

# Identifiability of Viscoelastic Mechanical Systems

Adam Mahdi, Nikki Meshkat, and Seth  
Sullivant

North Carolina State University


October 13, 2014

34 slides

# Structural Identifiability

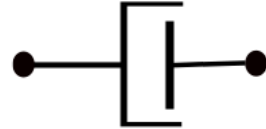
- Finding which unknown parameters of a model can be determined from known data
- “Structural” means we assume “perfect” data
- Biological models
  - Systems Biology
  - Chemical Reaction Networks
- Viscoelastic Mechanical Models

# Elastic Material

- Spring 
- Obeys relationship (Hooke's Law):  
$$\sigma = E\epsilon$$
- Stress:  $\sigma = \sigma(t)$
- Strain:  $\epsilon = \epsilon(t)$
- Spring constant:  $E$
- If you know  $\sigma$  and  $\epsilon$ , can determine  $E$

# Viscous Material

- Dashpot (or piston)



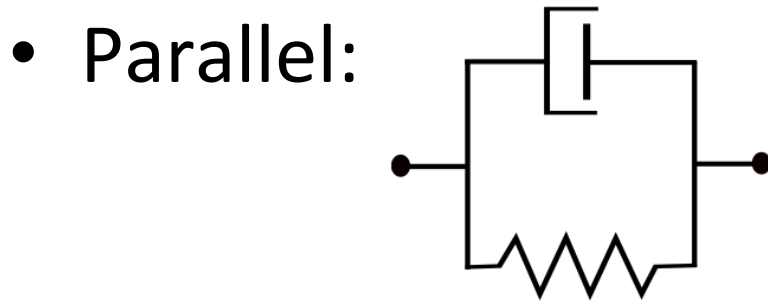
- Obeys relationship:

$$\sigma = \eta \dot{\epsilon}$$

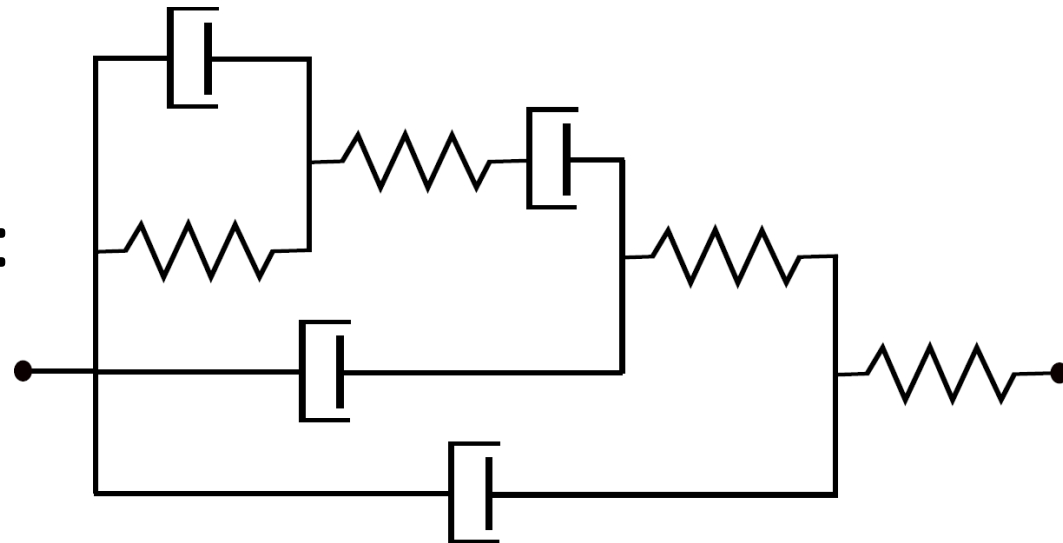
- Stress:  $\sigma = \sigma(t)$
- Strain:  $\epsilon = \epsilon(t)$
- Dashpot constant:  $\eta$
- If you know  $\sigma$  and  $\dot{\epsilon}$ , can determine  $\eta$

