

ENGINEERING TRIPOS PART IIB  
ELECTRICAL AND INFORMATION SCIENCES TRIPOS PART II

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Friday 25 April 2003 9 to 10.30

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Module 4C10

FINITE ELEMENTS

*Answer not more than **three** questions.*

*All questions carry the same number of marks.*

*The **approximate** percentage of marks allocated to each part of a question is indicated in the right margin.*

*Candidates may bring their textbook and notebooks to the examination.*

**You may not start to read the questions printed on the subsequent pages of this question paper until instructed that you may do so by the Invigilator.**

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1 A two-node beam element of length  $L$  has displacement vector  $\mathbf{d}^{(e)} = \{u_1 \theta_1 u_2 \theta_2\}^T$ , which represents transverse displacements  $u_i^{(e)}$  and in-plane rotations  $\theta_i^{(e)}$  at the two nodes. If the beam has elastic modulus  $E$  and second moment of cross-sectional area  $I$ , the stiffness matrix for this element can be expressed as

$$\mathbf{k}^{(e)} = \frac{2EI}{L^3} \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 3L & -6 & 3L \\ 3L & 2L^2 & -3L & L^2 \\ -6 & -3L & 6 & -3L \\ 3L & L^2 & -3L & 2L^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

A propped cantilever of length  $2L$  is shown in Fig. 1. End A is built-in while the midpoint B and end C are simply supported. The cantilever is uniformly loaded by pressure  $p$  across span BC. Represent the cantilever by two beam elements of equal length  $L$ .

- (a) Determine the nodal forces and moments that are equivalent to the uniform pressure applied in section BC. [15%]
- (b) Write an expression for the reduced stiffness matrix  $\mathbf{K}_r$  of the propped cantilever, after assembling the global stiffness matrix and applying the necessary boundary conditions. [30%]
- (c) Determine the rotations of the beam at B and C. [30%]
- (d) Obtain expressions for the transverse displacements  $u(x)$  experienced by the two elements. [25%]

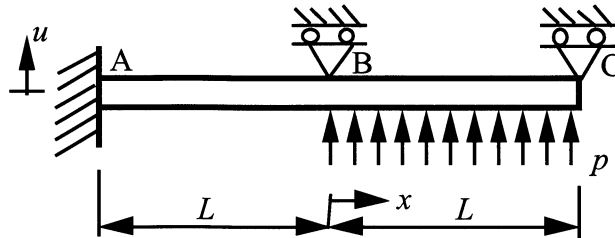


Fig. 1

2 A 4-node triangular parent element and a 4-node isoparametric triangular element are shown in Fig. 2. The parent element has the following shape functions:

$$N_1 = 1 - \xi - \eta - 3\xi\eta, \quad N_2 = \xi - 3\xi\eta, \quad N_3 = \eta - 3\xi\eta$$

(a) Write the shape function of node 4 that is located at the centroid of the parent element. [20%]

(b) Obtain an expression for the mapping from the parent to the global coordinates,  $x(\xi, \eta)$  and  $y(\xi, \eta)$ . Use this to calculate the location in the global element of the midpoint of the hypotenuse of the parent element. [30%]

(c) Write the Jacobian matrix  $\mathbf{J}$  for this specific transformation from parent element to global element. [20%]

(d) Calculate  $|\mathbf{J}|$  for this specific transformation. Describe the property of the element that transforms in proportion to  $|\mathbf{J}|$ . [10%]

(e) For boundary conditions  $u_1 = v_1 = u_3 = v_3 = 0$ , derive an expression for the strain component  $\varepsilon_{xx}$  at the centroid of the global element in terms of nodal displacements  $u_2, v_2, u_4, v_4$ . [20%]

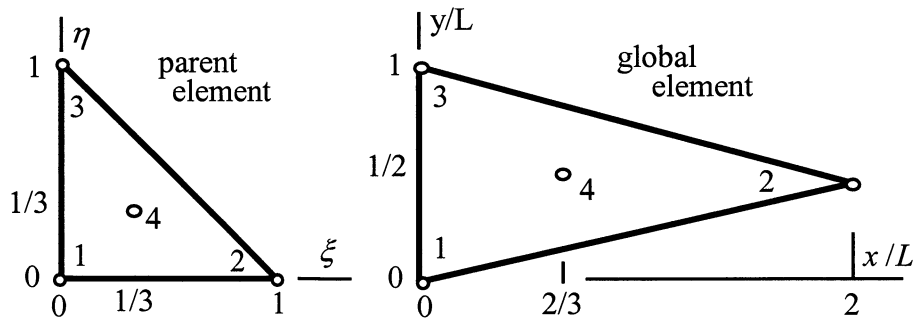


Fig. 2

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3 (a) Consider a forming process in which hot metal is extruded through a rigid die. Describe briefly the three most important sources of nonlinearity. [20%]

