## **Bending of Thin Plates**

## Outline

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- Internal Force per Unit Length
- Relations between Internal Force and Stress
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## Introduction

• One dimension (the thickness) is significantly smaller than the other two. (1/8-1/5) > t/b > (1/80-1/100)



- Middle Surface: z = 0.
- Only subjected to transvers loads.
- If a plate is only subjected to longitudinal loads, the problem is reduced to plane stress state.
- The bending problem of thin plates is analyzed with strategies similar to those of elastic beams.

#### **Review of the Elementary Beam Theory**

- Plane sections normal to the longitudinal axis of the beam remain planar.
- Only uniaxial longitudinal stress is assumed.



$$EI\frac{d^2w}{dx^2} = M, \quad \frac{d^2}{dx^2}\left(EI\frac{d^2w}{dx^2}\right) = q$$

## Assumptions

- Straight lines normal to the middle surface remain straight and the same length.
- Stress components acting on planes parallel to the middle surface are significantly smaller than other components. The corresponding strain can therefore be neglected.

$$0 = \varepsilon_z = \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \boxed{w = w(x, y)}$$

$$0 = \varepsilon_{zx} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \right) \implies \boxed{\frac{\partial u}{\partial z} = -\frac{\partial w}{\partial x}}$$

$$0 = \varepsilon_{zy} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} \right) \implies \left[ \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} = -\frac{\partial w}{\partial y} \right]$$

Discard:  $\varepsilon_z = \frac{\sigma_z - \nu(\sigma_x + \sigma_y)}{E}, \ \varepsilon_{zx} = \frac{1}{2G}\tau_{zx}, \ \varepsilon_{zy} = \frac{1}{2G}\tau_{zy}.$ 



#### Assumptions

• Constitutive relations

$$\varepsilon_x = \frac{1}{E}(\sigma_x - \nu\sigma_y), \quad \varepsilon_y = \frac{1}{E}(\sigma_y - \nu\sigma_x), \quad \varepsilon_{xy} = \frac{1}{2G}\tau_{xy}.$$

• The middle surface of the plate is not strained during bending.

$$\begin{cases} \left(u\right)_{z=0} = 0\\ \left(v\right)_{z=0} = 0 \end{cases} \implies \begin{cases} \left(\varepsilon_{x}\right)_{z=0} = \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}\right)_{z=0} = 0\\ \left(\varepsilon_{y}\right)_{z=0} = \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial y}\right)_{z=0} = 0\\ \left(\varepsilon_{xy}\right)_{z=0} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}\right)_{z=0} = 0 \end{cases}$$

• Longitudinal displacements formulated in terms of the vertical deflection w = w(x,y)



• Longitudinal strains in terms of w

$$\varepsilon_{x} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = -\frac{\partial^{2} w}{\partial x^{2}} z, \quad \varepsilon_{y} = \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = -\frac{\partial^{2} w}{\partial y^{2}} z, \quad \varepsilon_{xy} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right) = -\frac{\partial^{2} w}{\partial x \partial y} z$$

• Longitudinal stresses in terms of *w* 

$$\begin{cases} \sigma_{x} = \frac{E}{1 - v^{2}} (\varepsilon_{x} + v\varepsilon_{y}) \\ \sigma_{y} = \frac{E}{1 - v^{2}} (\varepsilon_{y} + v\varepsilon_{x}) \\ \tau_{xy} = \frac{E}{(1 + v)} \varepsilon_{xy} \end{cases} \Rightarrow \qquad \sigma_{x} = -\frac{Ez}{1 - v^{2}} \left( \frac{\partial^{2} w}{\partial x^{2}} + v \frac{\partial^{2} w}{\partial y^{2}} \right) \\ \sigma_{y} = -\frac{Ez}{1 - v^{2}} \left( \frac{\partial^{2} w}{\partial y^{2}} + v \frac{\partial^{2} w}{\partial x^{2}} \right) \\ \tau_{xy} = -\frac{Ez}{(1 + v)} \varepsilon_{xy} \end{cases}$$

• Transvers shear stresses in terms of *w* 

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial \tau_{zx}}{\partial z} = -\frac{\partial \sigma_x}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial \tau_{yx}}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial \tau_{zy}}{\partial z} = -\frac{\partial \sigma_y}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial \tau_{xy}}{\partial x} \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \frac{\partial \tau_{zx}}{\partial z} = \frac{Ez}{1 - v^2} \left( \frac{\partial^3 w}{\partial x^3} + \frac{\partial^3 w}{\partial x \partial y^2} \right) = \frac{Ez}{1 - v^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \nabla^2 w \\ \frac{\partial \tau_{zy}}{\partial z} = \frac{Ez}{1 - v^2} \left( \frac{\partial^3 w}{\partial y^3} + \frac{\partial^3 w}{\partial y \partial x^2} \right) = \frac{Ez}{1 - v^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \nabla^2 w \end{cases}$$

Integrate w.r.t z...

