
Kirchhoff plate theory
revisited
for large deformations

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An old theory



Sophie GERMAIN, 1776-1831



Gustav KIRCHHOFF, 1824-1887

$$\frac{Eh^3}{12(1-\nu^2)} \Delta^2 w = q$$

Basic assumptions of KPT

- Linearity (in the thickness). Not essential
- Conservation of normality: deduced from...
- **Plane stress**

$$\sigma_{\alpha 3} \approx 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mu \left(\frac{\partial u_\alpha}{\partial Z} + \frac{\partial u_3}{\partial X_\alpha} \right) \approx 0$$

Plane stress

Conservation of normality

Solution of this equation

$$u_\alpha(X_1, X_2, Z) = \bar{u}_\alpha(X_1, X_2) + Z d_\alpha(X_1, X_2) \quad d_\alpha = - \frac{\partial u_3}{\partial X_\alpha}$$

$$u_3(X_1, X_2, Z) = \bar{u}_3(X_1, X_2) \quad ??$$

Contradiction of KPT

- If $u_3 = \bar{u}_3(X_1, X_2)$, then $\epsilon_{33} = \frac{\partial u_3}{\partial Z} = 0$ **Plane strain !**

- If $u_3 = \bar{u}_3(X_1, X_2) + Z d_3(X_1, X_2)$, then $\epsilon_{\alpha 3} \neq 0$

Normality not satisfied !

- Impossible to **deduce exactly the strain** from the assumed displacement

Asymptotic analyses

CIARLET (1980), DESTUYNDER (1982), etc

- Displacement $u_\alpha = O(\varepsilon^2), \quad u_3 = O(\varepsilon)$???
- Plane Stress $\sigma_{\alpha 3} = O(\varepsilon), \quad \sigma_{33} = O(\varepsilon^2)$
- Normality in any case (Kirchhoff)
- Main deflection $u_3 = \varepsilon \bar{u}_3(X_1, X_2) + O(\varepsilon^2)$
- Linearity of \mathbf{u} and ε , not of $\boldsymbol{\sigma}$

Principle of a new plate model

- Principle : Enhanced Assumed Strain (EAS) and plane stress
- EAS (Simo-Rifai 1990, Ramm et al 1994-1998) : disconnect partially displacement and strain
- Plane stress

Enhanced Assumed Strain

- Assumed displacement

$$\boldsymbol{x} = \bar{\boldsymbol{x}}(X_1, X_2) + Z \boldsymbol{d}(X_1, X_2)$$

- Deduced deformation

$$\mathbf{F} = \nabla \boldsymbol{x} = \nabla \bar{\boldsymbol{x}} + \boldsymbol{d} \otimes \mathbf{E}_3 + Z \nabla \boldsymbol{d}$$

- Enhanced deformation: $\mathbf{B}(X_1, X_2)$ new unknown vector field

$$\mathbf{F} = \nabla \bar{\boldsymbol{x}} + \boldsymbol{d} \otimes \mathbf{E}_3 + Z \nabla \boldsymbol{d} + Z \mathbf{B} \otimes \mathbf{E}_3$$

A hyperelastic plate model

- Kinematics (3D \rightarrow 2D): 3 unknown vectors

$$\boldsymbol{x} = \bar{\boldsymbol{x}} + Z \boldsymbol{d}$$

$$\boldsymbol{F} = \nabla \bar{\boldsymbol{x}} + \boldsymbol{d} \otimes \boldsymbol{E}_3 + Z (\nabla \boldsymbol{d} + \boldsymbol{B}) \otimes \boldsymbol{E}_3$$

- Constitutive law (3D)

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \boldsymbol{C} = {}^t \boldsymbol{F} \cdot \boldsymbol{F} \\ \boldsymbol{S} = \hat{\boldsymbol{G}}(\boldsymbol{C}) \\ \boldsymbol{P} = \boldsymbol{F} \cdot \boldsymbol{S} \end{array} \right.$$

- Plane stress assumption

$$\boldsymbol{S} \cdot \boldsymbol{E}_3 = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \boldsymbol{P} \cdot \boldsymbol{E}_3 = 0, \quad \frac{d\boldsymbol{S}}{dZ} \cdot \boldsymbol{E}_3 = 0 \quad \text{for } Z=0$$

Reduction of the number of unknowns

- Reduction at the incremental level $(.)^*$
- Incremental constitutive law **at $Z=0$** :

$$P_{ij}^* = L_{ijk\alpha} \bar{X}_{k,\alpha}^* + L_{ijk3} d_k^*$$

- First plane stress condition

$$P_{i3}^* = L_{i3k\alpha} \bar{X}_{k,\alpha}^* + L_{i3k3} d_k^* = 0$$

Acoustic tensor A_{ik}

- Elimination of the director (D. Steigmann):

$$d_i^* = -A_{ij}^{-1} L_{j3k\alpha} \bar{X}_{k,\alpha}^* = -K_{ik\alpha} \bar{X}_{k,\alpha}^*$$

$$\mathbf{d}^* = -\mathbf{K} : \nabla \bar{\mathbf{x}}^*$$

Tensor \mathbf{K} giving the director (normality and ...)

