

EPILOGUE:

Some “real-life” finite element model examples

GEOMETRY OF MIDDLE SURFACE

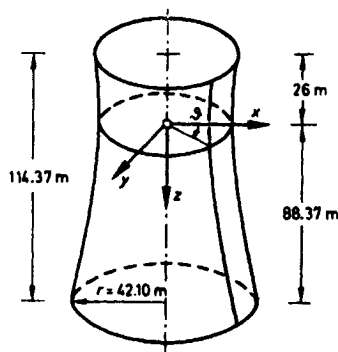
POSITION VECTOR

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} r \cdot \cos \xi^1 \\ r \cdot \sin \xi^1 \\ \xi^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

WHERE

$$r = 24.85 \sqrt{1 + (\xi^2 / 64.62)^2}$$

PARAMETER DEFINITION $\xi^1 = \vartheta, \xi^2 = z$



MATERIAL DATA

YOUNG'S MODULUS $E = 3 \cdot 10^9 \text{ kp/m}^2$

POISSON'S RATIO $\nu = 0.2$

SPECIFIC GRAVITY $\gamma = 1.0 \text{ kp/m}^3$ (FOR BUCKLING ANALYSIS)

DENSITY $\rho = 1.0 \text{ kps}^2/\text{m}^4$ (FOR VIBRATION ANALYSIS)