(b) Discuss why a helicoidal spring subjected to compression has the load-deflection response diagram shown schematically in Fig. 3. [20%]

(c) Consider the 2-element beam assembly shown in Fig. 4. The two beams are connected rigidly at joint 2. A uniaxial compressive load  $P$  is applied horizontally at node 2. For both beams, let  $E, I, L$  denote the Young's modulus, second moment of the cross-section area, and the length, respectively. The beams can be assumed to be inextensional.

(i) Establish the nonlinear finite element equation for the assembly, including the effect of stress stiffening. [35%]

(ii) Calculate the linear buckling load for beam 'a'. [25%]

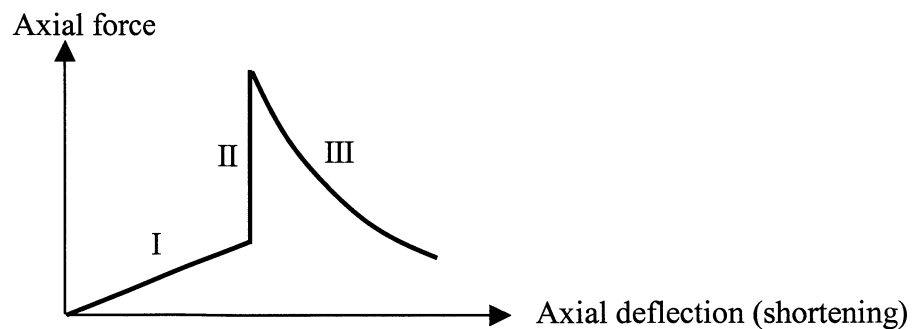


Fig. 3

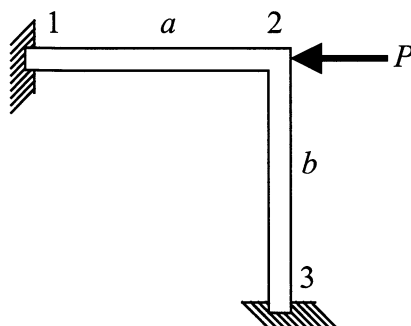


Fig. 4

4 The structure shown in Fig. 5 consists of a rod 1-2 of mass  $m$  and axial stiffness  $k$ , connected to a second rod 2-3 with axial stiffness  $k$  and zero mass. A lumped point mass  $m$  is fixed to the assembly at node 2. There are frictionless pin joints at nodes 1, 2 and 3. All motion is confined to the plane of the paper.

(a) Show that after constraints have been applied, the *reduced* structural stiffness matrix of the assembly is:

$$\mathbf{K} = \frac{k}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{matrix} u_2 \\ v_2 \end{matrix}$$

where  $u_2$  and  $v_2$  are the horizontal and vertical displacements of joint 2. [30%]

(b) Calculate the structural mass matrix of the assembly. Note that in two-dimensions, the elemental mass matrix of a rod element of mass  $m$  is given by:

$$\mathbf{M} = \frac{m}{6} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{matrix} u_1 \\ v_1 \\ u_2 \\ v_2 \end{matrix}$$

[20%]

(c) Determine the natural frequencies and natural mode shapes of vibration of the assembly. Sketch the mode shapes. [50%]

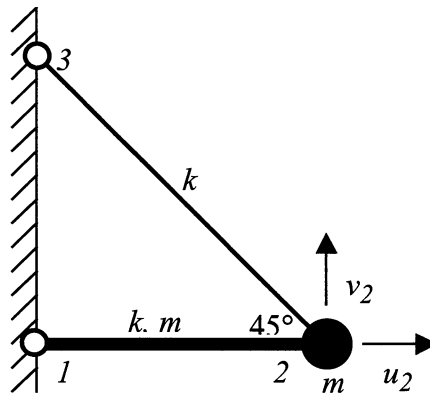


Fig. 5

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