

Algorithm for problems involving beam elements



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Algorithm for problems involving beams

1) Input data:

1.1 Cross-section data and materials. For each different cross-section (m):

- Young's modulus: $E^{(m)}$
- Shear modulus: $G^{(m)}$ (*) Alternatively, Poisson ratio $\nu^{(m)}$, $G^{(m)} = E^{(m)} / (2(1 + \nu^{(m)}))$
- Density: $\rho^{(m)}$
- Orientation of y' axis: $\hat{j}^{(m)}$
- Area: $A^{(m)}$
- Polar inertia: $J^{(m)}$
- Area inertias: $I_{y'}^{(m)}, I_{z'}^{(m)}$
- Shear and torsion correction factors: $k_y^{(m)}, k_z^{(m)}, k_t^{(m)}$

Additionally, for sections with no symmetries or isotropic material properties:

- Cross area inertia: $I_{y'z'}^{(m)}$ (when y' and z' are not principal axes)
- Shear centre $(y_c'^{(m)}, z_c'^{(m)})$, neutral centre $(y_0'^{(m)}, z_0'^{(m)})$ and centre of mass $(y_{cm}'^{(m)}, z_{cm}'^{(m)})$
- Radii of gyration about local axes for mass inertias: $r_{x'}^{(m)}, r_{y'}^{(m)}, r_{z'}^{(m)}, r_{y'z'}^{(m)}$

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1.2 Mesh (discretization) data:

- Nodal coordinates matrix:

$$[\mathbf{X}] = \left[\begin{array}{ccc} \hat{x}^{(n)} & \hat{y}^{(n)} & \hat{z}^{(n)} \\ & \vdots & \\ & \hat{y}^{(n)} & \\ & \vdots & \end{array} \right] \left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{ccc} \hat{x}^{(n)} & \hat{y}^{(n)} & \hat{z}^{(n)} \\ & \vdots & \\ & \hat{y}^{(n)} & \\ & \vdots & \end{array}} \right\} \text{Number of nodes } N$$

$\hat{x}^{(n)}$: x-coordinate of node n

$\hat{y}^{(n)}$: y-coordinate of node n

$\hat{z}^{(n)}$: z-coordinate of node n

- Nodal connectivities matrix:

$$[\mathbf{T}_n] = \left[\begin{array}{ccc} & \vdots & \\ n_1^{(e)} & & n_2^{(e)} \\ & \vdots & \end{array} \right] \left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{ccc} & \vdots & \\ n_1^{(e)} & & n_2^{(e)} \\ & \vdots & \end{array}} \right\} \text{Number of elements } N_e$$

$n_i^{(e)}$: global node # assigned to i -th node in element (e)

- Material connectivities matrix:

$$[\mathbf{T}_m] = \left[\begin{array}{ccc} & \vdots & \\ m^{(e)} & & \\ & \vdots & \end{array} \right] \left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{ccc} & \vdots & \\ m^{(e)} & & \\ & \vdots & \end{array}} \right\} \text{Number of elements } N_e$$

$m^{(e)}$: material index # assigned to element (e)

1.3 Boundary conditions:

- Fix nodes and DOFs matrix:

$$[\mathbf{U}_p] = \left[\begin{array}{ccc} & \vdots & \\ u^{(p)} & n^{(p)} & j^{(p)} \\ & \vdots & \end{array} \right] \left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{ccc} & \vdots & \\ u^{(p)} & n^{(p)} & j^{(p)} \\ & \vdots & \end{array}} \right\} \text{Number of prescribed DOFs}$$

$u^{(p)}$: value of prescribed displ./rot. (p)

$n^{(p)}$: global node # assigned to (p)

$j^{(p)}$: degree of freedom assigned to (p)

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1.4 External forces:

- Non-null point forces matrix (N):

$$[\mathbf{F}_e] = \left[\begin{array}{ccc} f^{(q)} & \vdots & j^{(q)} \\ n^{(q)} & & \\ \vdots & & \end{array} \right] \left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{ccc} f^{(q)} & \vdots & j^{(q)} \\ n^{(q)} & & \\ \vdots & & \end{array}} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{Number of point} \\ \text{forces} \end{array}$$

$f^{(q)}$: value of point force/moment (q)
 $n^{(q)}$: global node # assigned to (q)
 $j^{(q)}$: degree of freedom assigned to (q)