• Transvers shear stresses in terms of *w* 

$$\tau_{zx} = \frac{Ez^2}{2(1-v^2)} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \nabla^2 w + F_1(x, y), \qquad \tau_{zy} = \frac{Ez^2}{2(1-v^2)} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \nabla^2 w + F_2(x, y)$$

• Applying the BCs at the top/bottom surface

• Transvers normal stress in terms of w

$$\frac{\partial \sigma_z}{\partial z} = -\frac{\partial \tau_{xz}}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial \tau_{yz}}{\partial y} = \frac{E}{2(1-v^2)} \left(\frac{t^2}{4} - z^2\right) \nabla^4 w$$
$$\Rightarrow \sigma_z = \frac{E}{2(1-v^2)} \left(\frac{t^2}{4}z - \frac{z^3}{3}\right) \nabla^4 w + F_3(x,y)$$

• Applying the BCs at the bottom surface

$$(\sigma_z)_{z=t/2} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \sigma_z = \frac{E}{2(1-\nu^2)} \left[ \frac{t^2}{4} \left( z - \frac{t}{2} \right) - \frac{1}{3} \left( z^3 - \frac{t^3}{8} \right) \right] \nabla^4 w$$

$$\Rightarrow \sigma_z = -\frac{E}{6(1-\nu^2)} \left( z - \frac{t}{2} \right)^2 (z+t) \nabla^4 w$$

• Further applying the BCs at the top surface

$$(\sigma_z)_{z=-t/2} = -q \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{Et^3}{12(1-v^2)} \nabla^4 w = q$$

$$D\nabla^4 w = q, \quad D = \frac{Et^3}{12(1-v^2)}$$
*D*: Flexural Rigidity

#### **Internal Forces per Unit Length**

- **Definition:** It is customary to integrate the stresses over the (constant) plate thickness.
- Design requirements
- Dealing with the Boundary **Conditions** (Saint-Venant BCs)

$$M_{x} = \int_{-\frac{t}{2}}^{\frac{t}{2}} z \sigma_{x} dz$$
$$= -\frac{E}{1 - v^{2}} \left( \frac{\partial^{2} w}{\partial x^{2}} + v \frac{\partial^{2} w}{\partial y^{2}} \right) \int_{-\frac{t}{2}}^{\frac{t}{2}}$$



#### **Internal Forces per Unit Length**



#### **Internal Forces per Unit Length**



#### **Relations between Internal Forces and Stresses**

$$\sigma_{x} = -\frac{Ez}{1 - v^{2}} \left( \frac{\partial^{2} w}{\partial x^{2}} + v \frac{\partial^{2} w}{\partial y^{2}} \right)$$

$$M_{x} = -\frac{Et^{3}}{12(1 - v^{2})} \left( \frac{\partial^{2} w}{\partial x^{2}} + v \frac{\partial^{2} w}{\partial y^{2}} \right)$$

$$\sigma_{y} = -\frac{Ez}{1 - v^{2}} \left( \frac{\partial^{2} w}{\partial y^{2}} + v \frac{\partial^{2} w}{\partial x^{2}} \right)$$

$$M_{y} = -\frac{Et^{3}}{12(1 - v^{2})} \left( \frac{\partial^{2} w}{\partial y^{2}} + v \frac{\partial^{2} w}{\partial x^{2}} \right)$$

$$\tau_{xy} = -\frac{Ez}{1 + v} \frac{\partial^{2} w}{\partial x \partial y}$$

$$M_{xy} = -\frac{Et^{3}}{12(1 + v)} \frac{\partial^{2} w}{\partial x \partial y}$$

$$\Rightarrow \qquad \boxed{\tau_{xy} = \frac{12z}{t^{3}} M_{xy}}$$

#### **Relations between Internal Forces and Stresses**

$$\begin{split} \tau_{zx} &= \frac{E}{2(1-\nu^2)} \left( z^2 - \frac{t^2}{4} \right) \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \nabla^2 w \\ Q_x &= -\frac{Et^3}{12(1-\nu^2)} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \nabla^2 w \\ \tau_{zy} &= \frac{E}{2(1-\nu^2)} \left( z^2 - \frac{t^2}{4} \right) \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \nabla^2 w \\ Q_y &= -\frac{Et^3}{12(1-\nu^2)} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \nabla^2 w \\ \sigma_z &= -\frac{E}{6(1-\nu^2)} \left( z - \frac{t}{2} \right)^2 (z+t) \nabla^4 w \\ \frac{Et^3}{12(1-\nu^2)} \nabla^4 w = q \end{split} \qquad \Rightarrow \qquad \begin{aligned} \overline{\sigma_z = -2q \left( \frac{z}{t} - \frac{1}{2} \right)^2 \left( \frac{z}{t} + 1 \right)} \\ \end{array}$$

