

We start from the following constitutive law.

Proposition 1 (The constitutive law of three-dimensional isotropic material).

$$\sigma^{ij} = \lambda \epsilon^{kk} \delta^{ij} + 2G \epsilon^{ij}, \quad (1)$$

where λ and G is defined as

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda &:= \frac{\nu E}{(1 + \nu)(1 - 2\nu)}, \\ G &:= \frac{E}{2(1 + \nu)}. \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

See Theory of Elasticity, Timoshenko, for reference.

The governing equation.

Proposition 2 (The governing equation of material in statics).

$$\frac{\partial \sigma^{ij}}{\partial x^j} + \rho f^i = 0. \quad (3)$$

And the kinematic equation.

Definition 3 (The kinematic description of material with infinitesimal deformation).

$$\epsilon^{ij} := \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial u^i}{\partial x^j} + \frac{\partial u^j}{\partial x^i} \right). \quad (4)$$

A substitution gives

$$(\lambda + G) \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} \left(\frac{\partial u^j}{\partial x^j} \right) + G \frac{\partial u^i}{\partial x^j \partial x^j} + \rho f^i = 0, \quad (5)$$

which is the three-dimensional Lamé-Naiver equation, in statics.

Now consider a plane stress problem, where $\sigma^{i3} = 0$, and we have

$$\rho f^3 = 0. \quad (6)$$

Meanwhile, we have

$$\sigma^{33} = \lambda \frac{\partial u^j}{\partial x^j} + 2G \frac{\partial u^3}{\partial x^3} = 0,$$

which gives

$$\frac{\partial u^3}{\partial x^3} = -\frac{\nu}{1 - 2\nu} \frac{\partial u^j}{\partial x^j} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial u^\beta}{\partial x^\beta} = \frac{1 - \nu}{1 - 2\nu} \frac{\partial u^j}{\partial x^j}.$$

Also, we have

$$\sigma^{\alpha 3} = G \left(\frac{\partial u^\alpha}{\partial x^3} + \frac{\partial u^3}{\partial x^\alpha} \right) = 0,$$

which gives

$$\frac{\partial u^\alpha}{\partial x^3 \partial x^3} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial x^\alpha} \frac{\partial u^3}{\partial x^3}.$$

Hence, for a plane stress problem, we have

$$\left(\frac{1 - 2\nu}{1 - \nu} (\lambda + G) - \frac{\nu}{1 - \nu} G \right) \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\alpha} \frac{\partial u^\beta}{\partial x^\beta} + G \frac{\partial^2 x^\alpha}{\partial x^\beta \partial x^\beta} + \rho f^\alpha = 0,$$

or

$$\frac{E}{2(1 - \nu)} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\alpha} \frac{\partial u^\beta}{\partial x^\beta} + G \frac{\partial^2 x^\alpha}{\partial x^\beta \partial x^\beta} + \rho f^\alpha = 0. \quad (7)$$

By using the transform from a plane stress problem to a plane strain one, we have

$$\frac{E}{2(1 + \nu)(1 - 2\nu)} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\alpha} \frac{\partial u^\beta}{\partial x^\beta} + G \frac{\partial^2 x^\alpha}{\partial x^\beta \partial x^\beta} + \rho f^\alpha = 0. \quad (8)$$