- Distributed loads matrix (N/m):

$$[\mathbf{Q}_e] = \left[\begin{array}{ccc} q^{(r)} & \vdots & j^{(r)} \\ n^{(r)} & & \\ \vdots & & \end{array} \right] \left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{ccc} q^{(r)} & \vdots & j^{(r)} \\ n^{(r)} & & \\ \vdots & & \end{array}} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{Number of DOFs} \\ \text{with distributed} \\ \text{loads} \end{array}$$

$q^{(r)}$: value of distr. force/moment (r)
 $n^{(r)}$: global node # assigned to (r)
 $j^{(r)}$: degree of freedom assigned to (r)

- Body forces matrix (N/kg):

$$[\mathbf{B}_e] = \left[\begin{array}{ccc} b^{(s)} & \vdots & j^{(s)} \\ n^{(s)} & & \\ \vdots & & \end{array} \right] \left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{ccc} b^{(s)} & \vdots & j^{(s)} \\ n^{(s)} & & \\ \vdots & & \end{array}} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{Number of DOFs} \\ \text{with body forces} \end{array}$$

$b^{(s)}$: value of body force/moment (s)
 $n^{(s)}$: global node # assigned to (s)
 $j^{(s)}$: degree of freedom assigned to (s)

Note: Recall that degrees of freedom indices # represent:

$j = 1$: displacement/force in x-direction	$j = 4$: rotation/moment about x-direction
$j = 2$: displacement/force in y-direction	$j = 5$: rotation/moment about y-direction
$j = 3$: displacement/force in z-direction	$j = 6$: rotation/moment about z-direction

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2) Assembly of global matrices:

2.1 Initialization:

$N_{\text{dof}} = 6N$ (total number of degrees of freedom)

$$[\mathbf{K}] = [\mathbf{0}]_{N_{\text{dof}} \times N_{\text{dof}}}$$

$$[\mathbf{M}] = [\mathbf{0}]_{N_{\text{dof}} \times N_{\text{dof}}}$$

2.2 Assembly process:

For each element e :

a) Compute rotation matrix:

$$\ell(e) = \|\mathbf{X}(\mathbf{T}_n(e, 2), :) - \mathbf{X}(\mathbf{T}_n(e, 1), :)\| \quad (\text{element size} \equiv \text{beam length})$$

$$\{\hat{\mathbf{t}}'\} = (\{\mathbf{X}(\mathbf{T}_n(e, 2), :)\}^T - \{\mathbf{X}(\mathbf{T}_n(e, 1), :)\}^T) / \ell(e)$$

$$\{\hat{\mathbf{j}}'\} = \hat{\mathbf{j}}'(\mathbf{T}_m(e))$$

$$\{\hat{\mathbf{k}}'\} = \{\hat{\mathbf{t}}'\} \times \{\hat{\mathbf{j}}'\}$$

$$[\mathbf{R}'] = \begin{bmatrix} \{\hat{\mathbf{t}}'\} & \{\hat{\mathbf{j}}'\} & \{\hat{\mathbf{k}}'\} & \cdots & [\mathbf{0}]_{3 \times 3} & \cdots \\ \cdots & [\mathbf{0}]_{3 \times 3} & \cdots & \{\hat{\mathbf{t}}'\} & \{\hat{\mathbf{j}}'\} & \{\hat{\mathbf{k}}'\} \end{bmatrix}^T$$

$$\mathbf{R}(:, :, e) = \begin{bmatrix} [\mathbf{R}'] & [\mathbf{0}]_{6 \times 6} \\ [\mathbf{0}]_{6 \times 6} & [\mathbf{R}'] \end{bmatrix}$$

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b) Compute shape function derivatives:

$$N_{,x'}(1) = -1/\ell(e)$$

$$N_{,x'}(2) = 1/\ell(e)$$

c) Compute each element matrix:

c1) Axial component of stiffness matrix:

$$\mathbf{B}'_a(1, :, e) = [N_{,x'}(1) \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad N_{,x'}(2) \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 0]$$

$$\bar{\mathbf{C}}'_a = E^{(\mathbf{T}_m(e))} A^{(\mathbf{T}_m(e))}$$

$$\mathbf{K}_a(:, :, e) = \ell(e) [\mathbf{R}(:, :, e)]^T [\mathbf{B}'_a(1, :, e)]^T [\bar{\mathbf{C}}'_a] [\mathbf{B}'_a(1, :, e)] [\mathbf{R}(:, :, e)]$$

c2) Bending component of stiffness matrix:

$$\mathbf{B}'_b(:, :, e) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & N_{,x'}(1) & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & N_{,x'}(2) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & N_{,x'}(1) & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & N_{,x'}(2) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\bar{\mathbf{C}}'_b = E^{(\mathbf{T}_m(e))} \begin{bmatrix} I_{y'}^{(\mathbf{T}_m(e))} & 0 \\ 0 & I_{z'}^{(\mathbf{T}_m(e))} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{K}_b(:, :, e) = \ell(e) [\mathbf{R}(:, :, e)]^T [\mathbf{B}'_b(:, :, e)]^T [\bar{\mathbf{C}}'_b] [\mathbf{B}'_b(:, :, e)] [\mathbf{R}(:, :, e)]$$

