

Viscoelastic Structural Damper — Transient Analysis

The model studies the forced response of a typical viscoelastic damper. Damping elements involving layers of viscoelastic materials are often used for reduction of seismic and wind induced vibrations in buildings and other tall structures. The common feature is that the frequency of the forced vibrations is low.

Model Definition

The geometry of the viscoelastic damper is shown in Figure 1 (from Ref. 1). The damper consists of two layers of viscoelastic material confined between mounting elements made of steel.

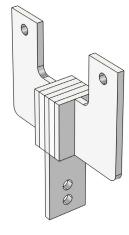
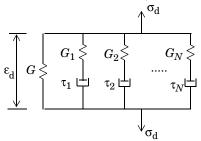


Figure 1: Viscoelastic damping element.

The viscoelastic layers are modeled with the generalized Maxwell model available in COMSOL Multiphysics. The generalized Maxwell model represents the viscoelastic material as a series of branches, each with a spring-dashpot pair.



Eighteen viscoelastic branches guarantee the accurate representation of the material behavior for different excitation frequencies, when the damper is subjected to forced vibration. The values of the shear moduli and relaxation times for each branch are available in Ref. 1. They are summarized in the following table:

TABLE I: MODEL DATA FOR THE VISCOELASTIC DAMPER MODEL.

PROPERTY	VALUE	DESCRIPTION		
K	40 GPa	Bulk modulus		
${\it G}$	58.6 kPa	Long time shear modulus		
ρ	1.06 g/cm ³	Density		
G_1	13.3 MPa	Shear modulus, branch I		
τ_1	10 ⁻⁷ s	Relaxation time, branch I		
G_2	286 MPa	Shear modulus, branch 2		
τ_2	10 ⁻⁶ s	Relaxation time, branch 2		
G_3	291 MPa	Shear modulus, branch 3		
τ_3	3.16·10 ⁻⁶ s	Relaxation time, branch 3		
G_4	212 MPa	Shear modulus, branch 4		
τ_4	10 ⁻⁵ s	Relaxation time, branch 4		
G_5	112 MPa	Shear modulus, branch 5		
τ_5	3.16·10 ⁻⁵ s	Relaxation time, branch 5		
G_6	61.6 MPa	Shear modulus, branch 6		
τ_6	10 ⁻⁴ s	Relaxation time, branch 6		
G_7	29.8 MPa	Shear modulus, branch 7		
τ_7	3.16·10 ⁻⁴ s	Relaxation time, branch 7		
G_8	16.1 MPa	Shear modulus, branch 8		
τ_8	10 ⁻³ s	Relaxation time, branch 8		
G_9	7.83 MPa	Shear modulus, branch 9		
τ_9	3.16·10 ⁻³ s	Relaxation time, branch 9		
G_{10}	4.15 MPa	Shear modulus, branch 10		
τ ₁₀	10 ⁻² s	Relaxation time, branch 10		
G_{11}	2.03 MPa	Shear modulus, branch 11		
τ ₁₁	3.16·10 ⁻² s	Relaxation time, branch 11		
G_{12}	I.II MPa	Shear modulus, branch 12		
τ_{12}	0.1 s	Relaxation time, branch 12		
G_{13}	0.491 MPa	Shear modulus, branch 13		

TABLE I: MODEL DATA FOR THE VISCOELASTIC DAMPER MODEL.

PROPERTY	VALUE	DESCRIPTION	
τ_{13}	0.316 s	Relaxation time, branch 13	
G_{14}	0.326 MPa	Shear modulus, branch 14	
τ_{14}	l s	Relaxation time, branch 14	
G_{15}	8.25·10 ⁻² MPa	Shear modulus, branch 15	
τ_{15}	3.16 s	Relaxation time, branch 15	
G_{16}	0.126 MPa	Shear modulus, branch 16	
τ_{16}	10 s	Relaxation time, branch 16	
G_{17}	3.73·10 ⁻² MPa	Shear modulus, branch 17	
τ_{17}	100 s	Relaxation time, branch 17	
G_{18}	1.18·10 ⁻² MPa	Shear modulus, branch 18	
τ_{18}	1000 s	Relaxation time, branch 18	

One of the mounting elements is fixed; the other two are loaded with periodic forces with a frequency of 3 Hz.