GEOMETRICAL DATA

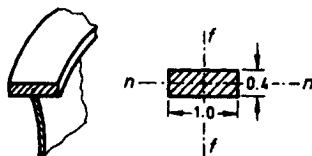
SHELL THICKNESS $t = 0.14 \text{ m}$

STIFFENER AT THE TOP OF THE SHELL $A = 0.4 \text{ m}^2$

$I_{ff} = 3.333 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ m}^4$

$I_{nn} = 5.333 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ m}^4$

$J = 1.597 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ m}^4$

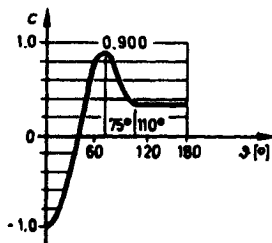


BOUNDARY CONDITIONS

$z = -26.0$ FREE EDGE

$z = 88.37$ BUILT-IN

WINDLOAD

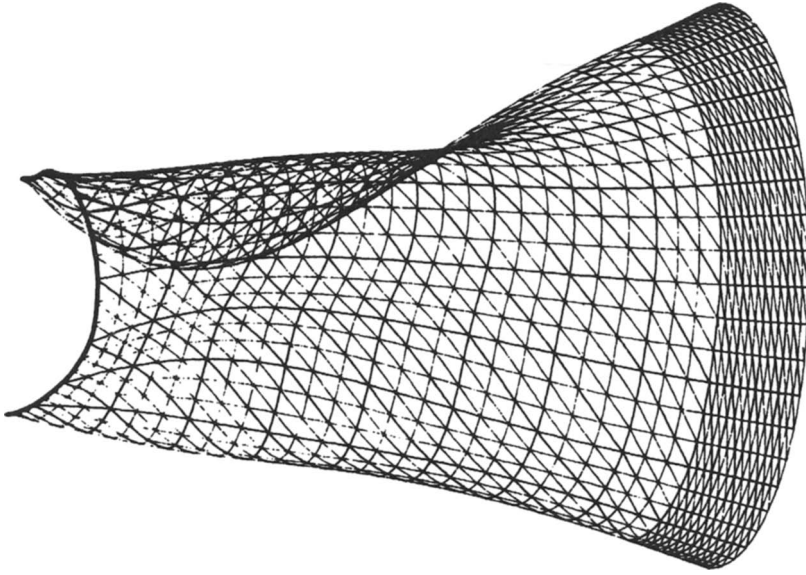


DISTRIBUTION OF WINDLOAD

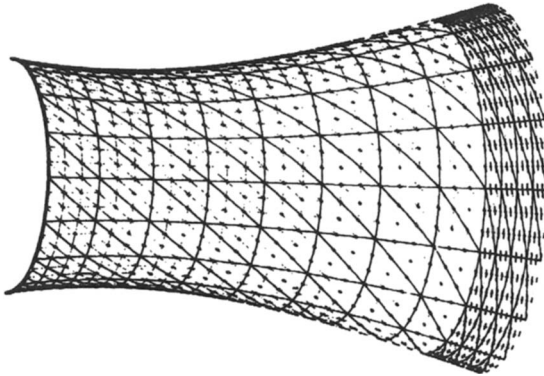
$P_w = c(\vartheta) \cdot q(z)$

$q(z) = -100 \text{ kp/m}^2 = \text{constant}$

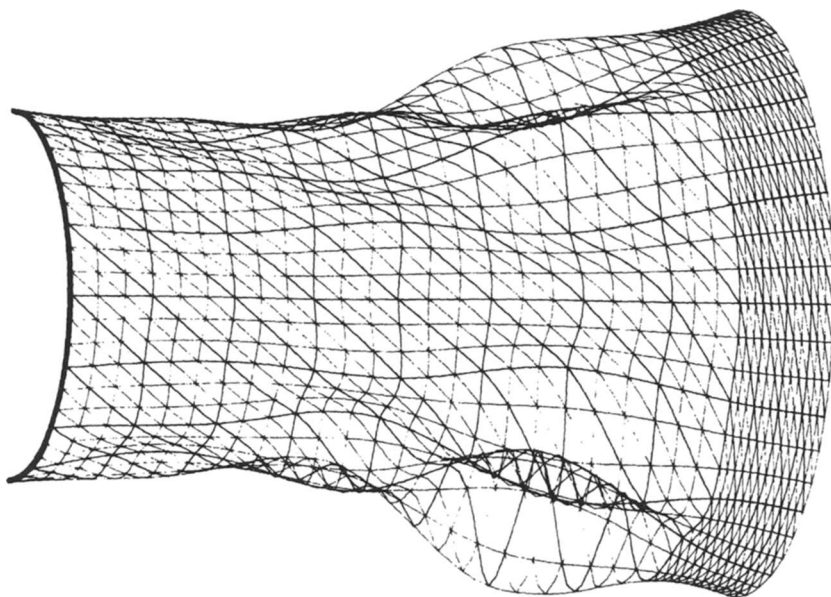
Cooling tower: Geometry, dimensions and input data.
Reproduced by courtesy of Professor J.H. Argyris.



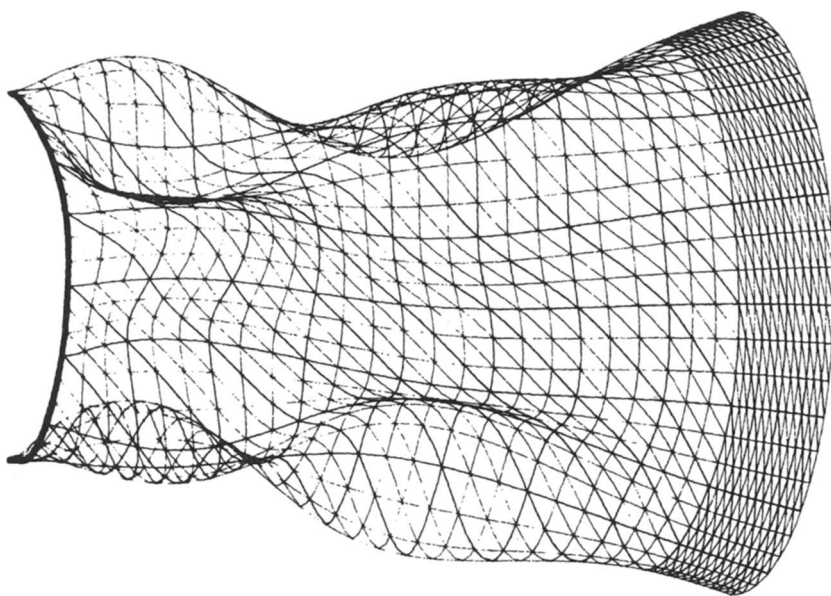
Cooling tower: Deformed structure under wind load.
Reproduced by courtesy of Professor J.H. Argyris.



