

AS3020: Aerospace Structures

Module 5: Torsion of Beams

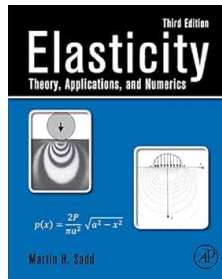
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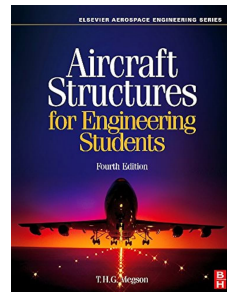
September 25, 2025

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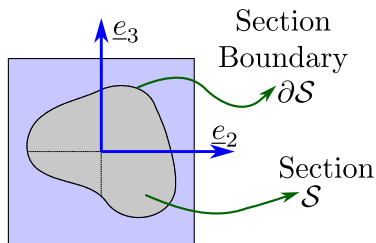
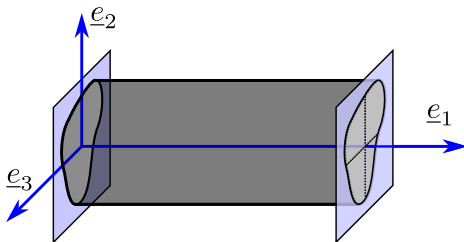
Chapter 9 in Sadd (2009)



Chapters 3, 17-19 in Megson (2013)

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 \mathcal{S} and the section-boundary by $\partial\mathcal{S}$.
- The words “torque” and “twisting moment” will be used interchangeably.

1.1. Stress Formulation (Equilibrium Considerations)

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,

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

- This PDE is a **Poisson problem**. What about Boundary Conditions?

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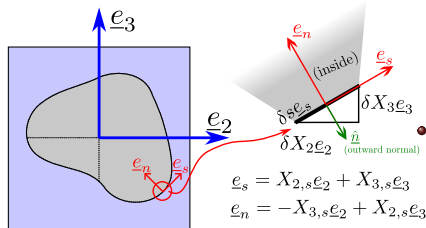
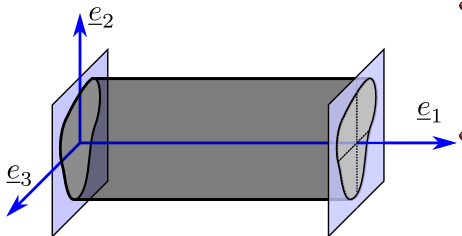
- In terms of strains the above assumptions imply that we only have E_{12} and E_{13} active. **Recall** that Strain compatibility is $\epsilon_{mjk}\epsilon_{nil}E_{ij,mn} = 0$ (see Kinematic considerations will give us this “constant”.)
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1.1. Stress Formulation (Equilibrium Considerations)

Solid Section Torsion



Convention: $\underline{e}_2 \times \underline{e}_3 = \underline{e}_s \times \underline{e}_n = \underline{e}_1$

- In order to express the stress free boundary condition on the section boundaries, it is necessary to express the unit vectors appropriately. For convenience we define \underline{e}_s and \underline{e}_n .
- We derive the coordinate transformation on the boundary as follows:

$$X_2 \underline{e}_2 + X_3 \underline{e}_3 = X_s \underline{e}_s + X_n \underline{e}_n$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} X_s \\ X_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \underline{e}_s \cdot \underline{e}_2 & \underline{e}_s \cdot \underline{e}_3 \\ \underline{e}_n \cdot \underline{e}_2 & \underline{e}_n \cdot \underline{e}_3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X_2 \\ X_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

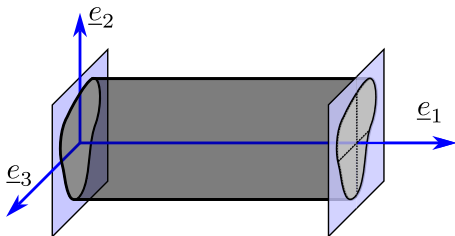
$$\text{and, } \begin{bmatrix} \underline{e}_s \\ \underline{e}_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \underline{e}_s \cdot \underline{e}_2 & \underline{e}_s \cdot \underline{e}_3 \\ \underline{e}_n \cdot \underline{e}_2 & \underline{e}_n \cdot \underline{e}_3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{e}_2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

- Considering 2D construction of normal vectors, we will also have

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

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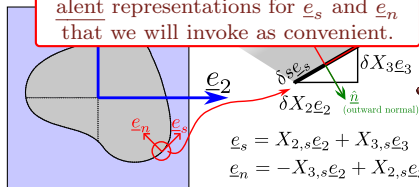
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$$= \begin{bmatrix} X_{2,s} & X_{3,s} \\ X_{2,n} & X_{3,n} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{e}_2 \\ \underline{e}_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

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These are two alternate but equivalent representations for \underline{e}_s and \underline{e}_n that we will invoke as convenient.



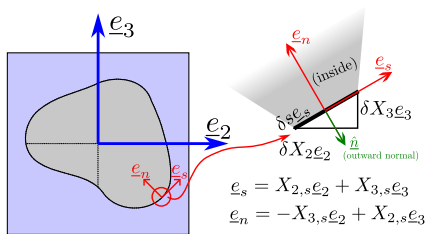
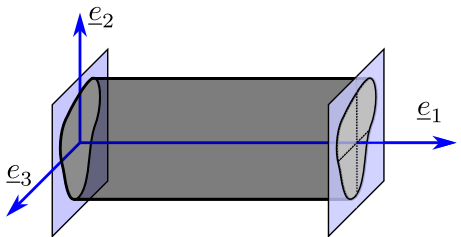
$$\underline{e}_s = X_{2,s} \underline{e}_2 + X_{3,s} \underline{e}_3$$

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

Convention: $\underline{e}_2 \times \underline{e}_3 = \underline{e}_s \times \underline{e}_n = \underline{e}_1$

1.1. Stress Formulation (Equilibrium Considerations)

Solid Section Torsion



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- Let us enforce stress-free boundary condition now. The outward normal is $\hat{n} = -\underline{e}_n$. So we have,

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & \sigma_{12} & \sigma_{13} \\ \sigma_{12} & 0 & 0 \\ \sigma_{13} & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \overbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ X_{3,s} \\ -X_{2,s} \end{bmatrix}}^{\hat{n} = -\underline{e}_n} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

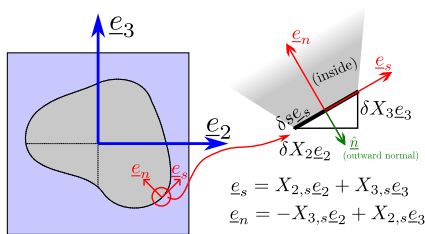
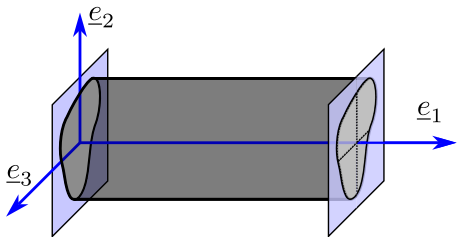
$$(\phi_{,3} X_{3,s} + \phi_{,2} X_{2,s}) = \phi_{,s} = 0$$

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

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

1.1. Stress Formulation (Equilibrium Considerations)

Solid Section Torsion



Convention: $\underline{e}_2 \times \underline{e}_3 = \underline{e}_s \times \underline{e}_n = \underline{e}_1$

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

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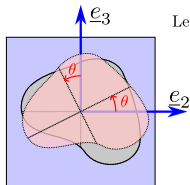
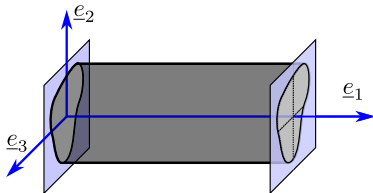
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1.2. Displacement Formulation (Kinematic Considerations)

Solid Section Torsion



Let $u_1 = u(X_1, X_2, X_3)$

$$u_2 = -\theta X_3$$

$$u_3 = \theta X_2$$

- The strains are,

$$\mathcal{E}_{11} = u_{,1} = 0$$

$$\mathcal{E}_{22} = -\theta_{,2} X_3 = 0$$

$$\mathcal{E}_{33} = \theta_{,3} X_2 = 0$$

$$\gamma_{23} = \theta - \theta = 0$$

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

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

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

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

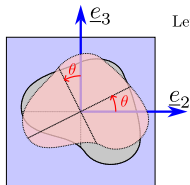
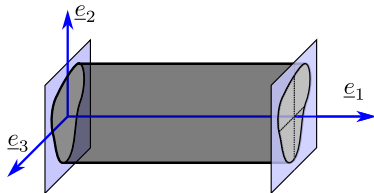
which gives us the “constant” required for the Poisson problem from before (along with the B.C. $\phi = 0$ on Γ).

- Since $\sigma_{12,2} + \sigma_{13,3} = 0$ (from equilibrium), we can also say

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

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$$\Rightarrow \theta(X_1), u(X_2, X_3)$$

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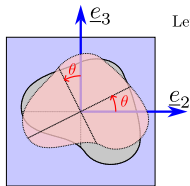
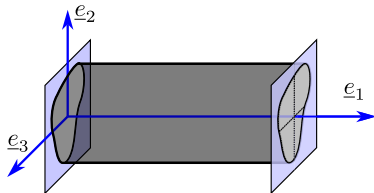
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which gives us the “constant” required for the Poisson problem from before (along with the B.C. $\phi = 0$ on Γ).

