Plates on elastic foundation

Circular elastic plate, axial-symmetric load, Winkler soil

(after Timoshenko & Woinowsky-Krieger (1959) - Chapter 8)

Winkler model: modulus of subgrade



Introduction Circular elastic (thin) plates

The *Kirchhoff–Love theory* of plates is a two-dimensional mathematical model that is used to determine the stresses and deformations in thin plates subjected to forces and moments.

The following *kinematic assumptions* that are made in this theory:

- straight lines normal to the mid-surface remain straight after deformation
- straight lines normal to the mid-surface remain normal to the mid-surface after deformation
- the thickness of the plate does not change during a deformation.

(after Wikipedia)

Germain-Lagrange equation (cartesian coordinates)

$$\frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^4} + 2 \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^2 \partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial y^4} = \frac{q}{D}$$



Circular elastic (thin) plates

Germain-Lagrange equation (cartesian coordinates)

$$\Delta_2 w = \Delta \Delta w = \frac{q}{D} \qquad \qquad \Delta (\bullet) = \frac{\partial^2 (\bullet)}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 (\bullet)}{\partial y^2}$$

Conversion to polar (cylindrical) coordinates



Circular elastic (thin) plates under axial-symmetric load

Germain-Lagrange equation (polar coordinates)

$$\Delta_2 w = \Delta \Delta w = \frac{q}{D} \qquad \qquad \Delta (\bullet) = \frac{\partial^2 (\bullet)}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \cdot \frac{\partial (\bullet)}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2} \cdot \frac{\partial^2 (\bullet)}{\partial^2 \theta}$$

$$\Delta_2 w = \left(\frac{\partial^2 \left(\bullet\right)}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \cdot \frac{\partial \left(\bullet\right)}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2} \cdot \frac{\partial^2 \left(\bullet\right)}{\partial^2 \theta}\right) \left(\frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \cdot \frac{\partial w}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2} \cdot \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial^2 \theta}\right) = \frac{q}{D}$$

$$\left(\frac{d^2}{dr^2} + \frac{1}{r} \cdot \frac{d}{dr}\right) \left(\frac{d^2w}{dr^2} + \frac{1}{r} \cdot \frac{dw}{dr}\right) = \frac{q}{D}$$

Circular elastic (thin) plates on Winkler soil under axial-symmetric load

$$\left(\frac{d^2}{dr^2} + \frac{1}{r} \cdot \frac{d}{dr}\right) \left(\frac{d^2w}{dr^2} + \frac{1}{r} \cdot \frac{dw}{dr}\right) = \frac{q - k_0 w}{D}$$

$$\frac{d^4w}{dr^4} + \frac{2}{r}\frac{d^3w}{dr^3} - \frac{1}{r^2}\frac{d^2w}{dr^2} + \frac{1}{r^3}\frac{dw}{dr} = \frac{q - k_0w}{D}$$

Since an uniformly distributed load q applied on an elastic plates (or elastic beams) on Winkler soils with uniform k_0 does not determine any stress within the plate, <u>the sole effect of a point</u> load P applied in the centre of the plate is considered hereafter.





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Conversion to a dimensionless form

 $z = \frac{W}{W}$

X = -

- Characteristic length:

$$\frac{k_0}{D} = \frac{1}{l^4} \qquad \qquad \frac{[F][L]^{-3}}{[F][L]} = \frac{1}{[L]^4}$$

- Dimensionless quantities:

Dimensionless displacement

Dimensionless radius

Dimensionless derivatives:

$\frac{dw}{dr} =$	$\frac{l \cdot dz}{l \cdot dx} = \frac{dz}{dx}$	
$\frac{d^2w}{dr^2}$ =	$=\frac{d}{dr}\frac{dw}{dr}=\frac{d}{l\cdot dx}\frac{dz}{dx}=\frac{1}{l}\frac{d^{2}z}{dx^{2}}$	
$\frac{d^{i}w}{dr^{i}} =$	$=\frac{d}{dr}\frac{dw}{dr}=\frac{1}{l^{i-1}}\cdot\frac{d^{i}w}{dx^{i}}$	

$$\frac{d^2}{dr^2} + \frac{1}{r} \cdot \frac{d}{dr} \left(\frac{d^2w}{dr^2} + \frac{1}{r} \cdot \frac{dw}{dr} \right) + \frac{w}{l^4} = 0$$

$$\frac{1}{l^3} \cdot \left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{x} \cdot \frac{d}{dx} \right) \left(\frac{d^2z}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{x} \cdot \frac{dz}{dx} \right) + \frac{z}{l^3} = 0$$

$$\frac{d^2z}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{x} \cdot \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{d^2z}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{x} \cdot \frac{dz}{dx} \right) + z = 0$$

$$\frac{d^4z}{dx^4} + \frac{2}{x} \frac{d^3z}{dx^3} - \frac{1}{x^2} \frac{d^2z}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{x^3} \frac{dz}{dx} + z = 0$$