# Viscoelastic material

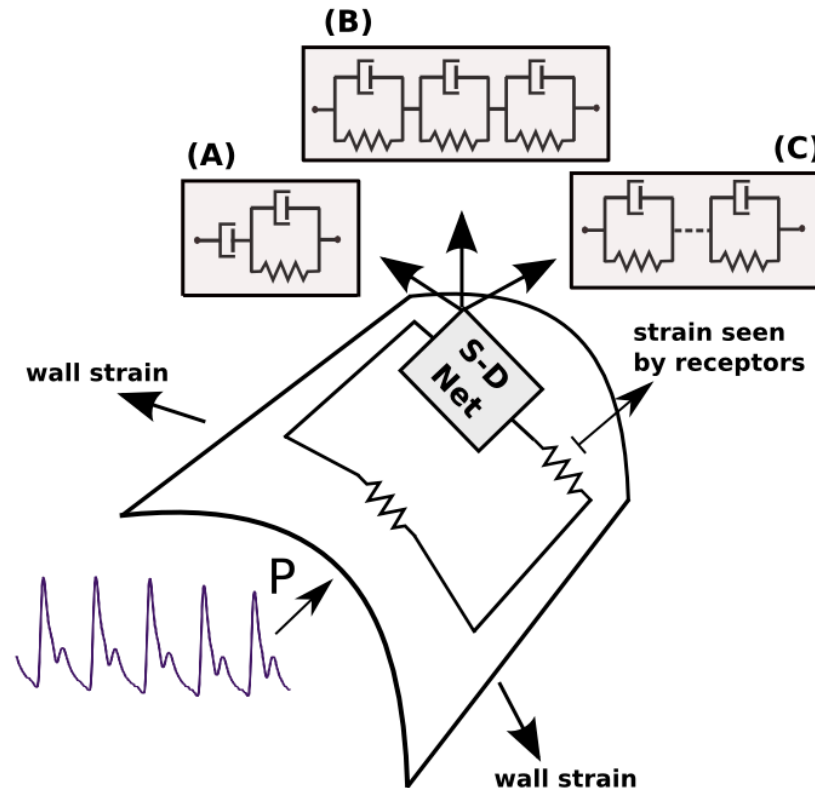
- Combine springs and dashpots in series or parallel



- More complicated:



# Application to cardiovascular modeling

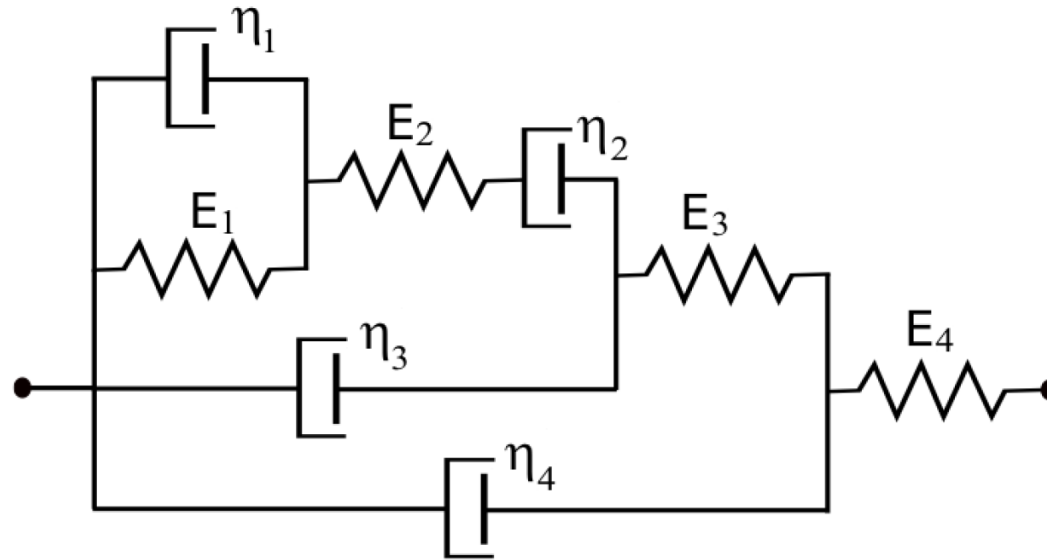


(Madhi 2013)

- Changing blood pressure causes periodic expansion and contraction of arterial walls
- Stress-strain curves of the arterial walls exhibit hysteresis, which means the wall is viscoelastic

# Viscoelastic material

- Ex:



- Each individual spring/dashpot has corresponding stress/strain relationship

– Ex:

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_1 &= E_1 \epsilon_1 & \sigma_3 &= E_2 \epsilon_3 & \sigma_5 &= E_3 \epsilon_5 & \sigma_7 &= E_4 \epsilon_7 \\ \sigma_2 &= \eta_1 \dot{\epsilon}_2 & \sigma_4 &= \eta_2 \dot{\epsilon}_4 & \sigma_6 &= \eta_3 \dot{\epsilon}_6 & \sigma_8 &= \eta_4 \dot{\epsilon}_8 \end{aligned}$$

