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**A port-Hamiltonian formulation of flexible structures
Modelling and symplectic finite element discretization**

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Abstract

This thesis aims at extending the port-Hamiltonian (pH) approach to continuum mechanics in higher geometrical dimensions (particularly in 2D). The pH formalism has a strong multiphysics character and represents a unified framework to model, analyze and control both finite- and infinite-dimensional systems. Despite the large literature on this topic, elasticity problems in higher geometrical dimensions have almost never been considered. This work establishes the connection between port-Hamiltonian distributed systems and elasticity problems. The originality resides in three major contributions. First, the novel pH formulation of plate models and coupled thermoelastic phenomena is presented. The use of tensor calculus is mandatory for continuum mechanical models and the inclusion of tensor variables is necessary to obtain an intrinsic, i.e. coordinate free, and equivalent pH description. Second, a finite element based discretization technique, capable of preserving the structure of the infinite-dimensional problem at a discrete level, is developed and validated. The discretization of elasticity problems in port-Hamiltonian form requires the use of non-standard finite elements. Nevertheless, the numerical implementation is performed thanks to well-established open-source libraries, providing external users with an easy to use tool for simulating flexible systems in pH form. Third, flexible multibody systems are recast in pH form by making use of a floating frame description valid under small deformations assumptions. This reformulation include all kinds of linear elastic models and exploits the intrinsic modularity of pH systems.

Résumé

Cette thèse vise à étendre l'approche port-hamiltonienne (pH) à la mécanique des milieux continus dans des dimensions géométriques plus élevées (en particulier on se focalise sur la dimension deux). Le formalisme pH, avec son fort caractère multiphysique, représente un cadre unifié pour modéliser, analyser et contrôler les systèmes de dimension finie et infinie. Malgré l'abondante littérature sur ce sujet, les problèmes d'élasticité en deux ou trois dimensions géométriques n'ont presque jamais été considérés. Dans ce travail de thèse la connexion entre problèmes d'élasticité et systèmes distribués port-Hamiltoniens est établie. L'originalité apportée réside dans trois contributions majeures. Tout d'abord, la nouvelle formulation pH des modèles de plaques et des phénomènes thermoélastiques couplés est présentée. L'utilisation du calcul tensoriel est obligatoire pour modéliser les milieux continus et l'introduction de variables tensorielles est nécessaire pour obtenir une description pH équivalente qui soit intrinsèque, c'est-à-dire indépendante des coordonnées choisies. Deuxièmement, une technique de discrétisation basée sur les éléments finis et capable de préserver la structure du problème de la dimension infinie au niveau discret est développée et validée. La discrétisation des problèmes d'élasticité écrits en forme port-Hamiltonienne nécessite l'utilisation d'éléments finis non standard. Néanmoins, l'implémentation numérique est réalisée grâce à des bibliothèques open source bien établies, fournissant aux utilisateurs externes un outil facile à utiliser pour simuler des systèmes flexibles sous forme pH. Troisièmement, une nouvelle formulation pH de la dynamique multicorps flexible est dérivée. Cette reformulation, valable sous de petites hypothèses de déformations, inclut toutes sortes de modèles élastiques linéaires et exploite la modularité intrinsèque des systèmes pH.

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Ringraziamenti

Alla mia famiglia

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List of Acronyms

DAE	<i>Differential-Algebraic Equation</i>
dpHs	<i>distributed port-Hamiltonian systems</i>
FEM	<i>Finite Element Method</i>
IDA-PBC	<i>Interconnection and Damping Assignment Passivity Based Control</i>
PDE	<i>Partial Differential Equation</i>
PFEM	<i>Partitioned Finite Element Method</i>
pH	<i>port-Hamiltonian</i>
pHs	<i>port-Hamiltonian systems</i>
pHDAE	<i>port-Hamiltonian Descriptor System</i>

Part I

Introduction and state of the art

Introduction

Je n'ai cherché de rien prouver, mais de bien peindre et d'éclairer bien ma
peinture.

André Gide
Préface de L'Immoraliste

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1.1 Motivation and context

1.2 Overview of chapters

1.3 Contributions

Literature review

Whereof one cannot speak, thereof one must be silent.

Ludwig Wittgenstein
Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus

2.1 Port-Hamiltonian distributed systems

For 1D linear PH systems with a generalized skew-adjoint system operator, [LGZM05] gives conditions on the assignment of boundary inputs and outputs for the system operator to generate a contraction semigroup. The latter is instrumental to show well-posedness of a linear PH system, see [JZ12]. Essentially, at most half the number of boundary port variables can be imposed as control inputs for a well-posed PH system in 1D.

2.2 Structure-preserving discretization

2.3 Mixed finite element for elasticity

2.4 Multibody dynamics

Part II

Port-Hamiltonian elasticity and thermoelasticity

Elasticity in port-Hamiltonian form

I try not to break the rules but merely to test their elasticity.

Bill Veeck

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Continuum mechanics is the mathematical description of how materials behave kinematically under external excitations. In this framework, the microscopic structure of a material body is neglected and a macroscopic viewpoint, that describes the body as a continuum, is adopted. This leads to a PDE describing the evolution of the displacement field. In this chapter, the general linear elastodynamics problem is recalled. A suitable port-Hamiltonian realization is then derived.

3.1 Deformation and stress

In this section, the main concepts behind a deformable continuum are briefly recalled following [Lee12]. For a detailed discussion on this topic, the reader may consult [Abe12, LPKL12].

