



AS3020: Aerospace Structures

Module 5: Torsion of Beams

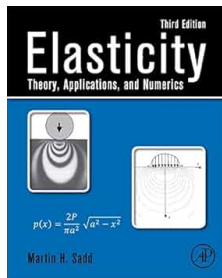
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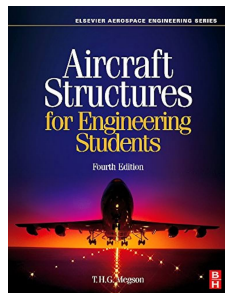
September 28, 2024

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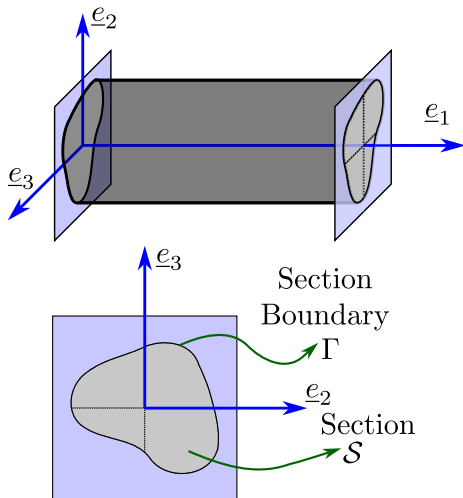
Chapter 7 in Sun [1]



Chapters 3, 18, 19
in Megson [2]

1. Solid Section Torsion

Basic Setup



- We assume:
 - 1 No direct stresses applied:

$$\sigma_{11} = \sigma_{22} = \sigma_{33} = 0$$
 - 2 Sections “rotate rigidly”:

$$\gamma_{23} = 0 \implies \sigma_{23} = 0.$$
 - 3 Body is at equilibrium under constant torque applied at right end.
- We will denote the section by S and the section-boundary by Γ .

1.1. Stress Formulation

Solid Section Torsion

- Since we assume $\sigma_{11} = \sigma_{22} = \sigma_{33} = \sigma_{23} = 0$, the equilibrium equations read,

$$\sigma_{12,2} + \sigma_{13,3} = 0, \quad \sigma_{12,1} = 0, \quad \sigma_{13,1} = 0.$$

- We introduce the **Prandtl Stress Function** $\phi(X_2, X_3)$ (no dependence on X_1) such that

$$\sigma_{12} = \phi_{,3}, \quad \sigma_{13} = -\phi_{,2}.$$

This satisfies equilibrium by definition.

- In terms of strains the above assumptions imply that we only have E_{12} and E_{13} active. **Recall** that Strain compatibility is $\epsilon_{mjk}\epsilon_{nil}E_{ij,mn} = 0$ (see Module 3).
- The non-trivial compatibility equations read,

$$\left. \begin{aligned} E_{12,23} - E_{13,22} &= 0 \\ E_{12,33} - E_{13,23} &= 0 \end{aligned} \right\} \implies \left. \begin{aligned} \phi_{,332} + \phi_{,222} &= 0 \\ \phi_{,333} + \phi_{,322} &= 0 \end{aligned} \right\} \implies \boxed{\nabla^2 \phi = \text{constant}}.$$

- This is known as the **Poisson's problem**. What about Boundary Conditions?

1.1. Stress Formulation

Solid Section Torsion

- Since we assume $\sigma_{11} = \sigma_{22} = \sigma_{33} = \sigma_{23} = 0$, the equilibrium equations read,

$$\sigma_{12,2} + \sigma_{13,3} = 0, \quad \sigma_{12,1} = 0, \quad \sigma_{13,1} = 0.$$

- We introduce the **Prandtl Stress Function** $\phi(X_2, X_3)$ (no dependence on X_1) such that

$$\sigma_{12} = \phi_{,3}, \quad \sigma_{13} = -\phi_{,2}.$$

This satisfies equilibrium by definition.

- In terms of strains the above assumptions imply that E_{11} and E_{13} are active. **Recall** that Strain compatibility (see Module 3).
- The non-trivial compatibility equations read,

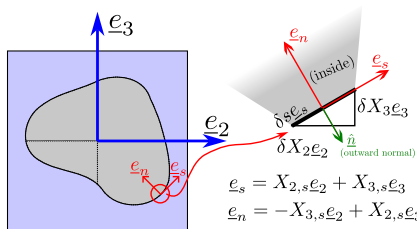
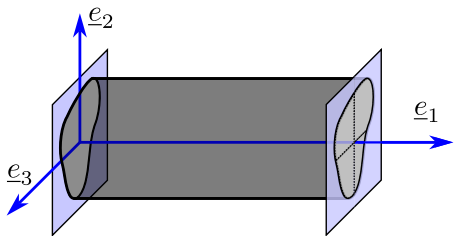
$$\left. \begin{aligned} E_{12,23} - E_{13,22} &= 0 \\ E_{12,33} - E_{13,23} &= 0 \end{aligned} \right\} \implies \left. \begin{aligned} \phi_{,332} + \phi_{,222} &= 0 \\ \phi_{,333} + \phi_{,322} &= 0 \end{aligned} \right\} \implies \nabla^2 \phi = \text{constant}.$$

Kinematic considerations will give us this "constant".

