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Ultrasound propagation in trabecular bone: a numerical study of the influence of microcracks

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Abstract: The accumulation of microdamage in trabecular bone tissue is suspected of being a predictive indicator of osteoporosis diagnosis. To quantify this microdamage, the Dynamic AcoustoElastic Testing (DAET) method measures the time of flight (TOF) and amplitude variations of transmitted ultrasound (US) pulses, while the bone sample is submitted to a low frequency sinusoidal hydrostatic pressure (opening/closing of microcracks). However, DAET is both sensitive to viscoelastic properties changes and microcracks density. To verify the microcracks density contribution on DAET results, a numerical approach is proposed. Multiple configurations of microdamaged trabecular bone-tissue-like mesh have been simulated. A 2D pseudo-spectral time domain numerical model was then developed to simulate linear wave propagation in heterogeneous solids. The influence of the microcracks and compared with experimental data obtained from DAET measurements in trabecular bone samples.

Keywords: pseudo-spectral time-domain (PSTD) method; trabecular bone; dynamic acoustoelasticity; microcracks.

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