# Viscoelastic material

- How to determine relationship between *total* stress and *total* strain?
  - Two rules:
    - If combine in **series**,
      - stress is the same for both elements
      - total strain is the sum of individual strains on each element
    - If combine in **parallel**,
      - strain is the same for both elements
      - total stress is the sum of individual stresses on each element



# Viscoelastic (VE) System

- Ex 1: Series connection: “Maxwell”



- Equations:

$$\sigma \downarrow 1 = E \epsilon \downarrow 1$$

$$\sigma = \sigma \downarrow 1 = \sigma \downarrow 2$$

$$\sigma \downarrow 2 = \eta \dot{\epsilon} \downarrow 2$$

$$\epsilon = \epsilon \downarrow 1 + \epsilon \downarrow 2$$

- Eliminate individual stress/strain:

$$\sigma \downarrow 1 / E = \epsilon \downarrow 1$$

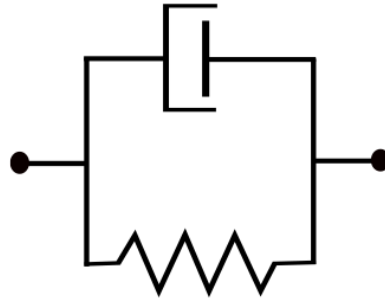
$$+ \sigma \downarrow 2 / \eta = \epsilon \downarrow 2$$

$$\sigma / E + \sigma / \eta = \epsilon \downarrow 1 + \epsilon \downarrow 2 = \epsilon \Rightarrow$$

$$\epsilon = \sigma / E + \sigma / \eta$$

# Viscoelastic (VE) System

- Ex 2: Parallel connection: “Voigt”



- Equations:

$$\sigma \downarrow 1 = E \epsilon \downarrow 1$$

$$\sigma \downarrow 2 = \eta \dot{\epsilon} \downarrow 2$$

$$\sigma = \sigma \downarrow 1 + \sigma \downarrow 2$$

$$\epsilon = \epsilon \downarrow 1 = \epsilon \downarrow 2$$

- Eliminate individual stress/strain:

$$\sigma \downarrow 1 = E \epsilon \downarrow 1$$

$$+ \sigma \downarrow 2 = \eta \dot{\epsilon} \downarrow 2$$

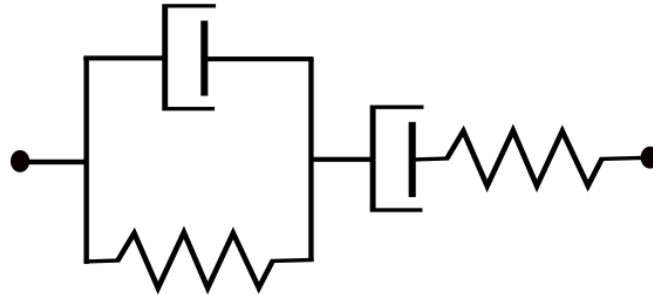
$$\sigma = \sigma \downarrow 1 + \sigma \downarrow 2 = E \epsilon + \eta \dot{\epsilon}$$

$\Rightarrow$

$$\eta \dot{\epsilon} + E \epsilon = \sigma$$

# Viscoelastic (VE) System

- Ex 3: Voigt/Maxwell in Series: “Burgers”



- Two equations:

$$\eta_{1v} \dot{\epsilon}_1 + E_{1v} \epsilon_1 = \sigma_1$$

$$\sigma = \sigma_1 = \sigma_2$$

$$\epsilon_2 = \sigma_2 / E_{2m} + \sigma_2 / \eta_{2m}$$

$$\dot{\epsilon} = \dot{\epsilon}_1 + \dot{\epsilon}_2$$

- Total stress/strain relationship:


$$E_{2m} \epsilon + E_{2m} E_{1v} / \eta_{1v} \dot{\epsilon} = \sigma + (E_{2m} / \eta_{2m} + E_{2m} / \eta_{1v} + E_{1v} / \eta_{1v}) \sigma + E_{2m} E_{1v} / \eta_{2m} \eta_{1v} \sigma$$

# Generalize

- Theorem (Mahdi-M-Sullivant): For any configuration of  $N$  springs and  $M$  dashpots, get total stress-strain relationship of one of 4 types:

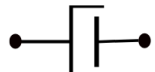
– Type A:

$$\epsilon \uparrow(n) + a \downarrow n \epsilon \uparrow(n-1) + \dots + a \downarrow 0 \epsilon = b \downarrow n \sigma \uparrow(n) + \dots + b \downarrow 0 \sigma$$

Ex: Spring   $E\epsilon = \sigma$

– Type B:

$$\epsilon \uparrow(n+1) + a \downarrow n \epsilon \uparrow(n) + \dots + a \downarrow 1 \epsilon \uparrow = b \downarrow n \sigma \uparrow(n) + \dots + b \downarrow 0 \sigma$$

Ex: Dashpot   $\eta\dot{\epsilon} = \sigma$

where:

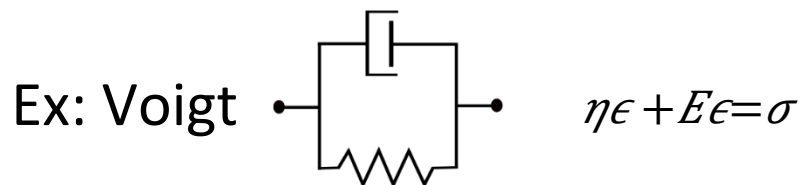
$$a \downarrow i = a \downarrow i (E \downarrow 1, \dots, E \downarrow N, \eta \downarrow 1, \dots, \eta \downarrow M) \quad b \downarrow j = b \downarrow j (E \downarrow 1, \dots, E \downarrow N, \eta \downarrow 1, \dots, \eta \downarrow M)$$

# Generalize

- Theorem (Mahdi-M-Sullivant): For any configuration of  $N$  springs and  $M$  dashpots, get total stress-strain relationship of one of 4 types:

– Type C:

$$\epsilon^{(n+1)} + a_{1n} \epsilon^{(n)} + \dots + a_{10} \epsilon = b_{1n} \sigma^{(n)} + \dots + b_{10} \sigma$$



– Type D:

$$\epsilon^{(n)} + a_{1n-1} \epsilon^{(n-1)} + \dots + a_{11} \epsilon' = b_{1n} \sigma^{(n)} + \dots + b_{10} \sigma$$



where:

$$a_{li} = a_{li}(E_{11}, \dots, E_{1N}, \eta_{11}, \dots, \eta_{1M}) \quad b_{lj} = b_{lj}(E_{11}, \dots, E_{1N}, \eta_{11}, \dots, \eta_{1M})$$

# Identifiability problem

- Can recover coefficient values of total stress-strain relationship from known data (Soderstrom 1988)
- Is it possible to recover the unknown parameters of the model from these coefficient values?

• EX: 
$$E_m \epsilon + E_m E_v / \eta_m \epsilon = \sigma + (E_m / \eta_m + E_m / \eta_v + E_v / \eta_v) \sigma + E_m E_v / \eta_m \eta_v \sigma$$

• Let  $c: \mathbb{R}^4 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^4$

$$(E_m, E_v, \eta_m, \eta_v) \mapsto (E_m, E_m E_v / \eta_m, (E_m / \eta_m + E_m / \eta_v + E_v / \eta_v), E_m E_v / \eta_m \eta_v)$$

# Identifiability

- Total stress-strain relationship:

$$\epsilon^{(n+1)} + a_{1n} \epsilon^{(n)} + \dots + a_{10} \epsilon = b_{1n} \sigma^{(n)} + \dots + b_{10} \sigma$$

$$a_{1i} = a_{1i}(E_{11}, \dots, E_{1N}, \eta_{11}, \dots, \eta_{1M})$$

$$b_{1j} = b_{1j}(E_{11}, \dots, E_{1N}, \eta_{11}, \dots, \eta_{1M})$$

- Let  $c: \mathbb{R}^{N+M} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\# \text{coeffs}}$

$$(E_{11}, \dots, E_{1N}, \eta_{11}, \dots, \eta_{1M}) \mapsto (a_{1n}, \dots, a_{10}, b_{1n}, \dots, b_{10})$$

# Identifiability

- Let  $c: \mathbb{R}^N + M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\# \text{coeffs}}$
- The model is:
  - Globally identifiable iff  $c$  is 1-1
  - Locally identifiable iff  $c$  is finite-to-one
  - Unidentifiable iff  $c$  is infinite-to-one(Ljung 1994)
- Consider *generic* identifiability



