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Fading regularization method and DKQ plate elements for the **Cauchy problem associated with the biharmonic equation**

Mohamed Aziz Boukraa^{1,2}, **Franck Delvare**²

Université Clermont Auvergne, CNRS, LMBP, F-63000 Clermont-Ferrand, France ² Normandie Univ, UNICAEN, CNRS, LMNO, 14000 Caen, France mohamed.boukraa@uca.fr

Motivation: Inverse problems in thin plate bending

Thin plates find applications in several fields of science and engineering. We recall here the case of plate elements for a bridge deck. In some situations, it may be mandatory to ensure the embedding and support of these plates for the correct installation of this structure. However, direct measurements may be impossible or difficult to obtain during construction or during maintenance. An inverse problem then arises!

Objectives : The aim of this study is to solve the inverse Cauchy-type problem for the bilaplacian operator, which governs the bending of thin plates, such as boundary conditions are available only on part of the boundary. We pro- canambridges.com pose to apply the fading regularization method and to im-**Figure 1:** Plate elements for a bridge deck plement it numerically using Discrete Kirchhoff (DK) plate elements.





The fading regularization method

• Idea: Find the solution of the equilibrium equation that best fits the boundary data while maintaining independence of the regularization parameter and stability towards noisy data

$$\mathbf{V}^{k+1} = \underset{\mathbf{V}\in H(\Gamma)}{\operatorname{Argmin}} \left\{ \|\mathbf{V} - \Phi_d\|_{H(\Gamma_d)}^2 + c\|\mathbf{V} - \mathbf{V}^k\|_{H(\Gamma)}^2 \right\}$$

• The fading regularization algorithm:

$$\begin{aligned} \| \mathbf{V}^{k+1} &= \operatorname*{Argmin}_{\mathbf{V} \in \mathbb{R}^{5N}} J_c^{k+1}(\mathbf{V}) \\ & \mathbf{V} \in \mathbb{R}^{5N} \end{aligned} \\ \text{with } \mathbf{V} &= (d, \mathcal{M}_n, \mathcal{V}_n) = (W, \theta_{,x}, \theta_{,y}, \mathcal{M}_n, \mathcal{V}_n) \\ \text{under the equality constraints } \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{V}) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Ill-posed Cauchy problem associated with the bilaplacian

The constitutive equation for the bending plate problem, under *Kirchhoff-Love* theory, is :

$$\begin{split} \int_{\Omega} \underbrace{\left((\mathbf{L}\nabla)^{t} \mathbf{D} (\mathbf{L}\nabla) w \right)}_{D\Delta^{2} w} \delta w \ dx dy &= \int_{\Omega} q(x, y) \delta \omega \quad dx dy \\ &+ \int_{\Gamma} \left[\mathcal{M}_{n} \frac{\partial \delta w}{\partial n} - \mathcal{V}_{n} \delta w \right] \quad ds + \sum_{i} \delta w_{i} R_{i} \end{split}$$

It is characterized by the biharmonic operator to which boundary conditions, related to the transverse displacement w, the normal rotation $\frac{\partial w}{\partial n}$, the moment \mathcal{M}_n and the shear force \mathcal{V}_n , are added at any point of the boundary.

$$\mathcal{M}_{n} = -D \left[\Delta w + (1-\nu) \left(2n_{x}n_{y} \frac{\partial^{2}w}{\partial x \partial y} - n_{y}^{2} \frac{\partial^{2}w}{\partial x^{2}} - n_{x}^{2} \frac{\partial^{2}w}{\partial y^{2}} \right) \right]$$
$$\mathcal{V}_{n} = -D \left[\frac{\partial \Delta w}{\partial n} + (1-\nu) \frac{\partial}{\partial s} \left[n_{x}n_{y} (\frac{\partial^{2}w}{\partial y^{2}} - \frac{\partial^{2}w}{\partial x^{2}}) + (n_{x}^{2} - n_{y}^{2}) \frac{\partial^{2}w}{\partial x \partial y} \right] \right]$$

These boundary conditions are not always accessible to measurements. Hence, in the case of an inaccessible part Γ_i of the boundary and an over-specified part of the boundary Γ_d , the resulting Cauchy problem is ill-posed in the sense of Hadamard.

> $\Delta^2 w = 0$ $\forall x \in \Omega$

where

$$\begin{aligned} k^{k+1}(\mathbf{V}) &= \|W_{|\Gamma_d} - \phi_d\|_{L^2(\Gamma_d)}^2 + \|n_y \theta_{,x} + n_x \theta_{,y}|_{\Gamma_d} - \mu_d\|_{L^2(\Gamma_d)}^2 \\ &+ \|\mathcal{M}_{n|\Gamma_d} - \mathcal{M}_d\|_{L^2(\Gamma_d)}^2 + \|\mathcal{V}_{n|\Gamma_d} - \mathcal{V}_d\|_{L^2(\Gamma_d)}^2 + c \Big(\|W - W^k\|_{L^2(\Gamma)}^2 \\ &+ \|\theta_{,x} - \theta_{,x}^k\|_{L^2(\Gamma)}^2 + \|\theta_{,y} - \theta_{,y}^k\|_{L^2(\Gamma)}^2 + \|\mathcal{M}_n - \mathcal{M}_n^k\|_{L^2(\Gamma)}^2 + \|\mathcal{V}_n - \mathcal{V}_n^k\|_{L^2(\Gamma)}^2 \Big) \end{aligned}$$

Numerical simulations

We consider the biharmonic analytical solution:

$$u_{an}(x,y) = \frac{1}{2}x(\sin x \cosh y - \cos x \sinh y), \quad (x,y) \in \Omega,$$

where Ω is a two-dimensional domain such as Cauchy data are given only on a part Γ_d of its boundary Γ . Two example of domains are considered :





The corresponding finite element formulation is : $\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{V}) := \mathbf{K}\underline{d} - \mathbf{F}\underline{b} = 0$, such as $\underline{b} = (\mathcal{M}_n, \mathcal{V}_n, \underline{R})$.

Figure 4: Reconstructions of the boundary conditions on the boundary of a square domain (Fig. 2b) such as data are given on two opposite sides.

omenclature

vertical displacement of the plate

transversal load

the flexural rigidity of the plate

regularization parameter

 R_i concentrated forces at corner nodes *n* outer normal $H(\Gamma)$ space of the operator solutions δ level of noise