- This is known as the **Poisson's problem**. What about Boundary Conditions?

1.1. Stress Formulation

Solid Section Torsion



$$\begin{aligned} \underline{e}_s &= X_{2,s} \underline{e}_2 + X_{3,s} \underline{e}_3 \\ \underline{e}_n &= -X_{3,s} \underline{e}_2 + X_{2,s} \underline{e}_3 \end{aligned}$$

- We derive the coordinate transformation on the boundary as follows:

$$dX_2 \underline{e}_2 + dX_3 \underline{e}_3 = ds \underline{e}_s + dn \underline{e}_n$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} dX_2 \\ dX_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \langle \underline{e}_2, \underline{e}_s \rangle & \langle \underline{e}_2, \underline{e}_n \rangle \\ \langle \underline{e}_3, \underline{e}_s \rangle & \langle \underline{e}_3, \underline{e}_n \rangle \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} ds \\ dn \end{bmatrix}$$

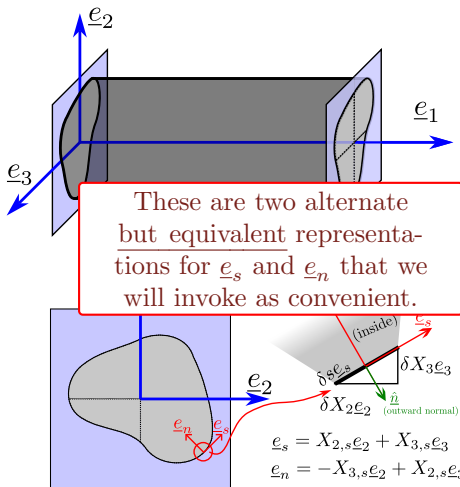
$$\begin{aligned} \text{and, } \begin{bmatrix} \underline{e}_s \\ \underline{e}_n \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} \langle \underline{e}_2, \underline{e}_s \rangle & \langle \underline{e}_3, \underline{e}_s \rangle \\ \langle \underline{e}_2, \underline{e}_n \rangle & \langle \underline{e}_3, \underline{e}_n \rangle \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{e}_2 \\ \underline{e}_3 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} X_{2,s} & X_{3,s} \\ X_{2,n} & X_{3,n} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{e}_2 \\ \underline{e}_3 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

- Considering only Cartesian transformations (inverse has to be transpose), we will also have

$$\begin{bmatrix} \underline{e}_s \\ \underline{e}_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} X_{3,n} & -X_{2,n} \\ -X_{3,s} & X_{2,s} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{e}_2 \\ \underline{e}_3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

1.1. Stress Formulation

Solid Section Torsion



- We derive the coordinate transformation on the boundary as follows:

$$dX_2\underline{e}_2 + dX_3\underline{e}_3 = ds\underline{e}_s + dn\underline{e}_n$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} dX_2 \\ dX_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \langle \underline{e}_2, \underline{e}_s \rangle & \langle \underline{e}_2, \underline{e}_n \rangle \\ \langle \underline{e}_3, \underline{e}_s \rangle & \langle \underline{e}_3, \underline{e}_n \rangle \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} ds \\ dn \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{and, } \begin{bmatrix} \underline{e}_s \\ \underline{e}_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \langle \underline{e}_2, \underline{e}_s \rangle & \langle \underline{e}_3, \underline{e}_s \rangle \\ \langle \underline{e}_2, \underline{e}_n \rangle & \langle \underline{e}_3, \underline{e}_n \rangle \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{e}_2 \\ \underline{e}_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} X_{2,s} & X_{3,s} \\ X_{2,n} & X_{3,n} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{e}_2 \\ \underline{e}_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Considering only Cartesian transformations (inverse has to be transpose), we will also have

$$\begin{bmatrix} \underline{e}_s \\ \underline{e}_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} X_{3,n} & -X_{2,n} \\ -X_{3,s} & X_{2,s} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{e}_2 \\ \underline{e}_3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

