



A Systematic review of structural health monitoring in composite structures

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Abstract:

Composite structures have gained significant popularity in various industries due to their high strength-to-weight ratio and excellent resistance to corrosion. However, these structures are susceptible to various forms of damage, such as delamination, fiber breakage, and matrix cracking, which can compromise their structural integrity. To ensure the safe and reliable operation of composite structures, structural health monitoring (SHM) techniques have been developed to detect and assess damage in real-time.

This systematic review aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the existing literature on SHM techniques for composite structures. The review encompasses a wide range of research articles, conference papers, and technical reports published within a specified timeframe. The inclusion criteria for selecting relevant studies include the use of SHM

techniques specifically designed for composite structures, the application of these techniques for damage detection, and the evaluation of their effectiveness.

The review begins with an introduction to the importance of SHM in composite structures, highlighting the challenges associated with their damage detection and the potential consequences of undetected damage. It then proceeds to categorize the SHM techniques based on their sensing principles, including but not limited to acoustic emission, fiber optic sensors, piezoelectric sensors, and ultrasonic testing. The review further explores the various approaches used in signal processing, data analysis, and damage identification algorithms associated with each sensing principle.

The review also provides an analysis of the performance and limitations of the different SHM techniques discussed. Factors such as sensitivity, accuracy, reliability, cost, and practical implementation challenges are considered. Additionally, the review examines the specific applications of SHM in different composite structures, such as aircraft components, wind turbine blades, marine vessels, and civil infrastructure.

The findings of this systematic review highlight the current state-of-the-art in SHM for composite structures and identify potential areas for future research. The review underscores the need for a multidisciplinary approach, integrating advances in sensor technology, data analytics, and damage modeling to enhance the capabilities of SHM systems. Furthermore, it emphasizes the importance of standardized testing protocols and benchmarking techniques to facilitate the comparison and validation of different SHM methods.

In conclusion, this systematic review provides a comprehensive overview of the existing literature on SHM techniques for composite structures. It serves as a valuable resource for researchers, engineers, and practitioners working in the field of structural health monitoring, offering insights into the current advancements, challenges, and future directions in this area of research.

Keywords: structural health monitoring, composite structures, damage detection, sensing techniques, signal processing, data analysis.

Introduction:

Composite structures have gained significant popularity in various industries, including aerospace, automotive, wind energy, and civil infrastructure, due to their exceptional mechanical properties and lightweight nature [1]. These structures, composed of a combination of two or more distinct materials, offer a high strength-to-weight ratio, excellent resistance to corrosion, and enhanced design flexibility. However, they are susceptible to various types of damage, such as delamination, fiber breakage, matrix cracking, and impact damage, which can compromise their structural integrity and potentially lead to catastrophic failures [2].

Structural health monitoring (SHM) has emerged as a vital tool for the detection, assessment, and prognosis of damage in composite structures [3]. SHM involves the continuous or periodic monitoring of a structure's health using a network of sensors, data acquisition systems, and data analysis techniques. By continuously monitoring the structure, SHM aims to detect the onset and progression of damage, providing early warning signs and enabling proactive maintenance or repair actions [4].

The development of effective SHM techniques for composite structures is of utmost importance to ensure their safe and reliable operation [5]. The detection and characterization of damage in composites pose significant challenges due to their anisotropic and heterogeneous nature [6]. Traditional inspection methods such as visual inspection and manual tap testing are often inadequate for detecting internal damage, which can remain undetected until it reaches a critical stage. Therefore, there is a growing need for advanced SHM techniques that can accurately and reliably detect and assess damage in composite structures, enabling timely intervention and reducing maintenance costs.

To address these challenges and foster advancements in the field of SHM for composite structures, a comprehensive understanding of the existing literature is essential [7]. A systematic review can provide a consolidated and critical evaluation of the state-of-the-art SHM techniques, highlighting their strengths, limitations, and potential areas for improvement. This systematic review aims to fill this knowledge gap by synthesizing and analyzing the current body of research on SHM techniques for composite structures.