The bounded region of \mathbb{R}^d ($d = 2, 3$) occupied by a solid is called configuration. The reference configuration Ω is the domain that a bodies occupies at the initial state. To describe how the body deforms in time the deformation map $\Phi : \Omega \times [0, T_f] \rightarrow \Omega' \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ is introduced. This map is differentiable and orientation preserving and the image of Ω under $\Phi(\cdot, t) \forall t \in [0, T_f]$ is called the deformed configuration Ω_t . Given a specific point in the reference frame is image is denoted by $\mathbf{y} = \Phi(\mathbf{x}, t)$. The gradient of the deformation map is called the deformation

gradient $\mathbf{F} := \nabla_x \Phi = \frac{\partial \mathbf{y}}{\partial \mathbf{x}}$. A rigid deformation maps a point $\mathbf{x} \in \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{A}(t)\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}(t)$, where $\mathbf{A}(t)$ is an orthogonal matrix and $\mathbf{b}(t)$ a \mathbb{R}^d vector. A differentiable deformation map Φ is a rigid deformation iff $\mathbf{F}^\top \mathbf{F} - \mathbf{I} = \mathbf{0}$, where \mathbf{I} is the identity in $\mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$ (for the proof see [Cia88], page 44). For this reason, a suitable measure of the deformation is the Green-St.Venant strain tensor $\mathbf{E} = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{F}^\top \mathbf{F} - \mathbf{I})$.

A quantity of interest is the displacement $\mathbf{u} : \Omega \times [0, T_f] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ with respect to the reference configuration. It is defined as $\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \Phi(\mathbf{x}, t) - \mathbf{x}$. The gradient of the displacement verifies $\text{grad } \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{F} - \mathbf{I}$. The strain tensor can now be written in terms of the displacement

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E} &= \frac{1}{2} [(\nabla_x \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{I})^\top (\nabla_x \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{I}) - \mathbf{I}] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} [\nabla_x \mathbf{u} + (\nabla_x \mathbf{u})^\top + (\nabla_x \mathbf{u})^\top (\nabla_x \mathbf{u})], \end{aligned}$$

or in components

$$E_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_i} + \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_i} \right).$$

To state the balance laws the actual deformed configuration is considered. The linear and angular momentum in a subdomain $\omega_t \subset \Omega_t$ are computed as

$$\int_{\omega_t} \rho \mathbf{v} \, d\omega_t, \quad \int_{\omega_t} \rho \mathbf{y} \times \mathbf{v} \, d\omega_t,$$

where ρ is the mass density and the velocity $\mathbf{v} = \frac{D\mathbf{u}}{Dt}(\mathbf{y}, t)$ is material time derivative of the displacement (see [Abe12, Chapter 1]). Let $\omega_{t,1}, \omega_{t,2}$ be two subregions in a deformed continuum Ω_t with contacting surface S_{12} . There is a force acting on this surface for a continuum that is called stress vector or traction. If \mathbf{n} is the outward normal at \mathbf{y} on S_{12} with respect to $\omega_{t,1}$, then the surface force that $\omega_{t,1}$ exerts on $\omega_{t,2}$ is denoted by $\mathbf{t}(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{n}) \in \mathbb{R}^d$. By the Newton third law, the surface force that $\omega_{t,1}$ applies on $\omega_{t,2}$ is given by $\mathbf{t}(\mathbf{y}, -\mathbf{n}) = -\mathbf{t}(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{n})$. It is assumed that the linear and angular momentum balance hold for any subregion $\omega \in \Omega_t$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\omega_t} \rho \mathbf{v} \, d\omega_t &= \int_{\partial\omega_t} \mathbf{t}(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{n}) \, dS + \int_{\omega_t} \mathbf{f} \, d\omega_t, \\ \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\omega_t} \rho \mathbf{y} \times \mathbf{v} \, d\omega_t &= \int_{\partial\omega_t} \mathbf{y} \times \mathbf{t}(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{n}) \, dS + \int_{\omega_t} \mathbf{y} \times \mathbf{f} \, d\omega_t, \end{aligned}$$

where \mathbf{n} is the outward normal to the surface $\partial\omega_t$. The following theorem characterizes the stress vector (see [Cia88, Chapter 2]):

Theorem 1 (Cauchy's theorem)

If the linear and angular momenta balance hold, then there exists a matrix valued function Σ from Ω_t to \mathbb{S} such that $\mathbf{t}(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{n}) = \Sigma(\mathbf{y})\mathbf{n}$, $\forall \mathbf{y} \in \Omega_t$ where the right-hand side is the matrix-vector multiplication.

The set $\mathbb{S} = \mathbb{R}_{\text{sym}}^{d \times d}$ denotes the field of symmetric matrices in $\mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$. The symmetric of the stress tensor Σ is due to the balance of angular momentum. The divergence theorem can then be applied

$$\int_{\partial\omega} \Sigma \mathbf{n} \, dS = \int_{\omega} \nabla_y \cdot \Sigma \, d\omega,$$

where $\nabla_y \cdot$ is the tensor divergence with respect to the deformed configuration, $\nabla_y \cdot \Sigma = \sum_{i=1}^d \frac{\partial \Sigma_{ij}}{\partial y_i}$. Because the considered subregion ω is arbitrary, using the linear balance momentum and the conservation of mass the following PDE is found

$$\rho \frac{D\mathbf{v}}{Dt} - \nabla_y \cdot \Sigma = \mathbf{f}, \quad \mathbf{y} \in \Omega_t.$$

This equation is written with respect to the deformed configuration Ω_t . For a detailed derivation of this equation the reader may consult [Abe12, Chapter 4].

