order derivatives, $G_{ij}^{(1)}$, in the case where i equals j , the following relation is used:

$$G_{ii}^{(1)} = - \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^{N_\varnothing} G_{ij}^{(1)}, \text{ for } i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, N_\varnothing \tag{21}$$

For the determination of the weight coefficients for the second-order derivatives, $G_{ij}^{(2)}$, when $i \neq j$, the following relation is employed:

$$G_{ij}^{(2)} = G_{ij}^{(1)} \left(2G_{ij}^{(1)} - \pi \cot\left(\frac{\varnothing_i - \varnothing_j}{2} \times \pi\right) \right), i, j = 1, 2, 3, \dots, N_\varnothing \tag{22}$$

For the determination of the weight coefficients (Dai *et al.* 2023b, Gu *et al.* 2023, Li *et al.* 2023, Lu *et al.* 2023a, b, Ma *et al.* 2023, Peng *et al.* 2023, Sabzevari *et al.* 2023, Shariati *et al.* 2023, Tang *et al.* 2023, Wang *et al.* 2023b, Yang *et al.* 2023, Zhang *et al.* 2023a, b, c, 2024a, d, Zhao *et al.* 2023, Zheng *et al.* 2023, Guo *et al.* 2024, Liang *et al.* 2024, Song *et al.* 2024, Xiao *et al.* 2024, Yin *et al.* 2024, Yu *et al.* 2024, Zisong and Habibi 2024) for the second-order derivatives, $G_{ij}^{(2)}$, when $i = j$, the following relation is employed:

$$G_{ii}^{(2)} = - \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^{N_\varnothing} G_{ij}^{(2)}, \text{ for } i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, N_\varnothing \tag{23}$$

The Chebyshev–Gauss–Lobatto grid distribution was chosen for its desirable convergence properties. The Chebyshev–Gauss–Lobatto (CGL) grid distribution is a powerful and widely utilized technique in numerical analysis, particularly within spectral methods and differential quadrature methods, for its exceptional

convergence properties and ability to minimize Runge’s phenomenon. Unlike uniform grid distributions, which can lead to oscillations and instability, especially when approximating high-order polynomials or functions with sharp gradients, the CGL grid strategically places nodes according to the roots of Chebyshev polynomials. This distribution concentrates grid points near the boundaries of the domain, where higher resolution is often required to accurately capture boundary layers or rapid changes in function behavior. Specifically, the CGL grid points are defined as the extrema of the n -th order Chebyshev polynomial, effectively clustering nodes at the endpoints of the interval $[-1, 1]$ and gradually spacing them out towards the center. This non-uniform distribution not only enhances accuracy but also improves the stability of numerical solutions, particularly for problems involving oscillatory solutions or high-frequency components. Furthermore, the CGL grid’s inherent connection to orthogonal polynomials facilitates efficient computation of derivatives and integrals, making it a valuable tool for solving differential equations and performing spectral analysis. In essence, the Chebyshev–Gauss–Lobatto grid distribution offers a robust and accurate approach to discretizing continuous domains, enabling the efficient and reliable solution of complex numerical problems across various scientific and engineering disciplines. The coordinates of the grid points, $(\varnothing_i, \theta_j)$, on the reference surface are then computed using the following equation:

$$\varnothing_i = \varnothing_0 + \frac{\varnothing}{2} \left(1 - \cos\left(\frac{(i-1)}{(N_\varnothing-1)}\pi\right) \right) \tag{24}$$

$i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, N_\varnothing$

$$\theta_j = \theta_0 + \frac{\theta}{2} \left(1 - \cos\left(\frac{(j-1)}{(N_\theta-1)}\pi\right) \right) \tag{25}$$