#### **Differential Element Equilibrium**



## **Boundary Conditions**

• Built-in / clamped edge along *OA* 

$$(w)_{x=0} = 0, \quad \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial x}\right)_{x=0} = 0$$

• Simply supported edge along *OC* 

$$0 = (w)_{y=0}, \quad 0 = (M_y)_{y=0} = -D\left(\frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y^2} + v \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2}\right)_{y=0}$$

$$\Rightarrow \left(\frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y^2}\right)_{y=0} = 0$$

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• Completely free edges, i.e. BC

$$(M_x)_{x=a} = -D\left(\frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} + v \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y^2}\right)_{x=a} = 0, \quad (M_{xy})_{x=a} = 0, \quad (Q_x)_{x=a} = 0$$

The boundary conditions for a free edge were expressed by Poisson in this form.

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## **Boundary Conditions – Free Edges**

- Kirchhoff proved that the two requirements of Poisson dealing with the twisting moment  $M_{xy}$ and with the shearing force  $Q_x$ must be replaced by one condition.
- Transforming every twisting moment into a force couple (Saint-Venant's principle)

$$\overline{V_x} dy = Q_x dy + \left( M_{xy} + \frac{\partial M_{xy}}{\partial y} dy \right) - M_x$$
$$\Rightarrow \overline{V_x} = Q_x + \frac{\partial M_{xy}}{\partial y}$$



## **Boundary Conditions – Free Edges**

• We are left with two concentrated forces at the corners *B* and *C* 

$$R_B = (M_{xy})_B \uparrow, \quad R_C = (M_{xy})_C \downarrow$$

• At the common corner *B* of the Edges *AB* and *BC* 

$$R_{B} = (M_{xy})_{B} \uparrow + (M_{yx})_{B} \uparrow = 2(M_{xy})_{B} \uparrow$$
$$= -2D(1-\nu) \left(\frac{\partial^{2}w}{\partial x \partial y}\right)_{B}$$

For all four corners:



## **Boundary Equation Method – Elliptic Plate**

• The boundary equation

$$\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} - 1 = 0$$

• Proposed deflection function

$$w = A \left(\frac{x^{2}}{a^{2}} + \frac{y^{2}}{b^{2}} - 1\right)^{2}$$

• On the boundary

$$w = 0, \quad \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} = \frac{4Ax}{a^2} \left( \frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} - 1 \right) = 0, \quad \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} = \frac{4Ay}{b^2} \left( \frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} - 1 \right) = 0$$

This solution can only address elliptic plates with fixed boundary.

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0, 
$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial y} = \frac{4Ay}{h^2} \left(\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{h^2} - 1\right) = 0$$

## **Boundary Equation Method – Elliptic Plate**

• By the governing equation

$$D\left(\frac{24A}{a^4} + \frac{16A}{a^2b^2} + \frac{24A}{b^4}\right) = q$$

This solution can only address elliptic plates under constant pressure.

• The deflection

$$A = \frac{qa^4b^4}{8D(3a^4 + 2a^2b^2 + 3b^4)} \implies \qquad \Rightarrow \qquad w = \frac{qa^4b^4}{8D(3a^4 + 2a^2b^2 + 3b^4)} \left(\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} - 1\right)^2$$

The applicability of this method is thus very limited.

## **Boundary Equation Method – Square Plate**

Consider a simply supported square plate subjected to sinusoidal load distribution

$$q(x,y) = q_0 \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{a}\right) \sin\left(\frac{\pi y}{a}\right)$$

• The proposed deflection function

$$w(x,y) = w_0 \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{a}\right) \sin\left(\frac{\pi y}{a}\right)$$

This form satisfies both the BCs and governing equations.

# This solution works only for simply supported square plate.

• As an exercise, finish the problem by examining BCs,  $w_0$ , bending moments, shear forces, effective shear (reaction) forces at the edges, and corner forces. Check the force balance.