1.1. Derivation of Coordinate Transformation Relationships

Stress Formulation

- For cartesian transformations, the determinant has to be unity. So the inverse can be written as

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} X_{2,s} & X_{3,s} \\ X_{2,n} & X_{3,n} \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbb{T}^{-1}} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} X_{3,n} & -X_{3,s} \\ -X_{2,n} & X_{2,s} \end{bmatrix}}_{Adj(\mathbb{T})}$$

- Also, for cartesian transformations, the inverse has to be the transpose of the matrix. So we have

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} X_{2,s} & X_{2,n} \\ X_{3,s} & X_{3,n} \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbb{T}^T} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} X_{3,n} & -X_{3,s} \\ -X_{2,n} & X_{2,s} \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbb{T}^{-1}}$$

- So the following equalities make sense:

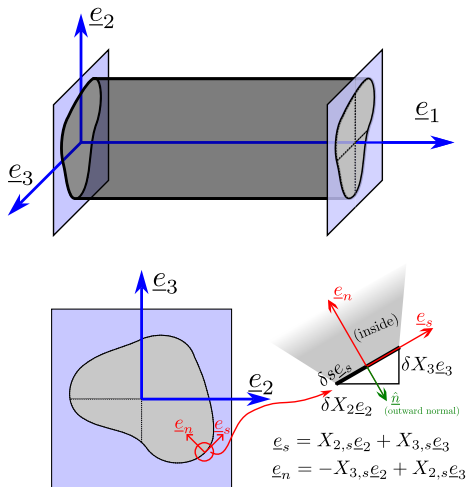
$$\boxed{\begin{bmatrix} \underline{e}_s \\ \underline{e}_n \end{bmatrix}} = \begin{bmatrix} X_{2,s} & X_{3,s} \\ X_{2,n} & X_{3,n} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{e}_2 \\ \underline{e}_3 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ and } \boxed{\begin{bmatrix} \underline{e}_s \\ \underline{e}_n \end{bmatrix}} = \begin{bmatrix} X_{3,n} & -X_{2,n} \\ -X_{3,s} & X_{2,s} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{e}_2 \\ \underline{e}_3 \end{bmatrix}.$$



\mathbb{T}^{-T}

1.1. Stress Formulation

Solid Section Torsion



We invoke

$$\underline{e}_n = -X_{3,s}\underline{e}_2 + X_{2,s}\underline{e}_3 \text{ here.}$$

- Enforcing stress-free section boundary condition leads to:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & \sigma_{12} & \sigma_{13} \\ \sigma_{12} & 0 & 0 \\ \sigma_{13} & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ X_{3,s} \\ -X_{2,s} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\implies \sigma_{12}X_{3,s} - \sigma_{13}X_{2,s} = 0$$

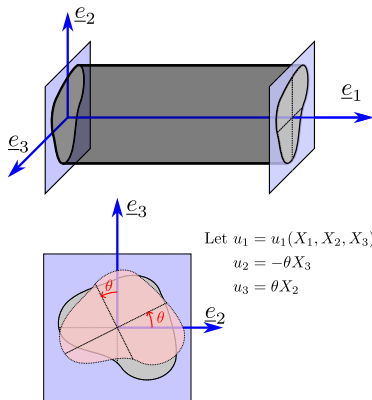
$$(\phi_{,3}X_{3,s} + \phi_{,2}X_{2,s}) = \phi_{,s} = 0$$

- That is, on the section-boundary, the stress function is constant, set to 0 w.l.o.g.:

$$\phi = \underline{\text{constant}} \rightarrow 0 \text{ on } \Gamma.$$

1.2. Displacement Formulation

Solid Section Torsion



- The strains are,

$$E_{11} = u_{1,1} = 0$$

$$E_{22} = -\theta_{,2} X_3 = 0$$

$$E_{33} = \theta_{,3} X_2 = 0$$

$$2E_{23} = \theta - \theta = 0$$

$$2E_{12} = u_{1,2} - \theta_{,1} X_3 = \frac{\sigma_{12}}{G} = \frac{\phi_{,3}}{G}$$

$$2E_{13} = u_{1,3} + \theta_{,1} X_2 = \frac{\sigma_{13}}{G} = -\frac{\phi_{,2}}{G}$$

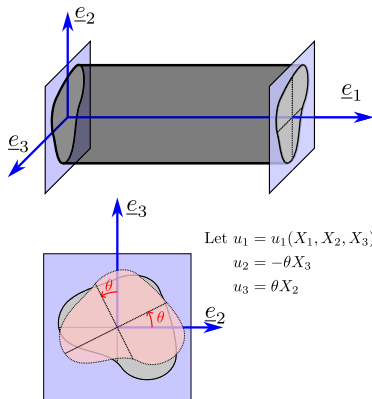
- Differentiating the strain expressions for σ_{12} and σ_{13} above allows us to write:

$$\phi_{,kk} = -2G\theta_{,1},$$

which gives us the “constant” required for the Poisson problem from before (along with the B.C. $\phi = 0$ on Γ).