3.2 The linear elastodynamics problem

Whenever deformations are small, $\nabla_x \mathbf{u} \ll 1$, there the reference and deformed configuration are almost indistinguishable $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{x} + O(\nabla_x \mathbf{u}) \approx \mathbf{x}$. This allows to write the linear momentum balance in the reference configuration

$$\rho \frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t}(\mathbf{x}, t) - \text{Div}(\Sigma(\mathbf{x}, t)) = \mathbf{f}, \quad \mathbf{x} \in \Omega.$$

The material derivative simplifies to a partial one. The operator Div is the divergence of a tensor field with respect to the reference configuration

$$\text{Div}(\Sigma(\mathbf{x}, t)) = \nabla_x \cdot \Sigma(\mathbf{x}, t) = \sum_{i=1}^d \frac{\partial \Sigma_{ij}}{\partial x_i}.$$

Furthermore, the non-linear terms in the Green-St. Venant strain tensor can be dropped

$$\mathbf{E} = \frac{1}{2} \left[\nabla_x \mathbf{u} + (\nabla_x \mathbf{u})^\top + (\nabla_x \mathbf{u})^\top (\nabla_x \mathbf{u}) \right] \approx \frac{1}{2} \left[\nabla_x \mathbf{u} + (\nabla_x \mathbf{u})^\top \right].$$

The linearized strain tensor (also called infinitesimal strain tensor) is the symmetric gradient of the displacement

$$\boldsymbol{\varepsilon} := \text{Grad } \mathbf{u}, \quad \text{where} \quad \text{Grad } \mathbf{u} = \frac{1}{2} \left[\nabla_x \mathbf{u} + (\nabla_x \mathbf{u})^\top \right].$$

To obtain a closed system of equations, it is now necessary to characterize the relation between stress and strain. This relation is normally called *constitutive law*. In the following, the particular case of elastic materials is considered. For this class of materials, the stress tensor is solely determined by the deformed configuration at a given time. An elastic material is able to resist distorting excitations and return to its original size and shape when these are

removed. A linear elastic material satisfies the Hooke's law

$$\boldsymbol{\Sigma}(\mathbf{x}) = \boldsymbol{\mathcal{D}}(\mathbf{x}) \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x})).$$

The *stiffness tensor* or *elasticity tensor* $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{D}} : \mathbb{S} \rightarrow \mathbb{S}$ is a rank 4 tensor that is symmetric positive definite and uniformly bounded above and below. Because of symmetry, its components satisfy

$$\mathcal{D}_{ijkl} = \mathcal{D}_{jikl} = \mathcal{D}_{klij}.$$

From the uniform boundedness of $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{D}}$, the map $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{D}} : L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{S}) \rightarrow L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{S})$ is a symmetric positive definite bounded linear operator ($L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{S})$ is the space of square integrable symmetric tensor valued functions). The compliance tensor $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{A}}$ is defined by $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{A}} = \boldsymbol{\mathcal{D}}^{-1}$. Thus $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{A}} : \mathbb{S} \rightarrow \mathbb{S}$ is as well symmetric positive definite and uniformly bounded above and below. An isotropic elastic medium has the same kinematic properties in any direction and at each point. If an elastic medium is isotropic, then the stiffness and compliance tensors assume the form

$$\boldsymbol{\mathcal{D}}(\cdot) = 2\mu(\cdot) + \lambda \text{Tr}(\cdot) \mathbf{I}, \quad \boldsymbol{\mathcal{A}}(\cdot) = \frac{1}{2\mu} \left[(\cdot) - \frac{\lambda}{2\mu + d\lambda} \text{Tr}(\cdot) \mathbf{I} \right], \quad d = \{2, 3\},$$

where Tr is the trace operator and the positive scalar functions μ, λ , defined on Ω , are called the Lamé coefficients. In engineering applications it is easier to compute experimentally two other parameters: the Young modulus E and Poisson's ratio ν . Those are expressed in terms of the Lamé coefficients as

$$\nu = \frac{\lambda}{2(\lambda + \mu)}, \quad E = \frac{\mu(3\lambda + 2\mu)}{\lambda + \mu},$$

and inversely

$$\lambda = \frac{E\nu}{(1 + \nu)(1 - 2\nu)}, \quad \mu = \frac{E}{2(1 + \nu)}.$$

The stiffness and compliant tensor assume the expressions

$$\boldsymbol{\mathcal{D}}(\cdot) = \frac{E}{1 + \nu} \left[(\cdot) + \frac{\nu}{1 - 2\nu} \text{Tr}(\cdot) \mathbf{I} \right], \quad \boldsymbol{\mathcal{A}}(\cdot) = \frac{1 + \nu}{E} \left[(\cdot) - \frac{\nu}{1 + \nu(d - 2)} \text{Tr}(\cdot) \mathbf{I} \right].$$

The linear elastodynamics problem is formulated through a vector-valued PDE

$$\rho \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{u}}{\partial t^2} - \text{Div}(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{D}} \text{Grad } \mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{f}. \quad (3.1)$$

The classical elastodynamics problem is expressed in terms of the displacement as the unknown.

3.3 Reminder on port-Hamiltonian systems

Before introducing the pH of the elastodynamics problem that the main concept behind the formalism are recalled. First, the concept of Stokes-Dirac and presented. This is normally introduced by making use of a differential geometry approach. The interested reader may consult [Kot19, Chapter 2]. Despite being really insightful in terms of geometrical structure, this approach does not encompass the case of higher-order differential operators. An extension in this sense is still an open question. Since bending problems in elasticity introduce higher-order differential operators, the language of PDE will be privileged over the one of differential forms. To have the most suitable definition of Stokes-Dirac structure for flexible systems, the approach adopted in [MvdSM05] is here recovered.