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- Calculate the deflection of a **simply supported** rectangular plate, which is subjected to a distributed lateral load q(x, y).
- The governing equation

$$D\nabla^4 w = q, \quad D = \frac{Et^3}{12(1-v^2)}$$



• BCs

$$\begin{pmatrix} w \end{pmatrix}_{x=0} = (w)_{x=a} = (w)_{y=0} = (w)_{y=b} = 0 (M_x)_{x=0} = (M_x)_{x=a} = (M_y)_{y=0} = (M_y)_{y=b} = 0$$

• Double Fourier Series solution

$$w = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_{mn} \sin \frac{m\pi x}{a} \sin \frac{n\pi y}{b}$$

- This solution satisfies all the BCs.
- By the governing equation

$$\Rightarrow \pi^4 D \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{m^2}{a^2} + \frac{n^2}{b^2} \right)^2 A_{mn} \sin \frac{m\pi x}{a} \sin \frac{n\pi y}{b} = q$$

• To derive the coefficients, expand q in Fourier series

$$q = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_{mn} \sin \frac{m\pi x}{a} \sin \frac{n\pi y}{b}$$
$$= \frac{4}{ab} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[ \int_{0}^{a} \int_{0}^{b} q \sin \frac{m\pi x}{a} \sin \frac{n\pi y}{b} dx dy \right] \sin \frac{m\pi x}{a} \sin \frac{n\pi y}{b}$$



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• Matching the coefficients  $A_{mn}$  and  $C_{mn}$ 

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{A_{mn} = \frac{4\int_0^a \int_0^b q \sin \frac{m\pi x}{a} \sin \frac{n\pi y}{b} dx dy}{\pi^4 a b D \left(\frac{m^2}{a^2} + \frac{n^2}{b^2}\right)^2}}$$

• For constant pressure  $q = q_0$ 

- For concentrated load F applied at  $(\xi, \eta)$
- Dirac Delta Function

$$q(x, y) = \delta(x, y) = \begin{cases} \infty, (x, y) = (\xi, \eta) \\ 0, (x, y) \neq (\xi, \eta) \end{cases}$$

$$\iint \delta(x, y) \, \mathrm{d}x \mathrm{d}y = F$$

$$\iint \delta(x, y) f(x, y) dx dy = Ff(\xi, \eta)$$

where f(x,y) should be sufficiently smooth.

• Fourier Series coefficients in w

$$A_{mn} = \frac{4\int_{0}^{a}\int_{0}^{b}q(x,y)\sin\frac{m\pi x}{a}\sin\frac{n\pi y}{b}dxdy}{\pi^{4}abD\left(\frac{m^{2}}{a^{2}} + \frac{n^{2}}{b^{2}}\right)^{2}} = \frac{4F}{\pi^{4}abD\left(\frac{m^{2}}{a^{2}} + \frac{n^{2}}{b^{2}}\right)^{2}}\sin\frac{m\pi\xi}{a}\sin\frac{n\pi\eta}{b}$$



#### Summary

- The whole problem is formulated in terms of deflection *w*.
- The governing equation

$$D\nabla^4 w = q, \quad D = \frac{Et^3}{12(1-v^2)}$$

- Boundary conditions: three classical cases
- Built-in / clamped boundary: w = 0,  $\frac{\partial w}{\partial x} = 0$ .
- Simply supported boundary: w = 0, M = 0.
- Free edges: M = 0,  $Q + \frac{\partial M_{nt}}{\partial t} = 0$ .

#### Summary

• Longitudinal displacements

$$u = -\frac{\partial w}{\partial x}z, \quad v = -\frac{\partial w}{\partial y}z$$
  
Stress field  
$$\sigma_{x} = -\frac{Ez}{1-v^{2}} \left( \frac{\partial^{2} w}{\partial x^{2}} + v \frac{\partial^{2} w}{\partial y^{2}} \right)$$
  
$$\sigma_{y} = -\frac{Ez}{1-v^{2}} \left( \frac{\partial^{2} w}{\partial y^{2}} + v \frac{\partial^{2} w}{\partial x^{2}} \right)$$
  
$$\tau_{xy} = -\frac{Ez}{1+v} \frac{\partial^{2} w}{\partial x \partial y}$$
  
$$\sigma_{z} = -\frac{Ez}{6(1-v^{2})} \left( z^{2} - \frac{t^{2}}{4} \right) \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \nabla^{2} w$$
  
$$\sigma_{z} = -\frac{E}{6(1-v^{2})} \left( z - \frac{t}{2} \right)^{2} (z+t) \nabla^{4} w$$

• Internal forces

$$M_{x} = -D\left(\frac{\partial^{2} w}{\partial x^{2}} + v \frac{\partial^{2} w}{\partial y^{2}}\right), \quad M_{y} = -D\left(\frac{\partial^{2} w}{\partial y^{2}} + v \frac{\partial^{2} w}{\partial x^{2}}\right), \quad M_{yx} = M_{xy} = -D(1-v)\frac{\partial^{2} w}{\partial x \partial y}$$
$$Q_{x} = -D\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\nabla^{2} w, \qquad Q_{y} = -D\frac{\partial}{\partial y}\nabla^{2} w$$
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