1.3. Section Moment

Solid Section Torsion



- The non-trivial shear strains are:

$$\sigma_{12} = \phi_{,3} = G(u_{1,2} - X_3\theta_{,1})$$

$$\sigma_{13} = -\phi_{,2} = G(u_{1,3} + X_2\theta_{,1})$$

- The moment about \underline{e}_1 is

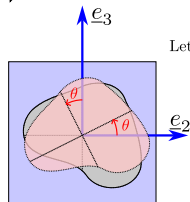
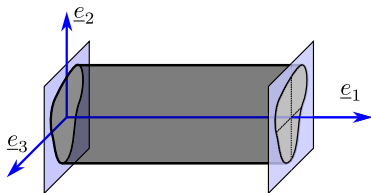
$$M_1 = \int_S (X_2\sigma_{13} - X_3\sigma_{12})dA.$$

- Since σ_{12} and σ_{13} are expressed in terms of **kinematic quantities** as well as the **stress function** ϕ , we will write down relationships with both before proceeding.
- It is also obvious that $\phi_{,kk} = -2G\theta_{,1}$ implies

$$\longrightarrow u_{1,kk} = 0.$$

1.3. Section Moment

Solid Section Torsion



$$\begin{aligned} \text{Let } u_1 &= u_1(X_1, X_2, X_3) \\ u_2 &= -\theta X_3 \\ u_3 &= \theta X_2 \end{aligned}$$

This is the governing equation in terms of the section-axial displacement field.

- The non-trivial shear strains are:

$$\sigma_{12} = \phi_{,3} = G(u_{1,2} - X_3\theta_{,1})$$

$$\sigma_{13} = -\phi_{,2} = G(u_{1,3} + X_2\theta_{,1})$$

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- It is also obvious that $\phi_{,kk} = -2G\theta_{,1}$ implies

$$u_{1,kk} = 0.$$

1.3. Section Moment

Solid Section Torsion

In terms of stress function

$$\begin{aligned}
 M_1 &= \int_S (X_2 \sigma_{13} - X_3 \sigma_{12}) dA \\
 &= - \int_S (\phi_{,2} X_2 + \phi_{,3} X_3) dA
 \end{aligned}$$

$$M_1 = 2 \int_S \phi dA .$$

In terms of kinematic description

$$\begin{aligned}
 M_1 &= G \int_S (X_2 u_{1,3} - X_3 u_{1,2}) dA \\
 &\quad + G \underbrace{\int_S (X_2^2 + X_3^2) dA}_{I_{11}} \theta_{,1}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= G I_{11} \theta_{,1} + G \int_S \epsilon_{1jk} X_j u_{1,k} dA \\
 &= G I_{11} \theta_{,1} + G \int_S \epsilon_{ijk} (X_j u_1)_{,k} dA \\
 &\quad - G \int_S \epsilon_{ijk} \delta_{jk} u_1 dA
 \end{aligned}$$

$$M_1 = G I_{11} \theta_{,1} + G \int_{\Gamma} \epsilon_{1jk} X_j n_k u_1 d|s|$$

$$M_1 = G I_{11} \theta_{,1} + G \int_{\Gamma} (\underline{X} \times \underline{n})_1 u_1 d|s| .$$

1.3. Section Moment

Solid Section Torsion

In terms of stress function

$$M_1 = \int_S (X_2 \sigma_{13} - X_3 \sigma_{12}) dA$$

$$= - \int_S (\phi_{,2} X_2 + \phi_{,3} X_3) dA$$

$$M_1 = 2 \int_S \phi dA .$$

In terms of kinematic description

$$M_1 = G \int_S (X_2 u_{1,3} - X_3 u_{1,2}) dA$$

$$+ G \underbrace{\int_S (X_2^2 + X_3^2) dA}_{I_{11}} \theta_{,1}$$

$$= G I_{11} \theta_{,1} + G \int \epsilon_{1jk} X_j u_{1,k} dA$$

This term is clearly zero for a perfectly circular section. What about other types?

$$M_1 = G I_{11} \theta_{,1} + G \int_{\Gamma} \epsilon_{1jk} X_j n_k u_1 d|s|$$

$$M_1 = G I_{11} \theta_{,1} + G \int_{\Gamma} (\underline{X} \times \underline{n})_1 u_1 d|s| .$$

