

AS2070: Aerospace Structural Mechanics

Module 1: Elastic Stability

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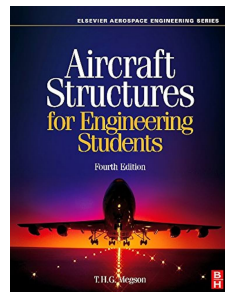
February 17, 2025

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Chapters 1-3 in Brush and Almroth (1975).

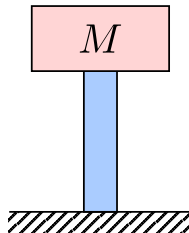


*Chapters 7-9
in Megson (2013)*

1. Introduction

Structural Stability: What?

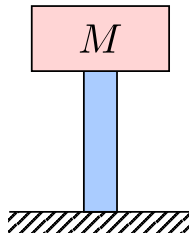
- Consider supporting a mass M on the top of a rod.



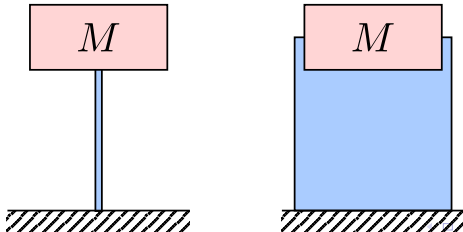
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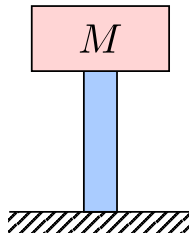
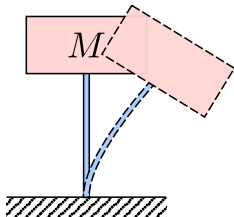
Two Extreme Cases:



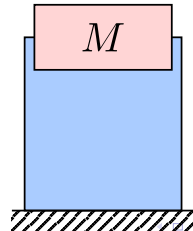
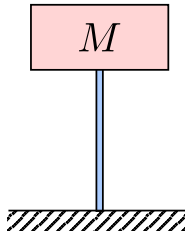
1. Introduction

Structural Stability: What?

- Consider supporting a mass M on the top of a rod.
- Collapse is imminent on at least one!



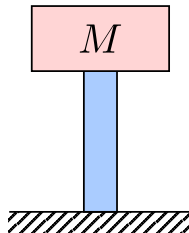
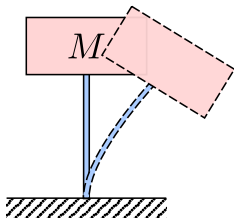
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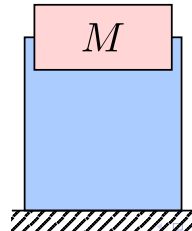
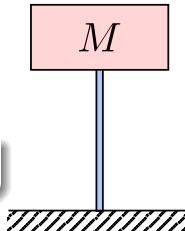
1. Introduction

Structural Stability: What?

- Consider supporting a mass M on the top of a rod.
- Collapse is imminent on at least one!



Two Extreme Cases:



How can we mathematically describe this?

1. Introduction

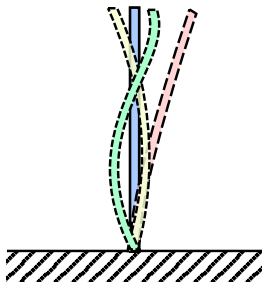
Structural Stability: Perturbation Behavior

Perturbation Behavior

Key insight we will invoke is behavior under **perturbation**:

How would the system respond if I slightly perturb it?

- Mathematically, by perturbation we mean *any change to the system's configuration*.
- In this case, this could be different deflection shapes.



1. Introduction

Structural Stability: Perturbation Behavior

Perturbation Behavior

Key insight we will invoke is behavior under **perturbation**:

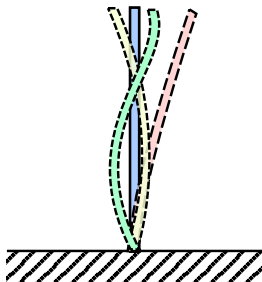
How would the system respond if I slightly perturb it?

- Mathematically, by perturbation we mean *any change to the system's configuration*.
- In this case, this could be different deflection shapes.

Question (Slightly more specific)

What will the system tend to do if an arbitrarily small magnitude of perturbation is introduced?

- Will it tend to **return to its original configuration**?
- Will it **blow up**?
- Will it do **something else entirely**?



1.1. Elastic Stability

Introduction

What do these words mean?

Elastic $\rightarrow$ Reversible $\rightarrow$ Conservative

Conservative System

- The restoring force of a conservative system can be written using a gradient of a **potential function**:

$$\underline{F} = -\nabla U.$$

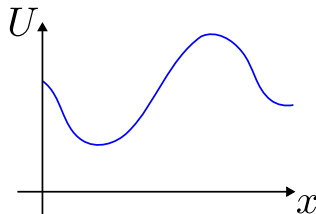
Equilibrium

- System achieves equilibrium when $\underline{F} = \underline{0}$, i.e.,

$$\nabla U = 0.$$

1D Example

Consider a system whose configuration is expressed by the scalar x and the potential is as shown.