- Since $\sigma_{12,2} + \sigma_{13,3} = 0$ (from equilibrium), we can say

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

This is the governing equation in terms of the sectional displacement field.

1.3. Section Moment

Solid Section Torsion

- The traction vector on the section is written as

$$\begin{bmatrix} t_1 \\ t_2 \\ t_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \sigma_{12} & \sigma_{13} \\ \sigma_{12} & 0 & 0 \\ \sigma_{13} & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \sigma_{12} \\ \sigma_{13} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \phi_{,3} \\ -\phi_{,2} \end{bmatrix} = G \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ u_{,2} - X_3\theta_{,1} \\ u_{,3} + X_2\theta_{,1} \end{bmatrix}.$$

- The resultant moment of this traction can be written as the integral of the cross product $\underline{X} \times \underline{t}$ over the section \mathcal{S} .

$$\underline{X} \times \underline{t} = (X_2\underline{e}_2 + X_3\underline{e}_3) \times (\sigma_{12}\underline{e}_2 + \sigma_{13}\underline{e}_3) = (X_2\sigma_{13} - X_3\sigma_{12})\underline{e}_1.$$

- Since the traction is purely in-plane for the pure torsion case, the moment will be purely out of plane (along \underline{e}_1) and we will call this the “twisting moment”.
- This twisting moment (M_1) is written as

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

- Since σ_{12} and σ_{13} are expressed in terms of **kinematic quantities** as well as the **stress function** ϕ , we shall write down relationships using both before proceeding.

1.3. Section Moment

Solid Section Torsion

In terms of stress function

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

1.3. Section Moment

Solid Section Torsion

In terms of stress function

$$\begin{aligned}
 M_1 &= \int_S (X_2 \sigma_{13} - X_3 \sigma_{12}) dA \\
 &= - \int_S \phi_{,k} X_k dA \\
 &= - \int_S (\phi X_k)_{,k} - 2\phi dA \\
 &= \int_S 2\phi dA - \underbrace{\int_{\partial S} \phi X_k n_k ds}_{\phi=0 \text{ on } \partial S} \quad (\underline{\hat{n}} = n_k \underline{e}_k)
 \end{aligned}$$

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

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In terms of kinematic description

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

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 &= G I_{11} \theta_{,1} + G \int_S \epsilon_{1jk} X_j u_{,k} dA \\
 &= G I_{11} \theta_{,1} + G \int_S \epsilon_{1jk} (X_j u)_{,k} dA \\
 &\quad - G \int_S \epsilon_{1jk} \delta_{jk} u dA
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Solid Section Torsion

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 \end{aligned}$$

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$$M_1 = G I_{11} \theta_{,1} + G \int_{\partial S} (\underline{X} \times \underline{n})_1 u ds$$

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 &\quad + G \int_S (X_2^2 + X_3^2) dA \theta_{,1}
 \end{aligned}$$

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

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= G I_{11} \theta_{,1} + G \int_S \epsilon_{1jk} (X_j u)_{,k} dA \\
 &\quad - G \int_S \epsilon_{1jk} \delta_{jk} u dA
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 &= \int_S 2\phi dA - \underbrace{\int_{\partial S} \phi X_k n_k ds}_{\phi=0 \text{ on } \partial S} \quad (\underline{\hat{n}} = n_k \underline{e}_k)
 \end{aligned}$$

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

In terms of kinematic description

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

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

$$= G I_{11} \theta_{,1} + G \int_S \epsilon_{1jk} (X_j u)_{,k} dA$$

Not zero in the general case.

$$- G \int_S \epsilon_{1jk} \delta_{jk} u dA$$

$$M_1 = G I_{11} \theta_{,1} + G \int_{\partial S} \epsilon_{1jk} X_j n_k u ds$$

$$M_1 = G I_{11} \theta_{,1} + G \int_{\partial S} (\underline{X} \times \underline{n})_1 u ds$$

$$M_1 = G I_{11} \theta_{,1} - G \int_{\partial S} X_s u ds$$

1.4. Saint-Venant's Warping Function

Solid Section Torsion

- For a “pure twist” condition u can not depend on X_1 ($\sigma_{11} = 0 \implies \mathcal{E}_{11} = u_{,1} = 0$). It also makes sense that u has to be proportional to the twist θ somehow (no/little twist \implies no/little axial deformation).
- Saint-Venant introduced a warping function $\psi(X_2, X_3)$ such that

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

(recall that θ depends on X_1 , but $\theta_{,1}$ is a constant for pure twist)

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

$$M_1 = G \underbrace{\left(I_{11} - \int_{\partial S} X_s \psi ds \right)}_J \theta_{,1} = GJ \theta_{,1} .$$

- J is known as the **Torsion Constant** and GJ together is **Torsional Rigidity**.
- In terms of section integral, J can be expressed as

$$J = I_{11} + \int_S X_2 \psi_{,3} - X_3 \psi_{,2} dA .$$

1.4. Saint-Venant's Warping Function: Governing Equations

Solid Section Torsion

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

$$u_{,kk} = 0 \implies \boxed{\psi_{,kk} = 0}.$$

- For enforcing traction free boundaries at the outer boundaries of the section ($\hat{n} = -\underline{e}_n$) we express the traction as

$$\begin{bmatrix} t_1 \\ t_2 \\ t_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \sigma_{12} & \sigma_{13} \\ \sigma_{12} & 0 & 0 \\ \sigma_{13} & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ X_{3,s} \\ -X_{2,s} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} X_{2,s}\sigma_{13} - X_{3,s}\sigma_{12} \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

- Substituting the kinematic quantities ($\sigma_{12} = G(\psi_{,2} - X_3)\theta_{,1}$, $\sigma_{13} = G(\psi_{,3} + X_2)\theta_{,1}$), stating $t_1 = 0$ implies:

$$\underbrace{(X_{2,s}X_2 + X_{3,s}X_3)}_{X_s} + X_{2,s}\psi_{,3} - X_{3,s}\psi_{,2} = 0$$

$$X_s + \underbrace{X_{3,n}\psi_{,3} + X_{2,n}\psi_{,2}}_{\psi_{,n}} = 0 \implies \boxed{\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial X_n} = -X_s}.$$

- Note that we have used the coordinate transformations $X_s = X_{2,s}X_2 + X_{3,s}X_3$ and $X_n = -X_{3,s}X_2 + X_{2,s}X_3 = X_{2,n}X_2 + X_{3,n}X_3$ are the coordinates of any given point on the boundary in the skin-local coordinate system (\underline{e}_s , \underline{e}_n , see [coordinate transformations slide above](#)).

1.4. Saint-Venant's Warping Function: Governing Equations

Solid Section Torsion

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

$$u_{,kk} = 0 \implies \boxed{\psi_{,kk} = 0}.$$

- For enforcing traction free boundaries at the outer boundaries of the section ($\hat{n} = -\underline{e}_n$) we express the traction as

$$\begin{bmatrix} t_1 \\ t_2 \\ t_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -X_{3,s}\sigma_{12} \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

- Substituting the kinematic boundary condition stating $t_1 = 0$ implies:

Note: The boundary condition is more commonly written as

$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial n} = X_s$$

with $dn = -dX_n$ being the outward normal increment (\underline{e}_n points “inwards” in our convention).

$$\sigma_{13} = G(\psi_{,3} + X_2)\theta_{,1}),$$

$$\sigma_{23} = G(\psi_{,2} + X_3)\theta_{,1}),$$

$$X_s + \underbrace{X_{3,n}\psi_{,3} + X_{2,n}\psi_{,2}}_{\psi_{,n}} = 0 \implies \boxed{\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial X_n} = -X_s}.$$

- Note that we have used the coordinate transformations $X_s = X_{2,s}X_2 + X_{3,s}X_3$ and $X_n = -X_{3,s}X_2 + X_{2,s}X_3 = X_{2,n}X_2 + X_{3,n}X_3$ are the coordinates of any given point on the boundary in the skin-local coordinate system (\underline{e}_s , \underline{e}_n , see [coordinate transformations slide above](#)).

1.4. Saint-Venant's Warping Function: Governing Equations

Solid Section Torsion

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

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with $dn = -dX_n$ being the outward normal increment (\underline{e}_n points “inwards” in our convention)

$$\sigma_{13} = G(\psi_{,3} + X_2)\theta_{,1}),$$

$$\psi_{,2} = 0$$

Observe that the warping function ψ is **completely specified** by the section properties alone!

So ψ may be thought of as another *geometric property* of a section, much like the area, second moments, circumference, etc., except that ψ is a spatial function.

The analysis here suggests that this function of the section is very fundamental to torsion along with the polar second moment of area (a scalar).

the boundary in the skin-local coordinate system ($\underline{e}_s, \underline{e}_n$, see [coordinate transformations slide above](#)).

1.4. Saint-Venant's Warping Function: Warping Equations

Solid Section Torsion

- The governing equations w.r.t. the warping function ψ can be summarized as

$$\nabla^2 \psi = 0, \text{ on } \mathcal{S}, \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial n} = X_s, \text{ on } \partial \mathcal{S}.$$

For solvability, we will also enforce $\int_{\mathcal{S}} \psi dA = 0$, enforcing no net axial motion of the section.