$j = 1, 2, 3, \dots, N_\theta$

The displacement field expressions are given as below,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{R}_0(\varnothing, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) &= \mathfrak{S}_0(\varnothing, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) = a_0(\varnothing, \theta) \exp(iL\mathfrak{Y}), & \mathfrak{b}_0(\varnothing, \theta) \exp(iL\mathfrak{Y}), \\ \mathfrak{I}_0(\varnothing, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) &= \mathfrak{R}_1(\varnothing, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) = c_0(\varnothing, \theta) \exp(iL\mathfrak{Y}), & a_1(\varnothing, \theta) \exp(iL\mathfrak{Y}), \\ \mathfrak{S}_1(\varnothing, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) &= \mathfrak{I}_1(\varnothing, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) = b_1(\varnothing, \theta) \exp(iL\mathfrak{Y}), & c_1(\varnothing, \theta) \exp(iL\mathfrak{Y}), \\ \mathfrak{R}_2(\varnothing, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) &= \mathfrak{S}_2(\varnothing, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) = a_2(\varnothing, \theta) \exp(iL\mathfrak{Y}), & b_2(\varnothing, \theta) \exp(iL\mathfrak{Y}), \\ \mathfrak{I}_2(\varnothing, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) &= \mathfrak{R}_3(\varnothing, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) = c_2(\varnothing, \theta) \exp(iL\mathfrak{Y}), & a_3(\varnothing, \theta) \exp(iL\mathfrak{Y}), \\ \mathfrak{S}_3(\varnothing, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) &= \mathfrak{I}_3(\varnothing, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) = b_3(\varnothing, \theta) \exp(iL\mathfrak{Y}), & c_3(\varnothing, \theta) \exp(iL\mathfrak{Y}), \\ \mathfrak{R}_4(\varnothing, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) &= \mathfrak{S}_4(\varnothing, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) = a_4(\varnothing, \theta) \exp(iL\mathfrak{Y}), & b_4(\varnothing, \theta) \exp(iL\mathfrak{Y}), \\ \mathfrak{I}_4(\varnothing, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) &= \mathfrak{R}_5(\varnothing, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) = \end{aligned} \tag{26}$$

$$c_4(\varnothing, \theta) \exp(iL\mathfrak{Y}), \quad a_5(\varnothing, \theta) \exp(iL\mathfrak{Y}),$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{S}_5(\varnothing, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) = & \quad \mathfrak{T}_5(\varnothing, \theta, \mathfrak{Y}) \\ b_5(\varnothing, \theta) \exp(iL\mathfrak{Y}), & \quad = c_5(\varnothing, \theta) \exp(iL\mathfrak{Y}). \end{aligned}$$

Substitution of Eqs. (15), (18), and (26) into Eqs. (16a-r)

$$\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{M}_{dd} & \mathcal{M}_{db} \\ \mathcal{M}_{bd} & \mathcal{M}_{bb} \end{bmatrix} \mathcal{L}^2 + \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{K}_{dd} & \mathcal{K}_{db} \\ \mathcal{K}_{bd} & \mathcal{K}_{bb} \end{bmatrix} \right\} \begin{Bmatrix} \mathfrak{E}_d \\ \mathfrak{E}_b \end{Bmatrix} = 0 \quad (27)$$

By solving Eq. (27), the natural frequency of the system can be achieved.

4. Numerical results and discussion

4.1 Materiel properties

Table 1 details the material properties for the constituent components of the volleyball ball, including the graphene oxide powder (GOP) reinforcement and the epoxy (resin) matrix, as well as the composite ball itself. These values are adopted from Reference (Zhang *et al.* 2020).

4.2 Validation

The new material and method presented in the current study need to be verified by comparing to the results of other studies in the similar structure and loading conditions. In this regard, the problem of vibrational behavior evaluation from Liu *et al.* (2021a). The results are presented for two different parameter variation namely the mode number of vibration and the GOP distribution patterns. It is seen that the current method provides similar results to the selected reference which validate our methodology. On the other hand, different variation in pattern of GOP results in different natural frequency of the volleyball shell structure which will be discussed in next sections in details along with several other parameters.