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c3) Shear component of stiffness matrix:

$N = 1/2$ (shape functions assuming only 1 Gauss point) (*)

$$\mathbf{B}'_s(:, :, e) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & N_{,x'}(1) & 0 & 0 & 0 & -N & 0 & N_{,x'}(2) & 0 & 0 & 0 & -N \\ 0 & 0 & N_{,x'}(1) & 0 & N & 0 & 0 & 0 & N_{,x'}(2) & 0 & N & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\bar{\mathbf{C}}'_s = G^{(\mathbf{T}_m(e))} A^{(\mathbf{T}_m(e))} \begin{bmatrix} k_y^{(\mathbf{T}_m(e))} & 0 \\ 0 & k_z^{(\mathbf{T}_m(e))} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{K}_s(:, :, e) = \ell(e) [\mathbf{R}(:, :, e)]^T [\mathbf{B}'_s(:, :, e)]^T [\bar{\mathbf{C}}'_s] [\mathbf{B}'_s(:, :, e)] [\mathbf{R}(:, :, e)]$$

c4) Torsion component of stiffness matrix:

$$\mathbf{B}'_t(1, :, e) = [0 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad N_{,x'}(1) \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad N_{,x'}(2) \quad 0 \quad 0]$$

$$\bar{\mathbf{C}}'_t = G^{(\mathbf{T}_m(e))} J^{(\mathbf{T}_m(e))} k_t^{(\mathbf{T}_m(e))}$$

$$\mathbf{K}_t(:, :, e) = \ell(e) [\mathbf{R}(:, :, e)]^T [\mathbf{B}'_t(1, :, e)]^T [\bar{\mathbf{C}}'_t] [\mathbf{B}'_t(1, :, e)] [\mathbf{R}(:, :, e)]$$

(*) Using only 1 Gauss point yields a sub-integrated element (resulting integral not exact) but avoids the **shear locking** problem of the Timoshenko beam model.

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c5) Mass matrix:

$$\{\xi\} = \{-1/\sqrt{3}; 1/\sqrt{3}\} \quad (\text{Gauss points coordinates}) \quad (*)$$

$$\{w\} = \{1; 1\} \quad (\text{Gauss points weights})$$

$$\bar{\rho}' = \rho^{(T_m(e))} \begin{bmatrix} A^{(T_m(e))} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & A^{(T_m(e))} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & A^{(T_m(e))} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & J^{(T_m(e))} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & I_{y'}^{(T_m(e))} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & I_{z'}^{(T_m(e))} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{M}_e(:, :, e) = [\mathbf{0}]_{12 \times 12}$$

For each Gauss point k from 1 to 2

$$N(1) = (1 - \xi(k))/2$$

$$N(2) = (1 + \xi(k))/2$$

$$\mathbf{N}(:, :, e, k) = [N(1)[\mathbf{1}]_{6 \times 6} \quad N(2)[\mathbf{1}]_{6 \times 6}] \quad ([\mathbf{1}]_{6 \times 6} \text{ is the } 6 \times 6 \text{ identity matrix})$$

$$\mathbf{M}_e(:, :, e) = \mathbf{M}_e(:, :, e) + w(k)\ell(e)[\mathbf{R}(:, :, e)]^T[\mathbf{N}(:, :, e, k)]^T[\bar{\rho}'][\mathbf{N}(:, :, e, k)][\mathbf{R}(:, :, e)]/2$$

End loop over Gauss points

(*) 2 Gauss points provide exact integration

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d) Assembly to global matrices:

For each degree of freedom j from 1 to 6

$$I_{\text{dof}}(j, 1) = 6(\mathbf{T}_n(e, 1) - 1) + j$$

$$I_{\text{dof}}(6 + j, 1) = 6(\mathbf{T}_n(e, 2) - 1) + j$$

End loop over DOFs

$$\mathbf{K}(I_{\text{dof}}, I_{\text{dof}}) = \mathbf{K}(I_{\text{dof}}, I_{\text{dof}}) + \mathbf{K}_a(:, :, e) + \mathbf{K}_b(:, :, e) + \mathbf{K}_s(:, :, e) + \mathbf{K}_t(:, :, e)$$

$$\mathbf{M}(I_{\text{dof}}, I_{\text{dof}}) = \mathbf{M}(I_{\text{dof}}, I_{\text{dof}}) + \mathbf{M}_e(:, :, e)$$