Some viscoelastic branches may relax much faster or much slower than the time scale of the excitation period. In such cases the corresponding dashpots may be considered to be either fully relaxed or rigid. These branches may then be removed and instead grouped into equivalent branches. This reduction of the number of individual branches, or "pruning", is beneficial because each branch adds auxiliary strain variables that need to be solved for in a time-dependent study. Therefore, including a large number of branches may increase the computational cost unnecessarily as some of the branches may have no significant effect on the results. Excluding branches which do not contribute in a relevant way given a range of the excitation frequency is described in more detail in the theory chapter of the user's guide: Structural Mechanics Module> User's Guide> Structural Mechanics Theory > Material Models > Linear Viscoelasticity.

Figure 2 shows the results of the transient computations after three seconds of forced vibrations.

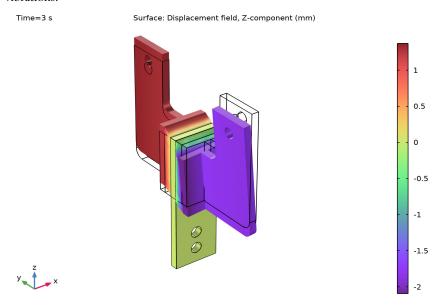


Figure 2: Displacement field.

The typical viscoelastic hysteresis loops for a point within one of the mounting elements are shown in Figure 3. The hysteresis loops are plotted for the cases when including all 18 viscoelastic branches and when pruning some of the branches. In the latter case effectively only 6 branches are solved for. The case with pruning shows only a small difference when compared to the solution including all branches; however, the pruned case has a significantly lower computation time. In both time-dependent cases the solutions converge to the response obtained by a frequency-domain analysis.

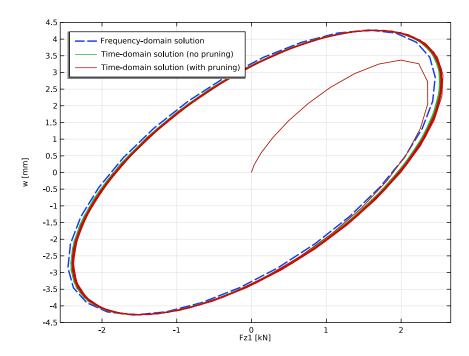


Figure 3: Displacement vs. applied force.

Notes About the COMSOL Implementation

The damper is excited with a harmonic load at 3 Hz. Not all branches listed in Table 1 contribute in a significant way, and may therefore be "pruned" with a corresponding setting in the Viscoelasticity node of the model. The pruning is done automatically and only requires to enter cut-off frequencies; that is, frequencies deemed not relevant given the load frequency. To show the difference in results as well as in computation cost, two studies will be set up; one including all viscoelastic branches and the other with pruning enabled. The latter study has a lower computational cost as fewer auxiliary variables need to solved for.

References

1. S.W. Park "Analytical Modeling of Viscoelastic Dampers for Structural and Vibration Control," Int. J. Solids and Structures, vol. 38, pp. 694-701, 2001.

2. K.L. Shen and T.T. Soong, "Modeling of Viscoelastic Dampers for Structural Applications," *J. Eng. Mech.*, vol. 121, pp. 694–701, 1995.

Application Library path: Structural_Mechanics_Module/ Dynamics_and_Vibration/viscoelastic_damper_transient

Modeling Instructions

From the File menu, choose New.

NEW

In the New window, click Model Wizard.

MODEL WIZARD

- I In the Model Wizard window, click **1** 3D.
- 2 In the Select Physics tree, select Structural Mechanics>Solid Mechanics (solid).
- 3 Click Add.
- 4 Click Study.
- 5 In the Select Study tree, select General Studies>Time Dependent.
- 6 Click **Done**.