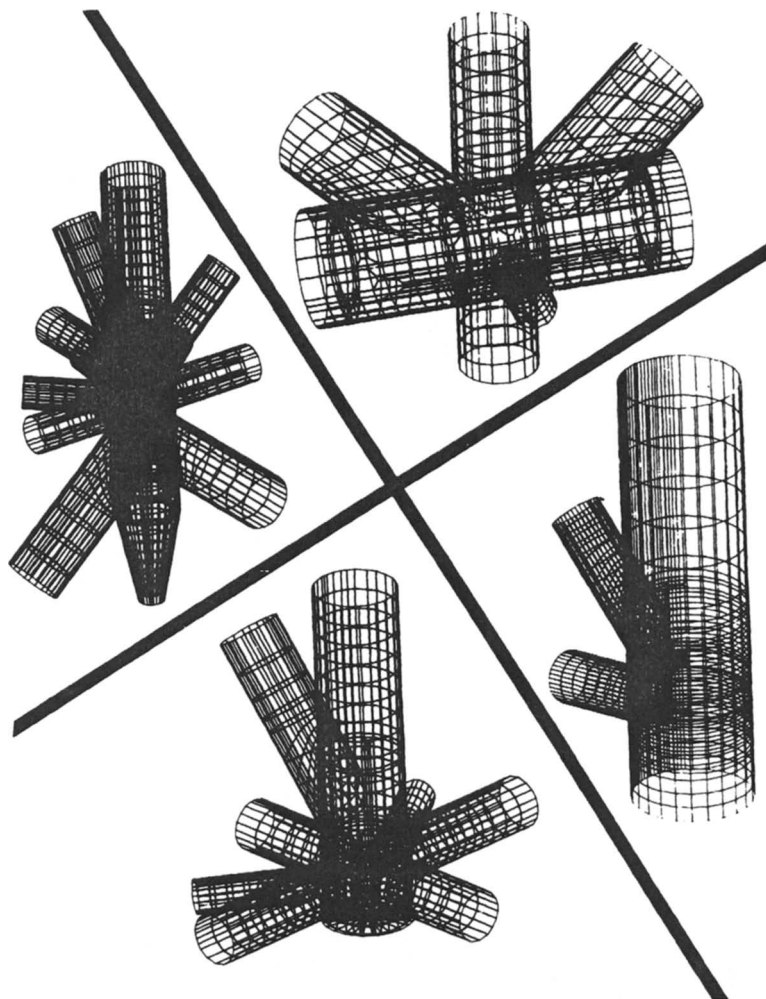
Cooling tower: Triangulation.
Reproduced by courtesy of Professor J.H. Argyris.



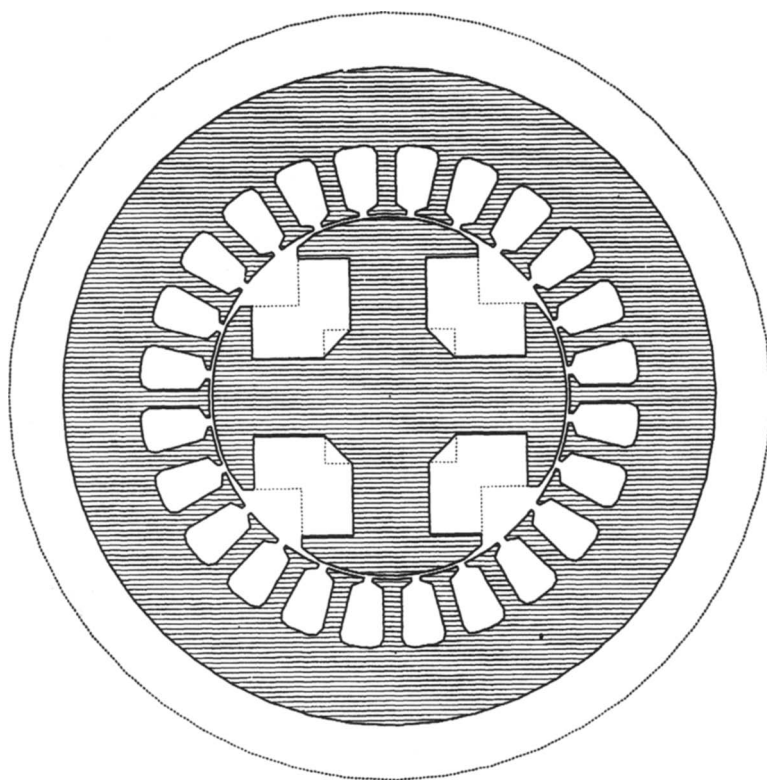
Cooling tower: First buckling mode under dead weight.
Reproduced by courtesy of Professor J.H. Argyris.



Cooling tower: First vibration mode.
Reproduced by courtesy of Professor J.H. Argyris.