General solution

The proposed mathematical transformations led to the following *homogeneous* 4th-order linear differential equation with variable coefficients:

$$\frac{d^4z}{dx^4} + \frac{2}{x^3}\frac{d^3z}{dx^3} - \frac{1}{x^2}\frac{d^2z}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{x^3}\frac{dz}{dx} + z = 0$$

Therefore, in principle the *general solution* of this differential equation might be written as follows:

$$z = A_1 \cdot X_1(x) + A_2 \cdot X_2(x) + A_3 \cdot X_3(x) + A_4 \cdot X_4(x)$$

where X_i are four <u>independent solutions</u> of the differential equation under consideration and A_i are four integration constants depending on the actual boundary conditions.

Note:

$$\left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{x} \cdot \frac{d}{dx}\right) \left(\frac{d^2 X_i}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{x} \cdot \frac{dX_i}{dx}\right) + X_i = 0 \qquad i = 1..4$$

Approximation by power series

Since X_i are unknown (as the differential equation under consideration includes *variable coefficients*), an approximation based on power series may be firstly assumed. Hence, the general expression of Xi can be taken as follows:

$$X_{i} = \sum_{n=0}^{N_{T}} a_{n} x^{n} = a_{0} + a_{1} x^{1} + a_{2} x^{2} + \dots + a_{n} x^{n} + \dots + a_{N_{T}} x^{N_{T}}$$

where N_{τ} is the highest monomial in the series.

Since X_i should be a solution of the general differential equation, the 2nd order laplacian of each term $a_n x^n$ should find a similar monomial such that:

$$\Delta\Delta X_{i} + X_{i} = 0$$

$$\Delta\Delta a_{n}x^{n} = \left(\frac{d^{2}}{dx^{2}} + \frac{1}{x} \cdot \frac{d}{dx}\right) \left(\frac{d^{2}a_{n}x^{n}}{dx^{2}} + \frac{1}{x} \cdot \frac{da_{n}x^{n}}{dx}\right)$$

$$n^{2}(n-2)^{2}a_{n}x^{n-4} + a_{n-4}x^{n-4} = 0$$

$$\int a_{n}x^{n-4} + \frac{1}{x} \cdot \frac{da_{n}x^{n}}{dx} = n(n-1)a_{n}x^{n-2} + na_{n}x^{n-2} = n^{2}a_{n}x^{n-2}$$

$$\left(\frac{d^{2}}{dx^{2}} + \frac{1}{x} \cdot \frac{d}{dx}\right)n^{2}a_{n}x^{n-2} = n^{2}(n-2)(n-3)a_{n}x^{n-4} + n^{2}(n-2)a_{n}x^{n-4} = n^{2}(n-2)^{2}a_{n}x^{n-4}$$

$$a_{n} = -\frac{a_{n-4}}{n^{2}(n-2)^{2}}$$
Recursive definition of a_{n}

Approximation by power series: first independed solution X₁

$$a_n = -\frac{a_{n-4}}{n^2 \left(n-2\right)^2}$$

$$z = A_1 \cdot X_1(x) + A_2 \cdot X_2(x) + A_3 \cdot X_3(x) + A_4 \cdot X_4(x)$$

Based on the recursive definition of the an coefficients, a first independent solution X_1 can be "built up" by assuming a_0 as the first nonzero coefficient:

$$n = 0: \qquad a_0 = 1 \qquad \qquad a_1 = a_2 = a_3 = 0$$

$$n = 4: \qquad a_4 = -\frac{a_0}{4^2 (4-2)^2} = -\frac{1}{4^2 \cdot 2^2}$$

$$n = 8: \qquad a_8 = -\frac{a_4}{8^2 (8-2)^2} = \frac{1}{8^2 \cdot 6^2 \cdot 4^2 \cdot 2^2}$$

$$n = 12: \qquad a_{12} = -\frac{a_8}{12^2 (12-2)^2} = \frac{1}{12^2 \cdot 10^2 \cdot 8^2 \cdot 6^2 \cdot 4^2 \cdot 2^2}$$

$$X_{1}(x) = 1 - \frac{1}{64}x^{4} + \frac{1}{147456}x^{8} - \frac{1}{2123366400}x^{12} \dots$$

Approximation by power series: second independed solution X₂

$$a_n = -\frac{a_{n-4}}{n^2 \left(n-2\right)^2}$$

Before proceeding with "constructing" the second independent solution X_2 of z, it should be noted that the assumption of $\underline{a_1=1}$ is not admissible. In fact, if one assumes $a_1=1$ (and, at the same time, $a_0=a_2=a_3=0$) the resulting solution X_2 of z would have a first term x:

$$X_2 = x + \dots$$

which implies a nonzero first derivative of X_2 (and, hence, of the general solution z) which cannot be accepted because of the fact that rotations (φ =d X_2 /dx=1+...) should be zero at x=0.