1.3. Section Moment

Solid Section Torsion

In terms of stress function

$$M_1 = \int_S (X_2 \sigma_{13} - X_3 \sigma_{12}) dA$$

$$= - \int_S (\phi_{,2} X_2 + \phi_{,3} X_3) dA$$

$$M_1 = 2 \int_S \phi dA .$$

In terms of kinematic description

$$M_1 = G \int_S (X_2 u_{1,3} - X_3 u_{1,2}) dA$$

$$+ G \underbrace{\int_S (X_2^2 + X_3^2) dA}_{I_{11}} \theta_{,1}$$

$$= G I_{11} \theta_{,1} + G \int \epsilon_{1jk} X_j u_{1,k} dA$$

This term is clearly zero for a perfectly circular section. What about other types?

Not zero in the general case.

$$M_1 = G I_{11} \theta_{,1} + G \int_{\Gamma} (\underline{X} \times \underline{n})_1 u_1 d|s| .$$

1.3. Section Moment: St. Venant's Warping Function

Solid Section Torsion

- For a “pure twist” condition, due to **translational symmetry**, u_1 can not depend on X_1 . It also makes sense that u_1 has to be proportional to the twist θ somehow.
- Since θ depends on X_1 , but $\theta_{,1}$ is a constant, St. Venant introduced a warping function $\psi(X_2, X_3)$ such that

$$u_1 = \theta_{,1} \psi(X_2, X_3).$$

- Under this definition, the effective moment M_1 can be given as,

$$M_1 = G \underbrace{\left(I_{11} + \int_{\Gamma} (\underline{X} \times \underline{n})_1 \psi d|s| \right)}_J \theta_{,1} = GJ\theta_{,1}.$$

- Alternatively, J can also be written as,

$$J = I_{11} + \int_{\mathcal{S}} X_2 \psi_{,3} - X_3 \psi_{,2} dA$$

1.3. Section Moment: St. Venant's Warping Function

Solid Section Torsion

- For a “pure twist” condition, due to **translational symmetry**, u_1 can not depend on X_1 . It also makes sense that u_1 has to be proportional to the twist θ somehow.
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$$M_1 = G \underbrace{\left(I_{11} + \int_{\Gamma} (\underline{X} \times \underline{n})_1 \psi d|s| \right)}_J \theta_{,1} = GJ \theta_{,1}.$$

- Also, The product GJ is also known as **Torsional Rigidity**

$$J = I_{11} + \int_{\mathcal{S}} X_2 \psi_{,3} - X_3 \psi_{,2} dA$$

1.4. Membrane Analogy

Solid Section Torsion

- The governing equations in terms of Prandtl Stress function is

$$\phi_{,kk} + 2G\theta_{,1} = 0, \quad \phi = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma,$$

along with $M_1 = 2 \int_S \phi dA$.

1.4. Membrane Analogy

Solid Section Torsion

- The governing equations in terms of Prandtl Stress function is

$$\phi_{,kk} + 2G\theta_{,1} = 0, \quad \phi = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma,$$

$$\text{along with } M_1 = 2 \int_S \phi dA.$$

Transverse Deflections of a Membrane under Isotropic Linear Tension Density T and Uniform Planar Load Density P

- The displacement field

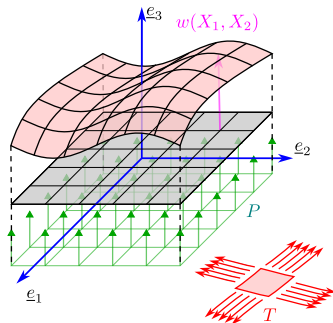
$$u_1 = 0, \quad u_2 = 0, \quad u_3 = w(X_1, X_2)$$

- The strain Field

$$E_{11} = \frac{w_{,1}^2}{2}, \quad E_{22} = \frac{w_{,2}^2}{2}, \quad 2E_{12} = w_{,1}w_{,2}$$

- The Stress Field

$$\sigma_{11} = \frac{1}{t}T, \quad \sigma_{22} = \frac{1}{t}T.$$



1.4. Membrane Analogy

Solid Section Torsion

- The governing equations in terms of Prandtl Stress function is

$$\phi_{,kk} + 2G\theta_{,1} = 0, \quad \phi = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma,$$

$$\text{along with } M_1 = 2 \int_S \phi dA.$$

Transverse Deflections of a Membrane under Isotropic Linear Tension Density T and Uniform Planar Load Density P