# Main result

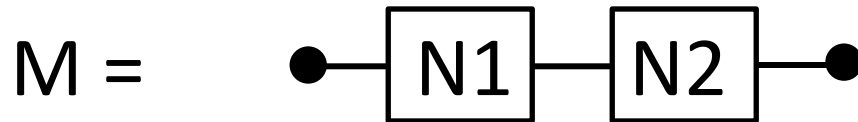
Theorem (Mahdi-M-Sullivant): A viscoelastic model is locally ID iff

# coefficients = # parameters

- Ex 1:  $\epsilon = \sigma / E + \sigma / \eta$
- Ex 2:  $\eta \dot{\epsilon} + E \epsilon = \sigma$
- Ex 3:  $E \dot{\epsilon} + E \dot{m} E \dot{v} / \eta \dot{v} \epsilon = \sigma + (E \dot{m} / \eta \dot{m} + E \dot{m} / \eta \dot{v} + E \dot{v} / \eta \dot{v}) \sigma + E \dot{m}$

# Local Identifiability

- Consider a spring-dashpot system  $M$  whose final step connection is a series connection of systems  $N1$  and  $N2$



- Necessary condition for  $M$  to be locally id is that  $N1$  and  $N2$  are both locally id
- When is the series connection of two (locally) identifiable models identifiable?

# Main result

- Theorem (Mahdi-M-Sullivant): Consider two locally id systems N1 and N2. The model resulting in joining N1 and N2 in **series** is either id of Type A, B, C, D, or un-id, denoted by u:

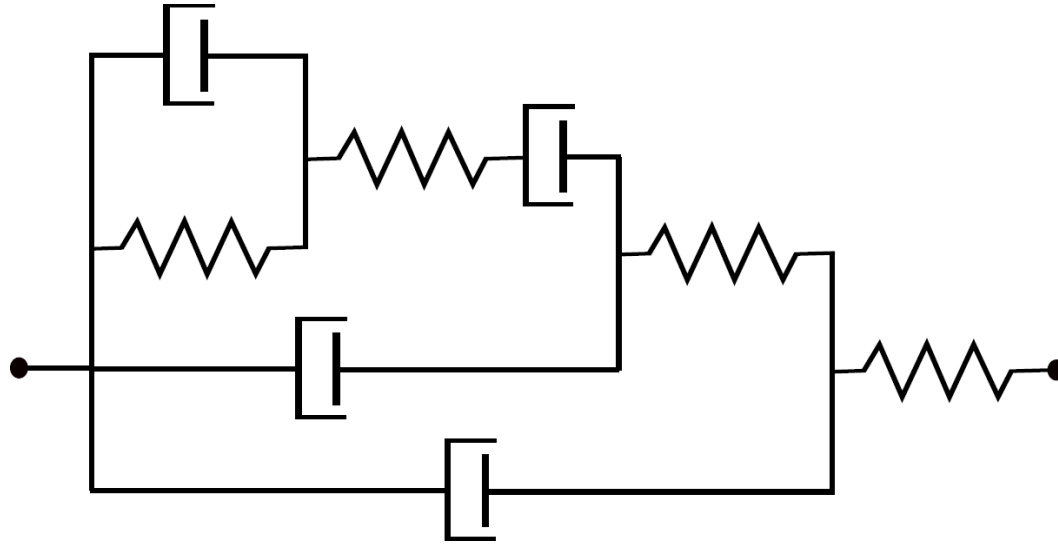
$\odot$	A	B	C	D	u
A	u	D	A	u	u
B	D	u	B	u	u
C	A	B	C	D	u
D	u	u	D	u	u
u	u	u	u	u	u

# Main result

- Theorem (Mahdi-M-Sullivant): Consider two locally id systems  $N1$  and  $N2$ . The model resulting in joining  $N1$  and  $N2$  in **parallel** is either id of Type A, B, C, D, or un-id, denoted by  $u$ :

$\oplus$	A	B	C	D	u
A	u	C	u	A	u
B	C	u	u	B	u
C	u	u	u	C	u
D	A	B	C	D	u
u	u	u	u	u	u

# Real Example (Dietrich 1998)



$$\begin{aligned}
 & [((((A \oplus B) \odot A) \odot B) \oplus B) \odot A] \oplus B \odot A & = [((((C \odot A) \odot B) \oplus B) \odot A] \oplus B \odot A \\
 & = [(((A \odot B) \oplus B) \odot A) \oplus B] \odot A \\
 & = [((D \oplus B) \odot A) \oplus B] \odot A \\
 & = [(B \odot A) \oplus B] \odot A \\
 & = [D \oplus B] \odot A & = B \odot A & = D
 \end{aligned}$$