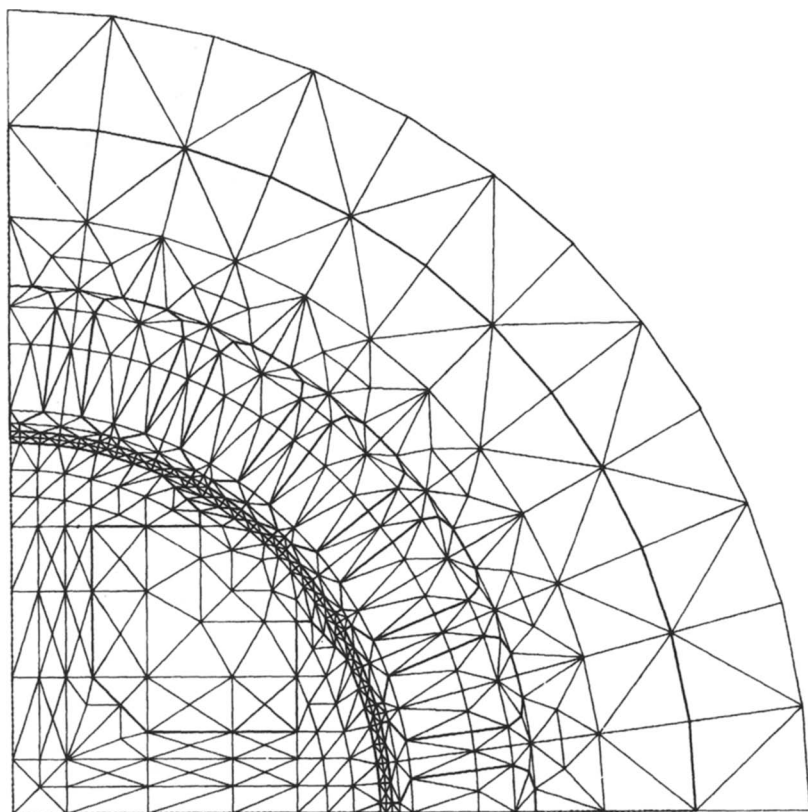


**Finite element stress analysis of complex tubular joints.
Reproduced by courtesy of Professor C.A. Felippa.**

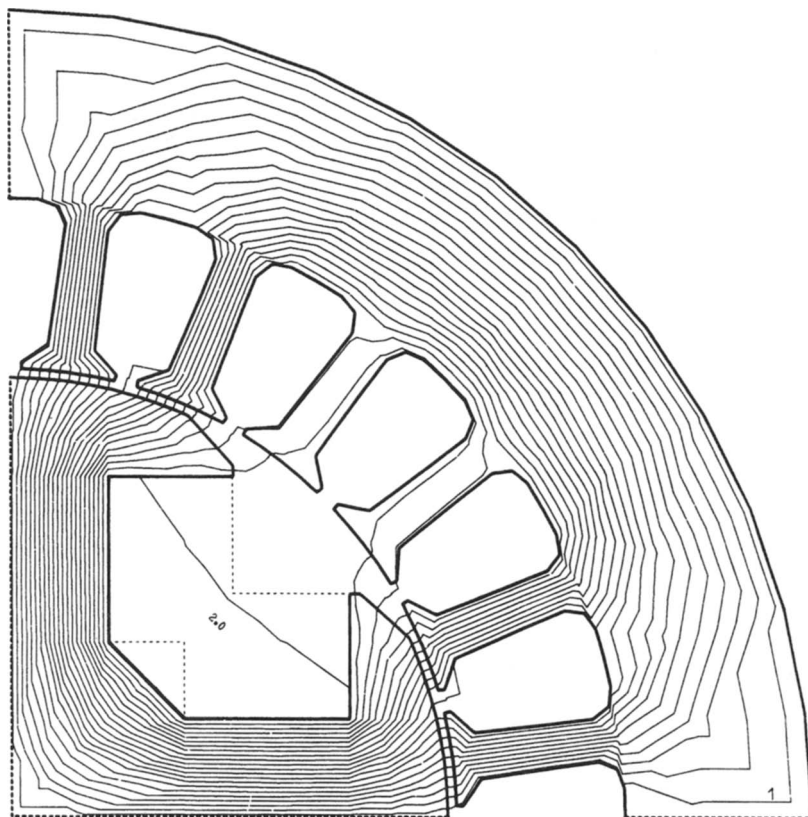


Tetrapolar alternator.