Therefore, the second solution X_2 should be built by assuming $a_2=1$ and, at the same time, $a_0=a_1=a_3=0$:

this leads to an expression of X_2 whose first nonzero monomial is of 2nd order and, hence, the <u>second</u> <u>derivative</u> of X_2 is non zero ($\chi = d^2X_2/dx_2 = 1 + ...$)): this is acceptable because the <u>curvature</u> is nonzero at the plate centre (x=0).







Approximation by power series: second independed solution X₂

$$a_n = -\frac{a_{n-4}}{n^2 \left(n-2\right)^2}$$

Based on the recursive definition of the an coefficients, a first independent solution X_2 can be "built up" by assuming a_2 as the first nonzero coefficient:

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Approximation by power series: third independed solution X_3

$$a_n = -\frac{a_{n-4}}{n^2 (n-2)^2}$$

The assumption $a_3=1$ (and, at the same time, $a_0=a_1=a_2=0$) is not even admissible, as it would lead to the a function having the following expression:

 $X_{3} = x^{3} + \dots$

This is not admissible because it would lead to a finite value of shear for x=0:

$$V \propto \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{d^2 X_3}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{x} \frac{d X_3}{dx} \right) = 2 + \dots$$

whereas shear should be divergent (it should tend to infinity) for $x \rightarrow 0$, as a finite force P should be in equilibrium with shear stresses on an infinitesimal circumference of radius ε .





Approximation by power series: third independed solution X₃

on the one hand, shear V
$$\rightarrow \infty$$
 for x $\rightarrow 0$,

and

on the other one hand, both X_1 and X_2 would lead to a finite value of shear for x=0, the solutions X_3 and X_4 should be capable to reproduce the condition V $\rightarrow \infty$ for x $\rightarrow 0$.

Therefore, a different solution, including the term log x (which diverges for $x \rightarrow 0$ along with all its derivatives) ad an new unknown function F_3 , is preliminarily defined:

$$X_3 = X_1 \cdot \log x + F_3$$

The function X_3 should be, in turn, a solution of the general differential equation:

First of all, the 2^{nd} laplacian of X_3 is determined

$$\Delta \Delta X_3 = \frac{4}{x} \frac{d^3 X_1}{dx^3} + \log x \cdot \Delta \Delta X_1 + \Delta \Delta F_3$$

Approximation by power series: third independed solution X₃

Then:

$$\Delta \Delta X_3 + X_3 = 0$$

The following condition has to be met:

$$\Delta \Delta X_3 + X_3 = \frac{4}{x} \frac{d^3 X_1}{dx^3} + \log x \cdot \Delta \Delta X_1 + \Delta \Delta F_3 + X_1 \log x + F_3 = 0$$

and, after collecting the term log x,

$$\frac{4}{x}\frac{d^{3}X_{1}}{dx^{3}} + \log x \cdot \left(\Delta\Delta X_{1} + X_{1}\right) + \Delta\Delta F_{3} + F_{3} = 0$$

the following relationship is derived for F_3 :

$$\Delta \Delta F_3 + F_3 = -\frac{4}{x} \frac{d^3 X_1}{dx^3}$$

$$\Delta \Delta F_3 + F_3 = -4 \cdot \left(-\frac{2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4}{64} + \frac{6 \cdot 7 \cdot 8}{147456} x^4 - \frac{10 \cdot 11 \cdot 12}{2123366400} x^8 + \dots \right)$$

Approximation by power series: third independed solution X₃

$$\Delta \Delta F_3 + F_3 = -4 \cdot \left(-\frac{2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4}{4^2 \cdot 2^2} + \frac{6 \cdot 7 \cdot 8}{8^2 \cdot 6^2 \cdot 4^2 \cdot 2^2} x^4 - \frac{10 \cdot 11 \cdot 12}{12^2 \cdot 10^2 \cdot 8^2 \cdot 6^2 \cdot 4^2 \cdot 2^2} x^8 + \dots \right)$$

$$\Delta \Delta F_3 + F_3 = 4 \cdot \sum_{n=4}^{n_T} (-1)^{\frac{n}{4}-1} \cdot \frac{n \cdot (n-1) \cdot (n-2)}{n^2 \cdot (n-2)^2 \cdot \dots \cdot 2^2} x^{n-4}$$