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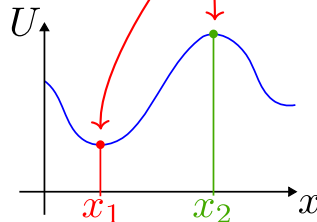
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Consider a system whose potential is as shown. These are the equilibria.



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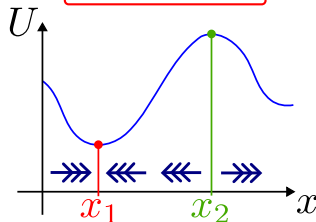
- System achieves equilibrium when $\underline{F} = \underline{0}$, i.e.,

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1D Example

Consider a system whose configuration is expressed by the scalar x and the potential is

$$\text{Remember, } F = -\frac{dU}{dx}.$$



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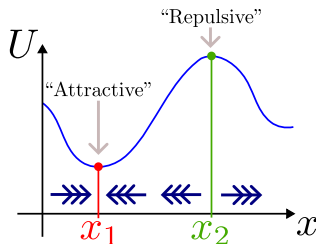
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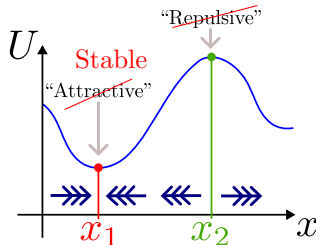
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1D Example

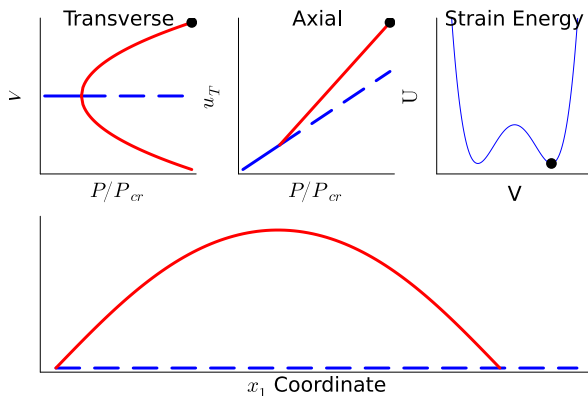
Consider a system whose configuration is expressed by the scalar x and the potential is as shown. **Unstable**



1.2. Bifurcation

Introduction

A system is said to have **undergone a bifurcation** if its state of stability has changed due to the variation of some parameter.

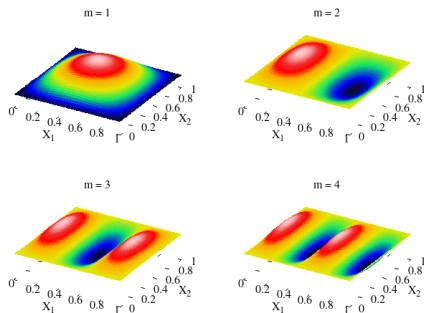


Example: A pinned-pinned beam undergoing axial loading.

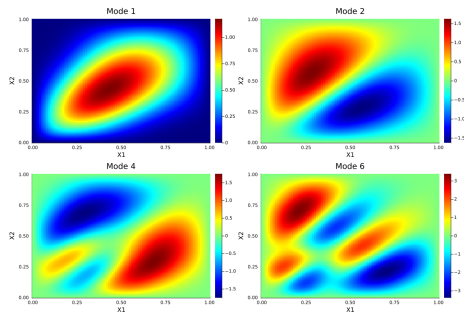
1.3. Modes of Stability Loss

Introduction

The **configuration** that a system can assume as it undergoes a bifurcation is the *mode* of the stability loss.



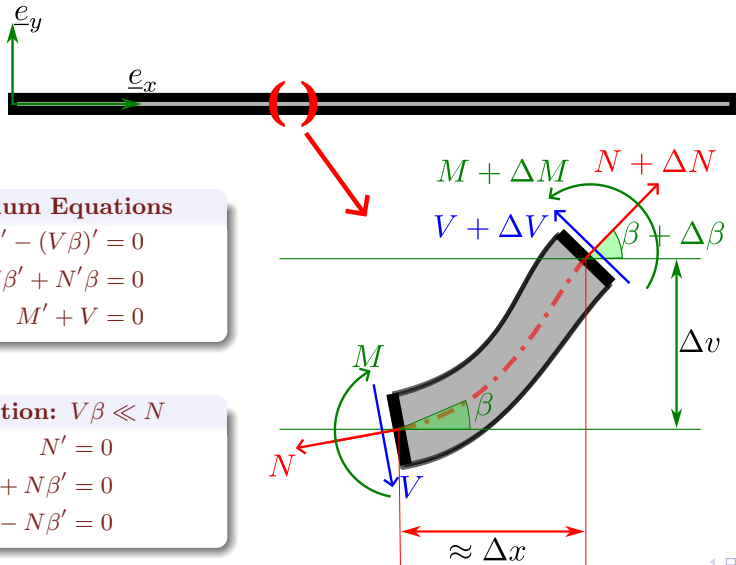
Example: Thin plate (pinned) under axial loading



