

Sep 17th, 12:00 AM - Sep 19th, 12:00 AM

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Jaejong Park

Alok Sutradhar

The Ohio State University, sutradhar.1@osu.edu

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Recommended Citation

Park, J., & Sutradhar, A. (2018). Design of Tunable Architected Metamaterials for Biomedical Applications. In T. Siegmund & F. Barthelat (Eds.) *Proceedings of the IUTAM Symposium Architected Materials Mechanics, September 17-19, 2018*, Chicago, IL: Purdue University Libraries Scholarly Publishing Services, 2018. <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/iutam/presentations/abstracts/57>

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Design of Tunable Architected Metamaterials for Biomedical Applications

Jaejong Park¹, and Alok Sutradhar¹

⁽¹⁾ Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, The Ohio State University, 201 W. 19th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43210, park.975@osu.edu, sutradhar.1@osu.edu

KEYWORDS:

Topology optimization, Implant, Metamaterial

The design of medical implants involves multiscale consideration. The structure in macro level needs to satisfy the space, functional, aesthetic and load-transfer requirements. Additional considerations of stress-shielding and localized stress-concentrations to improve the effectiveness and functionality can be increased using architected metamaterials. For example, the mechanical properties of the bone implants and their adjacent bone need to be similar to reduce these effects. Topology optimization is a numerical tool that is suitable for obtaining optimized geometries under several constraints. Earlier efforts used inverse homogenization technique to attain the microstructures of scaffold geometries. These equivalent material model would be valid when there is a significant dimensional difference between the large and the small scales. With recent advances, 3D printing of multiscale multi-material structures is realizable. We present an approach to design tunable architected metamaterials for implants which may alleviate localized stress-concentration and stress-shielding. We develop a topology optimization framework to design the architecture materials in different scales which varies smoothly within the design domain. The preliminary study shows easy control in connectivity and provides more topological variability. The metamaterial implant models designed using the methodology in this work are 3D printed, and their performance is studied using mechanical testing.

Acknowledgments

This research was partially funded by the National Science Foundation No. 1521801. The opinions, findings, and conclusion stated herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of sponsors.