Reproduced by courtesy of Professor R. Glowinski and Mr. A. Marrocco.

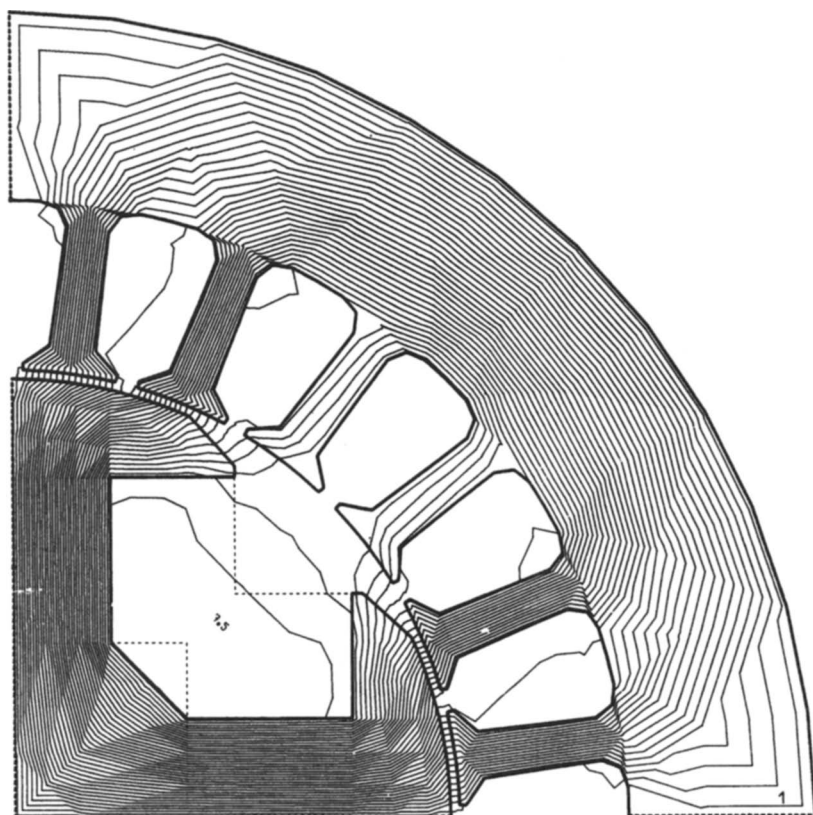


Tetrapolar alternator: Example of a triangulation.
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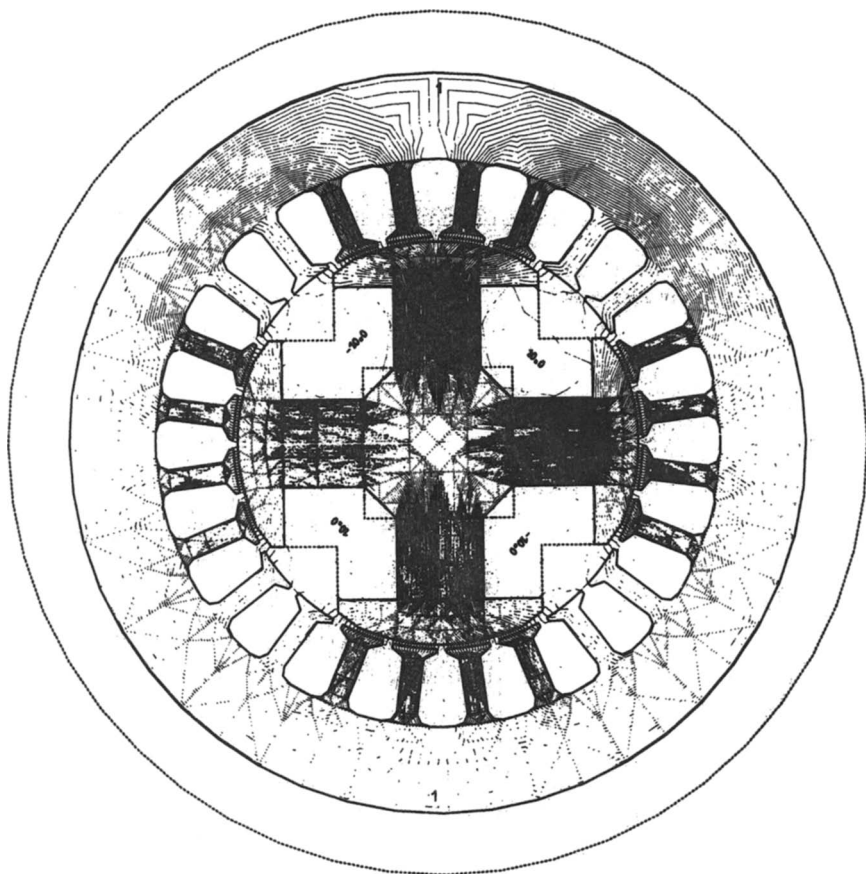
Tetrapolar alternator: Induction lines for $J = 2$.
(J : density of current)