Example: Thin plate (pinned) under shear loading

2.1. Equilibrium Equations

Euler Buckling of Columns



Equilibrium Equations

$$N' - (V\beta)' = 0$$

$$V' + N\beta' + N'\beta = 0$$

$$M' + V = 0$$

Assumption: $V\beta \ll N$

$$N' = 0$$

$$V' + N\beta' = 0$$

$$M'' - N\beta' = 0$$

2.2. Kinematic Description

Euler Buckling of Columns



Displacement, Strain Field

$$u_x = u(x) - yv'(x)$$

$$u_y = v(x)$$

$$\varepsilon_{xx} = u'(x) - yv''(x)$$

Assumptions (E.B.T.)

Plane sections remain planar

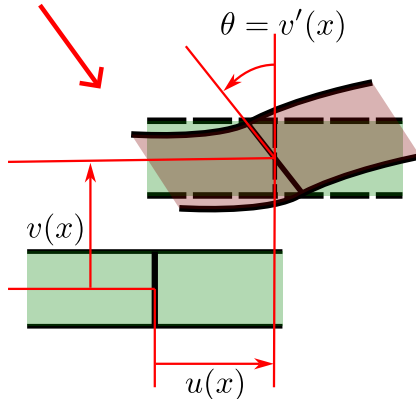
$$u, v \rightarrow u(x), v(x)$$

Neutral Axis remains $\perp$ to sections

$$\beta \equiv \theta = v'(x)$$

Small displacements, rotations

$$\mathcal{O}(v^2, u^2, v'^2) \rightarrow 0$$



2.2. Kinematic Description

Euler Buckling of Columns



Displacement, Strain

$$u_x = u(x) - yv'(x)$$

$$u_y = v(x)$$

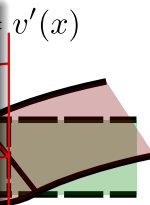
$$\varepsilon_{xx} = u'(x) - yv''(x)$$

Constitutive Modeling

$$\sigma_{xx} = E\varepsilon_{xx} = Eu' - yEv''$$

$$N = \int_{\mathcal{A}} \sigma_{xx} = EAu'$$

$$M = \int_{\mathcal{A}} -y\sigma_{xx} = EIv''$$



Assumptions

Plane sections remain plane

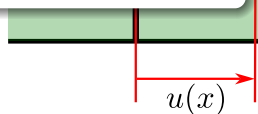
$u, v \rightarrow$ **Note:** y measured in Centroidal

Neutral Axis remains straight coordinates s.t. $\int_{\mathcal{A}} y = 0$.

$$\beta \equiv \theta = v'(x)$$

Small displacements, rotations

$$\mathcal{O}(v^2, u^2, v'^2) \rightarrow 0$$



2.3. The Linear Buckling Problem

Euler Buckling of Columns

- Substituting, we are left with,

$$N' = \boxed{EAu'' = 0}, \quad M'' - N\beta' = \boxed{EIv'''' - Nv'' = 0}.$$

Axial Problem

- Boundary conditions representing axial compression:

$$u(x=0) = 0, \quad EAu'(x=\ell) = -P$$

- Solution:

$$\boxed{u(x) = -\frac{P}{EA}x}$$

Transverse Problem

- Substituting $N = -P$ we have,

$$v'''' + k^2 v'' = 0, \quad k^2 = \frac{P}{EI}.$$

- The general solution to this **Homogeneous ODE** are

$$\boxed{v(x) = A_0 + A_1 x + A_2 \cos kx + A_3 \sin kx}$$

- Boundary conditions on the transverse displacement function $v(x)$ are necessary to fix A_0, A_1, A_2, A_3 .

2.3.1. The Pinned-Pinned Column

The Linear Buckling Problem

- For a Pinned-pinned beam we have $v = 0$ on the ends and zero reaction moments at the supports:

$$\begin{aligned} v &= 0, & x &= \{0, \ell\} \\ v'' &= 0, & x &= \{0, \ell\} \end{aligned}$$

- So the general solution reduces to

$$v(x) = A_3 \sin kx,$$

with the boundary condition

$$A_3 \sin k\ell = 0.$$

- Apart from the trivial solution ($A_3 = 0$) we have

$$k_{(n)}\ell = n\pi \implies k_n = n\frac{\pi}{\ell}$$

or in terms of the compressive load P ,

$$P_{cr,n} = n^2 \frac{\pi^2 EI}{\ell^2}$$

- Interpretation:** If $P \neq P_{cr,n}$, $A_3 = 0$ to satisfy boundary conditions. But for $P = P_{cr,n}$, A_3 CAN BE ANYTHING!.