- Recall that the **Torsion Constant** J is written as

$$J = I_{11} - \int_{\partial \mathcal{S}} X_s \psi ds.$$

- Since the boundary conditions above enforce $\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial n} = X_s$, the above simplifies to

$$J = I_{11} - \frac{1}{2} \int_{\partial \mathcal{S}} \frac{\partial \psi^2}{\partial n} ds.$$

Interpretation of $J - I_{11}$ from above

Intuitively, warping ψ increases radially outwards from the centroid of the section, and we expect ψ^2 to be increasing along \underline{e}_n . So the derivative $\frac{\partial \psi^2}{\partial n}$ is expected to be positive. Therefore, the second term above is expected to be positive, i.e., $J < I_{11}$ always. The warping effect reduces the torsional rigidity of a section.

Note: This reasoning may be incorrect, contact me if you have a better explanation/if you can show that this fails.

1.5. Membrane Analogy

Solid Section Torsion

The governing equations in terms of Prandtl Stress function is

$$\phi_{,kk} + 2G\theta_{,1} = 0, \quad \text{on } S, \quad \phi = 0 \text{ on } \partial S, \quad \text{along with } M_1 = 2 \int_S \phi dA.$$

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

- The displacement field

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

- The strain Field (von Karman)

$$\mathcal{E}_{11} = \frac{w_{,1}^2}{2}, \quad \mathcal{E}_{22} = \frac{w_{,2}^2}{2}, \quad \gamma_{12} = w_{,1}w_{,2}$$

- The Stress Field

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

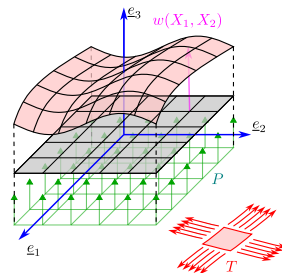
- Strain Energy Density (Integrated over thickness)

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

- Equations of Motion (Euler-Ostrogradsky):

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

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



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

- The strain Field

$$\varepsilon_{11} = \frac{w_{,1}^2}{2}$$

- The Stress Field

The governing equations, therefore, are identical to that of an **isotropically tensed membrane** undergoing deformation under the action of a **uniform transverse pressure**.

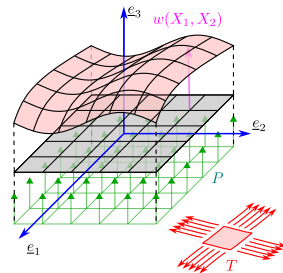
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$$T (w_{,11} + w_{,22}) - P = 0$$



1.5. 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

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla^2 \psi &= 0, \\ \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial n} &= X_s = (X_3 n_2 - X_2 n_3) \text{ on } \Gamma. \\ M_1 &= GJ\theta_{,1}, \quad u = \theta_{,1}\psi.\end{aligned}$$

Relating the two

Once we find ϕ , we can integrate the following to get ψ and u :

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

1.5. Membrane Analogy

Solid Section Torsion

Equations in the Stress Function

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

If interested, you can see the FreeFem scripts in the website for numerical implementations of these. You need to know just a little bit about weak forms to understand the code, it is very straightforward.

(not for exam)

1.6. Classical Example: Elliptical Section

Solid Section Torsion

- Let us consider an elliptical section given by $\mathcal{S} = \left\{ (X_2, X_3) \left| \frac{X_2^2}{a^2} + \frac{X_3^2}{b^2} = 1 \right. \right\}$ and choose the stress function as

$$\phi = C \left(\frac{X_2^2}{a^2} + \frac{X_3^2}{b^2} - 1 \right) \quad (\text{Note that } \phi = 0 \text{ on } \partial\mathcal{S} \text{ by definition}).$$

- 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 now compute the total resultant twisting moment M_1 that this represents:

$$M_1 = 2 \int_{\mathcal{S}} \phi = 2C \left(\frac{1}{a^2} \int_{\mathcal{S}} X_2^2 dA + \frac{1}{b^2} \int_{\mathcal{S}} X_3^2 dA - \int_{\mathcal{S}} dA \right) = -C\pi ab$$

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

1.6. Classical Example: Elliptical Section

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The torsional rigidity reads,

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

1.6. Classical Example: Elliptical Section

Solid Section Torsion

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

$$u_{,2} = \theta_{,1}\psi_{,2} = -\frac{2a^2}{a^2 + b^2}\theta_{,1}X_3 + \theta_{,1}X_3 = -\frac{a^2 - b^2}{a^2 + b^2}\theta_{,1}X_3$$
$$u_{,3} = \theta_{,1}\psi_{,3} = \frac{2b^2}{a^2 + b^2}\theta_{,1}X_2 - \theta_{,1}X_2 = -\frac{a^2 - b^2}{a^2 + b^2}\theta_{,1}X_2$$

1.6. Classical Example: Elliptical Section

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

- Integrating them separately we have,

$$\psi = -\frac{a^2 - b^2}{a^2 + b^2}X_2X_3 + f_1(X_3)$$

$$= -\frac{a^2 - b^2}{a^2 + b^2}X_2X_3 + f_2(X_2)$$

1.6. Classical Example: Elliptical Section

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

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

- Integrating them separately we have,

$$\begin{aligned}\psi &= -\frac{a^2 - b^2}{a^2 + b^2}X_2X_3 + f_1(X_3) \\ &= -\frac{a^2 - b^2}{a^2 + b^2}X_2X_3 + f_2(X_2)\end{aligned}$$

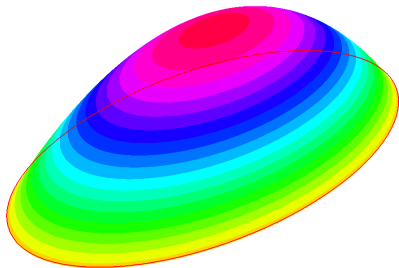
- f_1 and f_2 **have to be constant**. Setting it to zero we have,

$$u = -\theta_{,1}\frac{a^2 - b^2}{a^2 + b^2}X_2X_3 = -M_1\frac{a^2 - b^2}{G\pi a^3b^3}X_2X_3.$$

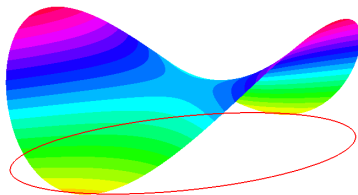
1.6. Classical Example: Elliptical Section

Solid Section Torsion

Stress Function



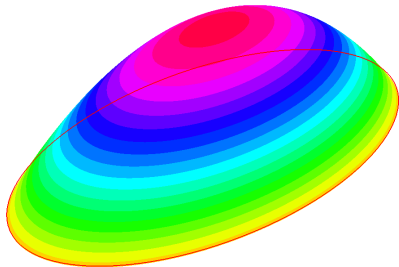
Section Warping



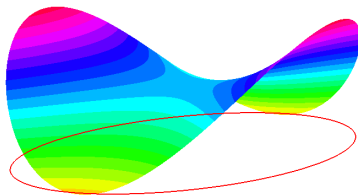
1.6. Classical Example: Elliptical Section

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 Sadd 2009)
- Every assumed form of ϕ will give us a warping field. For an application wherein the section warping is constrained at the ends, **this solution is not exact**. (Saint-Venant's principle can be invoked, however, recall discussions on shear lag from Module 4).
- Several analytical techniques exist for other types of sections (check Sadd 2009 and references therein).
- Fully numerical approaches are also possible (see the FreeFem scripts in the website for a sample).

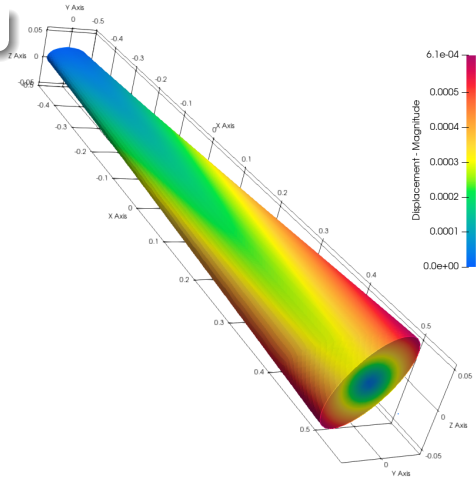
1.6. Classical Example: Elliptical Section: Results in 3D

Solid Section Torsion

Here is a 3D FE Result.
(Salome_Meca HDF Files in website)



CODE aster
salome_meca 2023

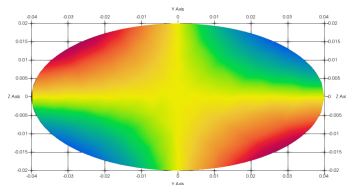


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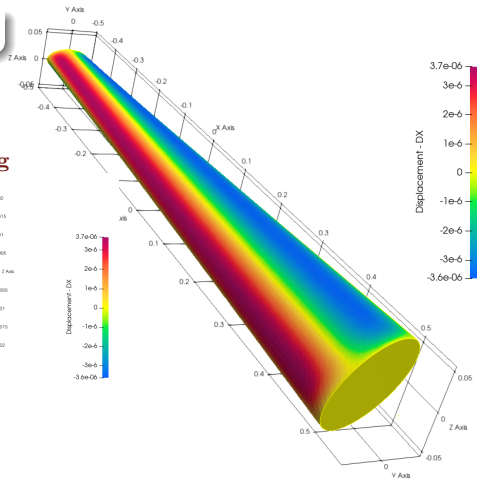
Solid Section Torsion

Here is a 3D FE Result.
(Salome_Meca HDF Files in website)