Second, distributed port-Hamiltonian systems will be introduced, in connection with the underlying Stokes-Dirac structure. PHs as boundary control systems have been analyzed deeply in one geometrical dimension [JZ12, LGZM05]. Here, a more general but not so rigorous definition is given. The complete characterization of pH in arbitrary dimension is still an open research field. Two notable exceptions ([KZ15, Skr19]) provide partial answers to this problem. The first demonstrate the well-posedness of the linear wave equations in arbitrary geometrical dimensions. The second generalizes this result to treat the case of generic first order linear pHs in arbitrary geometrical dimensions.

3.3.1 The Stokes-Dirac structure

To define the Stokes-Dirac structure for distributed pHs it is important to first state the concept of Dirac structure and the case of finite-dimensional pHs. To introduce the infinite-dimensional extension of Dirac structure, namely the Stokes-Dirac structure, the differential operators that come into play are characterized.

3.3.1.1 Dirac Structures

Consider an finite dimensional space F over the field \mathbb{R} and $E \equiv F'$ its dual, i.e. the space of linear operator $\mathbf{e} : F \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. The elements of F are called flows, while the elements of E are called efforts. Those are port variables and their combination gives the power flowing inside the system. The space $B = F \times E$ is called the bond space of power variables. Therefore the power is defined as $\langle \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{f} \rangle = \mathbf{e}(\mathbf{f})$, where $\langle \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{f} \rangle$ is the dual product between \mathbf{f} and \mathbf{e} .

Definition 1 ([Cou90], Def. 1.1.1)

Given the finite-dimensional space F and its dual E with respect to the inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : F \times E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, define the symmetric bilinear form:

$$\langle\langle (\mathbf{f}_1, \mathbf{e}_1), (\mathbf{f}_2, \mathbf{e}_2) \rangle\rangle := \langle \mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{f}_2 \rangle + \langle \mathbf{e}_2, \mathbf{f}_1 \rangle, \quad \text{where} \quad (\mathbf{f}_i, \mathbf{e}_i) \in B, \quad i = 1, 2 \quad (3.2)$$

A Dirac structure on $B := F \times E$ is a subspace $D \subset B$, which is maximally isotropic under $\langle\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle\rangle$. Equivalently, a Dirac structure on $\mathcal{B} := \mathcal{F} \times \mathcal{E}$ is a subspace $\mathcal{D} \subset \mathcal{B}$ which equals its orthogonal complement with respect to $\langle\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle\rangle : \mathcal{D} = \mathcal{D}^\perp$.

This definition can be extended to consider distributed forces and dissipation [Vil07].

Proposition 1

Consider the space of power variables $F \times E$ and let X denote an n -dimensional space, the space of energy variables. Suppose that $F := (F_s, F_e)$ and that $E := (E_s, E_e)$, with $\dim F_s = \dim E_s = n$ and $\dim F_e = \dim E_e = m$. Moreover, let $\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x})$ denote a skew-symmetric matrix of dimension n and by $\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x})$ a matrix of dimension $n \times m$. Then, the set

$$D := \left\{ (\mathbf{f}_s, \mathbf{f}_e, \mathbf{e}_s, \mathbf{e}_e) \in F \times E \mid \mathbf{f}_s = -\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{e}_s - \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{f}_e, \mathbf{e}_e = \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x})^\top \mathbf{e}_s \right\} \quad (3.3)$$

is a Dirac structure.

3.3.1.2 Finite-dimensional PHs

Consider the time-invariant dynamical system:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\mathbf{x}} &= \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x})\nabla H(\mathbf{x}) + \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{u}, \\ \mathbf{y} &= \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x})^\top \nabla H(\mathbf{x}), \end{cases} \quad (3.4)$$

where $H(\mathbf{x}) : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, the Hamiltonian, is a real-valued function bounded from below. Such system is called port-Hamiltonian, as it arises from the Hamiltonian modelling of a physical system and it interacts with the environment through the input \mathbf{u} included in the formulation. The connection with the concept of Dirac structure is achieved by considering the following port behavior:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{f}_s &= -\dot{\mathbf{x}}, & \mathbf{e}_s &= \nabla H(\mathbf{x}), \\ \mathbf{f}_e &= \mathbf{u}, & \mathbf{e}_e &= \mathbf{y}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.5)$$

With this choice of the port variables system (3.4) defines, by proposition 1, a Dirac structure. Dissipation and distributed forces can be included and the corresponding system defines an extended Dirac structure, once the proper port variables are introduced.

3.3.1.3 Constant matrix differential operators

Let Ω denote a compact subset of \mathbb{R}^d representing the spatial domain of the distributed parameter system. Then, let U and V denote two sets of smooth functions from Ω to \mathbb{R}^{q_u} and \mathbb{R}^{q_v} respectively.

Definition 2

A constant matrix differential operator of order n is a map \mathcal{L} from U to V such that, given

$\mathbf{u} = (u_1, \dots, u_{q_u}) \in U$ and $\mathbf{v} = (v_1, \dots, v_{q_v}) \in V$:

$$\mathbf{v} = \mathcal{L}\mathbf{u} \iff \mathbf{v} := \sum_{|\alpha|=0}^n \mathbf{P}_\alpha \partial^\alpha \mathbf{u}, \quad (3.6)$$

where $\alpha := (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_d)$ is a multi-index of order $|\alpha| := \sum_{i=1}^d \alpha_i$, \mathbf{P}_α are a set of constant real $q_v \times q_u$ matrices and $\partial^\alpha := \partial_{x_1}^{\alpha_1} \dots \partial_{x_d}^{\alpha_d}$ is a differential operator of order $|\alpha|$ resulting from a combination of spatial derivatives.