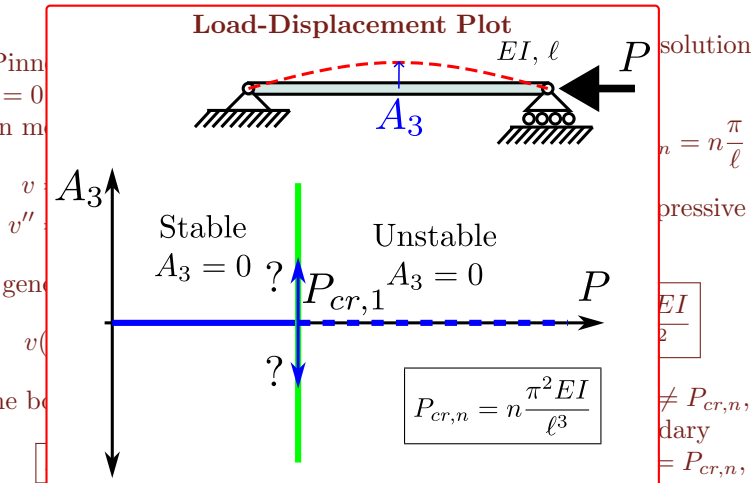
2.3.1. The Pinned-Pinned Column

The Linear Buckling Problem

- For a Pinned-Pinned column, we have $v = 0$ at both ends. The reaction moment is zero at both ends.

- So the general solution is

with the boundary conditions



CAN BE ANYTHING!.

2.3.1. The Pinned-Pinned Column: The Imperfect Case I

The Linear Buckling Problem

- Suppose there are initial imperfections in the beam's neutral axis such that the neutral axis can be written as $v_0(x)$.
- Noting that strains are accumulated only on the *relative displacement* $v(x) - v_0(x)$, we write

$$EI(v - v_0)'''' + Pv'' = 0.$$

Note that the axial load P acts on the **net rotation** of the deflected beam, so we do not need to use $(v - v_0)''$ here.

- The governing equations become

$$EIv'''' + Pv'' = EIv_0'''' ,$$

or, in more convenient notation,

$$v'''' + k^2v'' = v_0'''' .$$

2.3.1. The Pinned-Pinned Column: The Imperfect Case II

The Linear Buckling Problem

- Describing the imperfect neutral axis using an infinite series,

$$v_0 = \sum_n C_n \sin\left(n \frac{\pi x}{\ell}\right) \quad \left(\Rightarrow v_0'''' = \sum_n \left(n \frac{\pi}{\ell}\right)^4 C_n \sin\left(n \frac{\pi x}{\ell}\right) \right),$$

the governing equations become

$$v'''' + k^2 v'' = \sum_n \left(n \frac{\pi}{\ell}\right)^4 C_n \sin\left(n \frac{\pi x}{\ell}\right).$$

2.3.1. The Pinned-Pinned Column: The Imperfect Case III

The Linear Buckling Problem

- This is solved by,

$$\begin{aligned}
 v(x) &= \sum_n \frac{\left(n\frac{\pi}{\ell}\right)^2}{\left(n\frac{\pi}{\ell}\right)^2 - k^2} C_n \sin\left(n\frac{\pi x}{\ell}\right) \\
 &= \sum_n \frac{\frac{n^2 \pi^2 EI}{\ell^2}}{\frac{n^2 \pi^2 EI}{\ell^2} - P} C_n \sin\left(n\frac{\pi x}{\ell}\right) = \sum_n \frac{P_{cr,n}}{P_{cr,n} - P} C_n \sin\left(n\frac{\pi x}{\ell}\right)
 \end{aligned}$$

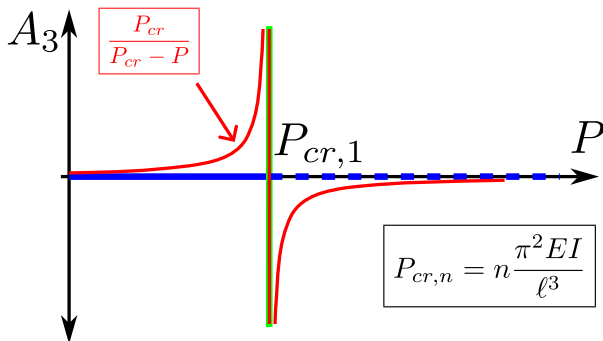
2.3.1. The Pinned-Pinned Column: The Imperfect Case

The Linear Buckling Problem

- Look carefully at the solution

$$v(x) = \sum_n \frac{P_{cr,n}}{P_{cr,n} - P} C_n \sin(n \frac{\pi x}{\ell}).$$

- Clearly $P \rightarrow P_{cr,n}$ are **singularities**. Even for very small C_n , the “blow-up” is huge.