# Generalize process of combining in Series/Parallel

- Let  $N_1$  and  $N_2$  be spring-dashpot networks whose stress-strain relationships are:

$$L_1 \epsilon_1 = L_2 \sigma_1$$

$$L_3 \epsilon_2 = L_4 \sigma_2$$

where  $L_i$  is a linear differential operator

$$L_1 = a_{n_1} \frac{d^{n_1}}{dt^{n_1}} + \dots + a_{m_1} \frac{d^{m_1}}{dt^{m_1}}$$

$$L_2 = b_{n_2} \frac{d^{n_2}}{dt^{n_2}} + \dots + b_{m_2} \frac{d^{m_2}}{dt^{m_2}}$$

$$L_3 = c_{n_3} \frac{d^{n_3}}{dt^{n_3}} + \dots + c_{m_3} \frac{d^{m_3}}{dt^{m_3}}$$

$$L_4 = e_{n_4} \frac{d^{n_4}}{dt^{n_4}} + \dots + e_{m_4} \frac{d^{m_4}}{dt^{m_4}}$$

# Series connection

- $\epsilon = \epsilon \downarrow 1 + \epsilon \downarrow 2$
- $\sigma = \sigma \downarrow 1 = \sigma \downarrow 2$

$$L \downarrow 1 \epsilon \downarrow 1 = L \downarrow 2 \sigma \downarrow 1$$

$$L \downarrow 3 \epsilon \downarrow 2 = L \downarrow 4 \sigma \downarrow 2$$

$$L \downarrow 3 L \downarrow 1 \epsilon \downarrow 1 = L \downarrow 3 L \downarrow 2 \sigma \downarrow 1$$

$$+ L \downarrow 1 L \downarrow 3 \epsilon \downarrow 2 = L \downarrow 1 L \downarrow 4 \sigma \downarrow 2$$

---

$$L \downarrow 1 L \downarrow 3 \epsilon = (L \downarrow 1 L \downarrow 4 + L \downarrow 2 L \downarrow 3) \sigma$$

# Parallel connection

- $\epsilon = \epsilon \downarrow 1 = \epsilon \downarrow 2$
- $\sigma = \sigma \downarrow 1 + \sigma \downarrow 2$

$$L \downarrow 1 \epsilon \downarrow 1 = L \downarrow 2 \sigma \downarrow 1$$

$$L \downarrow 3 \epsilon \downarrow 2 = L \downarrow 4 \sigma \downarrow 2$$

$$L \downarrow 4 L \downarrow 1 \epsilon \downarrow 1 = L \downarrow 4 L \downarrow 2 \sigma \downarrow 1$$

$$+ L \downarrow 2 L \downarrow 3 \epsilon \downarrow 2 = L \downarrow 2 L \downarrow 4 \sigma \downarrow 2$$

---

$$(L \downarrow 1 L \downarrow 4 + L \downarrow 2 L \downarrow 3) \epsilon = L \downarrow 2 L \downarrow 4 \sigma$$



# Types of viscoelastic models

- The *shape* of a linear operator  $L \downarrow i$  is a pair of #'s:

$$[n \downarrow i, m \downarrow i]$$

where  $n \downarrow i$  = highest differential order

$m \downarrow i$  = lowest differential order

Type	Shape in $\epsilon$	Shape in $\sigma$	Example	Ex Eqn
A	[n, 0]	[n, 0]	Spring	$E\epsilon = \sigma$
B	[n+1, 1]	[n, 0]	Dashpot	$\eta\dot{\epsilon} = \sigma$
C	[n+1, 0]	[n, 0]	Voigt	$\eta\dot{\epsilon} + E\epsilon = \sigma$
D	[n, 1]	[n, 0]	Maxwell	$\epsilon = \sigma / E + \sigma / \eta$

# Identifiability as “shape factorization problem”

- Let  $N_1$  and  $N_2$  be spring-dashpot networks whose stress-strain relationships are:

$$L_1 \epsilon_1 = L_2 \sigma_1$$

$$L_3 \epsilon_2 = L_4 \sigma_2$$

- Consider series connection:

$$(L_1 \epsilon_1 = L_2 \sigma_1, L_3 \epsilon_2 = L_4 \sigma_2) \mapsto f \epsilon = g \sigma$$

$$\text{where } f = L_1 L_3, \quad g = L_1 L_4 + L_2 L_3$$

- Can phrase identifiability problem in terms of shapes  $[n_1, m_1]$ ,  $[n_2, m_2]$ ,  $[n_3, m_3]$ ,  $[n_4, m_4]$