The following definition, instrumental for the case of dpHs, is a simplified version of definition (6).

Definition 3

Consider the constant matrix differential operator (3.6). Its formal adjoint is the map \mathcal{L}^* from \mathcal{V} to \mathcal{U} such that:

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathcal{L}^*\mathbf{v} \iff \mathbf{u} := \sum_{|\alpha|=0}^n (-1)^{|\alpha|} \mathbf{P}_\alpha^\top \partial^\alpha \mathbf{v}. \quad (3.7)$$

Definition 4

Let \mathcal{J} denote a constant matrix differential operator. Then, \mathcal{J} is skew-symmetric if and only if $\mathcal{J} = -\mathcal{J}^*$. This corresponds to the condition:

$$\mathbf{P}_\alpha = (-1)^{|\alpha|+1} \mathbf{P}_\alpha^\top, \quad \forall \alpha. \quad (3.8)$$

An important relation between a differential operator and its adjoint is expressed by the following theorem.

Theorem 2 ([RR04], Chapter 9, theorem 9.37)

Consider a matrix differential operator \mathcal{L} and let \mathcal{L}^* denote its formal adjoint. Then, for each function $\mathbf{u} \in U$ and $\mathbf{v} \in V$:

$$\int_{\Omega} (\mathbf{v}^\top \mathcal{L}\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}^\top \mathcal{L}^*\mathbf{v}) \, d\Omega = \int_{\partial\Omega} \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{\mathcal{L}}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) \, dA, \quad (3.9)$$

where $\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{\mathcal{L}}$ is a differential operator induced on the boundary $\partial\Omega$ by \mathcal{L} , or equivalently:

$$\mathbf{v}^\top \mathcal{L}\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}^\top \mathcal{L}^*\mathbf{v} = \operatorname{div} \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{\mathcal{L}}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}). \quad (3.10)$$

It is important to note that $\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{\mathcal{L}}$ is a constant differential operator. The quantity $\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{\mathcal{L}}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v})$ is a constant linear combination of the functions \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} together with their spatial derivatives up to a certain order and depending on \mathcal{L} .

Corollary 1

Consider a skew-symmetric differential operator \mathcal{J} . Then, for each function $\mathbf{u} \in U$ and $\mathbf{v} \in V$

with $q_u = q_v = q$:

$$\int_{\Omega} (\mathbf{v}^\top \mathcal{J} \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{u}^\top \mathcal{J} \mathbf{v}) \, d\Omega = \int_{\partial\Omega} \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{\mathcal{J}}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) \, dA, \quad (3.11)$$

where $\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{\mathcal{J}}$ is a symmetric differential operator on $\partial\Omega$ depending on the differential operator \mathcal{J} .

3.3.1.4 Constant Stokes-Dirac structures

Following [MvdSM05], let F denote the space of flows, i.e. the space of smooth functions from the compact set $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ to \mathbb{R}^q . For simplicity assume that the space of efforts is $E \equiv F$ (generally speaking these spaces are Hilbert spaces linked by duality, as in [Vil07]). Given $\mathbf{f} = (f_1, \dots, f_q) \in F$ and $\mathbf{e} = (e_1, \dots, e_q) \in E$. Let $\mathbf{z} = \mathcal{B}_{\partial}(\mathbf{e})$ denote the boundary terms, where \mathcal{B}_{∂} provides the restriction on $\partial\Omega$ of the effort e and of its spatial derivatives of proper order. The associated boundary space is $Z := \{\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{z} = \mathcal{B}_{\partial}(\mathbf{e})\}$. Then, it holds

$$\int_{\partial\Omega} \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{\mathcal{J}}(\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2) \, dS = \int_{\partial\Omega} \mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{J}}(\mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{z}_2) \, dS, \quad \text{with} \quad \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_{\mathcal{J}}(\cdot, \cdot) = \mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{J}}(\mathcal{B}_{\partial}(\cdot), \mathcal{B}_{\partial}(\cdot)). \quad (3.12)$$

The following theorem characterizes Stokes-Dirac structures for pHs of arbitrary geometrical dimension and differential order.

Proposition 2 (Proposition 3.3 [MvdSM05])

Consider the space of power variables $B = F \times E \times Z$. The linear subspace $D \subset B$

$$D = \{(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{z}) \in F \times E \times Z \mid \mathbf{f} = -\mathcal{J}\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{z} = \mathcal{B}_{\partial}(\mathbf{e})\}, \quad (3.13)$$

is a Stokes-Dirac structure on B with respect to the pairing

$$\langle\langle (\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{z}), (\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{z}) \rangle\rangle := \int_{\Omega} (\mathbf{e}_1^\top \mathbf{f}_2 + \mathbf{e}_2^\top \mathbf{f}_1) \, d\Omega + \int_{\partial\Omega} \mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{J}}(\mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{z}_2) \, dS. \quad (3.14)$$

From this proposition, if $(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{z}) \in D$, then $\langle\langle (\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{z}), (\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{z}) \rangle\rangle = 0$, that is

$$\int_{\Omega} \mathbf{e}^\top \mathbf{f} \, d\Omega + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\partial\Omega} \mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{J}}(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{z}) \, dS = 0. \quad (3.15)$$

This relation expresses the power conservation property of the Stokes-Dirac structure. It states the relation between the variation of internal energy (the integral on the domain Ω) with the power flowing through the boundary (the integral over $\partial\Omega$). Thanks to the power conservation property dpHs always dispose of an associated Stokes Dirac structure. This concept can be extended to consider dissipation or distributed forces. For this it is necessary to include additional ports to account for the power exchange due to these effects (see Theorem 3.4 [MvdSM05]).