2.3.2. The Southwell Plot

The Linear Buckling Problem

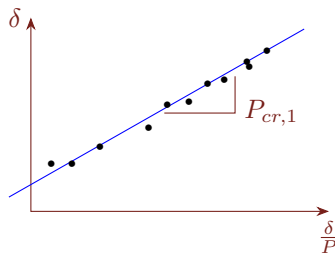
- The relative deformation amplitude at the mid-point is given as (for $P < P_{cr,1}$),

$$\delta \approx \frac{P_{cr,1}}{P_{cr,1} - P} C_1 - C_1 = \frac{C_1}{\frac{P_{cr,1}}{P} - 1}$$

$$\Rightarrow \delta = P_{cr,1} \frac{\delta}{P} - C_1$$

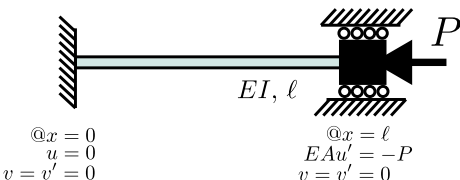
The Southwell Plot

- Plotting δ vs $\frac{\delta}{P}$ allows **Non-Destructive Evaluation of the critical load**
- $P_{cr,1}$ is estimated without having to buckle the column



2.3.3. The Clamped-Clamped Column

The Linear Buckling Problem



- The axial solution is the same as before: $u(x) = -\frac{P}{EA}x$.
- The transverse general solution also has the same form but boundary conditions are different.

$$\begin{bmatrix} v(x) \\ v'(x) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x & \cos(kx) & \sin(kx) \\ 0 & 1 & -k \sin(kx) & k \cos(kx) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A_0 \\ A_1 \\ A_2 \\ A_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

- The boundary conditions may be expressed as

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & k \\ 1 & \ell & \cos(k\ell) & \sin(k\ell) \\ 0 & 1 & -k \sin(k\ell) & k \cos(k\ell) \end{bmatrix}}_{\underline{\underline{M}}} \begin{bmatrix} A_0 \\ A_1 \\ A_2 \\ A_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

- There can be non-trivial solutions only when $\underline{\underline{M}}$ is singular, i.e., **for choices of k such that $\Delta(\underline{\underline{M}}) = 0$.**

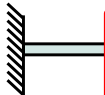
The Eigenvalue Problem

This problem setting of finding k such that $\Delta(\underline{\underline{M}}(k)) = 0$ is known as an **eigenvalue problem**.

2.3.3. The Clamped-Clamped Column

The Linear Buckling Problem

- The boundary conditions may be



Aside: Eigenvalue Problems ($\underline{\underline{M}} \in \mathbf{R}^{d \times d}$)

Linear Eigenvalue Problem (d eigenvalues)

$$\underline{\underline{M}}(k) = \underline{\underline{M}}_0 + k\underline{\underline{M}}_1$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_0 \\ A_1 \\ A_2 \\ A_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Quadratic Eigenvalue Problem ($2d$ eigenvalues)

$$\underline{\underline{M}}(k) = \underline{\underline{M}}_0 + k\underline{\underline{M}}_1 + k^2\underline{\underline{M}}_2$$

- The axial displacement u before: u
- The transverse displacement v also has boundary conditions

is
of k

$$\begin{bmatrix} v(x) \\ v'(x) \end{bmatrix} =$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & -n \sin(na) & -n \cos(na) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_1 \\ A_2 \\ A_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

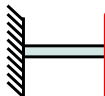
eigenvalue problem.

k such
an

2.3.3. The Clamped-Clamped Column

The Linear Buckling Problem

- The boundary conditions may be



$$\begin{aligned} @x=0 \\ u=0 \\ v=v'=0 \end{aligned}$$

Aside: Eigenvalue Problems ($\underline{\underline{M}} \in \mathbf{R}^{d \times d}$)

Linear Eigenvalue Problem (d eigenvalues)

$$\underline{\underline{M}}(k) = \underline{\underline{M}}_0 + k\underline{\underline{M}}_1$$

Quadratic Eigenvalue Problem ($2d$ eigenvalues)

$$\underline{\underline{M}}(k) = \underline{\underline{M}}_0 + k\underline{\underline{M}}_1 + k^2\underline{\underline{M}}_2$$

Our matrix $\underline{\underline{M}}(k)$ has k -dependency in terms of k , $\sin(k\ell)$, $\cos(k\ell)$, making this a **Nonlinear Eigenvalue Problem**.

- $\Rightarrow \infty$ eigenvalues here (not always though!)

$$\begin{bmatrix} v(x) \\ v'(x) \end{bmatrix} =$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & -k \sin(k\ell) & -k \cos(k\ell) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

eigenvalue problem.

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_0 \\ A_1 \\ A_2 \\ A_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

is
of k

k such
an

2.3.3. The Clamped-Clamped Column I

The Linear Buckling Problem

- We proceed to solve this as,

$$\Delta \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & k \\ 1 & \ell & \cos(k\ell) & \sin(k\ell) \\ 0 & 1 & -k \sin(k\ell) & k \cos(k\ell) \end{bmatrix} \right) = -k (k\ell \sin(k\ell) + 2 \cos(k\ell) - 2)$$