# Shape factorization problem for a quadruple of shapes

For a generic pair of polynomials  $(f, g)$  with:

- $f$  monic
- $shape(f) = [n \downarrow 1 + n \downarrow 3, m \downarrow 1 + m \downarrow 3]$ ,
- $shape(g) = [\max(n \downarrow 1 + n \downarrow 4, n \downarrow 2 + n \downarrow 3), \min(m \downarrow 1 + m \downarrow 4, m \downarrow 2 + m \downarrow 3)]$ ,

does there exist finitely many quadruples of polynomials  $(L \downarrow 1, L \downarrow 2, L \downarrow 3, L \downarrow 4)$  with

- $shape(L \downarrow i) = [n \downarrow i, m \downarrow i]$ ,
- $L \downarrow 1, L \downarrow 3$  monic,

$$f = L \downarrow 1 \cdot L \downarrow 2 \cdot L \downarrow 3 \quad \text{and} \quad g = L \downarrow 1 \cdot L \downarrow 4 + L \downarrow 2 \cdot L \downarrow 3$$

# Example

- Suppose that quadruple is  $([2,0], [2,0], [3,0], [2,0])$ , which is a special case of joining A, C in series
- Let  $(f, g)$  be a generic pair of polynomials where  $f$  and  $g$  are degree 5 polynomials with nonzero constant term and  $f$  is monic:

$$f = x^5 + f_4 x^4 + \dots + f_0$$

$$g = g_5 x^5 + g_4 x^4 + g_3 x^3 + \dots + g_0$$

- Does there exist finitely many polynomials

$$L_1 = x^2 + a_1 x + a_0$$

$$L_2 = b_2 x^2 + b_1 x + b_0$$

$$L_3 = x^3 + c_2 x^2 + c_1 x + c_0$$

$$L_4 = e_2 x^2 + e_1 x + e_0$$

such that  $f = L_1 L_3$  and  $g = L_1 L_4 + L_2 L_3$  ?

# Example cont'd

- Alternatively, for generic values of  $f_{\downarrow 4}, \dots, f_{\downarrow 0}$  and  $g_{\downarrow 5}, \dots, g_{\downarrow 0}$ , does the system of 11 equations in 11 unknowns:

$$g_{\downarrow 5} = b_{\downarrow 2}$$

$$g_{\downarrow 4} = b_{\downarrow 1} + b_{\downarrow 2} c_{\downarrow 2} + e_{\downarrow 2}$$

$$g_{\downarrow 3} = b_{\downarrow 0} + b_{\downarrow 1} c_{\downarrow 2} + b_{\downarrow 2} c_{\downarrow 1} + a_{\downarrow 1} e_{\downarrow 2} + e_{\downarrow 1}$$

$$g_{\downarrow 2} = b_{\downarrow 0} c_{\downarrow 2} + b_{\downarrow 1} c_{\downarrow 1} + b_{\downarrow 2} c_{\downarrow 0} + a_{\downarrow 0} e_{\downarrow 2} + a_{\downarrow 1} e_{\downarrow 1} + e_{\downarrow 0}$$

$$g_{\downarrow 1} = b_{\downarrow 0} c_{\downarrow 1} + b_{\downarrow 1} c_{\downarrow 0} + a_{\downarrow 0} e_{\downarrow 1} + a_{\downarrow 1} e_{\downarrow 0}$$

$$g_{\downarrow 0} = b_{\downarrow 0} c_{\downarrow 0} + a_{\downarrow 0} e_{\downarrow 0}$$

$$f_{\downarrow 4} = a_{\downarrow 1} + c_{\downarrow 2}$$

$$f_{\downarrow 3} = a_{\downarrow 0} + a_{\downarrow 1} c_{\downarrow 2} + c_{\downarrow 1}$$

$$f_{\downarrow 2} = a_{\downarrow 0} c_{\downarrow 2} + a_{\downarrow 1} c_{\downarrow 1} + c_{\downarrow 0}$$

$$f_{\downarrow 1} = a_{\downarrow 0} c_{\downarrow 1} + a_{\downarrow 1} c_{\downarrow 0}$$

$$f_{\downarrow 0} = a_{\downarrow 0} c_{\downarrow 0}$$

have only finitely many solutions?

