

A Mass Conservative Mesoscopic Drying Model

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Queensland University of Technology Brisbane Australia



- 1. Structure of softwood
- 2. Computational Mesoscopic Drying Model
 - Transport equations
 - Mesh generation
 - Spatial discretisation
 - Novel strategy: Jacobian-free Exponential Euler Method (EEM)



2D board cross-sections

- 3. Mass-conservative formulation
 - Partitions the moisture content field over the individual sub-control volumes surrounding each node within the mesh
- 4. Results: Mass-conservative versus Existing formulation
- 5. Conclusions

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Structure of Softwood



Earlywood Tracheid¹



Electron Microscope Image

Structure of Softwood



Latewood Tracheid¹



Electron Microscope Image

¹J. F. Siau (1984)

Structure of Softwood



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Electron Microscope Image



Observable scale

¹J. F. Siau (1984)

Mesoscopic Drying Model: TransPore (State Variables: X, T and $\overline{\rho}_a = \epsilon_g \rho_a)^2$

• Liquid conservation

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Big(\rho_0(\boldsymbol{x}) X + \epsilon_{\rm g} \rho_{\rm v} \Big) + \nabla \cdot \Big(\rho_{\rm w} \boldsymbol{v}_{\rm w} + \rho_{\rm v} \boldsymbol{v}_{\rm g} + \overline{\rho_{\rm b} \boldsymbol{v}_{\rm b}} \Big) \\ &= \nabla \cdot \Big(\rho_g \mathbf{D}_{\rm eff} \nabla \omega_{\rm v} \Big) \end{aligned}$$

• Air conservation

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Big(\epsilon_{\rm g} \rho_{\rm a} \Big) + \nabla \cdot \Big(\rho_{\rm a} \boldsymbol{v}_{\rm g} \Big) = \nabla \cdot \Big(\rho_{\rm g} \mathbf{D}_{\rm eff} \nabla \omega_{\rm a} \Big)$$



Representative Elementary Volume

• Energy conservation

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Big(\rho_0(\mathbf{x}) \big(Xh_{\rm w} + h_{\rm s} \big) + \epsilon_{\rm g} \big(\rho_{\rm v} h_{\rm v} + \rho_{\rm a} h_{\rm a} \big) &- \int_0^{\overline{\rho}_{\rm b}} \Delta h_{\rm w} \, d\rho - \epsilon_{\rm g} P_{\rm g} \Big) \\ + \nabla \cdot \Big(\rho_{\rm w} h_{\rm w} v_{\rm w} + \big(\rho_{\rm v} h_{\rm v} + \rho_{\rm a} h_{\rm a} \big) v_{\rm g} + h_{\rm b} \rho_0 \mathbf{D}_{\rm b} \nabla X_{\rm b} \Big) \\ &= \nabla \cdot \Big(\rho_{\rm g} \mathbf{D}_{\rm eff} \big(h_{\rm v} \nabla \omega_{\rm v} + h_{\rm v} \nabla \omega_{\rm a} \big) + \mathbf{K}_{\rm eff} \nabla T \Big) \end{aligned}$$

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Mesh generation

Geometric description of Porous Medium - MeshPore³,

Boards

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Control-Volume Finite-Element (CV-FE) method



Conservation equation

Liquid, Air and Energy conservation laws:

$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} + \boldsymbol{\nabla} \cdot \boldsymbol{q} = 0$$

Discrete conservation equations

For each control volume p in the mesh:

$$\frac{d\psi_p}{dt} + \frac{1}{V_p} \sum_{j=1}^{\mathrm{Nf}_p} (\boldsymbol{q} \cdot \boldsymbol{n})_j A_j \approx 0,$$

Triangular Mesh

with Nf_p boundary faces.

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Control Volume Mesh

Jacobian-free Exponential Euler Method (EEM)

Advancement of drying system achieved using second-order accurate time-stepping formula $^4\colon$

$$\begin{split} & \frac{d\boldsymbol{u}}{dt} = \mathbf{g}(\boldsymbol{u}); \qquad \boldsymbol{u}(0) = \boldsymbol{u}_0 \\ & \frac{d\boldsymbol{u}}{dt} \approx \mathbf{g}(\boldsymbol{u}_n) + \mathbf{J}(\boldsymbol{u}_n)(\boldsymbol{u} - \boldsymbol{u}_n) \\ & \boldsymbol{u}_{n+1} \approx \boldsymbol{u}_n + \mathbf{J}(\boldsymbol{u}_n)^{-1}(e^{\delta t \mathbf{J}(\boldsymbol{u}_n)} - \mathbf{I})\mathbf{g}(\boldsymbol{u}_n) \end{split}$$

• Krylov subspace methods⁴ used to effectively approximate the matrix-function vector product:

$$\varphi(\mathbf{A})\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{A}^{-1}(e^{\mathbf{A}} - \mathbf{I})\mathbf{b}; \qquad \mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$$

• Our implementation⁵ results in a speed-up of between 20%-40% on classical Newton approaches





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Temperature (Wet-bulb)	45	$(^{\circ}C)$
Temperature (Dry-bulb)	60	$(^{\circ}C)$
Average Moisture (Initial)	170	(%)
Air velocity	2	(ms^{-1})
Heat transfer coefficient	15	$({\rm Wm^{-2}K^{-1}})$
Mass transfer coefficient	0.015	(ms^{-1})

Quartersawn board



Virtual board



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Existing formulation of TransPore

Interpolate at each node in the mesh using a area-weighted average of the NSCV $_p$ surrounding densities:

 $\rho_{0}(\boldsymbol{x}_{p}) = \frac{\sum\limits_{i=1}^{\text{NSCV}_{p}} \rho_{0}^{(i)} V_{p}^{(i)}}{\sum\limits_{i=1}^{\text{NSCV}_{p}} V_{p}^{(i)}}$



Mass-conservative formulation

Partition the moisture content across the sub-control volumes $(X_p > X_{fsp})$:

$$P_{\rm c}(\rho_0^{(i)}, S_{\rm w}^{(i)}, T_p) = P_{\rm c}^{\rm eqm}; \qquad \frac{\sum\limits_{i=1}^{\rm NSCV_p} \rho_{\rm w} \phi^{(i)} S_{\rm w}^{(i)} V_p^{(i)}}{\sum\limits_{i=1}^{\rm NSCV_p} \rho_0^{(i)} V_p^{(i)}} = X_p - X_{\rm fsp}$$

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Results



Mass-conservative: Coarse mesh (1163 elements)



Results





Two improvements to the mesoscopic modelling approach:

$1. \ \ {\rm Jacobian-free \ \ Exponential \ \ Euler \ Method}$

- Avoids forming the Jacobian
- Results in a 20%-40% improvement in simulation times

2. Mass-conservative formulation

- Better accounted for the rapid spatial variation within a growth ring
- Allows for higher moisture peaks in earlywood and lower moisture zones in latewood to be correctly captured
- Relaxes the requirement of using a very fine mesh as previously reported for the mesoscopic modelling approach⁶

⁶P. Perré and I. W. Turner (2008)

Acknowledgements

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Thank you for listening!