- We set it to zero through the following factorizations:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta(\underline{\underline{M}}(k)) &= -k \left(2k\ell \sin\left(\frac{k\ell}{2}\right) \cos\left(\frac{k\ell}{2}\right) - 4 \sin^2\left(\frac{k\ell}{2}\right) \right) \\ &= -2k \sin\left(\frac{k\ell}{2}\right) \left(k\ell \cos\left(\frac{k\ell}{2}\right) - 2 \sin\left(\frac{k\ell}{2}\right) \right) = 0 \\ \implies \boxed{\sin\left(\frac{k\ell}{2}\right) = 0}, \quad (\text{or}) \quad \boxed{\tan\left(\frac{k\ell}{2}\right) = \frac{k\ell}{2}}. \end{aligned}$$

2.3.3. The Clamped-Clamped Column II

The Linear Buckling Problem

- Two “classes” of solutions emerge:

$$\textcircled{1} \sin\left(\frac{k\ell}{2}\right) = 0 \implies \frac{k_n\ell}{2} = n\pi \implies P_n^{(1)} = 4n^2 \frac{\pi^2 EI}{\ell^2}$$

$$\textcircled{2} \tan\left(\frac{k\ell}{2}\right) = \frac{k\ell}{2} \implies \frac{k_n\ell}{2} \approx 0, 4.49, 7.72, \dots \implies P_1^{(2)} \approx 8.98 \frac{\pi^2 EI}{\ell^2}$$

- The smallest critical load is $P_n^{(1)} = 4 \frac{\pi^2 EI}{\ell^2} = \frac{\pi^2 EI}{(\frac{\ell}{2})^2}$.

Concept of “Effective Length”

- Question:** If the beam were simply supported, what would be the length such that it also has the same first critical load?
- Here it comes out to be $\ell_{eff} = \frac{\ell}{2}$.
- The column clamped on both ends can take the same buckling load as a column that is pinned on both ends with half the length.

2.3.3. The Clamped-Clamped Column III

The Linear Buckling Problem

Boundary conditions	Critical load P_{cr}	Deflection mode shape	Effective length KL
Simple support– simple support	$\frac{\pi^2 EI}{L^2}$		L
Clamped-clamped	$4 \frac{\pi^2 EI}{L^2}$		$\frac{1}{2}L$
Clamped–simple support	$2.04 \frac{\pi^2 EI}{L^2}$		$0.70L$
Clamped-free	$\frac{1}{4} \frac{\pi^2 EI}{L^2}$		$2L$

Effective lengths of beams with different boundary conditions (Figure from Brush and Almroth 1975)

Self-Study

- Derive the effective length for the clamped-simply supported and clamped-free columns.

2.3.3. The Clamped-Clamped Column: The Mode-shape

The Linear Buckling Problem

- Let us substitute $k_1 = \frac{2\pi}{\ell}$ into the matrix $\underline{\underline{M}}(k_1)$ so that the boundary conditions now read as

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \frac{2\pi}{\ell} \\ 1 & \ell & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \frac{2\pi}{\ell} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A_0 \\ A_1 \\ A_2 \\ A_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

- This implies the following:

$$A_1 = 0, \quad A_3 = 0, \quad A_2 = -A_0.$$

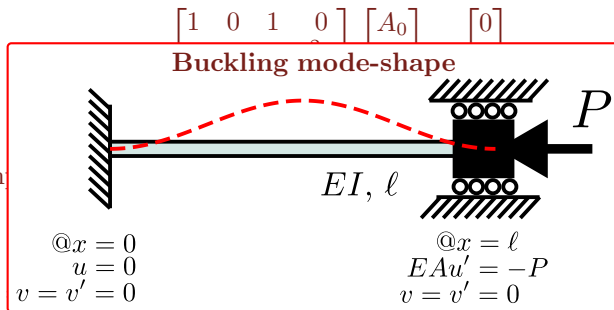
- So, if $k = k_1$, the solution has to be the following to satisfy the boundary conditions:

$$v = A_0 \left(1 - \cos\left(\frac{2\pi x}{\ell}\right) \right) \equiv A_0 \sin^2\left(\frac{\pi x}{\ell}\right)$$

2.3.3. The Clamped-Clamped Column: The Mode-shape

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- So, if k satisfies the boundary conditions:

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3. Energy Perspectives

- Concept of conservative force field.
- Work done by a force field:

$$W(\underline{x}) \Big|_{\underline{x}_1}^{\underline{x}_2} = \int_{\underline{x}_1}^{\underline{x}_2} \underline{f}(\underline{x}) \cdot d\underline{x}.$$

- Introduction to work done.

$$W(\underline{x}) = \underbrace{\Pi(\underline{x})}_{\text{External Work}} - \underbrace{V(\underline{x})}_{\text{Internal Work/Potential Energy}}$$

Example

- Force balance reads: $F = kx$
- Work done expression: $W(x) = Fx - \frac{k}{2}x^2$



3. Energy Perspectives

- Expanding W about some $\underline{x}_s$ we have,

$$W(\underline{x}_s + \delta \underline{x}) = W(\underline{x}_s) + \underline{\nabla} W|_{\underline{x}_s} \delta \underline{x} + \mathcal{O}(\delta \underline{x}^2).$$

- Stationarity of work: $\delta W = \underline{\nabla} W(\underline{x}_s) \delta \underline{x} = 0, \quad \forall \quad \underline{x} \in \Omega$, where Ω is the configuration-space.