4.3 Parametric study

In this segment, we delve into the intricate relationship between various parameters and configurations within the nanocomposite shell of the volleyball, focusing on their influence on the structure's natural frequency. Fig. 2 presents a comparative study of layer count effects across different GOP configurations. For the GOP-X configuration, a clear correlation emerges: increasing the number of layers initially produces a substantial rise in natural frequency. However, this effect plateaus at higher layer counts, indicating a diminishing return on additional layering. This observation suggests that the GOP-X configuration's dynamic stiffness is primarily influenced by the initial layering, with subsequent additions providing marginal improvements. In stark contrast, the GOP-O configuration displays an inverse relationship, highlighting the sensitivity of this configuration to layer count variations. Interestingly, the uniform GOP distribution proves to be immune to changes in layer count, maintaining a consistent natural frequency. This comparative analysis reveals the critical interplay between GOP distribution and layer count in

Table 1 The properties of GOPs, polymer, and ball

Polymer epoxy (matrix)	ball	GOPs
$v_m = 0.42$	$m_b (gr) = 260$	$v_{GOP} = 0.165$
$\varepsilon_m (Mpa) = 25$	$\varnothing_i = 10 [deg]$	$\rho_{GOP} \left(\frac{kg}{m^3}\right) = 1090$
	$\varnothing_o = 170 [deg]$	$\varepsilon_{GOP} (Gpa) = 444.8$
		$d_{GOP} (nm) = 500$
		$h_{GOP} (nm) = 0.95$

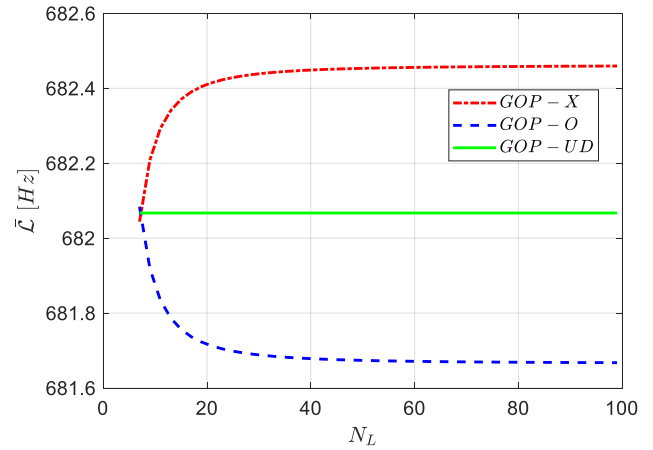


Fig. 2 Effect of GOP-distribution pattern and number of layers on the natural frequency of volleyball ball

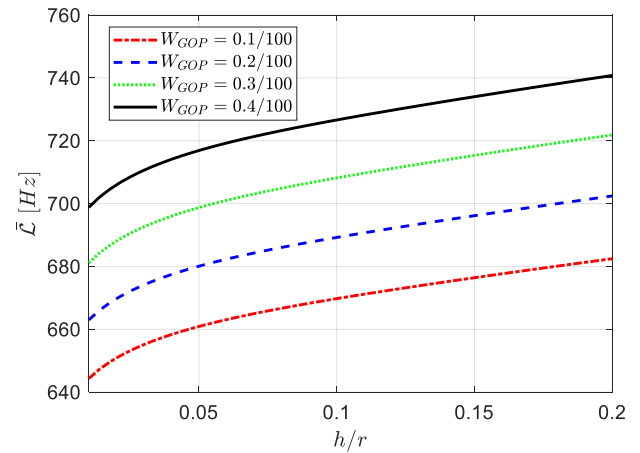


Fig. 3 Effect of h/r aspect ratio and W_{GOP} on the natural frequency of volleyball ball

determining the dynamic response of the nanocomposite shell.