- The displacement field

$$u_1 = 0, \quad u_2 = 0, \quad u_3 = w(X_1, X_2)$$

- The strain Field

$$E_{11} = \frac{w_{,1}^2}{2}, \quad E_{22} = \frac{w_{,2}^2}{2}, \quad 2E_{12} = w_{,1}w_{,2}$$

- The Stress Field

$$\sigma_{11} = \frac{1}{t}T, \quad \sigma_{22} = \frac{1}{t}T.$$

- Strain Energy Density
(Integrated over thickness)

$$\mathcal{U} = \frac{1}{2} (w_{,1}^2 + w_{,2}^2) T + Pw$$

- Equations of Motion ^a:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial X_k} \frac{\partial \mathcal{U}}{\partial w_{,k}} - \frac{\partial \mathcal{U}}{\partial w} = 0:$$

$$T(w_{,11} + w_{,22}) - P = 0$$

^aEuler-Ostrogradsky

1.4. Membrane Analogy

Solid Section Torsion

- The governing equations in terms of Prandtl Stress function is

$$\phi_{,kk} + 2G\theta_{,1} = 0, \quad \phi = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma,$$

$$\text{along with } M_1 = 2 \int_S \phi dA.$$

Transverse Deflections of a Membrane under Isotropic Linear Tension Density T and Un

- The displacement

$$u_1 = 0, \quad u_2 = 0$$

- The strain Field

$$E_{11} = \frac{w_{,1}^2}{2}, \quad E_{22} = \frac{w_{,2}^2}{2}, \quad 2E_{12} = w_{,1}w_{,2}$$

- The Stress Field

$$\sigma_{11} = \frac{1}{t}T, \quad \sigma_{22} = \frac{1}{t}T.$$

The governing equations, therefore, are identical to that of a membrane undergoing deformation under the action of a uniform area-load P .

Energy Density
(integrated over thickness)

$$= \frac{1}{2} (w_{,1}^2 + w_{,2}^2) T + Pw$$

- Equations of Motion ^a:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial X_k} \frac{\partial U}{\partial w_{,k}} - \frac{\partial U}{\partial w} = 0:$$

$$T(w_{,11} + w_{,22}) - P = 0$$

1.4. Membrane Analogy: Governing Equations of u_1 (Warping)

Solid Section Torsion

- The governing equations in terms of u_1 is the **Laplace equation**:

$$u_{1,kk} = 0,$$

and its boundary conditions (**Neumann B.C.s**) are written as (again based on zero traction at free end:

$$\begin{aligned} G \langle (u_{1,2} - X_3\theta_{,1})\underline{e}_2 + (u_{1,3} + X_2\theta_{,1})\underline{e}_3, \underline{e}_n \rangle &= 0 \\ \implies \langle u_{1,2}\underline{e}_2 + u_{1,3}\underline{e}_3, X_{2,n}\underline{e}_2 + X_{3,n}\underline{e}_3 \rangle \\ - \theta_{,1} \langle X_3\underline{e}_2 - X_2\underline{e}_3, -X_{3,s}\underline{e}_2 + X_{2,s}\underline{e}_3 \rangle &= 0 \\ \implies \boxed{u_{1,n} = -\theta_{,1} \frac{d}{ds} (X_2^2 + X_3^2)} &= -\frac{\theta_{,1}}{2} (X_3X_{2,n} - X_2X_{3,n}). \end{aligned}$$

1.4. Membrane Analogy: Governing Equations of u_1 (Warping)

Solid Section Torsion

- The governing equations in terms of u_1 is the **Laplace equation**:

Note: We have used two different representations of \underline{e}_n here:

and its boundary based on zero traction are written as (again

$$\underline{e}_n = X_{2,n}\underline{e}_2 + X_{3,n}\underline{e}_3, \text{ and}$$

$$\underline{e}_n = -X_{3,s}\underline{e}_2 + X_{2,s}\underline{e}_3$$

$$\begin{aligned} G \langle (u_{1,2} - X_3\theta_{,1})\underline{e}_2 + (u_{1,3} + X_2\theta_{,1})\underline{e}_3, \underline{e}_n \rangle &= 0 \\ \implies \langle u_{1,2}\underline{e}_2 + u_{1,3}\underline{e}_3, X_{2,n}\underline{e}_2 + X_{3,n}\underline{e}_3 \rangle & \\ - \theta_{,1} \langle X_3\underline{e}_2 - X_2\underline{e}_3, -X_{3,s}\underline{e}_2 + X_{2,s}\underline{e}_3 \rangle &= 0 \\ \implies \boxed{u_{1,n} = -\theta_{,1} \frac{d}{ds} (X_2^2 + X_3^2)} &= -\frac{\theta_{,1}}{2} (X_3X_{2,n} - X_2X_{3,n}). \end{aligned}$$