GEOMETRY I

Import the predefined geometry from a file.

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click Insert Sequence and choose Insert Sequence.
- **2** Browse to the model's Application Libraries folder and double-click the file viscoelastic damper geom sequence.mph.

The imported geometry should look similar to that shown in Figure 1.

SOLID MECHANICS (SOLID)

Linear Elastic Material 2

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl) right-click
 Solid Mechanics (solid) and choose Material Models>Linear Elastic Material.
- 2 In the Settings window for Linear Elastic Material, locate the Linear Elastic Material section.

- 3 From the Specify list, choose Bulk modulus and shear modulus.
- 4 From the Use mixed formulation list, choose Pressure formulation.

The local computations at Gauss points during assembly are expensive for the viscoelasticity model. Using a reduced integration scheme will reduce the overall simulation time.

- 5 Locate the Quadrature Settings section. Select the Reduced integration check box.
- **6** Select Domains 2 and 5 only.

Viscoelasticity (No Pruning)

- I In the Physics toolbar, click 🕞 Attributes and choose Viscoelasticity.
- 2 In the Settings window for Viscoelasticity, type Viscoelasticity (No Pruning) in the Label text field.

Since there are 18 branches in this material model, the data has been collected in a text file which you can load.

- **3** Locate the **Viscoelasticity Model** section. Click to select row number 1 in the table.
- 4 Click Delete.
- 5 Click **Load from File**.
- 6 Browse to the model's Application Libraries folder and double-click the file viscoelastic_damper_viscoelastic_data.txt.

Viscoelasticity (With Pruning)

- I Right-click Viscoelasticity (No Pruning) and choose Duplicate.
- 2 In the Settings window for Viscoelasticity, type Viscoelasticity (With Pruning) in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Viscoelasticity Model section. Select the Prune viscoelastic branches check box.
- **4** In the f_{lower} text field, type 0.3.
- **5** In the f_{upper} text field, type 30.

ADD MATERIAL

- I In the Home toolbar, click Radd Material to open the Add Material window.
- 2 Go to the Add Material window.
- 3 In the tree, select Built-in>Steel AISI 4340.
- 4 Click Add to Component in the window toolbar.

MATERIALS

Viscoelastic

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl) right-click Materials and choose Blank Material.
- 2 In the Settings window for Material, type Viscoelastic in the Label text field.
- **3** Select Domains 2 and 5 only.
- **4** Locate the **Material Contents** section. In the table, enter the following settings:

Property	Variable	Value	Unit	Property group
Bulk modulus	K	4e8	N/m²	Bulk modulus and shear modulus
Shear modulus	G	5.86e4	N/m²	Bulk modulus and shear modulus
Density	rho	1060	kg/m³	Basic

- 5 In the Home toolbar, click 4 Add Material to close the Add Material window.
- 6 In the Settings window for Materials, in the Graphics window toolbar, click ▼ next to Colors, then choose Show Material Color and Texture.

DEFINITIONS

Ramp I (rm I)

- I In the **Home** toolbar, click f **Functions** and choose **Local>Ramp**.

 Create a ramp function to apply the loads smoothly.
- 2 In the Settings window for Ramp, locate the Parameters section.
- 3 In the Location text field, type 0.02[s].
- 4 In the Slope text field, type 10.
- **5** Click to expand the **Smoothing** section.
- **6** Select the **Size of transition zone at start** check box. In the associated text field, type 0.01.
- 7 Locate the Parameters section. Select the Cutoff check box.
- **8** Locate the **Smoothing** section.
- 9 Select the Size of transition zone at cutoff check box. In the associated text field, type 0.01.

SOLID MECHANICS (SOLID)

Fixed Constraint 1

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose **Fixed Constraint**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Fixed Constraint, locate the Boundary Selection section.
- 3 From the Selection list, choose Bottom Holes.