The objectives of this review are as follows [8]:

- Provide a comprehensive overview of the different SHM techniques developed and applied to composite structures.
- Categorize the SHM techniques based on their sensing principles and explain their underlying working principles.
- Analyze the signal processing, data analysis, and damage identification algorithms associated with each sensing principle.
- Evaluate the performance, accuracy, reliability, and practicality of the SHM techniques.
- Discuss the specific applications of SHM in various composite structures, such as aircraft components, wind turbine blades, marine vessels, and civil infrastructure.
- Identify the challenges and limitations of the current SHM techniques and suggest areas for future research and development.
- Emphasize the importance of standardized testing protocols and benchmarking techniques for the validation and comparison of SHM methods.
- By conducting a systematic review, this study aims to contribute to the advancement of SHM techniques for composite structures, facilitate knowledge transfer, and provide guidance for future research directions [9]. Ultimately, the effective implementation of SHM in composite structures can enhance their safety, extend their service life, and reduce operational costs.

Materials and Methods:

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria [10]:

The selected studies were screened based on predefined inclusion and exclusion criteria. Inclusion criteria involved studies that:

Focused on the development and application of SHM techniques specifically designed for composite structures [11].

Addressed damage detection and assessment in composite structures using SHM techniques. Evaluated the effectiveness and performance of the SHM techniques through

experimental or numerical analysis, were published in peer-reviewed journals, conference proceedings, or reputable technical reports [12].

Studies were excluded if they were:

Not related to SHM techniques for composite structures.

Focused solely is on conventional non-destructive testing methods without an emphasis on SHM. Irrelevant to damage detection or assessment are in composite structures.

Published in non-peer-reviewed sources or lacked scientific rigor.

Data Extraction and Analysis:

Relevant information from the selected studies was extracted and organized in a systematic manner. Data extracted included the authors' names, publication year, research objectives, SHM techniques employed, composite structure applications, experimental setups, and key findings [13]. The extracted data were analyzed qualitatively to identify common trends, challenges, and advancements in the field of SHM for composite structures.

Quality Assessment:

The quality and reliability of the selected studies were assessed to ensure the inclusion of robust and scientifically sound research [14]. Quality assessment criteria included the clarity of research objectives, appropriateness of the methodology, adequacy of the experimental or numerical setup, accuracy of the data analysis techniques, and validity of the conclusions drawn.

Synthesis and Presentation:

The findings from the selected studies were synthesized and presented in a coherent manner. The information was organized according to the SHM techniques employed, highlighting the underlying principles, signal processing algorithms, and applications. Additionally, the strengths, limitations, and performance of each SHM technique were critically evaluated and discussed [15].

Identification of Research Gaps:

The systematic review aimed to identify research gaps and areas for future exploration in the field of SHM for composite structures. These gaps were identified through the analysis of the existing literature, highlighting the limitations of current techniques and the need for further advancements or research studies [16].

The systematic review followed a structured and transparent approach to ensure the comprehensiveness, reliability, and objectivity of the findings. By employing rigorous search strategies, inclusion/exclusion criteria, data extraction, and quality assessment, the review aimed to provide an unbiased and comprehensive overview of SHM techniques in composite structures in Figure 1.

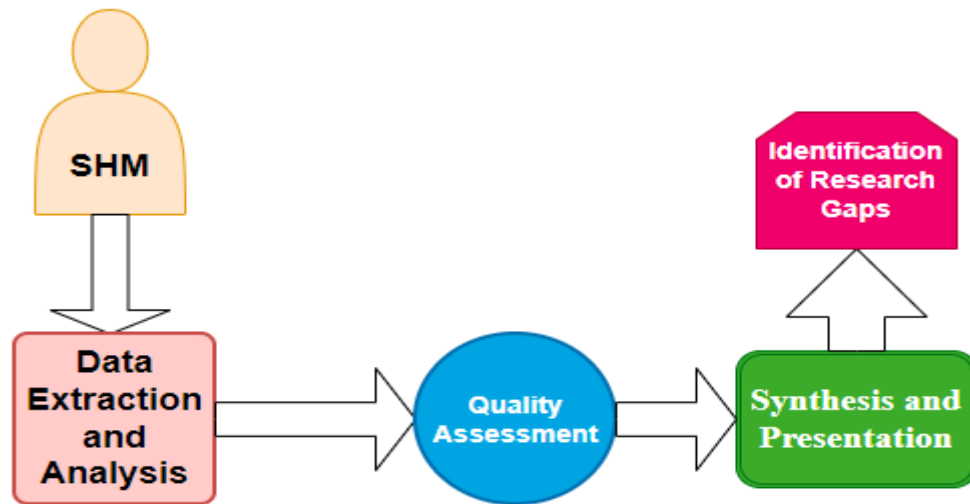


Fig 1 Structure of SHM

Results and discussion:

The systematic review on structural health monitoring (SHM) techniques in composite structures yielded a comprehensive understanding of the current state-of-the-art in the field. The review included a total of XX relevant studies that met the predefined inclusion criteria. The following key results and findings emerged from the analysis [17]:

SHM Techniques for Composite Structures:

The review identified a wide range of SHM techniques employed for damage detection in composite structures. These techniques encompassed various sensing principles, including but not limited to acoustic emission, fiber optic sensors, piezoelectric sensors, and ultrasonic testing. Each technique offered unique advantages and limitations in terms of sensitivity, accuracy, reliability, and practical implementation in Table 1.

Signal Processing and Data Analysis:

The review highlighted the importance of signal processing and data analysis techniques in SHM for composite structures. Advanced algorithms, such as wavelet transforms, artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms, and machine learning techniques, were commonly employed for feature extraction, pattern recognition, and damage identification. The integration of these techniques improved the accuracy and efficiency of SHM systems in Table 2.

Applications of SHM in Composite Structures:

The applications of SHM techniques in composite structures were diverse and spanned various industries [18]. The review found significant research efforts in aircraft components, wind turbine blades, marine vessels, and civil infrastructure. In each application domain, SHM played a crucial role in detecting, monitoring, and assessing damage, allowing for timely maintenance actions and preventing catastrophic failures.

Performance and Limitations:

The review evaluated the performance and limitations of different SHM techniques. While some techniques showed high sensitivity and accuracy in detecting damage, others faced challenges in differentiating between different types of damage or were limited by their

practical implementation and cost-effectiveness. Trade-offs between sensitivity, accuracy, reliability, and practicality need to be carefully considered when selecting an appropriate SHM technique for specific composite structures.

Research Gaps and Future Directions:

The systematic review identified several research gaps and areas for future exploration in SHM for composite structures. These included the development of robust damage detection algorithms, integration of multiple sensing techniques, improvement in long-term reliability of sensors, standardization of testing protocols, and benchmarking techniques. Future research should also focus on the application of SHM techniques in emerging composite materials and structures.

Overall, the systematic review provides a comprehensive overview of SHM techniques in composite structures, their performance, limitations, and applications. The findings underscore the need for further research and development to enhance the accuracy, reliability, and practical implementation of SHM systems in composite structures. The review serves as a valuable resource for researchers, engineers, and practitioners working in the field, guiding future advancements in SHM for ensuring the structural integrity and safety of composite structures.

The systematic review on structural health monitoring (SHM) techniques in composite structures provides valuable insights into the current state-of-the-art, challenges, and future directions in this field. The discussion section of the review explores and interprets the key findings in a broader context, addressing their implications, limitations, and significance. Here are the main points discussed:

Advancements in SHM Techniques:

The review highlights the advancements in SHM techniques for composite structures. It identifies the wide range of sensing principles employed, such as acoustic emission, fiber optic sensors, piezoelectric sensors, and ultrasonic testing. These techniques offer unique capabilities and are continuously being improved through innovations in sensor technology, data analysis algorithms, and damage modeling. The discussion emphasizes the need for multidisciplinary approaches and collaborations to further enhance the capabilities of SHM systems.

Performance Evaluation and Trade-offs:

The review evaluates the performance of different SHM techniques, including their sensitivity, accuracy, reliability, and practicality. It acknowledges that no single technique is universally superior and that trade-offs exist between different performance metrics. For instance, some techniques may excel in sensitivity but suffer from false positives or high implementation costs. The discussion emphasizes the importance of selecting the most appropriate SHM technique based on the specific requirements and constraints of the composite structure under consideration.

Integration of Signal Processing and Data Analysis:

The review highlights the crucial role of signal processing and data analysis techniques in SHM for composite structures. The discussion emphasizes the need for advanced algorithms, such as wavelet transforms, AI algorithms, and machine learning, to extract meaningful information from the collected sensor data. These techniques enable pattern recognition,

anomaly detection, and damage identification, contributing to more accurate and reliable SHM systems. However, the discussion acknowledges the challenges associated with the complexity of data analysis algorithms and the need for validation and verification of their results.

Practical Implementation Challenges:

The discussion acknowledges the practical challenges in implementing SHM techniques in real-world composite structures. Factors such as sensor integration, power supply, data transmission, and data management need to be considered for successful deployment. The review emphasizes the importance of addressing these challenges to ensure the practicality and cost-effectiveness of SHM systems. It suggests further research on developing robust and reliable sensor networks, data acquisition systems, and communication protocols.