End loop over elements

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3) Compute global force vector:

3.1 Point loads:

$$\{\hat{\mathbf{f}}\} = \{\mathbf{0}\}_{N_{\text{dof}} \times 1}$$

For row q in $[\mathbf{F}_e]$

$$\hat{\mathbf{f}}(6(\mathbf{F}_e(q, 2) - 1) + \mathbf{F}_e(q, 3), 1) = \hat{\mathbf{f}}(6(\mathbf{F}_e(q, 2) - 1) + \mathbf{F}_e(q, 3), 1) + \mathbf{F}_e(q, 1)$$

End loop over rows in $[\mathbf{F}_e]$

3.2 Nodal distributed forces:

$$[\mathbf{Q}] = \{\mathbf{0}\}_{N \times 6}$$

For row r in $[\mathbf{Q}_e]$

$$\mathbf{Q}(\mathbf{Q}_e(r, 2), \mathbf{Q}_e(r, 3)) = \mathbf{Q}(\mathbf{Q}_e(r, 2), \mathbf{Q}_e(r, 3)) + \mathbf{Q}_e(r, 1)$$

End loop over rows in $[\mathbf{Q}_e]$

3.3 Nodal body forces:

$$[\mathbf{B}] = \{\mathbf{0}\}_{N \times 6}$$

For row s in $[\mathbf{B}_e]$

$$\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{B}_e(s, 2), \mathbf{B}_e(s, 3)) = \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{B}_e(s, 2), \mathbf{B}_e(s, 3)) + \mathbf{B}_e(s, 1)$$

End loop over rows in $[\mathbf{B}_e]$

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3.4 Assembly process:

For each element e :

a) Compute element force vector:

$$\mathbf{b}(:, e) = \{\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{T}_n(e, 1), :), \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{T}_n(e, 2), :)\}^T$$

$$\mathbf{q}(:, e) = \{\mathbf{Q}(\mathbf{T}_n(e, 1), :), \mathbf{Q}(\mathbf{T}_n(e, 2), :)\}^T$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{f}}_e(:, e) = [\mathbf{M}_e(:, :, e)]\{\mathbf{b}(:, e)\}$$

For each Gauss point k (from 1 to 2):

$$\hat{\mathbf{f}}_e(:, e) = \hat{\mathbf{f}}_e(:, e) + \mathbf{w}(k)\ell(e)[\mathbf{R}(:, :, e)]^T[\mathbf{N}(:, :, e, k)]^T[\mathbf{N}(:, :, e, k)][\mathbf{R}(:, :, e)]\{\mathbf{q}(:, e)\}/2$$

End loop over Gauss points

b) Assembly to global force vector:

For each degree of freedom j from 1 to 6

$$I_{\text{dof}}(j, 1) = 6(\mathbf{T}_n(e, 1) - 1) + j$$

$$I_{\text{dof}}(6 + j, 1) = 6(\mathbf{T}_n(e, 2) - 1) + j$$

End loop over DOFs

$$\hat{\mathbf{f}}(I_{\text{dof}}, 1) = \hat{\mathbf{f}}(I_{\text{dof}}, 1) + \hat{\mathbf{f}}_e(:, e)$$

End loop over elements

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4) Boundary conditions:

4.1 Initialization:

$$\{\hat{\mathbf{u}}\} = \{\mathbf{0}\}_{N_{\text{dof}} \times 1}$$

4.2 Prescribed and free DOFs:

For row p in $[\mathbf{U}_p]$

$$\mathbf{I}_p(p) = 6(\mathbf{U}_p(p, 2) - 1) + \mathbf{U}_p(p, 3) \quad (\text{vector with prescribed degrees of freedom})$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{I}_p(p), 1) = \mathbf{U}_p(p, 1)$$

End loop over rows in $[\mathbf{U}_p]$

$$\mathbf{I}_f = \{1: N_{\text{dof}}\} - \{\mathbf{I}_p\} \quad (\text{Tip: in Matlab, this operation can be done with the } \mathbf{setdiff} \text{ function})$$

$$\mathbf{I}_f = \mathbf{setdiff}(1:N_{\text{dof}}, \mathbf{I}_p)$$

5) Solve system of equations (static case):