Prescribed Displacement I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose **Prescribed Displacement**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Prescribed Displacement, locate the Boundary Selection section.
- 3 From the Selection list, choose Right Hole.
- 4 Locate the Prescribed Displacement section. Select the Prescribed in x direction check box.
- 5 Select the Prescribed in y direction check box.

Boundary Load 1

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose **Boundary Load**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Boundary Load, locate the Boundary Selection section.
- 3 From the Selection list, choose Right Hole.
- **4** Locate the **Force** section. Specify the \mathbf{F}_{A} vector as

0	x
0	у
8.5[MPa]*sin(pi/2+2*pi*t*3[Hz])*rm1(t)	z

Prescribed Displacement 2

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose **Prescribed Displacement**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Prescribed Displacement, locate the Boundary Selection section.
- 3 From the Selection list, choose Left Hole.
- 4 Locate the Prescribed Displacement section. Select the Prescribed in y direction check box.

Boundary Load 2

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose **Boundary Load**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Boundary Load, locate the Boundary Selection section.

- 3 From the Selection list, choose Left Hole.
- **4** Locate the **Force** section. Specify the \mathbf{F}_A vector as

0.5[MPa]*sin(2*pi*t*3[Hz])*rm1(t)	
0	у
8.5[MPa]*sin(2*pi*t*3[Hz])*rm1(t)	z

DEFINITIONS

Set up a nonlocal integration coupling to compute the total force applied to one of the mounting holes. You configure the integration to be performed in the material frame, because this is the frame used within the Solid Mechanics interface.

Integration I (intopl)

- I In the Definitions toolbar, click / Nonlocal Couplings and choose Integration.
- 2 In the Settings window for Integration, locate the Advanced section.
- 3 From the Frame list, choose Material (X, Y, Z).
- 4 Locate the Source Selection section. From the Geometric entity level list, choose Boundary.
- 5 From the Selection list, choose Left Hole.

Variables 1

- I In the **Definitions** toolbar, click **a= Local Variables**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Variables, locate the Variables section.
- **3** In the table, enter the following settings:

Name	Expression	Unit	Description
Fz1	intop1(solid.FperAreaz)	N	Total force, Z component

MESH I

Free Quad I

- I In the Mesh toolbar, click A Boundary and choose Free Quad.
- 2 Select Boundary 30 only.

Size 1

- I Right-click Free Quad I and choose Size.
- 2 In the Settings window for Size, locate the Element Size section.
- 3 From the Predefined list, choose Finer.

Distribution I

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click Free Quad I and choose Distribution.
- **2** Select Edge 65 only.

Swebt I

- I In the Mesh toolbar, click A Swept.
- 2 In the Settings window for Swept, locate the Domain Selection section.
- 3 From the Geometric entity level list, choose Domain.
- **4** Select Domain 7 only.

Distribution I

- I Right-click Swept I and choose Distribution.
- 2 In the Settings window for Distribution, locate the Distribution section.
- 3 In the Number of elements text field, type 2.

Free Quad 2

- I In the Mesh toolbar, click A Boundary and choose Free Quad.
- 2 Select Boundaries 2 and 61 only.

Size 1

- I Right-click Free Quad 2 and choose Size.
- 2 In the Settings window for Size, locate the Element Size section.
- **3** From the **Predefined** list, choose **Fine**.

Swept 2

- I In the Mesh toolbar, click A Swept.
- 2 In the Settings window for Swept, locate the Domain Selection section.
- 3 From the Geometric entity level list, choose Domain.
- **4** Select Domains 1, 2, and 4 only.

Distribution I

- I Right-click Swept 2 and choose Distribution.
- 2 In the Settings window for Distribution, locate the Distribution section.
- 3 In the Number of elements text field, type 2.

Copy Domain I

I In the Model Builder window, right-click Mesh I and choose Copying Operations> Copy Domain.

- 2 Select Domains 1, 2, and 7 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Copy Domain, locate the Destination Domains section.
- **4** Click to select the **Activate Selection** toggle button.
- **5** Select Domains 5, 6, and 8 only.