Fig. 3 presents the parametric analysis of the nanocomposite shell's fundamental natural frequency as a function of the thickness-to-radius ratio, denoted as h/R , and the weight fraction of graphene oxide powders (GOPs), denoted as w . The results indicate a monotonic increase in the natural frequency with increasing h/R across all considered GOP weight fractions. This behavior is attributed to the direct relationship between the shell's stiffness matrix and its thickness. Furthermore, the introduction of GOPs, characterized by their high Young's modulus, leads to an increase in the composite's effective

Table 2 Frequency parameter of the composite spherical shell

Mode number	Epoxy		GPL-UD		GPL-X		GPL-O	
	Ref. (Liu <i>et al.</i> 2021a)	Present	Ref. (Liu <i>et al.</i> 2021a)	Present	Ref. (Liu <i>et al.</i> 2021a)	Present	Ref. (Liu <i>et al.</i> 2021a)	Present
1	19.2432	19.2361	40.0892	40.0045	29.6019	29.5891	43.7133	43.6901
2	1.1613	1.1601	2.4194	2.4012	2.4203	2.4117	2.4196	2.4032
3	1.8362	1.8351	3.8253	3.8212	3.8263	3.8215	3.8251	3.8182
4	2.4635	2.4602	5.1322	5.1310	5.1324	5.1301	5.1309	5.1292

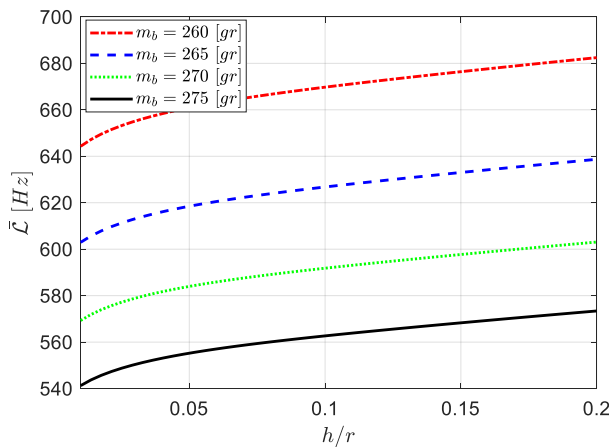


Fig. 4 Effect of total mass of the ball m_b and h/r on the natural frequency of volleyball ball

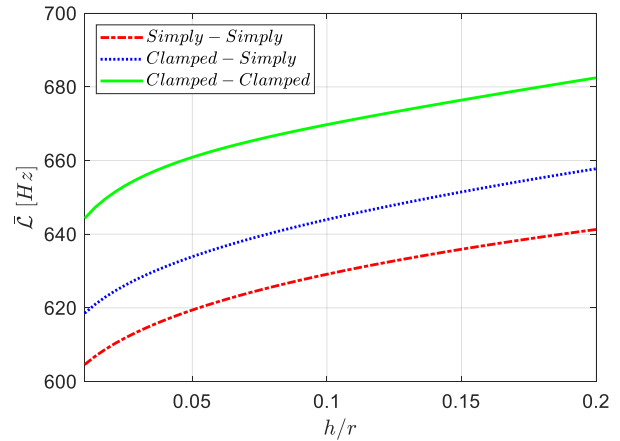


Fig. 6 Effect of boundary condition and h/r on the natural frequency of volleyball ball

