

Saint-Venant compatibility condition revisited

Romain Lloria, Rodrigue Desmorat, Boris Kolev

At the Paris-Saclay Mechanics Laboratory (LMPS)

June 24, 2025



The problem

Context: Infinitesimal deformations

Compatibility: a displacement vector field ξ generates a symmetric covariant 2-tensor of infinitesimal deformation

$$\varepsilon = \frac{1}{2} (\nabla \xi + (\nabla \xi)^t).$$

Related questions:

- find a necessary condition of compatibility
- calculate ξ from the data of ε

Cesàro-Volterra's response [1906]

Calculate ξ at $\mathbf{x} \in \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ by joining an initial point $\mathbf{x}_0 \in \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ with a smooth path \mathcal{C} . The fundamental lemma of integral calculus gives:

$$\xi(\mathbf{x}) = \xi(\mathbf{x}_0) + \int_{\mathbf{x}_t \in \mathcal{C}} \frac{d}{dt} \xi(\mathbf{x}_t) dt = \dots \text{ only } \varepsilon$$

Compatibility condition: ξ does not depend on the path \mathcal{C} and \mathbf{x}_0



closed path $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}_0$



the integral is zero



Stokes

$$\partial_l \partial_k \varepsilon_{ij} - \partial_l \partial_i \varepsilon_{jk} + \partial_i \partial_j \varepsilon_{kl} - \partial_k \partial_j \varepsilon_{il} = 0$$



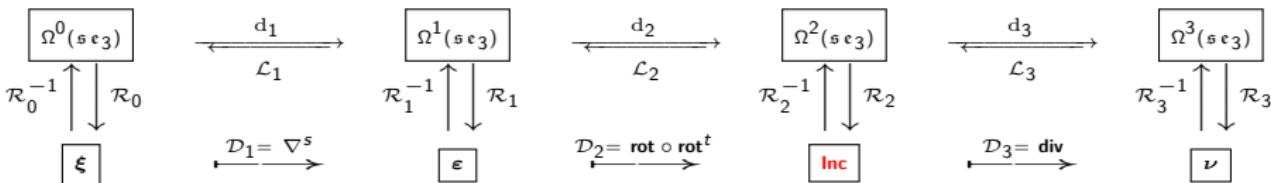
Integrator: taking for \mathcal{C} the straight line $\mathbf{x}_t = t\mathbf{x}$

$$\xi(\mathbf{x}) = \xi(0) + \Omega(0)\mathbf{x} + \int_0^1 \varepsilon(t\mathbf{x})\mathbf{x} dt + \int_0^1 (1-t) [\nabla \varepsilon(t\mathbf{x}) : (\mathbf{x} \otimes \mathbf{x}) - (\mathbf{x} \otimes \mathbf{x}) : \nabla \varepsilon(t\mathbf{x})] dt$$

where $\xi(0) + \Omega(0)\mathbf{x}$ is an element of $\mathfrak{se}_3 := \{\xi + \Omega\mathbf{x} \mid \xi \in \mathbb{R}^3, \Omega \in \mathfrak{so}_3(\mathbb{R})\}$

Bernstein-Gelfand-Gelfand's response

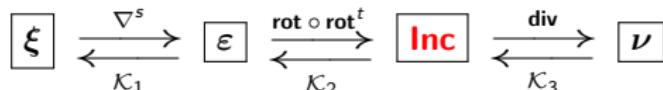
Differential complex of linear elasticity [Eastwood 2000] which derives from De Rham one



$d_{k+1}d_k\alpha = 0 \implies$ Saint-Venant compatibility condition:

$$\text{compatibility} \iff \varepsilon = \mathcal{D}_1\xi \implies \mathcal{D}_2\varepsilon = \underbrace{\mathcal{D}_2\mathcal{D}_1\xi}_{=0} = 0 \iff \text{Inc} = 0$$

By composition the Poincaré integrator gives [Snorre et al. 2020]



In particular, the integrator \mathcal{K}_1 is the same as the Cesàro-Volterra one.

1 Contribution 1: New complex of elasticity

2 Contribution 2: Integrator

3 Contribution 3: Reinterpretation of the incompatibility tensor

4 Conclusion

Generalization of De Rham complex

Dubois-Violette [2002] generalizes De Rham's theory (any symmetries)



linear elasticity complex naturally adapted to symmetries

How to do it explicitly?