Remark 1

The constant Stokes-Dirac structure has been defined in case of smooth vector valued functions for simplicity. The definition is indeed more general and encompasses the case of more

complex functional spaces, in particular the L^2 space of square integrable functions. Linear elasticity for example is defined on a mixed function space of vector- and tensor- valued functions. The result presented here remains valid provided that the proper pairing is being chosen. Furthermore, the constant differential operator may contain intrinsic operators (Div, Grad) as it will be shown in §3.4.

3.3.2 Distributed port-Hamiltonian systems

A distributed conservative port-Hamiltonian system is defined by a set of variables that describes the unknowns, by a formally skew-adjoint differential operator, an energy functional and a set of boundary inputs and corresponding conjugated outputs. Such a system is described by the following set of equations

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t} = \mathcal{J}e, \\ \mathbf{u}_\partial = \mathcal{B}e, \\ \mathbf{y}_\partial = \mathcal{C}e, \\ e := \frac{\delta \mathcal{H}}{\delta \alpha}. \end{cases} \quad (3.16)$$

The unknowns α are called energy variables in the port-Hamiltonian framework, the formally skew-adjoint operator \mathcal{J} is named interconnection operator (see appendix A, Def. 6 for a precise definition of formal skew adjointness). \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{C} are boundary operator, that provide the boundary input \mathbf{u}_∂ and output \mathbf{y}_∂ . The variational derivative of the Hamiltonian define the so-called coenergy variables e .

Remark 2

It will become clear in this section that the effort variable of the Stokes-Dirac structure are indeed equivalent to the co-energy variables of the pH system. This justifies using the same notation for both.

Definition 5 (Variational derivative, Def. 4.1 in [Olv93])

Consider a functional $H(\alpha)$

$$H(\alpha) = \int_{\Omega} \mathcal{H}(\alpha) \, d\Omega.$$

Given a variation $\alpha = \bar{\alpha} + \epsilon \delta \alpha$ the variational derivative $\frac{\delta H}{\delta \alpha}$ is defined as

$$H(\bar{\alpha} + \epsilon \delta \alpha) = H(\bar{\alpha}) + \epsilon \int_{\Omega} \frac{\delta H}{\delta \alpha} \cdot \delta \alpha \, d\Omega + O(\epsilon^2).$$

Remark 3

If the integrand does not contain derivative of the argument α then the variational derivative is equal to the partial derivative of the Hamiltonian density \mathcal{H}

$$\frac{\delta H}{\delta \alpha} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial \alpha}.$$

Conservative port-Hamiltonian systems possess a peculiar property. The energy rate is given by the power due to the boundary ports $\mathbf{u}_\partial, \mathbf{y}_\partial$

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{H} &= \int_{\Omega} \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial \boldsymbol{\alpha}} \cdot \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\alpha}}{\partial t} d\Omega = \langle \delta_{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} H, \partial_t \boldsymbol{\alpha} \rangle_{\Omega}, & \text{Stokes theorem} \\ &= \int_{\partial\Omega} \mathbf{u}_\partial \cdot \mathbf{y}_\partial dS = \langle \mathbf{u}_\partial, \mathbf{y}_\partial \rangle_{\partial\Omega},\end{aligned}\tag{3.17}$$

From the energy rate, the structural power balance is obtained

$$-\langle \delta_{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} H, \partial_t \boldsymbol{\alpha} \rangle_{\Omega} + \langle \mathbf{u}_\partial, \mathbf{y}_\partial \rangle_{\partial\Omega} = 0\tag{3.18}$$

From (3.15), it is clear by identification that $\mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{J}}(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{z}) = 2 \mathbf{u}_\partial \cdot \mathbf{y}_\partial$. That means that in a general characterization of pHs, the boundary space can be split into boundary input and output

$$Z := \{\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{z} = \mathcal{B}_\partial(\mathbf{e}) = (\mathbf{u}_\partial, \mathbf{y}_\partial)\}$$

If the flow, effort and boundary variables are chosen to be

$$\mathbf{f} := -\partial_t \boldsymbol{\alpha}, \quad \mathbf{e} := \delta_{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} H, \quad \mathbf{z} := (\mathbf{u}_\partial, \mathbf{y}_\partial),$$

then system (3.16) defines a Stokes Dirac structure by proposition 2. In this rather informal treatment of dpHs, no rigorous characterization whatsoever has been introduced for operators $\mathcal{J}, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{C}$ in system (3.16). A precise characterization of these operators has been given in [LGZM05] for pH of generic order only in one geometrical dimensional. In the following examples it will be shown that the boundary variables are nothing else than the classical Dirichlet and Neumann boundary conditions for PDEs.

3.3.2.1 Wave equation

Given a constant speed propagation $c > 0$ in open bounded connected set $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ ($d = 2, 3$) with Lipschitz continuous boundary $\partial\Omega$, the wave equation takes the form

$$\partial_{tt} u(\mathbf{x}, t) = c^2 \Delta u(\mathbf{x}, t), \quad \mathbf{x} \in \Omega, \quad \Delta = \operatorname{div} \operatorname{grad}.\tag{3.19}$$

The Hamiltonian (total energy) reads

$$H = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} (\partial_t u)^2 + \|c \nabla u\|^2 d\Omega.$$

To recast (3.19) in pH form the energy variables has to be introduced $\boldsymbol{\alpha} = [\alpha_p, \boldsymbol{\alpha}_v]^\top$

$$\alpha_p := \partial_t u, \quad \boldsymbol{\alpha}_v := \nabla u.$$

The Hamiltonian is now a quadratic function of the energy variable

$$H = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} p^2 + \|c\mathbf{v}\|^2 \, d\Omega.$$

By definition, the co-energy are

$$e_p = \frac{\delta H}{\delta \alpha_p} = p, \quad \mathbf{e}_v = \frac{\delta H}{\delta \boldsymbol{\alpha}_v} = c\boldsymbol{\alpha}_v.$$

The wave equation can be recast in port-Hamiltonian form

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_p \\ \boldsymbol{\alpha}_v \end{pmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \text{div} \\ \text{grad} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} e_p \\ \mathbf{e}_v \end{pmatrix}$$

From the energy rate it is possible to identify the boundary variables.