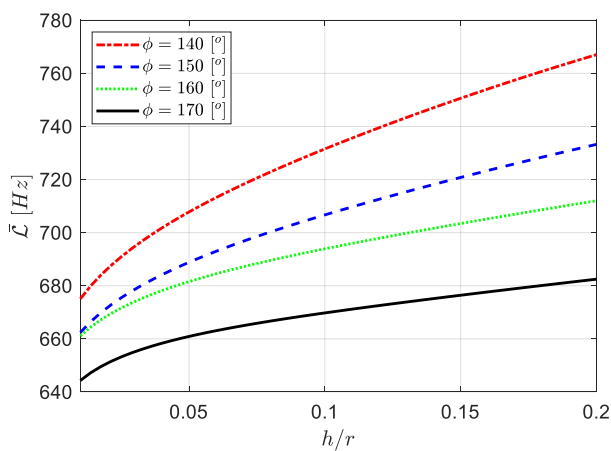


Fig. 5 Effect of angle ϕ and h/r on the natural frequency of volleyball ball

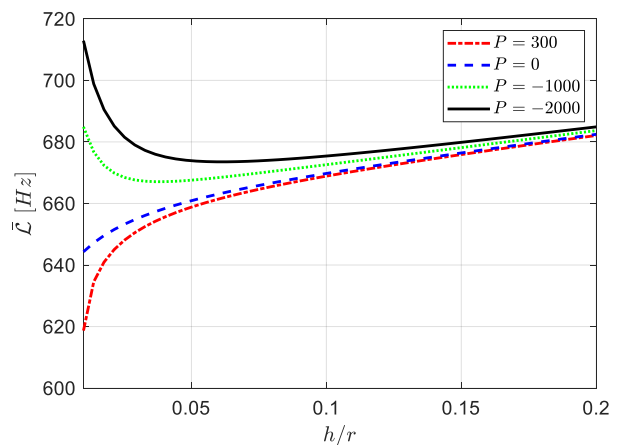


Fig. 7 Effect of parameter P and h/r on the natural frequency of volleyball ball

modulus, thereby elevating the natural frequency. The data suggests a synergistic effect of both geometric and material parameters on the dynamic characteristics of the shell.

The dynamic response of the spherical shell model, specifically the natural frequency, is shown to be dependent on the total mass (m) of the volleyball, as illustrated in Fig. 4 for varying thicknesses (h). An increase in mass, maintaining constant geometric parameters, results in a decrease in material density, consequently leading to a reduction in the natural frequency. This behavior is consistent with the inverse proportionality between mass/density and natural frequency within dynamic systems. Furthermore, the effect of the thickness-to-radius aspect

ratio (h/R) on the natural frequency, as depicted in Fig. 4, demonstrates a trend analogous to that observed in Fig. 3, reinforcing the influence of geometric parameters on the system's dynamic characteristics.

Increase in angle ϕ in general decreases the natural frequency of the structure for all thickness values as seen in Fig. 5. However, the degree of increase is different ϕ s is based on the thickness and the value of the angle ϕ . In low angles, the gradient of increase in the natural frequency is higher than other angle values.

The state of boundary condition could be determinative in calculating the natural frequency of the structure as demonstrated in Fig. 6. In this Figure, change in the boundary condition alters the state of natural frequency in

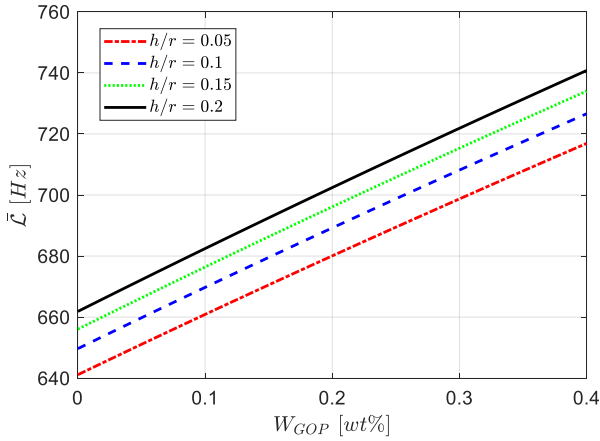


Fig. 8 Effect of W_{GOP} and h/r on the natural frequency of volleyball ball

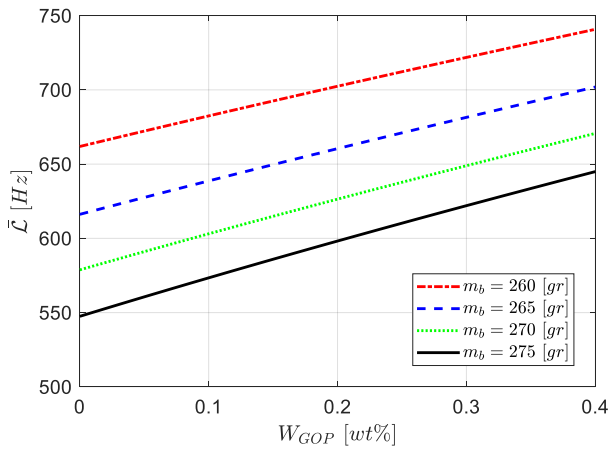


Fig. 9 Effect of total mass of the ball m_b and W_{GOP} on the natural frequency of volleyball ball