1.4. Membrane Analogy

Solid Section Torsion

Equations in the Stress Function

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla^2 \phi &= -2G\theta_{,1}, \\ \phi &= 0 \text{ on } \Gamma, \\ M_1 &= 2 \int_S \phi dA.\end{aligned}$$

Equations in Warping

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla^2 u_1 &= 0, \\ \frac{\partial u_1}{\partial n} &= -\theta_{,1} \frac{d}{ds} (X_2^2 + X_3^2) \text{ on } \Gamma. \\ M_1 &= GJ\theta_{,1}\end{aligned}$$

Relating the two

- Once we find ϕ , we can integrate the following to get u_1 :

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{G}\phi_{,3} &= u_{1,2} - X_3\theta_{,1} \\ -\frac{1}{G}\phi_{,2} &= u_{1,3} + X_2\theta_{,1}\end{aligned}$$

1.5. Tutorial: Elliptical Section

Solid Section Torsion

- Let us consider an elliptical section and choose the stress function as

$$\phi = C \left(\frac{X_2^2}{a^2} + \frac{X_3^2}{b^2} - 1 \right).$$

- The Laplacian of ϕ evaluates as,

$$\nabla^2 \phi = 2C \left(\frac{1}{a^2} + \frac{1}{b^2} \right) = -2G\theta_{,1} \implies C = -G\theta_{,1} \frac{a^2 b^2}{a^2 + b^2}.$$

- Let us first compute the total resultant twisting moment M_1 that this represents:

$$M_1 = 2 \int_S \phi = 2C \left(\frac{1}{a^2} \int_S \overbrace{X_2^2}^{\frac{\pi a^3 b}{4}} dA + \frac{1}{b^2} \int_S \overbrace{X_3^2}^{\frac{\pi a b^3}{4}} dA - \int_S \overbrace{dA}^{\pi ab} \right) = -C\pi ab$$

$$M_1 = G \frac{\pi a^3 b^3}{a^2 + b^2} \theta_{,1}.$$

1.5. Tutorial: Elliptical Section

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The torsional rigidity reads,

$$M_1 = G \frac{\pi a^3 b^3}{a^2 + b^2} \theta_{,1}$$

$$GJ = G \frac{\pi a^3 b^3}{a^2 + b^2}$$

1.5. Tutorial: Elliptical Section

Solid Section Torsion

- For the axial deflection we have two equations (by equating shear stress expressions),

$$u_{1,2} = \theta_{,1}\psi_{,2} = -\frac{2a^2}{a^2 + b^2}\theta_{,1}X_3 + \theta_{,1}X_3 = -\frac{a^2 - b^2}{a^2 + b^2}\theta_{,1}X_3$$

$$u_{1,3} = \theta_{,1}\psi_{,3} = \frac{2b^2}{a^2 + b^2}\theta_{,1}X_2 - \theta_{,1}X_2 = -\frac{a^2 - b^2}{a^2 + b^2}\theta_{,1}X_2$$

- Integrating them separately we have,

$$u_1 = -\frac{a^2 - b^2}{a^2 + b^2}\theta_{,1}X_2 + f_1(X_3)$$

$$= -\frac{a^2 - b^2}{a^2 + b^2}\theta_{,1}X_2 + f_2(X_2)$$

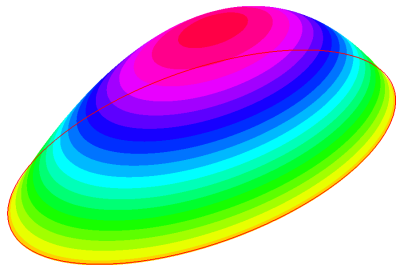
- f_1 and f_2 **have to be constant**. Setting it to zero we have,

$$u_1 = -\frac{a^2 - b^2}{a^2 + b^2}\theta_{,1}X_2X_3 = -\frac{a^2 - b^2}{G\pi a^3 b^3}M_1X_2X_3.$$