# Solving shape factorization problem

- For given shapes  $[n_1, m_1]$ ,  $[n_3, m_3]$ , there are at most finitely many ways to factor  $f = L_1 L_3$  into monic factors

- Once we fix  $L_1$  and  $L_3$ , then

$$g = L_1 L_4 + L_2 L_3$$

is a *linear* system in the unknowns  $L_2$  and  $L_4$

- One solution iff # coefficients = # parameters

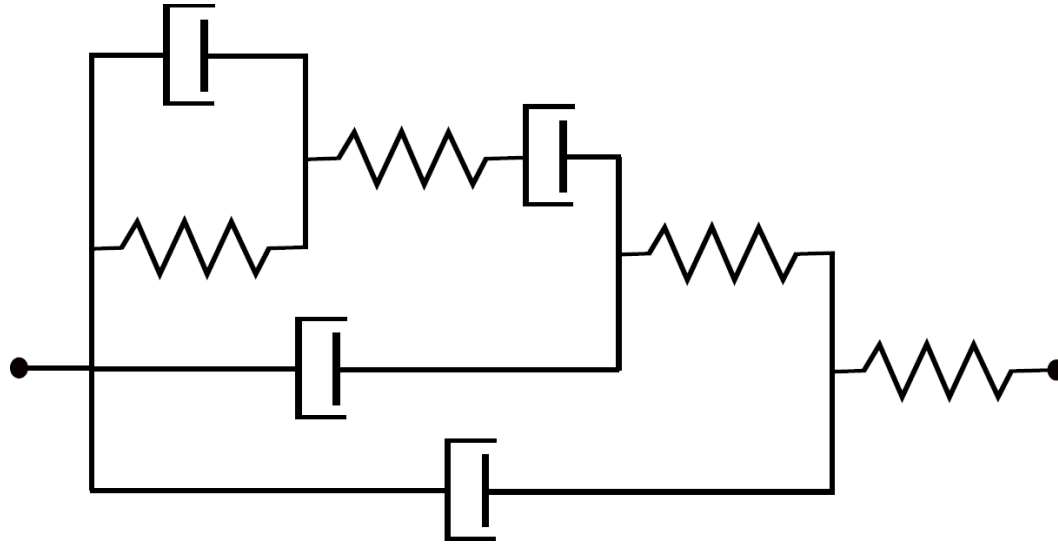
# Global identifiability

- When do we have unique soln for shape factorization problem?

$f = L \downarrow 1 \quad L \downarrow 3$  has a unique factorization iff  $n \downarrow 1 = m \downarrow 1$  or  $n \downarrow 3 = m \downarrow 3$

- A VE model is globally id iff
  - locally id and
  - network is constructed by adding a spring or dashpot in series or in parallel, **one at a time**

# Real Example (Dietrich 1998)



$$\begin{aligned}
 & [((((A \oplus B) \odot A) \odot B) \oplus B) \odot A] \oplus B \odot A & = [((((C \odot A) \odot B) \oplus B) \odot A] \oplus B \odot A \\
 & = [(((A \odot B) \oplus B) \odot A) \oplus B] \odot A \\
 & = [((D \oplus B) \odot A) \oplus B] \odot A \\
 & = [(B \odot A) \oplus B] \odot A \\
 & = [D \oplus B] \odot A & = B \odot A & = D & \text{ Globally identifiable!}
 \end{aligned}$$



# Summary

- Necessary and sufficient condition for local id:  
# parameters = # coefficients
- Nec. and suff. conditions for global id:  
local id & single spring/dashpot one at a time
- Identifiability tables
- Future work: RLC circuits

# References

- L. Dietrich, T. Lekszycki, K. Turski, Problems of identification of mechanical characteristics of viscoelastic composites, *Acta Mechanica* 126 (1998): 153-167.
- L. Ljung and T. Glad, On global identifiability for arbitrary model parametrizations, *Automatica* 30(2) (1994): 265-276.
- A. Mahdi, N. Meshkat, S. Sullivant, Structural Identifiability of Viscoelastic Mechanical Systems, *PLoS ONE* 9(2) (2014): e86411.
- A. Madhi, J. Sturdy, J.T. Ottesen, M. Olufsen, Modeling the afferent dynamics of the baroreflex control system, *PLoS Computational Biology* 9(12) (2013): e1003384.
- T. Soderstrom and P. Stoica, *System Identification*, Prentice-Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ, 1988.