Mid-Section Warping



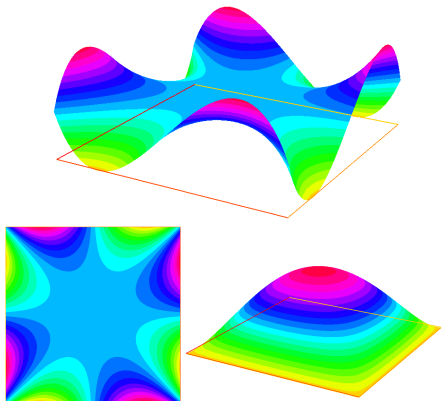
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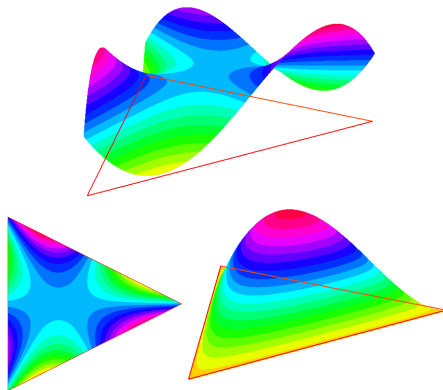
1.6. Stress and Warping Functions of General Sections

Solid Section Torsion

Square Section



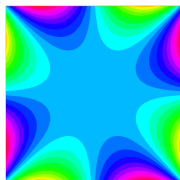
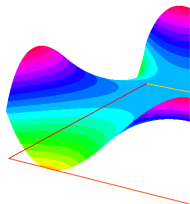
Triangular Section



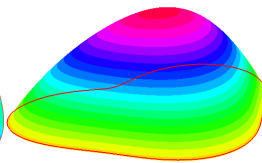
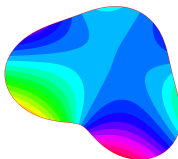
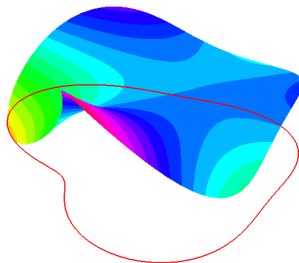
1.6. Stress and Warping Functions of General Sections

Solid Section Torsion

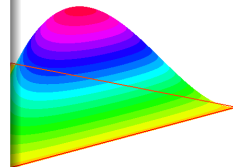
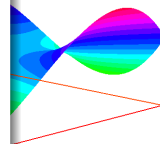
Square Section



An Arbitrary Hand-drawn Section



Elliptical Section

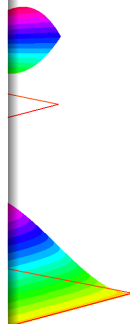
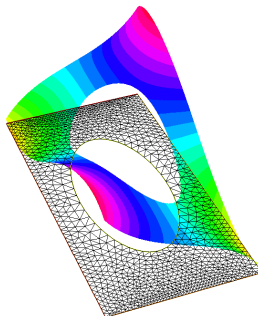
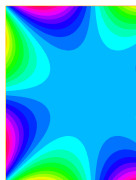
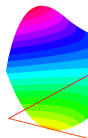


1.6. Stress and Warping Functions of General Sections

Solid Section Torsion

Sections with Holes

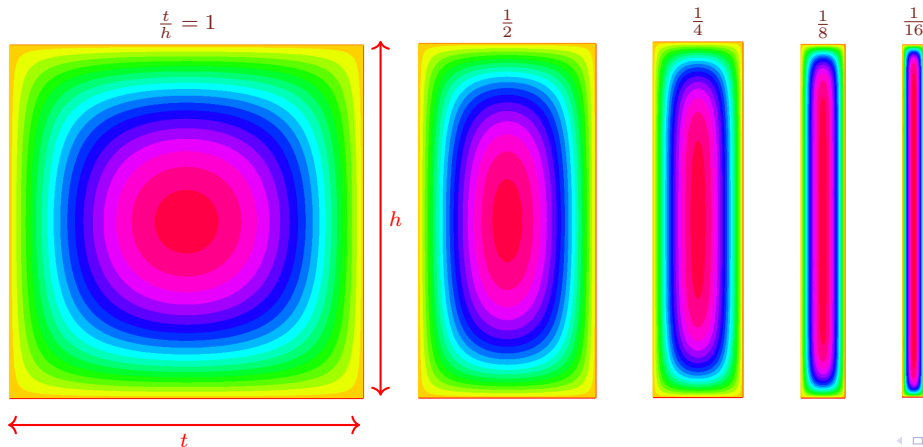
The validity of the governing equations extend beyond singly connected sections. Nothing stops us from applying it for multiply connected sections also for the warping formulation. (Some additional considerations necessary for the stress function, see sec. 9.3.3 in Sadd 2009).



1.7. Rectangular Sections

Solid Section Torsion

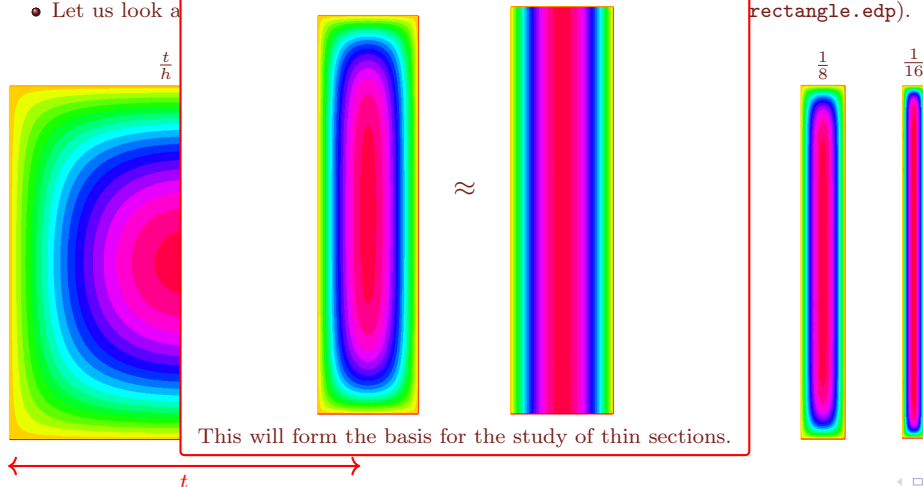
- Rectangular sections are slightly more involved, in general (for the curious: see the Fourier series approach in Sadd 2009). But an important simplification is achieved for thin sections.
- Let us look at some numerical results for motivation (FreeFem code `b_rectangle.edp`).



1.7. Rectangular Sections

Solid Section Torsion

- Rectangular sections are slightly more involved, in general (for the curious: see the Fourier series [https://www.math.uh.edu/~djk/1313/lectures/1313_16_17_18_19_20_21_22_23_24_25_26_27_28_29_30_31_32_33_34_35_36_37_38_39_40_41_42_43_44_45_46_47_48_49_50_51_52_53_54_55_56_57_58_59_60_61_62_63_64_65_66_67_68_69_70_71_72_73_74_75_76_77_78_79_80_81_82_83_84_85_86_87_88_89_90_91_92_93_94_95_96_97_98_99_100_101_102_103_104_105_106_107_108_109_110_111_112_113_114_115_116_117_118_119_120_121_122_123_124_125_126_127_128_129_130_131_132_133_134_135_136_137_138_139_140_141_142_143_144_145_146_147_148_149_150_151_152_153_154_155_156_157_158_159_160_161_162_163_164_165_166_167_168_169_170_171_172_173_174_175_176_177_178_179_180_181_182_183_184_185_186_187_188_189_190_191_192_193_194_195_196_197_198_199_200_201_202_203_204_205_206_207_208_209_210_211_212_213_214_215_216_217_218_219_220_221_222_223_224_225_226_227_228_229_230_231_232_233_234_235_236_237_238_239_240_241_242_243_244_245_246_247_248_249_250_251_252_253_254_255_256_257_258_259_260_261_262_263_264_265_266_267_268_269_270_271_272_273_274_275_276_277_278_279_280_281_282_283_284_285_286_287_288_289_290_291_292_293_294_295_296_297_298_299_300_301_302_303_304_305_306_307_308_309_310_311_312_313_314_315_316_317_318_319_320_321_322_323_324_325_326_327_328_329_330_331_332_333_334_335_336_337_338_339_340_341_342_343_344_345_346_347_348_349_350_351_352_353_354_355_356_357_358_359_360_361_362_363_364_365_366_367_368_369_370_371_372_373_374_375_376_377_378_379_380_381_382_383_384_385_386_387_388_389_390_391_392_393_394_395_396_397_398_399_400_401_402_403_404_405_406_407_408_409_410_411_412_413_414_415_416_417_418_419_420_421_422_423_424_425_426_427_428_429_430_431_432_433_434_435_436_437_438_439_440_441_442_443_444_445_446_447_448_449_450_451_452_453_454_455_456_457_458_459_460_461_462_463_464_465_466_467_468_469_470_471_472_473_474_475_476_477_478_479_480_481_482_483_484_485_486_487_488_489_490_491_492_493_494_495_496_497_498_499_500_501_502_503_504_505_506_507_508_509_510_511_512_513_514_515_516_517_518_519_520_521_522_523_524_525_526_527_528_529_530_531_532_533_534_535_536_537_538_539_540_541_542_543_544_545_546_547_548_549_550_551_552_553_554_555_556_557_558_559_560_561_562_563_564_565_566_567_568_569_570_571_572_573_574_575_576_577_578_579_580_581_582_583_584_585_586_587_588_589_590_591_592_593_594_595_596_597_598_599_600_601_602_603_604_605_606_607_608_609_610_611_612_613_614_615_616_617_618_619_620_621_622_623_624_625_626_627_628_629_630_631_632_633_634_635_636_637_638_639_640_641_642_643_644_645_646_647_648_649_650_651_652_653_654_655_656_657_658_659_660_661_662_663_664_665_666_667_668_669_670_671_672_673_674_675_676_677_678_679_680_681_682_683_684_685_686_687_688_689_690_691_692_693_694_695_696_697_698_699_700_701_702_703_704_705_706_707_708_709_710_711_712_713_714_715_716_717_718_719_720_721_722_723_724_725_726_727_728_729_730_731_732_733_734_735_736_737_738_739_740_741_742_743_744_745_746_747_748_749_750_751_752_753_754_755_756_757_758_759_760_761_762_763_764_765_766_767_768_769_770_771_772_773_774_775_776_777_778_779_780_781_782_783_784_785_786_787_788_789_790_791_792_793_794_795_796_797_798_799_800_801_802_803_804_805_806_807_808_809_810_811_812_813_814_815_816_817_818_819_820_821_822_823_824_825_826_827_828_829_830_831_832_833_834_835_836_837_838_839_840_841_842_843_844_845_846_847_848_849_850_851_852_853_854_855_856_857_858_859_860_861_862_863_864_865_866_867_868_869_870_871_872_873_874_875_876_877_878_879_880_881_882_883_884_885_886_887_888_889_890_891_892_893_894_895_896_897_898_899_900_901_902_903_904_905_906_907_908_909_910_911_912_913_914_915_916_917_918_919_920_921_922_923_924_925_926_927_928_929_930_931_932_933_934_935_936_937_938_939_940_941_942_943_944_945_946_947_948_949_950_951_952_953_954_955_956_957_958_959_960_961_962_963_964_965_966_967_968_969_970_971_972_973_974_975_976_977_978_979_980_981_982_983_984_985_986_987_988_989_990_991_992_993_994_995_996_997_998_999_1000](#)). This is achieved for
- Let us look at