The function F_3 may also be approximated by the following power series:

$$F_3 = b_4 x^4 + b_8 x^8 + b_{12} x^{12} + \dots$$

whose 2nd laplacian can be expressed as follows:

$$\Delta \Delta b_n x^n = n^2 (n-2)^2 b_n x^{n-4}$$

$$n^{2}(n-2)^{2}b_{n}x^{n-4}+b_{n-4}x^{n-4}=(-1)^{\frac{n}{4}-1}\cdot\frac{n\cdot(n-1)\cdot(n-2)}{n^{2}\cdot(n-2)^{2}\cdot\ldots\cdot2^{2}}\cdot x^{n-4} \qquad \forall n$$

$$b_{n} = \frac{1}{n^{2} (n-2)^{2}} \left[-b_{n-4} + (-1)^{\frac{n}{4}-1} \cdot 4 \cdot \frac{n \cdot (n-1) \cdot (n-2)}{n^{2} \cdot (n-2)^{2} \cdot ... \cdot 2^{2}} \right]$$

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Approximation by power series: third independed solution X₃

$$b_{n} = \frac{1}{n^{2}(n-2)^{2}} \left[-b_{n-4} + (-1)^{\frac{n}{4}-1} \cdot 4 \cdot \frac{n \cdot (n-1) \cdot (n-2)}{n^{2} \cdot (n-2)^{2} \cdot ... \cdot 2^{2}} \right]$$

In[36] := ConstsSol3 = Solve[SimEq3 == 0, Constants3] // Flatten



In[37] := X3[x] = Expand[FullSimplify[X3[x] /. ConstsSol3]]



Approximation by power series: fourth independed solution X_{a}

A similar procedure leads to defining the fourth independent solution:

$$X_4 = X_2 \cdot \log x + F_4$$

and, similar considerations, can be done in defining F_4 for X_4 is a solution of the general differential equation.

$$F_4 = c_6 x^6 + c_{10} x^{10} + c_{14} x^{14} + \dots$$



Approximation by power series: fourth independed solution X_4



Boundary conditions

The general solution, whose expression was defined by 4th approximate solutions, is reported below:

$$z = A_1 \cdot X_1(x) + A_2 \cdot X_2(x) + A_3 \cdot X_3(x) + A_4 \cdot X_4(x)$$

Four boundary conditions should be written for determining the four constants $A_1...A_4$. <u>The first two ones are imposed for r=R (namely, for x=R/I)</u>:

Dimensional expression

Dimensionless expression

$$r = R$$

$$\left[\frac{d^2w}{dr^2} + \frac{v}{r}\frac{dw}{dr}\right]_{r=R} = 0$$
$$\left[\frac{d}{dr}\left(\frac{d^2w}{dr^2} + \frac{1}{r}\frac{dw}{dr}\right)\right]_{r=R} = 0$$

x = R/I

$$\left[\frac{d^2 z}{dx^2} + \frac{v}{x}\frac{dz}{dx}\right]_{x=\frac{R}{l}} = 0$$

$$\left[\frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{d^2z}{dx^2}+\frac{1}{x}\frac{dz}{dx}\right)\right]_{x=\frac{R}{l}}=0$$

Ρ

Boundary conditions

The general solution, whose expression was defined by 4th approximate solutions, is reported below:

$$Z = A_{1} \cdot X_{1}(x) + A_{2} \cdot X_{2}(x) + A_{3} \cdot X_{3}(x) + A_{4} \cdot X_{4}(x)$$

$$\underbrace{\text{Other two boundary conditions are imposed for r=0 (namely, for x=0):}_{\text{Dimensional expression}}$$

$$r = 0$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{dw}{dr} \end{bmatrix}_{r=R} = 0$$

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} \left\{ -2\pi\varepsilon I \cdot D \left[\frac{d}{dr} \left(\frac{d^{2}w}{dr^{2}} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{dw}{dr} \right) \right]_{r=\varepsilon I} \right\} + P = 0$$

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} \left\{ -2\pi\varepsilon \cdot k_{0}I^{3} \left[\frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{d^{2}z}{dx^{2}} + \frac{1}{x} \frac{dz}{dx} \right) \right]_{x=\varepsilon} \right\} + P = 0$$

Boundary conditions: expressions of constants

First of all, let's consider the third boundary condition:

$$\left[\frac{dz}{dx}\right]_{x=0} = 0$$

Since X₁ and X₂ are polynomials with even order power terms (i.e. x⁰, x⁴, x⁸ ... and x², x⁶, x¹⁰ ..., respectively), their first derivative is zero for x=0.