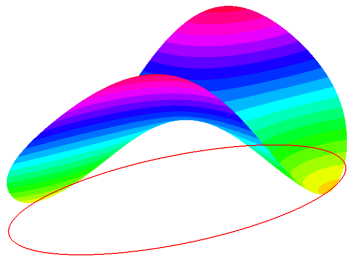
1.5. Tutorial

Solid Section Torsion

Stress Function



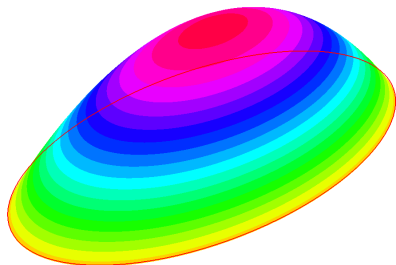
Section Warping



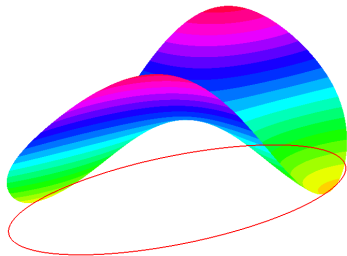
1.5. Tutorial

Solid Section Torsion

Stress Function



Section Warping



General Sections

- Torsion is amenable to analysis when the solid section boundary can be expressed in closed form **AND** its Laplacian evaluates to a constant. (See Chapter 9 in [3])
- Every assumed form of ϕ will give us a warping field. For an application wherein the section warping is also constrained, **this solution is not exact**. (St. Venant's principle can be invoked, however).
- Several analytical techniques exist (check [3] and references therein).
- Fully numerical approaches are also possible, see the FreeFem scripts in the website.

2. Thin Section Torsion

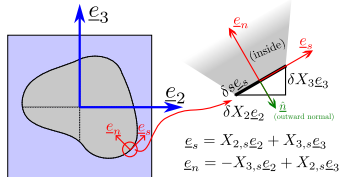
Transformation of Displacement Field to Skin-local Coordinates

We will consider the bending-torsion combined displacement field:

$$u_2 = v - X_3\theta$$

$$u_3 = w + X_3\theta,$$

and transform this to the **skin local coordinate system**.



- The section displacement field transforms as,

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} u_s \\ u_n \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} X_{2,s} & X_{3,s} \\ X_{2,n} & X_{3,n} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_2 \\ u_3 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} X_{3,n} & -X_{2,n} \\ -X_{3,s} & X_{2,s} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_2 \\ u_3 \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

- The **tangential component** of displacement along the boundary Γ can be written as,

$$\begin{aligned} u_s &= X_{2,s}(v - X_3\theta) + X_{3,s}(w + X_2\theta) \\ &= X_{2,s}v + X_{3,s}w + \theta \underbrace{(X_{3,s}X_2 - X_{2,s}X_3)}_{-X_n} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{u_s = p\theta + vX_{2,s} + wX_{3,s}}$$

2. Thin Section Torsion

Transformation of Displacement Field to Skin-local Coordinates

- The transformed displacement field combining bending and torsion is:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} u_1 &= -X_3v' - X_2w' + \theta'\psi \\ u_2 &= v - X_3\theta \\ u_3 &= w + X_2\theta \end{aligned} \right\} \implies \begin{aligned} u_1 & \text{ (unchanged)} \\ u_s &= p\theta + vX_{2,s} + wX_{3,s} \\ u_n &= X_s\theta - vX_{3,s} + wX_{2,s} \end{aligned}$$

- The shear strain along a thin section between the \underline{e}_1 , \underline{e}_s directions is

$$\gamma_{1s} = u_{1,s} + u_{s,1} = u_{1,s} + p\theta' + X_{2,s}v' + X_{3,s}w' = \frac{\tau}{G} = \frac{q(s)}{Gt}.$$

- Integrating this, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^s \frac{q(x)}{Gt} dx &= (u_1(s) - u_1(0)) + \theta' \int_0^s p dx + v' \int_0^s X_{2,x} dx + \int_0^s X_{3,x} dx \\ &= (u_1(s) - u_1(0)) + \theta' 2\mathcal{A}_{sweep}(s) + v'(X_2(s) - X_2(0)) \\ &\quad + w'(X_3(s) - X_3(0)). \end{aligned}$$

- Over a **complete closed section** we have,

$$\oint \frac{q(s)}{Gt} ds = 2A\theta'$$

2.1. Open Sections

Thin Section Torsion

2.2. Closed Sections

Thin Section Torsion

2.3. Combined Cells

Thin Section Torsion

References I

- [1] C. T. Sun. *Mechanics of Aircraft Structures*, 2nd edition. Hoboken, N.J: Wiley, June 2006. ISBN: 978-0-471-69966-8 (cit. on p. 2).
- [2] T. H. G. Megson. *Aircraft Structures for Engineering Students*, Elsevier, 2013. ISBN: 978-0-08-096905-3 (cit. on p. 2).
- [3] M. H. Sadd. *Elasticity: Theory, Applications, and Numerics*, 2nd ed. Amsterdam ; Boston: Elsevier/AP, 2009. ISBN: 978-0-12-374446-3 (cit. on pp. 28, 29).