Example

- For the SDoF system above, we have $W = Fx - \frac{k}{2}x^2$ and

$$\nabla W(x_s) = \frac{dW}{dx} = F - kx_s = 0 \implies x_s = \frac{F}{k}.$$

- Work-stationarity hereby gives a convenient definition for equilibrium.
- What about higher order effects?

3. Energy Perspectives

- Continuing the Taylor expansion (SDoF case) for $W(x)$ we have,

$$W(x) = W(x_s) + \frac{dW}{dx}(x_s)\delta x + \frac{1}{2} \frac{d^2W}{dx^2}(x_s)\delta x^2 + \mathcal{O}(\delta x^3).$$

- At equilibrium, $\frac{dW}{dx}$ is zero. The sign of $\frac{d^2W}{dx^2}$ governs the local tendency of the work around equilibrium.

Example

- For the SDoF example, $\frac{d^2W}{dx^2} = -k$, implying W is maximized.
- If $\frac{d^2W}{dx^2} < 0$, then the second order effect of virtual displacements is to reduce the work scalar: **Stable Equilibrium**.
- The opposite case is **Unstable Equilibrium**.

3. Energy Perspectives

- Continuing the Taylor expansion (SDoF case) for $W(x)$ we have,

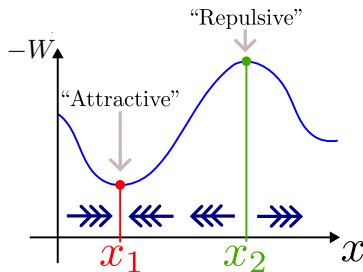
$$W(x) = W(x_0) + \frac{dW(x_0)}{dx} \delta x + \frac{1}{2} \frac{d^2W(x_0)}{dx^2} \delta x^2 + \mathcal{O}(\delta x^3).$$

Hypothetical Example

- At equilibrium the work around

Example

- For the SDof ϵ
- If $\frac{d^2W}{dx^2} < 0$, then reduce the work
- The opposite case is **Unstable Equilibrium**.



the local tendency of

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3.1. Post-Buckling Behavior

Energy Perspectives

- Let us use the energy approach to study the post-buckling behavior of a beam.
- We've developed some intuition that buckling blows up the displacement levels. Let us revise our kinematic description to capture this.
- The (simplified) approach we will follow is as follows:
 - ① **Write out nonlinear kinematics**, identify normal force $N = \int_{\mathcal{A}} \sigma_{ax} dA$ and moment $M = \int_{\mathcal{A}} -y \sigma_{ax} dA$.
 - ② **Assume transverse deformation field** $v = V \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{\ell}\right)$
 - ③ **Assume axial tip deflection** u_T and derive axial deformation field.
 - ④ **Express work done in terms of scalars** V and u_T . $\rightarrow$ Extremize.
 - ⑤ **Plot force deflection curves, analyze stability.**

3.1. Post-Buckling Behavior

Energy Perspectives

Geometrically Nonlinear Kinematics

- The deformation field is written as $u_x = u - yv'$, $u_y = v$. Consider the deformation of a line from (x, y) to $(x + \Delta x, y)$:

$$\begin{aligned}(x, y) &\rightarrow (x + u - yv', y + v), \\(x + \Delta x, y) &\rightarrow (x + \Delta x + u - yv' + (u' - yv'')\Delta x, y + v + v'\Delta x), \\ \Delta S &= \Delta x, \quad \Delta s^2 = \Delta x^2((1 + u' - yv'')^2 + v'^2).\end{aligned}$$

- We write the axial strain as

$$\epsilon_{ax} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\Delta s^2 - \Delta S^2}{\Delta S^2} = (u' - yv'') + \frac{1}{2} \left((u' - yv'')^2 + v'^2 \right)$$

$$\boxed{\epsilon_{ax} \approx (u' - yv'') + \frac{v'^2}{2}}.$$

- The final assumption is sometimes referred to as Von Karman strain assumptions.

3.1. Post-Buckling Behavior

Energy Perspectives

- Nearly nothing changes in the equilibrium equations. We first write out the area-normal stresses and moments:

$$N = \int_{\mathcal{A}} E\epsilon_{ax} dA = EA(u' + \frac{v'^2}{2}), \quad M = \int_{\mathcal{A}} -yE\epsilon_{ax} dA = EIv''.$$

- The axial force balance reads:

$$N' = EA \frac{d}{dx} \left(u' + \frac{v'^2}{2} \right) = 0, \quad u(x)|_{x=0} = 0, \quad u|_{x=\ell} = u_T.$$

3.1. Post-Buckling Behavior: Axial Problem

Energy Perspectives

- We next **impose the transverse deformation field** $v(x) = V \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{\ell}\right)$ on the axial problem. Solving this, we get

$$u(x) = -\frac{\pi V^2}{8\ell} \sin\left(\frac{2\pi x}{\ell}\right) + C_1 x + C_2.$$

- Boundary conditions are imposed by setting $C_1 = \frac{u_T}{\ell}$ and $C_2 = 0$.
- The parameterized axial deformation field, therefore, is

$$u(x; V, u_T) = \frac{u_T}{\ell} x - \frac{\pi V^2}{8\ell} \sin\left(\frac{2\pi x}{\ell}\right).$$

- Note that we have not said anything about V or u_T so far.