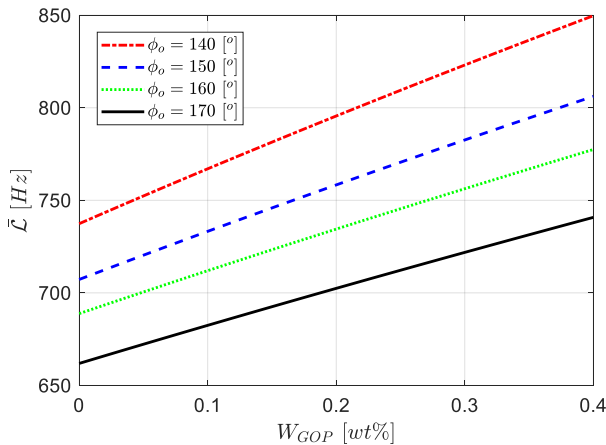


Fig. 10 Effect of angle ϕ_0 and W_{GOP} on the natural frequency of volleyball ball

different values of h/r . The simply supported boundary condition has the smallest natural frequency among other boundary conditions for a constant value of thickness to radius ratio. In addition, highest frequency values correspond to the clamped boundary condition.

In all above parametric studies it was assumed that the internal pressure of the ball is equal to ambient pressure.

However, in reality the pressure inside the ball is positive. Variation in internal pressure of the ball changes the natural frequency value of the structure as shown in Fig. 7. It is seen that change in parameter P from positive values to negative values considerably alters the behavior of frequency curves. In positive and zero values of parameter P , the natural frequency increase monotonically for all values of h/r . However, in negative values the behavior of the natural frequency changes as in low values of the h/r the natural frequency decreases as h/r increases. In each parameter P there could be seen a turning point in the curves in which the natural frequency begins to rise. All the curves converges and coincides at high value of thickness to radius ratio.

Simultaneous effects of h/r aspect ratio and weight fraction of GOP are depicted in Fig. 8. Similar to Fig. 3, increase in both of these parameters results in increase in the natural frequency of the structure. However, one important feature of the present graph is the semi-linear change in the natural frequency due to change in the weight fraction of the GOP which could not be deduced from Fig. 3.

The linear rise of natural frequency as a result of increase in weight fraction of GOP is also observed in Fig. 9 for different values of ball mass m_b . Higher ball masses results in lower values of natural frequency as seen in this Figure.

Simultaneous effects of angle ϕ and weight fraction of GOP are depicted in Fig. 10. Similar to Fig. 3, increase in W_{GOP} parameter results in increase in the natural frequency of the structure. However, one important feature of the present graph is decrease in the natural frequency of the structure with increase in angle ϕ_0 from 140° to 170° .

5. Discussion

The observations of the natural frequency in engineering materials and spherical structures could not be easily generalized to balls in sport. One important feature of ball mechanics in a game in the large deformation they endure in contrast to the small deformations in the other structures. On the other hand, effect of internal pressure is disregarded in most calculations where it has an influential role in determining vibration and other mechanical properties of the balls. One another differences between ball and other engineering structures are the loading condition and state of boundary conditions. The loading in the balls are mostly in the form impact loading and there are no detectable boundary conditions in a free ball. Therefore, in the analyses, some tricks have to be adopted to apply boundary conditions in mechanical analyses of the balls in sports. Zhang and Yu (2012) experimentally examined the condition of buckling in ping-pong balls using both quasi-static and impact loading conditions. The state of buckling as well as the mode shape of buckling during several tests were measured and simulated. The numerical simulations were similar to the experimental results in the condition of incorporating viscoelasticity properties of the ball. The dynamic buckling condition of sport balls with different materials and thicknesses were examined by Cross (Cross 2014). In another experimental examination of buckling