De Rham complex on \mathbb{R}^3 : width 1

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \Omega_1^1(\mathbb{R}^3) & \xrightarrow{\text{grad}} & \Omega_1^2(\mathbb{R}^3) & \xrightarrow{\text{rot}} & \Omega_1^3(\mathbb{R}^3) & \xrightarrow{\text{div}} & \{0\} \\
 \boxed{1} & & \boxed{1 \\ 2} & & \boxed{1 \\ 2 \\ 3} & & \bullet \\
 \end{array}
 \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{rot} \circ \text{grad} = 0 \\ \text{div} \circ \text{rot} = 0 \end{array} \right.$$

Elasticity complex on \mathbb{R}^3 : width 2

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \Omega_2^1(\mathbb{R}^3) & \xrightarrow{d_1} & \Omega_2^2(\mathbb{R}^3) & \xrightarrow{d_2} & \Omega_2^3(\mathbb{R}^3) & \xrightarrow{d_3} & \Omega_2^4(\mathbb{R}^3) \\
 \boxed{1} & & \boxed{1 \\ 2} & & \boxed{1 \\ 2 \\ 3} & & \boxed{1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4} \\
 \text{Yellow arrow} & & & & & & \text{Blue arrow} \\
 \end{array}
 \quad d_3 d_2 d_1 = 0$$

$D_1 = d_1$ $D_2 = d_3 d_2$

Contribution 1: New complex of linear elasticity

$X, Y, Z, T \in \text{Vect}(T\Omega)$ and ∇ flat derivative

$$D_1 \xi = \nabla^s \xi := \epsilon \quad \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 1 & 2 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$D_2 \epsilon = (\nabla_T \nabla_Z \epsilon)(X, Y) - (\nabla_T \nabla_X \epsilon)(Y, Z) + (\nabla_X \nabla_Y \epsilon)(Z, T) - (\nabla_Z \nabla_Y \epsilon)(X, T)$$

$$:= \mathbf{W}(X, Y, Z, T)$$

1	2
3	4

Proposition

$D_2 D_1 = 0 \implies \text{Saint-Venant compatibility condition}$

Proof: If the deformation ϵ is generated by a displacement ξ we have

$$\epsilon = D_1 \xi \implies D_2 \epsilon = D_2 D_1 \xi = 0 \quad \text{i.e.} \quad \mathbf{W} = 0.$$

Interest: no more ad hoc bijections, but a complex naturally adapted to the symmetries of the elasticity tensors!

1 Contribution 1: New complex of elasticity

2 Contribution 2: Integrator

3 Contribution 3: Reinterpretation of the incompatibility tensor

4 Conclusion

Contribution 2: Integrator

Question: How to calculate the displacement field ξ from the deformation ε ?

Dubois – Violette \implies homotopy formula :

$$\underbrace{D_1 K_1 \varepsilon}_{\text{integrator}} + \underbrace{K_2 D_2 \varepsilon}_{\text{obstruction}} = \varepsilon$$

How to do it explicitly?

- (1) **obstruction:** we define

$$K_2 \mathbf{W}(\mathbf{x}) := \int_0^1 dt \int_0^t s \mathbf{W}(s\mathbf{x}) : (\mathbf{x} \otimes \mathbf{x}) ds.$$

- (2) **intégrator:** primitive of $D_1 K_1 \varepsilon = \varepsilon - K_2 \mathbf{W}$ \implies Cesàro-Volterra

$$K_1 \varepsilon(\mathbf{x}) = \xi(0) + \Omega(0)\mathbf{x} + \int_0^1 \varepsilon(t\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{x} dt + \int_0^1 (1-t) [\nabla \varepsilon(t\mathbf{x}) : (\mathbf{x} \otimes \mathbf{x}) - (\mathbf{x} \otimes \mathbf{x}) : \nabla \varepsilon(t\mathbf{x})] dt$$

1 Contribution 1: New complex of elasticity

2 Contribution 2: Integrator

3 Contribution 3: Reinterpretation of the incompatibility tensor

4 Conclusion

Contribution 3: Reinterpretation of $\text{rot rot}^t \varepsilon$

In the literature, incompatibility tensor: $\text{Inc} = \text{rot rot}^t \varepsilon$