3.1. Post-Buckling Behavior: Strain Energy Density

Energy Perspectives

- The strain energy density (per unit length) is written as,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{V} &= \int_{\mathcal{A}} \frac{E\epsilon_{ax}^2}{2} dA = \frac{E}{2} \int_{\mathcal{A}} (u' - yv'' + \frac{v'^2}{2})^2 dx \\ &= \frac{EA}{2} \left(u' + \frac{v'^2}{2} \right)^2 + \frac{EI}{2} v''^2 \approx \frac{EI}{2} v''^2 + \frac{EA}{2} \frac{v'^4}{4}.\end{aligned}$$

- Note that we have assumed $u_T \rightarrow 0$, i.e., providing negligible influence on the overall potential energy.
- Substituting the assumed deformation field $v = V \sin(\frac{\pi x}{\ell})$ and integrating over $(0, \ell)$ we have,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{V}_{tot} &= \int_0^{\ell} \mathcal{V}(x) dx = \frac{\pi^4 EI}{4\ell^3} V^2 + \frac{3\pi^4 EA}{64\ell^3} V^4 \\ &= \frac{\pi^2 P_{cr}}{4\ell} V^2 + \frac{3\pi^2 AP_{cr}}{64I\ell} V^4.\end{aligned}$$

3.1. Post-Buckling Behavior: Work Stationarity

Energy Perspectives

- The work done by an axial compressive load P is given by

$$\begin{aligned}\Pi &= \int_0^\ell \int_{\mathcal{A}} \frac{P}{A} \varepsilon_{ax} dA dx = \int_0^\ell \int_{\mathcal{A}} \frac{P}{A} (u' - yv'' + \frac{v'^2}{2}) dA dx \\ &= P \int_0^\ell u' dx + \frac{P}{2} \int_0^\ell v'^2 dx\end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{\Pi = Pu_T + \frac{\pi^2 P}{4\ell} V^2}.$$

- So the total work scalar ($W = \Pi - \mathcal{V}_{tot}$) is given as (we ignore u_T here)

$$W(V) = \frac{\pi^2}{4\ell} (P - P_{cr}) V^2 - \frac{3\pi^2 A}{64I\ell} P_{cr} V^4.$$

3.1. Post-Buckling Behavior: Work Stationarity

Energy Perspectives

- Stationarizing the work we get,

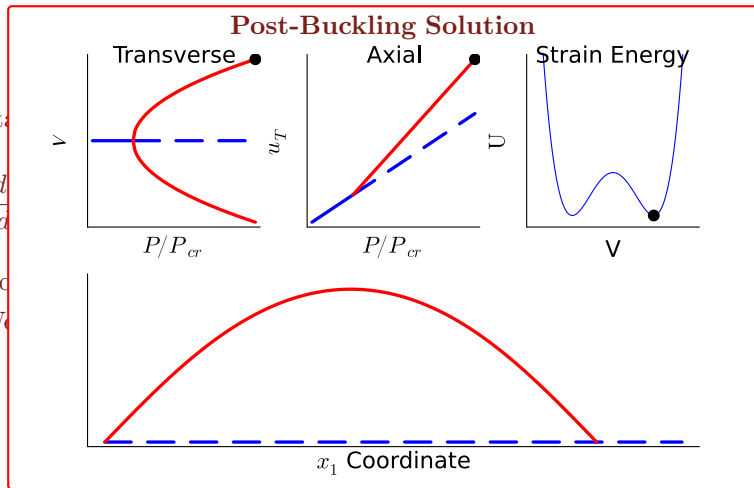
$$\frac{dW}{dV} = \frac{\pi^2 P_{cr}}{2\ell} V \left(\left(\frac{P}{P_{cr}} - 1 \right) - \frac{3A}{8I} V^2 \right) \Rightarrow V = 0, \pm \sqrt{\frac{8I}{3A} \left(\frac{P}{P_{cr}} - 1 \right)}.$$

Note that the non-trivial solution is only active for $P \geq P_{cr}$.

- We can next estimate u_T easily by applying the boundary conditions.

3.1. Post-Buckling Behavior: Work Stationarity

Energy Perspectives



4. Plate Buckling

References I

- [1] D. O. Brush and B. O. Almroth. **Buckling of Bars, Plates, and Shells**, McGraw-Hill, 1975. ISBN: 978-0-07-008593-0 (cit. on pp. **2**, **32**).
- [2] T. H. G. Megson. **Aircraft Structures for Engineering Students**, Elsevier, 2013. ISBN: 978-0-08-096905-3 (cit. on p. **2**).

6. Class Discussions (Outside of Slides)

- Ball on a hill. 2D, 3D cases.
- Assumptions behind compression of a bar.