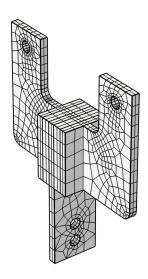
Free Quad 3

- I In the Mesh toolbar, click A Boundary and choose Free Quad.
- **2** Select Boundary 10 only.

Swebt 3

- I In the Mesh toolbar, click A Swept.
- 2 In the Settings window for Swept, click Build All.

 The complete mesh should look similar to that shown in the figure below.





STUDY I: NO PRUNING

- I In the Model Builder window, click Study I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Study, type Study 1: No Pruning in the Label text field.

Step 1: Time Dependent

I In the Model Builder window, under Study I: No Pruning click Step I: Time Dependent.

- 2 In the Settings window for Time Dependent, locate the Study Settings section.
- 3 In the Output times text field, type range (0, 0.01, 3).
- 4 Locate the Physics and Variables Selection section. Select the Modify model configuration for study step check box.
- 5 In the tree, select Component I (compl)>Solid Mechanics (solid)> Linear Elastic Material 2>Viscoelasticity (With Pruning).
- 6 Right-click and choose Disable.

Solution I (soll)

- 2 In the Model Builder window, expand the Solution I (soll) node.
- 3 In the Model Builder window, expand the Study I: No Pruning>Solver Configurations> Solution I (soll)>Dependent Variables I node, then click Auxiliary pressure (compl.solid.lemm2.pw).
- 4 In the Settings window for Field, locate the Scaling section.
- 5 From the Method list, choose Manual.
- 6 In the Scale text field, type 1e6. Excluding algebraic error estimates allows the solver to take larger time steps.
- 7 In the Model Builder window, under Study I: No Pruning>Solver Configurations> Solution I (soll) click Time-Dependent Solver I.
- 8 In the Settings window for Time-Dependent Solver, click to expand the Time Stepping section.
- 9 Find the Algebraic variable settings subsection. From the Error estimation list, choose Exclude algebraic.

RESULTS

Before computing the solution, set up a displacement plot that will be displayed and updated after every time step of the transient analysis.

Displacement (No Pruning)

- I In the Home toolbar, click **Add Plot Group** and choose **3D Plot Group**.
- 2 In the Settings window for 3D Plot Group, type Displacement (No Pruning) in the Label text field.

Surface I

I Right-click Displacement (No Pruning) and choose Surface.

- 2 In the Settings window for Surface, click Replace Expression in the upper-right corner of the Expression section. From the menu, choose Component I (compl)>Solid Mechanics> Displacement>Displacement field m>w Displacement field, Z-component.
- 3 Locate the Coloring and Style section. Click Change Color Table.
- 4 In the Color Table dialog box, select Rainbow>SpectrumLight in the tree.
- 5 Click OK.

Deformation I

Right-click Surface I and choose Deformation.

STUDY I: NO PRUNING

Step 1: Time Dependent

- I In the **Settings** window for **Time Dependent**, click to expand the **Results While Solving** section.
- 2 Select the **Plot** check box.

Solution I (soll)

In the Model Builder window, under Study 1: No Pruning>Solver Configurations right-click Solution 1 (soll) and choose Compute.

RESULTS

The computed solution should closely resemble that shown in Figure 2.

To plot the displacement vs. applied force, follow these steps:

Table I

- I In the **Results** toolbar, click **Table**. Import the frequency domain solution.
- 2 In the Settings window for Table, locate the Data section.
- 3 Click Import.
- **4** Browse to the model's Application Libraries folder and double-click the file viscoelastic_damper_frequency_solution.txt.

Hysteresis Loops

- I In the Results toolbar, click \sim ID Plot Group.
- 2 In the Settings window for ID Plot Group, type Hysteresis Loops in the Label text field.
- 3 Click to expand the **Title** section. From the **Title type** list, choose **None**.

- 4 Locate the Plot Settings section.
- 5 Select the x-axis label check box. In the associated text field, type Fz1 [kN].
- **6** Select the **y-axis label** check box. In the associated text field, type w [mm].