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**Tetrapolar alternator: Induction lines for $J = 7.5$.
(J : density of current)**

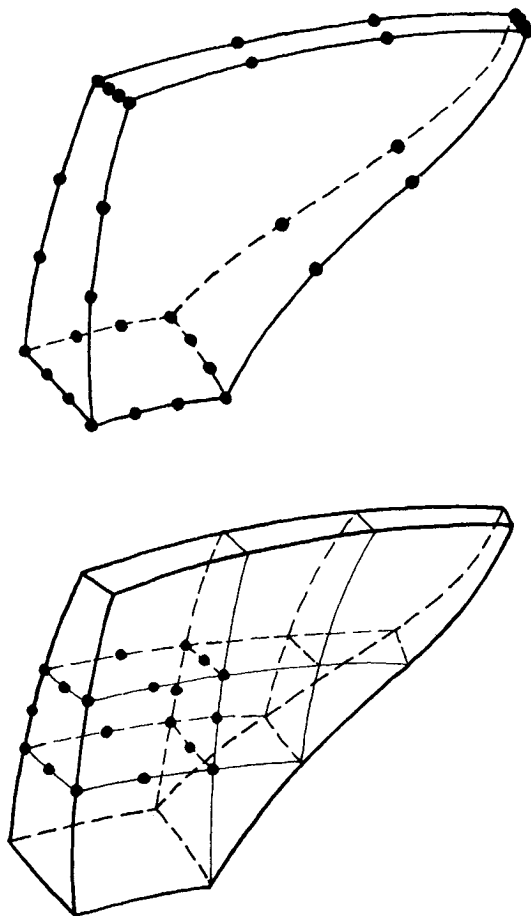
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Tetrapolar alternator: Induction lines for $J = 10$.

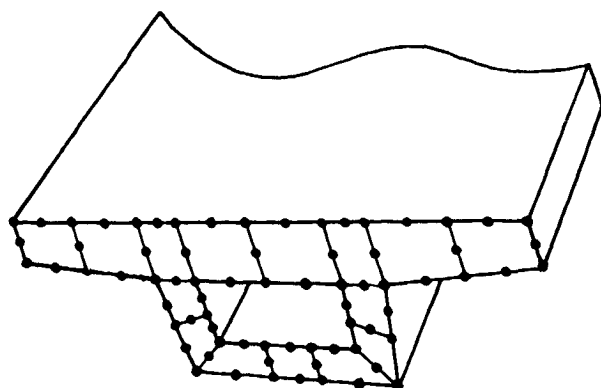
(J : density of current)

Reproduced by courtesy of Professor R. Glowinski and Mr. A. Marrocco.



Arch dam in a rigid valley – Various element subdivisions.

Reproduced from Fig. 9.8 of Professor Zienkiewicz' book: "*The Finite Element Method in Engineering Science*", McGraw-Hill, London, 1971, by courtesy of Professor O.C. Zienkiewicz, and with permission of the Publisher.



A thick box bridge reduced to a two-dimensional problem with isoparametric, quadratic, elements.

Reproduced from Fig. 13.2 of Professor Zienkiewicz' book: "*The Finite Element Method in Engineering Science*", McGraw-Hill, London, 1971, by courtesy of Professor O.C. Zienkiewicz, and with permission of the Publisher.

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GLOSSARY OF SYMBOLS

General notation

$v(\cdot)$, $v(\cdot, \cdot)$, etc. . . : function v of one variable, two variables, etc. . .

$v(\cdot, b)$: partial mapping $x \rightarrow v(x, b)$.