But rotationnal of a 2-tensor is poorly defined



reinterpretation of $\text{Inc} = \text{rot rot}^t \varepsilon$ by harmonic decomposition of the Saint-Venant tensor \mathbf{W} into irreducible components

$$\text{Inc} = -\text{tr}_{12} \mathbf{W} + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} [\text{tr}_{12} \mathbf{W}] \mathbf{q} \quad \text{et} \quad \mathbf{W} = -\text{Inc} \oslash \mathbf{q} + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} [\text{Inc}] \mathbf{q} \oslash \mathbf{q},$$

where \oslash is the Kulkarni-Nomizu product modified to have the symmetries of \mathbf{W} and \mathbf{q} the Euclidean metric

Proof of $\text{Inc} = -\text{tr}_{12} \mathbf{W} + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} [\text{tr}_{12} \mathbf{W}] \mathbf{q}$ in coordinate:

$$\text{Inc} = \text{rot rot}^t \varepsilon \text{ and } W_{ijkl} = \partial_i \partial_k \varepsilon_{ij} - \partial_i \partial_j \varepsilon_{ik} + \partial_i \partial_j \varepsilon_{kl} - \partial_k \partial_j \varepsilon_{il}$$

Reconstruction of \mathbf{W} from \mathbf{Inc}

$X, Y, Z, T \in \text{Vect}(T\Omega)$

Definition (Kulkarni-Nomizu product)

\mathbf{h} and \mathbf{q} , symmetric covariant 2-tensors field

$$(\mathbf{h} \oslash \mathbf{q})(X, Y, Z, T) := \mathbf{h}(X, Y)\mathbf{q}(Z, T) + \mathbf{h}(Z, T)\mathbf{q}(X, Y) - \mathbf{h}(Y, Z)\mathbf{q}(X, T) - \mathbf{h}(X, T)\mathbf{q}(Y, Z)$$

In component:

$$(\mathbf{h} \oslash \mathbf{q})_{ijkl} := h_{ij}q_{kl} + h_{k\ell}q_{ij} - h_{j\ell}q_{il} - h_{i\ell}q_{jk}$$

$$\begin{array}{lcl} \mathbf{h}(X, Y)\mathbf{q}(Z, T) & \longmapsto & +\mathbf{h}(Z, T)\mathbf{q}(X, Y) \\ \boxed{X} \quad \boxed{Y} \quad \boxed{Z} \quad \boxed{T} & \longrightarrow & -\mathbf{h}(Y, Z)\mathbf{k}(X, T) - \mathbf{h}(X, T)\mathbf{k}(Y, Z) \\ & \longrightarrow & \text{pairs permutation} \end{array}$$



We obtain the symmetry

X	Y
Z	T

Reconstruction of \mathbf{W} from \mathbf{Inc}

(1) We show that the following application is a linear isomorphism:

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 1 & 2 \\ \hline \end{array} \longrightarrow \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 1 & 2 \\ \hline 3 & 4 \\ \hline \end{array}, \quad \mathbf{h} \longmapsto \mathbf{h} \oslash \mathbf{q}.$$

- linear
- injective: $\text{Ker} = \{0\}$
- surjective: equality of dimensions

(2) We show the formula:

$$\text{bijectivity} \implies \exists! \mathbf{h}, \mathbf{W} = \mathbf{h} \oslash \mathbf{q} \xrightarrow{\text{tr}} \mathbf{h} = \text{tr}_{12} \mathbf{W} - \frac{1}{4} \text{tr} [\text{tr}_{12} \mathbf{W}] \mathbf{q}$$

Contribution 1: New complex of elasticity

Contribution 2: Integrator

Contribution 3: Reinterpretation of the incompatibility tensor

Conclusion

1 Contribution 1: New complex of elasticity

2 Contribution 2: Integrator

3 Contribution 3: Reinterpretation of the incompatibility tensor

4 Conclusion

Conclusion

- reformulation de l'élasticité par complexe naturellement adapté aux symétries
- reformulation de la condition de compatibilité de Saint-Venant $\mathbf{W} = 0$
- on a retrouvé l'intégrateur de Cesàro-Volterra
- terme d'obstruction qui mesure le degré d'incompatibilité d'une transformation
- réinterprétation de $\text{rot } \text{rot}^t \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$ par décomposition harmonique de \mathbf{W}