condition in the ping-pong balls, Rémond *et al.* (2022) found that initiation of buckling occurs when deflection of the shell exceeds twice the thickness of the ball in both quasi-static and dynamic loadings. Moreover, they found that the most energy dissipation in the ball impact is due to friction energy loss. Asai *et al.* (2007) considered instability of ball in the air due to aerodynamic forces. They observed some phenomena in the air flow around soccer ball which were different from other balls with smooth and non-smooth surface conditions. Therefore, it is important that the ball sport to be investigated in their own context to find about their mechanical behavior and also to aid designers to design balls that less affect the performance of individual players.

Furthermore, the inherent material anisotropy and heterogeneity present in sports balls, particularly those constructed from layered nanocomposites, introduce complexities not typically encountered in traditional engineering structures. The fabrication processes, often involving molding and bonding, can lead to variations in material properties across the ball's surface and through its thickness. This non-uniformity significantly impacts the ball's dynamic response, particularly under impact loading. Unlike homogeneous engineering materials, where properties are assumed to be consistent, sports balls exhibit a gradient of stiffness and damping characteristics. This gradient influences the propagation of stress waves and the resulting vibrational modes, making accurate prediction challenging. Therefore, advanced computational models, such as those incorporating finite element analysis with detailed material characterization, are essential to capture these nuances and provide a more realistic representation of ball behavior. Additionally, the viscoelastic nature of the materials used in sports balls, which is often temperature-dependent, further complicates the analysis. These factors must be considered to accurately predict the performance of a sports ball under varying environmental and playing conditions.

Moreover, the interaction between the ball and the playing surface or the player's hand introduces further complexities that are often overlooked in conventional engineering analyses. The coefficient of restitution, which dictates the energy loss during impact, is highly dependent on the surface properties of both the ball and the contact surface. Surface roughness, material compliance, and impact velocity all play crucial roles in determining the rebound characteristics. For example, the spin imparted on a ball during impact significantly alters its trajectory due to the Magnus effect, a phenomenon that is highly sensitive to the ball's surface texture and aerodynamic properties. Additionally, the human factor, including the variability in hand-ball contact and the subjective perception of ball feel, adds another layer of complexity. The tactile feedback perceived by the player is influenced by the ball's surface texture, stiffness, and damping characteristics, which in turn affects their performance. Consequently, the development of sports balls requires a multidisciplinary approach that integrates material science, biomechanics, and fluid dynamics, as well as considering the player's sensory experience. This holistic approach ensures that the design of sports balls not only optimizes performance but also enhances the player's comfort and control.

6. Conclusions

In this study, we successfully modeled and analyzed the vibrational response of a graphene oxide-reinforced volleyball subjected to impact loading. By employing Hamilton's principle and spherical shell coordinates, we derived and solved the governing equations using the generalized differential quadrature (GDQ) method and analytical approaches. Our analysis revealed a critical relationship between the ball's radius and its dynamic stability, demonstrating that variations in radius significantly alter vibrational characteristics. Furthermore, we established that increased ball mass, independent of size, enhances stability upon ground impact, indicating improved resistance to deformation and vibration. These findings provide a quantitative framework for optimizing volleyball design by elucidating the complex interplay between material reinforcement, geometry, and impact dynamics. Ultimately, this research facilitates the development of volleyballs with superior stability and performance. The main results of this work are:

- Higher ball masses results in lower values of natural frequency.
- Variation in internal pressure of the ball changes the natural frequency value of the structure
- Increase in the thickness of ball shell causes increase in the natural frequency of the structure

The natural frequency rises linearly as a result of increase in weight fraction of GOP

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