5.1 Solve system:

$$\hat{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{I}_f, 1) = [\mathbf{K}(\mathbf{I}_f, \mathbf{I}_f)]^{-1}(\hat{\mathbf{f}}(\mathbf{I}_f, 1) - [\mathbf{K}(\mathbf{I}_f, \mathbf{I}_p)]\{\hat{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{I}_p, 1)\}) \quad (\text{displacements/rotations at free DOFs})$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{f}}_R = [\mathbf{K}]\{\hat{\mathbf{u}}\} - \{\hat{\mathbf{f}}\} \quad (\text{reaction forces/moments at prescribed DOFs})$$

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6) Postprocess: Computing strain and internal forces in beam elements

6.1 Get strain at each beam element:

For each element e :

a) Get element displacements:

For each degree of freedom j from 1 to 6

$$I_{\text{dof}}(j, 1) = 6(\mathbf{T}_n(e, 1) - 1) + j$$

$$I_{\text{dof}}(6 + j, 1) = 6(\mathbf{T}_n(e, 2) - 1) + j$$

End loop over DOFs

$$\{\hat{\mathbf{u}}_e\} = \{\hat{\mathbf{u}}(I_{\text{dof}}, 1)\}$$

b) Get each strain component:

$$\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}'_a(1, e) = [\mathbf{B}'_a(1, :, e)][\mathbf{R}(:, :, e)]\{\hat{\mathbf{u}}_e\}$$

$$\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}'_s(:, e) = [\mathbf{B}'_s(:, :, e)][\mathbf{R}(:, :, e)]\{\hat{\mathbf{u}}_e\}$$

$$\bar{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}'_t(1, e) = [\mathbf{B}'_t(1, :, e)][\mathbf{R}(:, :, e)]\{\hat{\mathbf{u}}_e\}$$

$$\bar{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}'_b(:, e) = [\mathbf{B}'_b(:, :, e)][\mathbf{R}(:, :, e)]\{\hat{\mathbf{u}}_e\}$$

The stress and strain at a given point y', z' on the section can be obtained as:

$$\varepsilon_{x'x'}(y', z', e) = \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}'_a(1, e) + z' \bar{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}'_b(1, e) - y' \bar{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}'_t(2, e)$$

$$\gamma_{x'y'}(y', z', e) = \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}'_s(1, e) - z' \bar{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}'_t(1, e)$$

$$\gamma_{x'z'}(y', z', e) = \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}'_s(2, e) + y' \bar{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}'_t(1, e)$$

$$\sigma_{x'x'}(y', z', e) = E^{(\mathbf{T}_m(e))} \varepsilon_{x'x'}(y', z', e)$$

$$\tau_{x'y'}(y', z', e) = G^{(\mathbf{T}_m(e))} \gamma_{x'y'}(y', z', e)$$

$$\tau_{x'z'}(y', z', e) = G^{(\mathbf{T}_m(e))} \gamma_{x'z'}(y', z', e)$$

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c) Get internal forces and moments at each element node:

$$\hat{\mathbf{f}}'_{\text{int}}(:, e) = [\mathbf{R}(:, :, e)][\mathbf{K}_a(:, :, e) + \mathbf{K}_b(:, :, e) + \mathbf{K}_s(:, :, e) + \mathbf{K}_t(:, :, e)]\{\hat{\mathbf{u}}_e\}$$

$$F_{x'}(:, e) = \{\hat{\mathbf{f}}'_{\text{int}}(1, e); -\hat{\mathbf{f}}'_{\text{int}}(7, e)\}$$

$$F_{y'}(:, e) = \{\hat{\mathbf{f}}'_{\text{int}}(2, e); -\hat{\mathbf{f}}'_{\text{int}}(8, e)\}$$

$$F_{z'}(:, e) = \{\hat{\mathbf{f}}'_{\text{int}}(3, e); -\hat{\mathbf{f}}'_{\text{int}}(9, e)\}$$

$$M_{x'}(:, e) = \{\hat{\mathbf{f}}'_{\text{int}}(4, e); -\hat{\mathbf{f}}'_{\text{int}}(10, e)\}$$

$$M_{y'}(:, e) = \{\hat{\mathbf{f}}'_{\text{int}}(5, e); -\hat{\mathbf{f}}'_{\text{int}}(11, e)\}$$

$$M_{z'}(:, e) = \{\hat{\mathbf{f}}'_{\text{int}}(6, e); -\hat{\mathbf{f}}'_{\text{int}}(12, e)\}$$

End loop over elements