$\text{supp } v = \{x \in X; v(x) \neq 0\}^-$: support of a function v .

$\text{osc}(v; A) = \sup_{x, y \in A} |v(x) - v(y)|$.

v_A or $v|_A$: restriction of a function v to the set A .

$P(A) = \{P|_A; \forall P \in P\}$, where P is any space of functions defined over a domain which contains the set A .

$\text{tr } v$, or simply v : trace of a function v .

$R(v) = \frac{a(v, v)}{(v, v)}$: Rayleigh quotient.

$C(a)$, $C(a, b)$, etc. . . : any "constant" which depends solely on a , a and b , etc. . .

\mathring{A} : interior of a set A .

∂A : boundary of a set A .

\bar{A} or A^- : closure of a set A .

$\text{card } A$: number of elements of a set A .

$\text{diam } A$: diameter of a set A .

$\mathbb{C}A$, or $\mathbb{C}_X A$, or $X - A$: Complement set of the subset A of the set X .

\Rightarrow : implies.

Derivatives and differential calculus

$Dv(a)$, or $v'(a)$: first (Fréchet) derivative of a function v at a point a .

$D^2v(a)$, or $v''(a)$: second (Fréchet) derivative of a function v at a .

$D^k v(a)$: k -th (Fréchet) derivative of a function v at a point a .

$D^k v(a)h^k = D^k v(a)(h_1, h_2, \dots, h_k)$ if $h_1 = h_2 = \dots = h_k = h$.

$\mathcal{R}_k(v; b, a) = v(b) - \left\{ v(a) + Dv(a)(b - a) + \dots + \frac{1}{k!} D^k v(a)(b - a)^k \right\}.$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \partial_i v(A) &= Dv(a)e_i, \\ \partial_{ij} v(a) &= D^2 v(a)(e_i, e_j), \\ \partial_{ijk} v(a) &= D^3 v(a)(e_i, e_j, e_k). \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (\text{also used for vector-valued functions})$$

$$J_F(\hat{x}) = \det(\partial_i F_i(\hat{x})) = \text{Jacobian of a mapping } F: \hat{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow F(\hat{x}) = (F_i(x))_{i=1}^n \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

$$\operatorname{div} v = \sum_{i=1}^n \partial_i v.$$

$$\nabla v(a) = (\partial_i v)_{i=1}^n, \text{ also denoted } \nabla v(a), \operatorname{grad} v(a).$$

$$\Delta v = \sum_{i=1}^n \partial_{ii} v, \Delta v = (\Delta v_i)_{i=1}^n.$$

$$|\alpha| = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i, \text{ for a multi-index } \alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \in N^n.$$

$$\partial^\alpha v(a) = D^{|\alpha|} v(a)(\underbrace{e_1, \dots, e_1}_{\alpha_1 \text{ times}}, \underbrace{e_2, \dots, e_2}_{\alpha_2 \text{ times}}, \dots, \underbrace{e_n, \dots, e_n}_{\alpha_n \text{ times}}).$$

$$v = (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n): \text{ unit outer normal vector.}$$

$$\partial_\nu = \sum_{i=1}^n v_i \partial_i: (\text{outer}) \text{ normal derivative operator.}$$

$$\tau = (\tau_1, \tau_2): \text{ unit tangential vector along the boundary of a plane domain.}$$

$$\partial_\tau v(a) = Dv(a)\tau = \sum_{i=1}^2 \tau_i \partial_i v(a).$$

$$\partial_{\nu\tau} v(a) = D^2 v(a)(v, \tau) = \sum_{i,j=1}^2 v_i \tau_j \partial_{ij} v(a).$$

$$\partial_{\tau\tau} v(a) = D^2 v(a)(\tau, \tau) = \sum_{i,j=1}^2 \tau_i \tau_j \partial_{ij} v(a).$$

$$(V_I)_{I=1}^{12} = \{\partial^\alpha v_\beta, |\alpha| \leq 1, \beta = 1, 2, \partial^\alpha v_3, |\alpha| \leq 2\} \text{ (notation for admissible displacements } v = (v_1, v_2, v_3) \text{ in shell theory).}$$

Differential geometry

$$(a_{\alpha\beta}): \text{ first fundamental form of a surface.}$$

$$a = \det(a_{\alpha\beta}).$$

$$(b_{\alpha\beta}): \text{ second fundamental form of a surface.}$$

$$(c_{\alpha\beta}): \text{ third fundamental form of a surface.}$$

$$\Gamma_{\beta\gamma}^\alpha: \text{ Christoffel symbols.}$$

$$v_{|\beta}, v_{|\alpha\beta}, \dots: \text{ covariant derivatives along a surface.}$$

$$ds = \sqrt{a} d\xi: \text{ surface element.}$$

$$\frac{1}{R}: \text{ curvature of a plane curve.}$$

General notation for vector spaces.