1.7. Rectangular Sections: Thin Strip Idealization

Solid Section Torsion

- Idealizing the rectangle as a “strip” (t/h is very small), we can write the stress function Poisson problem as,

$$\phi_{,22} = -2G\theta_{,1}, \quad \text{with} \quad \phi = 0 \text{ at } X_2 \in \left\{-\frac{t}{2}, \frac{t}{2}\right\}, \quad X_3 \in \left\{-\frac{h}{2}, \frac{h}{2}\right\},$$

solved by $\phi(X_2, X_3) = -G\theta_{,1} \left(X_2^2 - \left(\frac{t}{2}\right)^2 \right).$

- This implies the following shear stress and resultant moment:

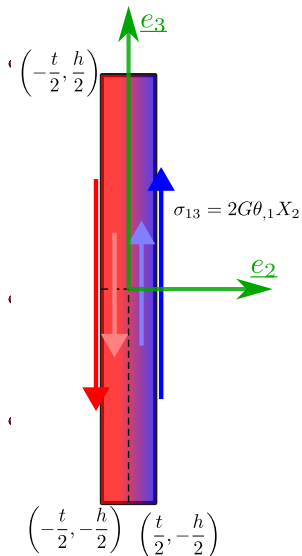
$$\sigma_{12} = \overbrace{0}^{\phi_{,3}}, \quad \sigma_{13} = \overbrace{2G\theta_{,1}X_2}^{-\phi_{,2}}, \quad M_1 = 2 \int_S \phi dA = G \overbrace{\frac{ht^3}{3}}^J \theta_{,1}.$$

- The shear strain is $\gamma_{13} = u_{,3} + u_{3,1} = u_{,3} + X_2\theta_{,1}$, which implies $u = \theta_{,1}X_2X_3$ as the warping field (setting integration constant to zero).

1.7. Rectangular Sections: Thin Strip Idealization

Solid Section Torsion

Stress Distribution



Warping Profile

“strip” (t/h is v

with $\phi = 0$ at

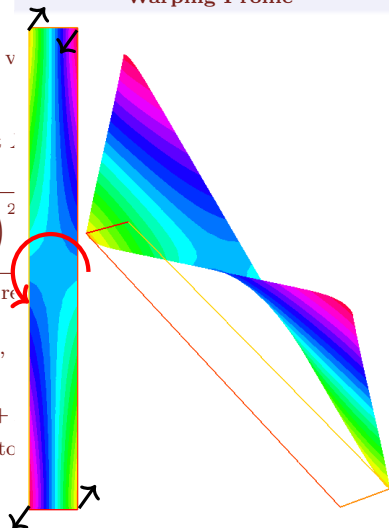
$$\phi_{,1} \left(X_2^2 - \left(\frac{t}{2} \right)^2 \right)$$

near stress and re

$$\sigma_{13} = \underbrace{2G\theta_{,1}X_2}_{-\phi_{,2}}$$

$+u_{3,1} = u_{,3} +$

ation constant to



2. Torsion of Thin-Walled Sections

- Using the same notation as in Module 4, the equilibrium equations, for a thin-walled section undergoing pure torsion ($\sigma_{11} = \sigma_{ss} = \sigma_{nn} = \sigma_{sn} = 0$) can be written as

$$\sigma_{11,1}^0 + \sigma_{1s,s} = 0, \quad \sigma_{1s,1} = 0, \quad (\sigma_{1n} \approx 0).$$

- This implies, when in “pure torsion”, σ_{1s} is constant along the section arc.
 - And as in the bending case, σ_{1s} is constant along the span X_1 .
- Since $q(s) = \int \sigma_{1s} dX_n$, this implies that **shear flow is constant across the section (along $\underline{e_s}$) under pure torsion.**
- The resultant moment of a shear flow distribution $q(s)$ can be given by

$$\underline{M} = \int_{\mathcal{S}_s} \underline{X} \times (q(s) d\underline{s e_s}) = q \int_{\mathcal{S}_s} (X_s \underline{e_s} + X_n \underline{e_n}) \times (d\underline{s e_s})$$

$$M_1 \underline{e_1} = q \int_{\mathcal{S}_s} (-X_n) d\underline{s e_1} \implies \boxed{M_1 = q \int_{\mathcal{S}_s} p ds}.$$

where $p = -X_n$ is the perpendicular distance to the point on the thin-walled section's mean plane under consideration.

- The symbol \mathcal{S}_s denotes the 1 dimensional “mean line” along the thin wall.

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$$\sigma_{11,1} + \sigma_{1s,s} = 0, \quad \sigma_{1s,1} = 0, \quad (\sigma_{1n} \approx 0).$$

- This implies, where “ s ” is the arc length along the section arc.
 - And as in the case of a closed section, the shear stress is constant across the section
- Since $q(s) = \int \sigma_{1s} ds$ (along \underline{e}_s) under pure torsion, the shear stress is constant across the section
- The resultant moment M_1 is given by

$$M_1 = 2\mathcal{A}q,$$

where \mathcal{A} is the area contained “within” the thin-walled section.

$$M_1 \underline{e}_1 = q \int_{\mathcal{S}_s} (-X_n) ds \underline{e}_1 \implies M_1 = q \int_{\mathcal{S}_s} p ds.$$

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2.1. Transformation of Displacement Field to Skin-local Coordinates

Torsion of Thin-Walled Sections

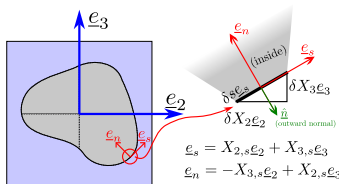
We will consider the bending-torsion combined displacement field:

$$u_1 = \theta_2 X_3 - \theta_3 X_2 + \theta_{,1} \psi$$

$$u_2 = v - X_3 \theta$$

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

and transform this to the **skin local (curvilinear) coordinate system**.



- Recall that points on the section transform into the section skin-local coordinate system as

$$\begin{bmatrix} X_s \\ X_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} X_{2,s} & X_{3,s} \\ -X_{3,s} & X_{2,s} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X_2 \\ X_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} X_2 X_{2,s} + X_3 X_{3,s} \\ -X_2 X_{3,s} + X_3 X_{2,s} \end{bmatrix}$$

- The section displacement field transforms as,

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

$$\begin{bmatrix} u_s \\ u_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} v X_{2,s} + w X_{3,s} - X_n \theta \\ -v X_{3,s} + w X_{2,s} + X_s \theta \end{bmatrix}$$

- Note that the coordinate $X_n = -p$, i.e., negative of the perpendicular distance (since \underline{e}_n points “inwards”). So the tangential displacement is written as

$$u_s = p\theta + v X_{2,s} + w X_{3,s}.$$

2.1. Transformation of Displacement Field to Skin-local Coordinates

Torsion of Thin-Walled Sections

- The transformed displacement field combining bending and torsion is:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} u_1 &= X_3\theta_2 - X_2\theta_3 + \theta_{,1}\psi \\ u_2 &= v - X_3\theta \\ u_3 &= w + X_2\theta \end{aligned} \right\} \Rightarrow \begin{aligned} u_1 &\text{ (unchanged)} \\ u_s &= p\theta + vX_{2,s} + wX_{3,s} \\ u_n &= X_s\theta - vX_{3,s} + wX_{2,s} \end{aligned}$$

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

$$\gamma_{1s} = u_{1,s} + u_{s,1} = u_{,s} + p\theta_{,1} + X_{2,s}(v_{,1} - \theta_3) + X_{3,s}(w_{,1} + \theta_2) = \frac{\sigma_{1s}}{G} = \frac{q}{Gt}.$$