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{H} &= \int_{\Omega} e_p \, \partial_t \alpha_p + \mathbf{e}_v \cdot \partial_t \boldsymbol{\alpha}_v \, d\Omega, \\ &= \int_{\Omega} e_p \, \text{div} \, \mathbf{e}_v + \mathbf{e}_v \cdot \text{grad} \, e_p \, d\Omega, \\ &= \int_{\Omega} \text{div}(e_p \, \mathbf{e}_v) \, d\Omega, \quad \text{Stokes theorem,} \\ &= \int_{\partial\Omega} e_p \, \mathbf{e}_v \cdot \mathbf{n} \, dS = \langle e_p, \mathbf{e}_v \cdot \mathbf{n} \rangle_{\partial\Omega}. \end{aligned}$$

The boundary term $\langle e_p, \mathbf{e}_v \rangle_{\partial\Omega}$ pairs two power variables. One is taken as control input, the other plays the role of power-conjugated output. The assignment of these roles to the boundary power variables is referred to as causality of the boundary port [Kot19, Chapter 2]. Under uniform causality assumption, either e_p or \mathbf{e}_v can assume the role of (distributed) boundary input, but not both. This leads to two possible selection.

- First case $u_{\partial} = e_p$, $y_{\partial} = \mathbf{e}_v \cdot \mathbf{n}$.
This imposes the variable $e_p := \partial_t w$ as boundary input and corresponds to a classical Dirichlet condition.
- Second case $u_{\partial} = \mathbf{e}_v \cdot \mathbf{n}$, $y_{\partial} = e_p$.
This imposes the variable $\mathbf{e}_v \cdot \mathbf{n} := \partial_n w$ as boundary input and corresponds to a classical Neumann condition.

3.3.2.2 2D shallow water equations

This formulation may be found in [Rib16, Section 6.2.]. This model describes a thin layer of fluid of constant density in hydrostatic balance, like the propagation of a tsunami wave far from the shore. The mass conservation implies

$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} + \text{div}(h\mathbf{v}) = 0,$$

where h is the fluid height, \mathbf{v} is the fluid velocity. The conservation of linear momentum

$$\frac{\partial \rho \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} + \rho(\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v} + \nabla(\rho g h) = 0,$$

where ρ is the mass density and g the gravitational acceleration constant. Using the identity

$$(\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v} = \frac{1}{2} \nabla(\|\mathbf{v}\|^2) + (\nabla \times \mathbf{v}) \times \mathbf{v},$$

where $\nabla \times$ is the rotational of \mathbf{v} (also denoted curl)

3.4 Port-Hamiltonian formulation of linear elasticity

In this section a port-Hamiltonian formulation for elasticity is deduced from the classical elastodynamics problem. It must be appointed that already in the seventies a purely hyperbolic formulation for elasticity was detailed [HM78]. The missing point is the clear connection with the theory of Hamiltonian PDEs. An Hamiltonian formulation can be found in [Gri15], but without any connection to the concept of Stokes-Dirac structure induced by the underlying geometry.

Linear elasticity falls within the assumption of [Skr19]. Therefore, it is a well posed boundary controlled pH systems.

Port-Hamiltonian plate (and shell?) theory

4.1 Mindlin-Reissner model

4.1.1 Lagrangian formulation

4.1.2 Port-Hamiltonian formulation

4.2 Kirchhoff-Love model

4.2.1 Lagrangian formulation

4.2.2 Port-Hamiltonian formulation

4.3 Laminated anisotropic plates

4.3.1 Thin plate assumption

4.3.2 Thick plate assumption

4.4 The membrane shell problem ?

Thermoelasticity in port-Hamiltonian form

5.1 Linear coupled thermoelasticity

5.2 Thermoelastic Euler-Bernoulli beam

5.3 Thermoelastic Kirchhoff plate

Part III

Finite element structure preserving discretization

Partitioned finite element method

6.1 General procedure

6.1.1 Non-linear case

6.1.2 Linear case

6.1.3 Examples

6.2 Connection with mixed finite elements

6.3 Inhomogeneous boundary conditions

6.3.1 Solution using Lagrange multipliers

6.3.2 Virtual domain decomposition

Convergence numerical study

7.1 Plate problems using known mixed finite elements

7.2 Non-standard discretization of flexible structures

Numerical applications

8.1 Boundary stabilization

8.2 Thermoelastic wave propagation

8.3 Mixed boundary conditions

8.3.1 Trajectory tracking of a thin beam

8.3.2 Vibroacoustic under mixed boundary conditions

8.4 Modal analysis of plates

Part IV

Port-Hamiltonian flexible multibody dynamics

Modular multibody systems in port-Hamiltonian form

9.1 Reminder of the rigid case

9.2 Flexible floating body

9.3 Modular construction of multibody systems

Validation

10.1 Beam systems

10.1.1 Modal analysis of a flexible mechanism

10.1.2 Non-linear crank slider

10.1.3 Hinged beam

10.2 Plate systems

10.2.1 Boundary interconnection with a rigid element

10.2.2 Actuated plate

Conclusion

Conclusions and future directions

Mathematical tools

Definition 6 (Formal adjoint, Def. 5.80 [RR04])