Moreover, the first derivative of X_4 is also zero for x=0 (or, better, in the limit of x \rightarrow 0):

$$\left[\frac{dX_4}{dx}\right]_{x=0} = \lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} \left[\frac{d}{dx} \left(X_2 \log x + F_4\right)\right]_{x=\varepsilon} = \lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} \left[2x \cdot \log x + \dots - \frac{x^2}{x} + \dots\right]_{x=\varepsilon} = 0$$

Therefore, the first derivative of z in x=0 only takes a nonzero contribution from X_3 :

$$\left[\frac{dz}{dx}\right]_{x=0} = A_3 \cdot \left[\frac{dX_3}{dx}\right]_{x=0} = A_3 \cdot \lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} \left[\frac{d}{dx} \left(X_1 \log x + F_3\right)\right]_{x=\varepsilon} = A_3 \cdot \lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} \left[-\frac{1}{x} + \dots\right]_{x=\varepsilon} = 0$$

which is only satisfied for $\underline{A_3=0}$.

Boundary conditions: expressions of constants

Then, the fourth condition can be considered:

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} \left\{ -2\pi\varepsilon \cdot k_0 l^3 \left[\frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{d^2 z}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{x} \frac{dz}{dx} \right) \right]_{x=\varepsilon} \right\} + P = 0$$

and, once again, no contribution comes from X_1 and X_2 , but the only nonzero terms is given by the third derivatives of X_4 :

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{d^2 z}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{x} \frac{dz}{dx} \right) \end{bmatrix}_{x=\varepsilon} = A_4 \cdot \left[\frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{d^2 X_4}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{x} \frac{dX_4}{dx} \right) \right]_{x=\varepsilon} = A_4 \cdot \left[\frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{x} \frac{d}{dx} \right) (X_2 \cdot \log x + F_4) \right]_{x=\varepsilon} = A_4 \cdot \left[\frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{x} \frac{d}{dx} \right) (x^2 \cdot \log x + F_4) \right]_{x=\varepsilon} = A_4 \cdot \left[\frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{x} \frac{d}{dx} \right) (x^2 \cdot \log x + \dots) \right]_{x=\varepsilon} = A_4 \cdot \left[\frac{2}{x} + \frac{2}{x} \right]_{x=\varepsilon} = A_4 \cdot \left[\frac{2}{x} + \frac{2}{x} \right]_{x=\varepsilon} = A_4 \cdot \left[\frac{4}{\varepsilon} \left(\frac{2}{z} + \frac{2}{z} \right) \right]_{x=\varepsilon} = A_4 \cdot \left[\frac{2}{z} + \frac{2}{z} \right]_{x=\varepsilon} = A_4 \cdot \left$$

Therefore:

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} \left\{ -2\pi\varepsilon \cdot k_0 l^3 \cdot \overline{A_4} \cdot \frac{4}{\varepsilon} \right\} + P = 0 \quad \Longrightarrow \quad -8\pi \cdot k_0 l^3 \cdot A_4 + P = 0 \quad \Longrightarrow \quad \overline{A_4} = \frac{P}{8\pi k_0 l^3}$$

Boundary conditions: expressions of constants

Finally, the first two equations can be considered for determining the two constants A_1 and A_2 :

$$\left[\frac{d^2z}{dx^2} + \frac{v}{x}\frac{dz}{dx}\right]_{x=\frac{R}{l}} = 0 \qquad \left[\frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{d^2z}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{x}\frac{dz}{dx}\right)\right]_{x=\frac{R}{l}} = 0$$

$$\overline{z}(x) = \overline{A}_1 \cdot X_1(x) + \overline{A}_2 \cdot X_2(x) + \overline{A}_4 \cdot X_4(x)$$

$$\overline{w}(r) = I \cdot \overline{z}\left(\frac{r}{I}\right)$$

$$\overline{M}_{r}(r) = -D\left(\frac{d^{2}\overline{w}}{dr^{2}} + \frac{v}{r}\frac{d\overline{w}}{dr}\right) \qquad \overline{M}_{\theta}(r) = -D\left(\frac{1}{r}\frac{d\overline{w}}{dr} + v\cdot\frac{d^{2}\overline{w}}{dr^{2}}\right) \qquad \overline{V}_{r}(r) = -D\left[\frac{d}{dr}\left(\frac{d^{2}\overline{w}}{dr^{2}} + \frac{1}{r}\frac{d\overline{w}}{dr}\right)\right]$$

Comparisons: proposed procedure vs FEM solution