- Integrating this over the skin, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^s \frac{q(s)}{Gt} ds &= \theta_{,1}(\psi(s) - \psi(0)) + \theta_{,1} \int_0^s p ds + (v_{,1} - \theta_3) \int_0^s X_{2,s} ds + (w_{,1} + \theta_2) \int_0^s X_{3,s} ds \\ &= \theta_{,1}(\psi(s) - \psi(0)) + \theta_{,1} 2\mathcal{A}_{Os}(s) + (v_{,1} - \theta_3)(X_2(s) - X_2(0)) + (w_{,1} + \theta_2)(X_3(s) - X_3(0)). \end{aligned}$$

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

$$\oint \frac{q(s)}{Gt} ds = 2\mathcal{A}\theta_{,1}$$

2.2. Closed Sections: Bredt-Batho Theory

Torsion of Thin-Walled Sections

- For closed sections under *pure torsion*, we will set $v = w = 0, \theta_2 = \theta_3 = 0$.
- So q is constant over the section and is written with the *Bredt-Batho Formula* based on the resultant twisting moment M_1 as

$$M_1 = 2\mathcal{A}q \implies q = \frac{M_1}{2\mathcal{A}}.$$

- The shear flow integral reads (we shall assume zero bending shear Euler Bernoulli assumptions hold, so $\theta_2 = -w_{,1}$ and $\theta_3 = v_{,1}$),

$$q \underbrace{\int_0^s \frac{1}{Gt} dx}_{\delta_{Os}(s)} = (u(s) - u(0)) + \theta' \underbrace{\int_0^s p dx}_{2\mathcal{A}_{Os}(s)}.$$

For the whole section, this becomes

$$q \underbrace{\oint \frac{1}{Gt} ds}_{\delta} = \theta' 2\mathcal{A} \implies \theta' = \frac{q\delta}{2\mathcal{A}}.$$

- So we can write the warping as

$$\psi(s) - \psi(0) = 2\mathcal{A} \left(\frac{\delta_{Os}(s)}{\delta} - \frac{\mathcal{A}_{Os}(s)}{\mathcal{A}} \right)$$

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The integration constant $\psi(0)$ can be found by enforcing that there is no net average movement in the \underline{e}_1 direction. So $\oint \psi(s) ds = 0$ in the section, leading to:

$$\psi(0) = \frac{\oint \psi_b(s) t ds}{\oint t ds},$$

For

where $\psi_b(s)$ is the “baseline” warping distribution assuming $\psi(0) = 0$.

- So we can write the warping as

$$\psi(s) - \underbrace{\psi(0)}_{\delta} = 2\mathcal{A} \left(\frac{\delta_{Os}(s)}{\delta} - \frac{\mathcal{A}_{Os}(s)}{\mathcal{A}} \right)$$

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$$q \underbrace{\int_0^s \frac{1}{Gt} dx}_{\delta_{Os}(s)} = (u(s) - u(0)) + \theta' \underbrace{\int_0^s p dx}_{2\mathcal{A}_{Os}(s)}.$$

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Combining these two, we get the torsional rigidity:

$$\Rightarrow q = \frac{M_1}{2\mathcal{A}}.$$

- Torsion

$$\begin{aligned} M_1 &= 2\mathcal{A}q \\ &= \frac{4\mathcal{A}^2}{\delta} \theta'. \end{aligned}$$

the zero bending shear Euler Bernoulli

$$u(0)) + \underbrace{\theta' \int_0^s p dx}_{2\mathcal{A}_{O_s}(s)}.$$

For constant G, t , we get,

$$M_1 = G \frac{4\mathcal{A}^2 t}{|\mathcal{S}_s|} \theta' = GJ\theta'$$

$$\Rightarrow J = \frac{4\mathcal{A}^2 t}{|\mathcal{S}_s|}.$$

$$\Rightarrow \theta' = \frac{q\delta}{2\mathcal{A}}.$$

- Stress

$|\mathcal{S}_s|$ is the section circumference.

$$\psi(s) - \psi(0) = 2\mathcal{A} \left(\frac{\delta_{O_s}(s)}{\delta} - \frac{\mathcal{A}_{O_s}(s)}{\mathcal{A}} \right)$$

2.2. Closed Sections: The Neuber Beam

Torsion of Thin-Walled Sections

- A natural question arises: what should I do if I want to minimize/eliminate warping?
- We want to set $\psi(s) - \psi(0) = \psi_b(s) = 0$, $\forall s \in \Gamma$, i.e., $2\mathcal{A} \left(\frac{\delta_{Os}(s)}{\delta} - \frac{\mathcal{A}_{Os}(s)}{\mathcal{A}} \right) = 0$. This implies:

$$\frac{\delta_{Os}(s)}{\delta} = \frac{\mathcal{A}_{Os}(s)}{\mathcal{A}} \implies \int_0^s \left(\frac{1}{\delta} \frac{1}{Gt} - \frac{1}{2\mathcal{A}} p \right) ds = 0,$$

which is satisfied iff the terms inside the integral equate to zero.

- This implies that the quantity pGt (modulus as well as thickness can vary along section) has to be a constant:

$$pGt = \frac{2\mathcal{A}}{\delta}.$$

- It is known as a **Neuber Beam** if this is satisfied. (eg., circular sections, equilateral triangles, square sections, rectangular sections of appropriate thickness, etc.)

2.2. Closed Sections: The Shear Center

Torsion of Thin-Walled Sections

- Based on relating the kinematics to stress (through linear elastic constitutive relationships), we have written the shear flow integral as:

$$\oint \frac{q(s; \xi_2, \xi_3)}{Gt} ds = 2\mathcal{A}\theta'.$$

- Suppose, for a closed section, we evaluated the shear flow by the approach in Module 4.

Recall that we required the resultant moment M_1 to be zero for this:

$$\oint p \overbrace{(q_b(s; \xi_2, \xi_3) + q_0(\xi_2, \xi_3))}^{q(s; \xi_2, \xi_3)} ds = 0.$$

- We can not take it for granted that the section does not twist when no moment is applied. So we add this additional consideration in our definition of shear center. We posit that **the resultant twist angle must also be zero** when the shear resultants act along the shear center:

$$\theta' = 0 \implies \oint \frac{q_b(s; \xi_2, \xi_3) + q_0(\xi_2, \xi_3)}{Gt} ds = 0$$

- Considering V_2, V_3 separately, we can get 3 equations in the 3 unknowns and can solve it.

2.2. Closed Sections: The Shear Center

Torsion of Thin-Walled Sections

One possible sequence of analysis is this (for shear):

- ① We choose some convenient point as origin, say \mathcal{O} .
- ② We first obtain the “baseline” shear flow $q_b(s)$ using some arbitrary starting point for the shear flow integral.
- ③ We estimate q_0 by requiring zero twist:

$$\oint \frac{q_b(s) + q_0}{Gt} ds = 0 \implies q_0 = - \frac{\oint \frac{q_b(s)}{Gt} ds}{\oint \frac{1}{Gt} ds}.$$

- ④ We write down the resultant moment as

$$\oint p(q_b(s) + q_0(s)) ds = V_2(-\xi_3) + V_3(\xi_2).$$

The shear center coordinates (ξ_2, ξ_3) are estimated by comparing the coefficients of V_2 & V_3 in the above.

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- ③ We estimate q_0 by

Question: We never required the zero twist condition for open sections. Does this mean open sections can undergo twisting even when $M_1 = 0$?

$$\frac{\frac{q_b(s)}{Gt} ds}{\frac{1}{Gt} ds}.$$

- ④ We write down the resultant moment as

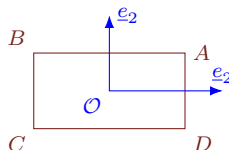
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2.2. Closed Sections: Tutorial on Rectangular Closed Sections

Torsion of Thin-Walled Sections

- Consider this rectangular Section:



- We will write out the warping quantity $\frac{1}{2\mathcal{A}\theta'}(u(s) - u(0)) = \frac{\delta_{OS}(s)}{\delta} - \frac{\mathcal{A}_{OS}(s)}{\mathcal{A}}$ as a table in the following fashion:

Section	$\delta_{OS}(s)$	$\mathcal{A}_{OS}(s)$	$\frac{\delta_{OS}(s)}{\delta} - \frac{\mathcal{A}_{OS}(s)}{\mathcal{A}}$	$\frac{1}{2\mathcal{A}\theta'}(u_{end} - u_{start})$
A→B	$\frac{\frac{a}{2} - X_2}{Gt}$	$\frac{b}{4}(\frac{a}{2} - X_2)$	$\frac{a-b}{4a(a+b)}(\frac{a}{2} - X_2)$	$\frac{a-b}{4(a+b)}$
B→C	$\frac{\frac{b}{2} - X_3}{Gt}$	$\frac{a}{4}(\frac{b}{2} - X_3)$	$-\frac{a-b}{4b(a+b)}(\frac{b}{2} - X_3)$	$-\frac{a-b}{4a(a+b)}$
C→D	$\frac{\frac{a}{2} + X_2}{Gt}$	$\frac{b}{4}(\frac{a}{2} + X_2)$	$\frac{a-b}{4a(a+b)}(\frac{a}{2} + X_2)$	$\frac{a-b}{4a(a+b)}$
D→A	$\frac{\frac{b}{2} + X_3}{Gt}$	$\frac{a}{4}(\frac{b}{2} + X_3)$	$-\frac{a-b}{4a(a+b)}(\frac{b}{2} + X_3)$	$-\frac{a-b}{4a(a+b)}$

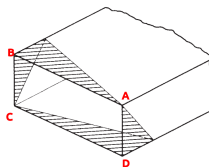
2.2. Closed Sections: Tutorial on Rectangular Closed Section