Given the differential operator defined on Ω

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}, \partial) = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq k} a_\alpha(\mathbf{x}) \partial^\alpha, \quad (\text{A.1})$$

the formal adjoint of \mathcal{L} is the operator defined by

$$\mathcal{L}^*(\mathbf{x}, \partial)u = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq k} (-1)^\alpha \partial^\alpha (a_\alpha(\mathbf{x})u(\mathbf{x})) \quad (\text{A.2})$$

The importance of this definition lies in the fact that

$$\langle \phi, \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}, \partial)\psi \rangle_\Omega = \langle \mathcal{L}^*(\mathbf{x}, \partial)\phi, \psi \rangle_\Omega \quad (\text{A.3})$$

for every $\phi, \psi \in C_0^\infty(\Omega)$. If the assumption of compact support is removed, then (A.3) no longer holds; instead the integration by parts yields additional terms involving integrals over the boundary $\partial\Omega$. However, these boundary terms vanish if ϕ and ψ satisfy certain restrictions on the boundary.

A.1 Differential operators

The space of all, symmetric and skew-symmetric $d \times d$ matrices are denoted by $\mathbb{M}, \mathbb{S}, \mathbb{K}$ respectively. The space of \mathbb{R}^d vectors is denoted by \mathbb{V} . $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ is an open connected set. For a scalar field $u : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ the gradient is defined as

$$\text{grad}(u) = \nabla u := \left(\partial_{x_1} u \dots \partial_{x_d} u \right)^\top.$$

For a vector field $\mathbf{u} : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{V}$, with components u_j , the gradient (Jacobian) is defined as

$$\text{grad}(\mathbf{u})_{ij} := (\nabla \mathbf{u})_{ij} = \partial_{x_j} u_i.$$

The symmetric part of the gradient operator Grad (i. e. the deformation gradient in continuum mechanics) is thus given by

$$\text{Grad}(\mathbf{u}) := \frac{1}{2} \left(\nabla \mathbf{u} + \nabla^\top \mathbf{u} \right).$$

The Hessian operator of u is then computed as follows

$$\text{Hess}(u) = \nabla^2 u = \text{Grad}(\text{grad}(u)),$$

For a tensor field $\mathbf{U} : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{M}$, with components u_{ij} , the divergence is a vector, defined column-wise as

$$\text{Div}(\mathbf{U}) = \nabla \cdot \mathbf{U} := \left(\sum_{i=1}^d \partial_{x_i} u_{ij} \right)_{j=1, \dots, d}.$$

The double divergence of a tensor field \mathbf{U} is then a scalar field defined as

$$\text{div}(\text{Div}(\mathbf{U})) := \sum_{i,j=1}^d \partial_{x_i} \partial_{x_j} u_{ij}.$$

Finite elements gallery

Implementation using FEniCS and Firedrake

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Résumé — Malgré l’abondante littérature sur le formalisme pH, les problèmes d’élasticité en deux ou trois dimensions géométriques n’ont presque jamais été considérés. Cette thèse vise à étendre l’approche port-Hamiltonienne (pH) à la mécanique des milieux continus. L’originalité apportée réside dans trois contributions majeures. Tout d’abord, la nouvelle formulation pH des modèles de plaques et des phénomènes thermoélastiques couplés est présentée. L’utilisation du calcul tensoriel est obligatoire pour modéliser les milieux continus et l’introduction de variables tensorielles est nécessaire pour obtenir une description pH équivalente qui soit intrinsèque, c’est-à-dire indépendante des coordonnées choisies. Deuxièmement, une technique de discrétisation basée sur les éléments finis et capable de préserver la structure du problème de la dimension infinie au niveau discret est développée et validée. La discrétisation des problèmes d’élasticité nécessite l’utilisation d’éléments finis non standard. Néanmoins, l’implémentation numérique est réalisée grâce à des bibliothèques open source bien établies, fournissant aux utilisateurs externes un outil facile à utiliser pour simuler des systèmes flexibles sous forme pH. Troisièmement, une nouvelle formulation pH de la dynamique multicorps flexible est dérivée. Cette reformulation, valable sous de petites hypothèses de déformations, inclut toutes sortes de modèles élastiques linéaires et exploite la modularité intrinsèque des systèmes pH.

Mots clés : Systèmes port-Hamiltonien, mécanique des solides, discretisation symplectique, méthode des éléments finis, dynamique multicorps

Abstract — Despite the large literature on pH formalism, elasticity problems in higher geometrical dimensions have almost never been considered. This work establishes the connection between port-Hamiltonian distributed systems and elasticity problems. The originality resides in three major contributions. First, the novel pH formulation of plate models and coupled thermoelastic phenomena is presented. The use of tensor calculus is mandatory for continuum mechanical models and the inclusion of tensor variables is necessary to obtain an intrinsic, i.e. coordinate free, and equivalent pH description. Second, a finite element based discretization technique, capable of preserving the structure of the infinite-dimensional problem at a discrete level, is developed and validated. The discretization of elasticity problems requires the use of non-standard finite elements. Nevertheless, the numerical implementation is performed thanks to well-established open-source libraries, providing external users with an easy to use tool for simulating flexible systems in pH form. Third, flexible multibody systems are recast in pH form by making use of a floating frame description valid under small deformations assumptions. This reformulation include all kinds of linear elastic models and exploits the intrinsic modularity of pH systems.

Keywords: Port-Hamiltonian systems, continuum mechanics, structure preserving discretization, finite element method, multibody dynamics.