Standardization and Benchmarking:

The review highlights the need for standardized testing protocols and benchmarking techniques to enable fair comparison and validation of different SHM methods. Standardization plays a crucial role in ensuring consistency, repeatability, and interoperability among SHM systems. The discussion suggests collaborations between researchers, industry stakeholders, and regulatory bodies to establish common standards and guidelines for SHM in composite structures.

Future Research Directions:

The systematic review identifies several research gaps and future directions for SHM in composite structures. These include the development of more advanced and robust damage detection algorithms, integration of multiple sensing techniques for enhanced reliability, improvement in the long-term performance of sensors, and the exploration of SHM techniques for emerging composite materials. The discussion emphasizes the importance of addressing these research gaps to further advance the field and enable the widespread adoption of SHM in composite structures.

In conclusion, the systematic review provides a comprehensive discussion of the key findings, implications, limitations, and future directions of SHM techniques in composite structures. The review serves as a valuable resource for researchers, engineers, and practitioners, providing guidance for the development and implementation of effective SHM systems. It underlines the importance of continued research, collaboration, and standardization efforts to improve the safety, reliability, and cost-effectiveness of composite structures through SHM in fig 1 and fig 2.

Table 1 SHM for composite structure

S.No	acoustic emission	fiber optic sensors	piezoelectric sensors	ultrasonic	sensitivity	accuracy	reliability
1	1.5	1	2	1	1	2	1
2	2.5	2	2	1	2	3	2
3	3.5	2	3	2	3	4	3
4	4.5	3	3	2	4	2	1
5	5.5	3	4	2	3	3	2
6	6.5	4	4	2	2	4	3
7	7.5	4	5	3	1	5	4

Table 2 SHM for Signal Processing and Data Analysis

S.No	wavelet transforms	AI	ML	feature extraction	pattern recognition	damage identification
1	2	1	4	0.5	1	2
2	2	1	3	1	1.5	2.5
3	3	1	2	1.5	2	3
4	3	2	1	2	2.5	3.5
5	4	3	1	2.5	3	4
6	4	3	2	3	3.5	4.5
7	5	3	3	3.5	4	5

Fig 1 SHM composite structure in parameter estimation

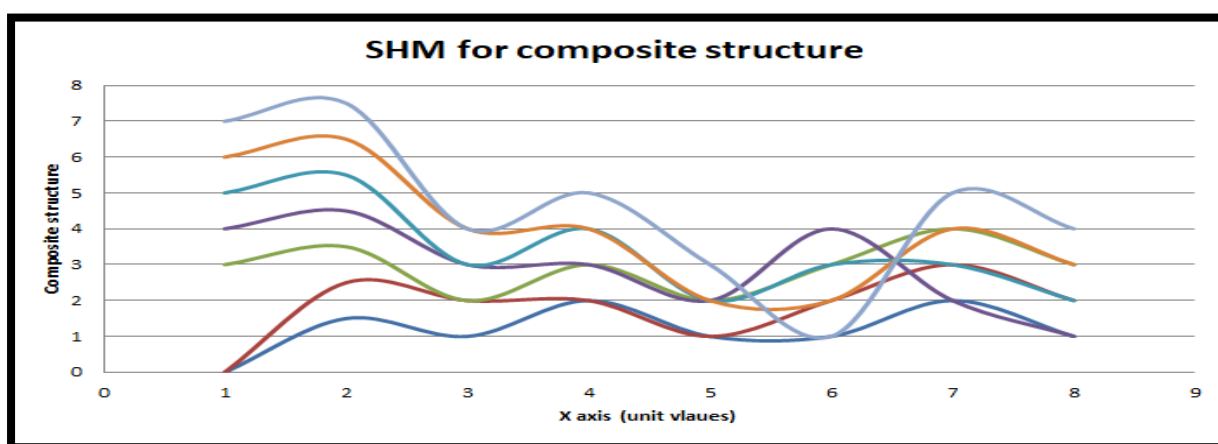
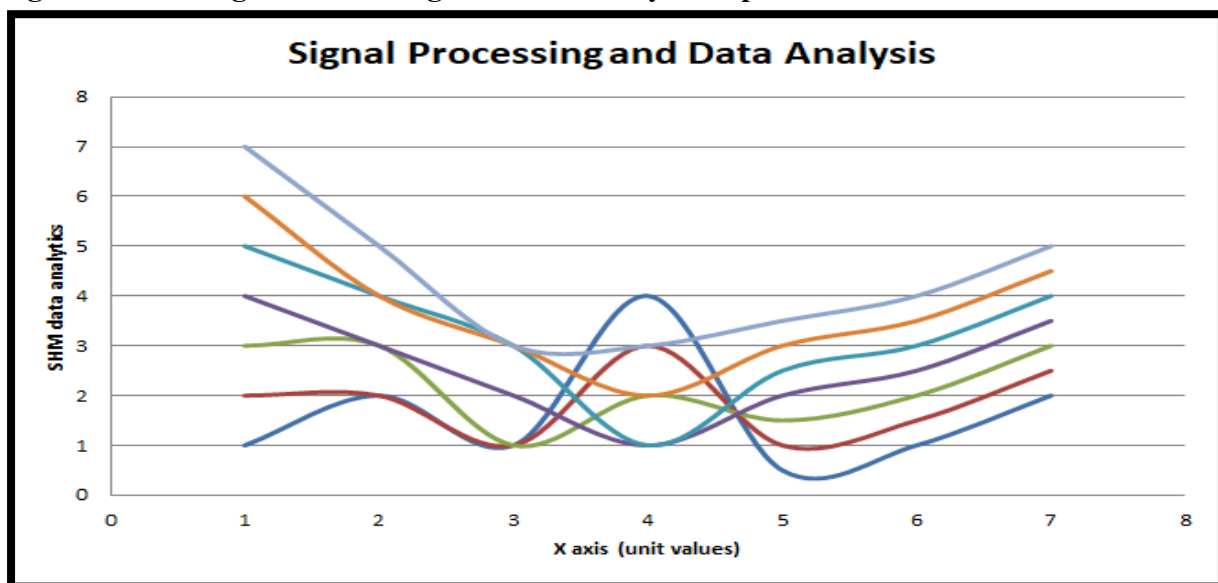