Torsion of Thin-Walled Sections

- Letting u_A be some constant, we have the following:

$$u_B = u_A + 2\mathcal{A}\theta' \frac{a-b}{4(a+b)}, \quad u_C = u_A, \quad u_D = u_A + 2\mathcal{A}\theta' \frac{a-b}{4(a+b)}.$$

- In each member, the warping function is distributed linearly in each member such that the warped shape looks like:



Figures from Megson 2013

- Imposing zero net translation of section we get,

$$\oint u(s)ds = u_A 2(a+b) + \frac{a-b}{4} := 0 \implies u_A = -\frac{a-b}{8(a+b)}.$$

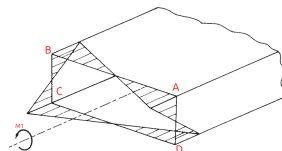
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2.3. Open Sections

Torsion of Thin-Walled Sections

- We will invoke the thin-strip idealization for this. The main results from the idealization are:

$$\phi = -G\theta' \left(X_2^2 - \frac{t^2}{4} \right); \quad M_1 = G \frac{ht^3}{3} \theta';$$

$$\sigma_{12} = 0, \quad \sigma_{13} = 2GX_2\theta', \quad u_1 = \theta' X_2 X_3.$$

- For general thin-walled sections, the torsion constant J is generalized as,

$$J = \frac{1}{3} \int_{S_c} t^3 ds, \quad \text{s.t.} \quad M_1 = GJ\theta'.$$

Thin Section Kinematics

The kinematics of thin sections can be given as

$$u_s = -X_n \theta + v X_{2,s} + w X_{3,s} \xrightarrow{X_n = -p} p\theta + v X_{2,s} + w X_{3,s}$$

$$u_n = X_s \theta - v X_{3,s} + w X_{2,s} \xrightarrow{X_s = s} s\theta - v X_{3,s} + w X_{2,s}.$$

2.3. Open Sections: Warping

Torsion of Thin-Walled Sections

- Along the centerline $\sigma_{1n} = \sigma_{1s} = 0$ (**Note:** shear flow is zero under the idealization!). So we have (on the centerline),

$$\gamma_{1s} = 0 = u_{,s} + u_{s,1} = u_{,s} + p\theta',$$

where p is the perpendicular distance to the point on the skin. This can be integrated to

$$u_1(s) - u_1(0) = -\theta' \int_0^s p ds = -2\theta' \mathcal{A}_{Os}(s).$$

- $u_1(0)$ can be fixed based on enforcing the zero straight-stress ($\sigma_{11} = 0$, $\sigma_{11} \propto u_1$) assumption which leads to

$$\int_{\Gamma} u_1(s) ds = 0 \implies u_1(0) = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{S}_s|} 2\theta' \int_{\mathcal{S}_c} \mathcal{A}_{Os}(s) ds.$$

$|\Gamma|$ is the total *circumference*.

2.3. Open Sections

Torsion of Thin-Walled Sections

- For points off of the centerline, we consider $\sigma_{1n} = 0$, which implies (assuming $\theta_2 = -w_{,1}$, $\theta_3 = v_{,1}$),

$$\gamma_{1n} = u_{1,n} + u_{n,1} = u_{,n} + s\theta_{,1} = 0 \implies u_{,n} = -s\theta',$$

where s is the position of the point along the skin (measured relative to the central line).

- This can be integrated to

$$u = -\theta' X_n s + u_1 (n = 0).$$

- Notice that if we set $u_1 = 0$ and compare this with the thin strip idealization, this seems to have an additional negative sign. This is because of the coordinate system definition.
- $u(n = 0) = u_0 - 2\theta' \mathcal{A}_{Os}(s)$ from the centerline considerations above.

2.3. Open Sections

Torsion of Thin-Walled Sections

- In summary, the warping can be written in terms of section-local coordinates as,

$$u = u_0 - \underbrace{2\mathcal{A}_{Os}(s)\theta'}_{u_1(n=0)} - \theta' X_n s .$$

- The first term in the above, representing center-line warping, is known as **primary warping**, and the second term, representing section warping, is known as **secondary warping**.
- For sufficiently thin sections, the latter is usually neglected for thin sections.

2.3. Open Sections Tutorial: C-Section

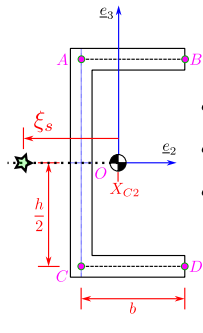
Torsion of Thin-Walled Sections

- Let us consider the C-Section from Module 4.
- We will shift the origin to the shear center and consider the integrals.
- The torsional rigidity is given by:

$$GJ = \frac{Gt^3}{3} \int_{\Gamma} ds = G \frac{t^3(h+2b)}{3}$$

- Warping is worked out as,

	$\mathcal{A}_{Os}(s)$	end
$B \rightarrow A$	$\frac{h}{2}(b + \xi_s - X_2)$	$\frac{bh}{2}$
$A \rightarrow C$	$-\xi_s(\frac{h}{2} - X_3)$	$-\xi_s h$
$C \rightarrow D$	$\frac{h}{2}(X_2 - \xi_s)$	$\frac{bh}{2}$



$$I_{22} \approx \frac{(h^3 + 6bh^2)t}{12} + \mathcal{O}(t^2)$$

$$q_{BA}(X_2) = -\frac{htV_3}{2I_{22}}(b - X_2)$$

$$q_{AC}(X_3) = -\frac{htV_3}{2I_{22}}\left(b + \frac{h}{4}\right) + \frac{tV_3}{2I_{22}}X_3^2$$

$$q_{CD}(X_2) = -\frac{htV_3}{2I_{22}}(b - X_2)$$

$$M_1 = \oint pqds = -\frac{b^2h^2tV_3}{4I_{22}} := -V_3\xi_s$$

$$\xi_s \approx \frac{3b^2}{h+6b} + \mathcal{O}(t)$$

- Using the table we can write:

$$u_b(s) = -\theta' \begin{cases} \frac{h}{2}(b + \xi_s - X_2) & B \rightarrow A \\ \frac{bh}{2} - \xi_s(\frac{h}{2} - X_3) & A \rightarrow C \\ \frac{bh}{2} - \frac{h}{2}(X_2 - 2\xi_s) & C \rightarrow D \end{cases}$$

2.3. Open Sections Tutorial: C-Section I

Torsion of Thin-Walled Sections

- Since warping is linear in each segment, it is sufficient to look at points A, B, C, D to visualize it completely.
- Here we have:

$$u_B = 0, \quad u_A = -\theta' \frac{bh}{2}, \quad u_C = -\theta' \frac{bh}{2} \left(1 - 2\frac{\xi_s}{b}\right), \quad u_D = -\theta' \frac{bh}{2} \left(2 - 2\frac{\xi_s}{b}\right).$$

- The integral of warping over the complete section comes out to be

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Gamma} u_b ds &= -\theta' \left(\frac{b^2 h}{4} + \frac{bh^2}{2} \left(1 - \frac{\xi_s}{b}\right) + \frac{b^2 h}{4} \left(3 - 4\frac{\xi_s}{b}\right) \right) \\ &= -\theta' \frac{bh(h+2b)}{2} \left(1 - \frac{\xi_s}{b}\right) \end{aligned}$$

- Requiring $\int_{\Gamma} u ds = 0$ implies, since $u = u_b + u_0$,

$$u_0 = -\frac{1}{|\Gamma|} \int_{\Gamma} u_b ds = \theta' \frac{bh}{2} \left(1 - \frac{\xi_s}{b}\right).$$

- Notice that u_o is exactly the negative of the warping at the mid-point between points A and C (marked \mathcal{O} in figure). The warping at this point is given by:

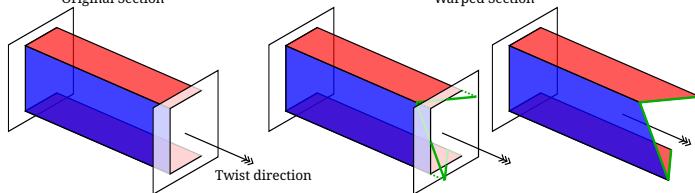
$$u_{\mathcal{O}} = \frac{u_A + u_C}{2} = -\theta' \frac{bh}{2} \left(1 - \frac{\xi_s}{b}\right).$$

2.3. Open Sections Tutorial: C-Section II

Torsion of Thin-Walled Sections

- This implies that the section warps in such a manner as to ensure that point \mathcal{O} does not move at all ($u_o + u_{\mathcal{O}} = 0$).
- Finally the warping function at the corner points come out to be,

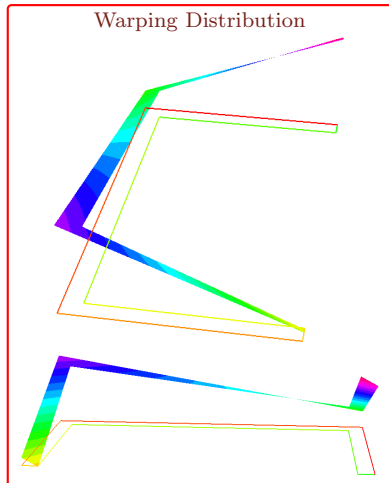
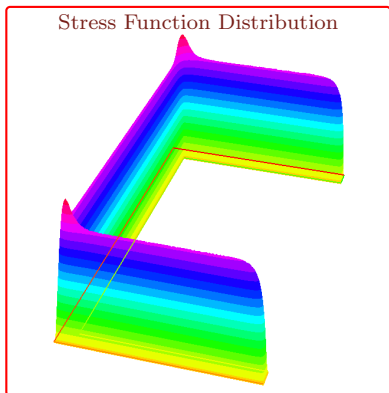
$$u_B = \theta' \frac{bh}{2} \left(1 - \frac{\xi_s}{b} \right), \quad u_A = -\theta' \frac{\xi_s h}{2}, \quad u_C = \theta' \frac{\xi_s h}{2}, \quad u_D = -\theta' \frac{bh}{2} \left(1 - \frac{\xi_s}{b} \right)$$