Table Graph 1

- I Right-click Hysteresis Loops and choose Table Graph.
- 2 In the Settings window for Table Graph, locate the Coloring and Style section.
- **3** Find the **Line style** subsection. From the **Line** list, choose **Dashed**.
- **4** From the **Width** list, choose **2**.
- **5** Click to expand the **Legends** section. Select the **Show legends** check box.
- 6 From the Legends list, choose Manual.
- **7** In the table, enter the following settings:

Legends Frequency-domain solution

Point Graph I

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click Hysteresis Loops and choose Point Graph.
- **2** Select Point 25 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Point Graph, locate the x-Axis Data section.
- 4 From the Parameter list, choose Expression.
- 5 Click Replace Expression in the upper-right corner of the x-Axis Data section. From the menu, choose Component I (compl)>Solid Mechanics>Displacement>Displacement field m>w - Displacement field, Z-component.
- 6 Locate the y-Axis Data section. In the Expression text field, type Fz1.
- 7 From the Unit list, choose kN.
- 8 Click to expand the **Legends** section. Select the **Show legends** check box.
- 9 From the Legends list, choose Manual.
- **10** In the table, enter the following settings:

Legends Time-domain solution (no pruning)

Hysteresis Loops

- I In the Model Builder window, click Hysteresis Loops.
- 2 In the Settings window for ID Plot Group, locate the Legend section.

- 3 From the Position list, choose Upper left.
- 4 In the Hysteresis Loops toolbar, click Plot.

ADD STUDY

- I In the Home toolbar, click Add Study to open the Add Study window.
- 2 Go to the Add Study window.
- 3 Find the Studies subsection. In the Select Study tree, select General Studies> Time Dependent.
- 4 Click Add Study in the window toolbar.
- 5 In the Home toolbar, click Add Study to close the Add Study window.

STUDY 2: WITH PRUNING

- I In the Model Builder window, click Study 2.
- 2 In the Settings window for Study, type Study 2: With Pruning in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Study Settings section. Clear the Generate default plots check box.

Step 1: Time Dependent

- I In the Model Builder window, under Study 2: With Pruning click Step I: Time Dependent.
- 2 In the Settings window for Time Dependent, locate the Study Settings section.
- 3 In the Output times text field, type range (0, 0.01, 3).
- 4 Locate the Physics and Variables Selection section. Select the Modify model configuration for study step check box.
- 5 In the tree, select Component I (compl)>Solid Mechanics (solid)> Linear Elastic Material 2>Viscoelasticity (No Pruning).
- 6 Right-click and choose Disable.

Solution 2 (sol2)

- 2 In the Model Builder window, expand the Solution 2 (sol2) node.
- 3 In the Model Builder window, expand the Study 2: With Pruning>Solver Configurations> Solution 2 (sol2)>Dependent Variables 1 node, then click Auxiliary pressure (comp1.solid.lemm2.pw).
- 4 In the Settings window for Field, locate the Scaling section.
- 5 From the Method list, choose Manual.
- 6 In the Scale text field, type 1e6.

- 7 In the Model Builder window, under Study 2: With Pruning>Solver Configurations> Solution 2 (sol2) click Time-Dependent Solver I.
- 8 In the Settings window for Time-Dependent Solver, locate the Time Stepping section.
- 9 Find the Algebraic variable settings subsection. From the Error estimation list, choose Exclude algebraic.
- 10 In the Model Builder window, right-click Solution 2 (sol2) and choose Compute.

RESULTS

Point Graph 2

- I In the Model Builder window, under Results>Hysteresis Loops right-click Point Graph I and choose Duplicate.
- 2 In the Settings window for Point Graph, locate the Data section.
- 3 From the Dataset list, choose Study 2: With Pruning/Solution 2 (sol2).
- **4** Locate the **Legends** section. In the table, enter the following settings:

Legends Time-domain solution (with pruning)

5 In the Hysteresis Loops toolbar, click **Plot**.