Example of reduction

- **First plane stress condition:** $P_{i3} = L_{i3k\alpha} \bar{x}_{k,\alpha} + L_{i3k3} d_k = 0$

- **Isotropic material, close to the stress state** ($a = 1/2 - \nu$, $b = 1 - \nu$)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & a & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & a \\ \nu & 0 & 0 & 0 & \nu & 0 \end{bmatrix} \{\nabla \bar{x}\} + \begin{bmatrix} a & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & a & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & b \end{bmatrix} \{d\} = \begin{Bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{Bmatrix}$$

- **First one recovers the normality conservation** $d_\alpha = -\bar{x}_{3,\alpha}$

- **Next one gets the transverse strain** $d_3 = \epsilon_{ZZ} = -\frac{\nu}{1-\nu} (\bar{x}_{1,1} + \bar{x}_{2,2})$

Elimination of the EAS vector

- The second plane stress condition

$$\frac{d\mathbf{S}}{dZ} \cdot \mathbf{E}_3 = 0 \quad \text{for } Z=0$$

$$\Rightarrow F_{ni} \frac{dS_{i3}}{dZ} = L_{i3k\alpha} d_{k,\alpha} + L_{i3k3} B_k = 0$$

- \Rightarrow The same relation, the same tensor \mathbf{K}

$$\mathbf{B} = -\mathbf{K} : \nabla \mathbf{d}$$

Assembling kinematics and material law

$$\text{Kinematics} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{F}^* = \mathfrak{T}_M : \nabla \bar{\mathbf{x}}^* + Z \mathfrak{T}_B : \nabla \mathbf{d}^* = \mathfrak{T} : \begin{pmatrix} \nabla \bar{\mathbf{x}}^* \\ Z \nabla \mathbf{d}^* \end{pmatrix} \\ \text{with} \quad \mathbf{d}^* = -\mathbf{K} : \nabla \bar{\mathbf{x}}^* \end{array} \right.$$

$$\text{Constitutive law:} \quad \mathbf{P}^* = \mathbf{L}(Z) : \mathfrak{T} : \begin{pmatrix} \nabla \bar{\mathbf{x}}^* \\ Z \nabla \mathbf{d}^* \end{pmatrix}$$

Stiffness (bilinear form)

$$\iint_{\omega} (\nabla \delta \bar{\mathbf{x}}, \nabla \delta \mathbf{d}) : {}^t \mathfrak{T} : \int_{-h/2}^{h/2} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{L} & Z \mathbf{L} \\ Z {}^t \mathbf{L} & Z^2 \mathbf{L} \end{bmatrix} dZ : \mathfrak{T} : \begin{pmatrix} \nabla \bar{\mathbf{x}}^* \\ \nabla \mathbf{d}^* \end{pmatrix} d\omega$$

3 PDE's from the balance equations

Internal power:
$$-P_{\text{int}} = \int_{\omega} (\langle \mathbf{P} \rangle : \delta \bar{\mathbf{F}} + \langle \mathbf{ZP} \rangle : \delta \bar{\mathbf{F}}') d\omega$$

$$\delta \bar{\mathbf{F}} = \mathfrak{S}_M : \nabla \delta \bar{\mathbf{x}} \quad \delta \bar{\mathbf{F}}' = \mathfrak{S}_B : \nabla \delta \mathbf{d}$$

Plate stress tensors:
$$\mathbf{N} = {}^t \mathfrak{S}_M : \langle \mathbf{P} \rangle, \quad \mathbf{M} = {}^t \mathfrak{S}_B : \langle \mathbf{ZP} \rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow -P_{\text{int}} = \int_{\omega} (N_{i\alpha} \delta \bar{x}_{i,\alpha} + M_{i\alpha} \delta d_{i,\alpha}) d\omega$$

The PDE's:

$$\frac{\partial N_{i\alpha}}{\partial X_\alpha} + \frac{\partial}{\partial X_\beta} \left(K_{ji\beta} \frac{\partial M_{j\alpha}}{\partial X_\alpha} \right) + f_i = 0$$

Summary

- A true Kirchhoff plate for large strains with the help of the EAS concept
- Finite elements?
- Extension to shells?
- Comparison with the approach by Taylor series (Steigmann, H.H. Dai, ...)?
- Mathematical foundations?