2.3. Open Sections Tutorial: C-Section

Torsion of Thin-Walled Sections

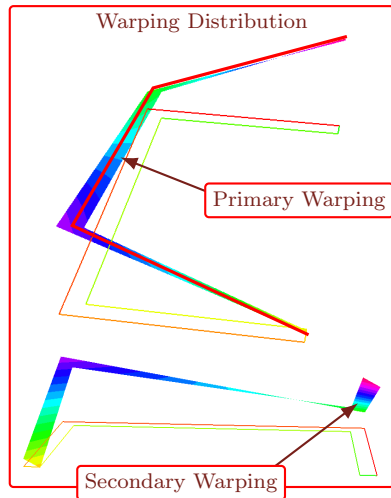
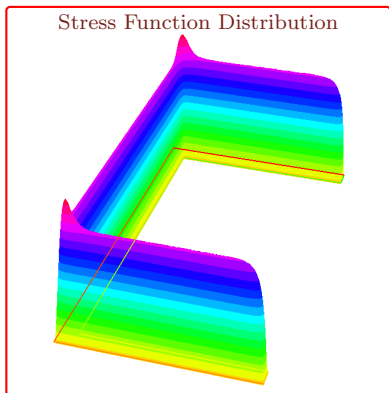
- Let us also illustrate the above with exact (numerical) results.



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Torsion of Thin-Walled Sections

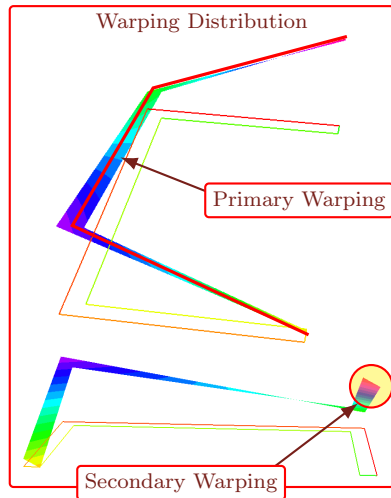
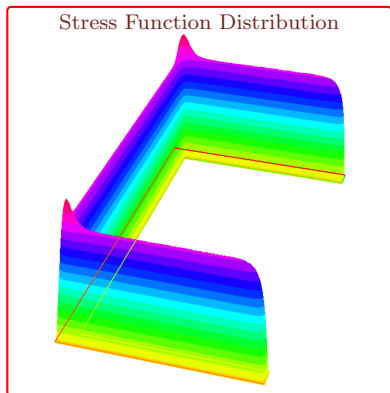
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2.3. Open Sections Tutorial: C-Section

Torsion of Thin-Walled Sections

- Let us also illustrate the above with exact (numerical) results.



2.4. Combined Cells

Torsion of Thin-Walled Sections

- It is instructive to now take stock of what we have obtained so far. The moment-twist relationship is generically written by

$$M_1 = GJ\theta',$$

with J being the torsion constant.

Solid Sections

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

Closed Sections

$$J = \frac{4t\mathcal{A}^2}{|\Gamma|}$$

Open Sections

$$J = \frac{t^3 |\Gamma|}{3}$$

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Let us consider the implications on a **Circular Section** of radius R .

Solid Section $J_s = I_{11} = \frac{\pi R^4}{2}.$

Closed Section $J_c = \frac{4t \times (\pi R^2)^2}{2\pi R} = 2\pi R^3 t$

Open Section $J_o = \frac{t^3}{3} 2\pi R = \frac{2\pi}{3} R t^3$

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For $J_c = J_s$, we need
 $t = \frac{1}{4} R = 0.25R.$

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For $J_o = J_s$, we need
 $t = \sqrt[3]{\frac{3}{4}} R \approx 0.91R.$

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For a given thickness,

$$\frac{J_o}{J_c} = \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{t}{R} \right)^2 = \mathcal{O}(t^2).$$

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Solid Sections

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

So open sections can safely be ignored for torsion calculations in the combined context!

$$|\Gamma|$$

Open Sections

$$J = \frac{t^3 |\Gamma|}{3}$$

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Open Sections

$$J = \frac{t^3 |\Gamma|}{3}$$

Let us consider the im

For shear, we can follow exactly the same procedure as in module 4 for combined sections.

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For a given thickness,

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3. Summary of Final Expressions

Solid Sections

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

$$u_1 = \theta' \psi(X_2, X_3)$$

Thin Strip Idealization

$$J = \frac{ht^3}{3}$$

$$u_1 = X_2 X_3 \theta'$$

Closed Sections

$$GJ = \frac{4\mathcal{A}^2}{\delta}$$

$$u_1(s) = u_0 + 2\mathcal{A}\theta' \left(\frac{\delta_{Os}(s)}{\delta} - \frac{\mathcal{A}_{Os}(s)}{\mathcal{A}} \right)$$

Open Sections

$$GJ = \frac{1}{3} \int_S Gt^3 ds$$

$$u_1(s) = u_0 - 2\theta' \mathcal{A}_{Os}(s) - \theta' ns$$

$$\delta_{Os}(s) = \int_0^s \frac{1}{Gt} dx; \quad \mathcal{A}_{Os}(s) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^s p dx$$

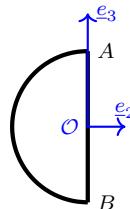
4. Example: Shear Center of Closed Section

- Let us consider the “inverted D” section with radius R as shown.
- The shear center lies on the \underline{e}_2 axis due to symmetry so we only consider the shear flow distribution due to resultant $V_3 \underline{e}_3$.

- So we have,
$$q(s) = q_0 - \frac{tV_3}{I_{22}} \int_0^s X_3 ds.$$

- Starting integration at A we have,

$$q(s) = q_0 + \underbrace{\frac{tV_3}{2I_{22}} \begin{cases} 2R^2 \cos \theta & A \rightarrow B \\ R^2 - X_3^2 & B \rightarrow A \end{cases}}_{q_b(s)}$$



- Enforcing **zero twist** we get,

$$\oint q(s) ds = q_0 |\Gamma| + \oint q_b(s) ds = q_0 (\pi + 2)R - \frac{4R^3 t V_3}{3I_{22}} = 0.$$

$$\Rightarrow q_0 = \frac{4R^2 t V_3}{3(\pi + 2)I_{22}}.$$

4. Example: Shear Center of Closed Section

- Now we have the complete shear flow distribution:

$$q(s) = \frac{4R^2t}{3(\pi+2)I_{22}}V_3 + \frac{tV_3}{2I_{22}} \begin{cases} 2R^2 \cos \theta & A \rightarrow B \\ R^2 - X_3^2 & B \rightarrow A \end{cases}.$$

- We now take the moment about the point \mathcal{O} and write it as follows. Note that the shear flow on the vertical member $B \rightarrow A$ does not contribute to moment about \mathcal{O} .

$$\begin{aligned} M_{\mathcal{O}} &= q_0 \oint \underbrace{p ds}_{2A} + \oint p q_b ds = \pi R^2 q_0 + \frac{R^2 t V_3}{I_{22}} \int_{\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{3\pi}{2}} R \times \cos \theta \times R d\theta \\ &= \frac{4\pi R^4 t}{3(\pi+2)I_{22}} V_3 - \frac{2R^4 t}{I_{22}} V_3 = -\frac{2R^4 t}{3I_{22}} \frac{(\pi+6)}{(\pi+2)} V_3 \equiv \xi_2 V_3. \end{aligned}$$

- The second moment of area of the section I_{22} is written as $I_{22} = \frac{3\pi+4}{6} R^3 t$.

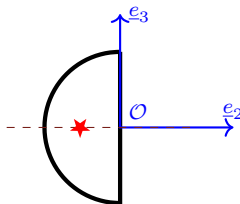
4. Example: Shear Center of Closed Section

- The shear center coordinate ξ_2 simplifies as,

$$\begin{aligned}\xi_2 &= -\frac{2R^4t}{3I_{22}} \frac{(\pi+6)}{(\pi+2)} = -\frac{2R^4t}{3} \frac{6}{3\pi+4} \frac{1}{R^3t} \frac{(\pi+6)}{(\pi+2)} \\ &= -\frac{4(\pi+6)}{(3\pi+4)(\pi+2)} R \approx -0.53R.\end{aligned}$$

which shows that the shear center is approximately at the mid-point of the horizontal, **inside the section**.

- The shear center is marked with a red star in this figure:



References I

- [1] Martin H. Sadd. *Elasticity: Theory, Applications, and Numerics*, 2nd ed. Amsterdam ; Boston: Elsevier/AP, 2009. ISBN: 978-0-12-374446-3 (cit. on pp. 2, 36, 37, 40–44).
- [2] T. H. G. Megson. *Aircraft Structures for Engineering Students*, Elsevier, 2013. ISBN: 978-0-08-096905-3 (cit. on pp. 2, 60, 61).