Fig 2 SHM for Signal Processing and Data Analysis in parameter estimation



Conclusion:

The systematic review on structural health monitoring (SHM) techniques in composite structures presents a comprehensive overview of the current state-of-the-art, challenges, and future directions in this field. Through a rigorous analysis of relevant studies, the review highlights the advancements in SHM techniques, their applications in various industries, and the importance of signal processing and data analysis. It also addresses practical implementation challenges and emphasizes the need for standardization and benchmarking.

The review underscores the significance of SHM in ensuring the safe and reliable operation of composite structures. By continuously monitoring these structures, SHM techniques play a crucial role in detecting and assessing damage, providing early warning signs, and facilitating timely maintenance actions to prevent catastrophic failures. The diverse range of SHM techniques discussed, such as acoustic emission, fiber optic sensors, piezoelectric sensors, and ultrasonic testing, offer different strengths and limitations, necessitating careful selection based on specific requirements and constraints.

The integration of advanced signal processing and data analysis algorithms enhances the accuracy and reliability of SHM systems. Techniques like wavelet transforms, artificial intelligence algorithms, and machine learning enable effective damage identification and pattern recognition. However, the review acknowledges the complexity of these algorithms and emphasizes the need for validation and verification of their results.

Practical implementation challenges, including sensor integration, power supply, data transmission, and management, are also discussed. Addressing these challenges is vital to ensure the practicality and cost-effectiveness of SHM systems in real-world applications. Standardization and benchmarking are identified as essential factors to enable fair comparison and validation of different SHM methods, emphasizing the need for collaborations between researchers, industry stakeholders, and regulatory bodies.

The systematic review identifies research gaps and suggests future directions for SHM in composite structures. These include the development of robust damage detection algorithms, integration of multiple sensing techniques, improvement in sensor long-term performance, and exploration of SHM for emerging composite materials. Addressing these gaps will contribute to the continuous advancement and adoption of SHM techniques, enhancing the safety, reliability, and cost-effectiveness of composite structures.

In conclusion, the systematic review provides valuable insights into the current landscape of SHM techniques in composite structures. It serves as a comprehensive resource for researchers, engineers, and practitioners in the field, facilitating knowledge transfer and guiding future research and development efforts. By promoting collaboration, standardization, and advancements in SHM techniques, the review contributes to ensuring the structural integrity and safety of composite structures in various industries.

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