$B(a; r) = \{x \in X; \|x - a\| \leq r\}$.

$\mathcal{L}(X; Y)$: space of continuous linear mappings from X into Y .

$\mathcal{L}(X) = \mathcal{L}(X; X)$.

$\mathcal{L}_k(X; Y)$: space of continuous k -linear mappings from X^k into Y .

$\mathcal{L}_2(X_1 \times X_2; Y)$: space of continuous bilinear mappings from $X_1 \times X_2$ into Y .

X' : dual of a space X .

$\|\cdot\|'$: norm in the space X' .

$\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$: duality pairing between a space and its dual.

$x + Y = \{x + y; y \in Y\}$.

$X + Y = \{x + y; x \in X, y \in Y\}$.

$X \oplus Y = \{x + y; x \in X, y \in Y\}$ when $X \cap Y = \{0\}$.

X/Y : quotient space of X by Y .

$\mathbf{V}\{e_\lambda, \lambda \in \Lambda\}$: vector space spanned by the vectors $e_\lambda, \lambda \in \Lambda$.

I : identity mapping.

\hookrightarrow : inclusion with continuous injection.

$\overset{\circ}{\hookrightarrow}$: inclusion with compact injection.

$\dim X$: dimension of the space X .

$\ker A = \{x \in X; Ax = 0\}$.

Notation for specific vector spaces

$(u, v) = \int_{\Omega} uv \, dx$ (inner product in $L^2(\Omega)$).

$(u, v) = \int_{\Omega} u \cdot v \, dx$ (inner product in $(L^2(\Omega))^n$).

$\mathcal{C}^m(A)$: space of functions m times continuously differentiable on a subset A of \mathbb{R}^n .

$\mathcal{C}^\infty(A) = \bigcap_{m=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{C}^m(A)$.

$\mathcal{C}^{m,\alpha}(A) = \{v \in C^m(\bar{\Omega}); \forall \beta, |\beta| = m, \exists \Gamma_\beta, \forall x, y \in A, \\ |\partial^\beta v(x) - \partial^\beta v(y)| \leq \Gamma_\beta \|x - y\|^\alpha\}.$

$\|v\|_{\mathcal{C}^{m,\alpha}(A)} = \|v\|_{m,\infty,A} + \max_{|\beta|=m} \sup_{\substack{x,y \in A \\ x \neq y}} \frac{|\partial^\beta v(x) - \partial^\beta v(y)|}{\|x - y\|^\alpha}.$

$\mathcal{D}(\Omega) = \{v \in \mathcal{C}^\infty(\Omega); \text{supp } v \text{ is a compact subset of } \Omega\}$.

$\mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$: space of distributions over Ω .

$H^m(\Omega) = \{v \in L^2(\Omega); \forall \alpha, |\alpha| \leq m, \partial^\alpha v \in L^2(\Omega)\}$.

$H_0^m(\Omega)$ = closure of $\mathcal{D}(\Omega)$ in $H^m(\Omega)$.

$$\|v\|_{m,\Omega} = \left(\sum_{|\alpha| \leq m} \int_{\Omega} |\partial^{\alpha} v|^2 dx \right)^{1/2}.$$

$$|v|_{m,\Omega} = \left(\sum_{|\alpha|=m} \int_{\Omega} |\partial^{\alpha} v|^2 dx \right)^{1/2}.$$

$$\|v\|_{m,\Omega} = \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \|v_i\|_{m,\Omega}^2 \right)^{1/2} \text{ (for functions } v = (v_i)_{i=1}^n \text{ in } (H^m(\Omega))^n).$$

$$|v|_{m,\Omega} = \left(\sum_{i=1}^n |v_i|_{m,\Omega}^2 \right)^{1/2} \text{ (for functions } v = (v_i)_{i=1}^n \text{ in } (H^m(\Omega))^n).$$

$$W^{m,p}(\Omega) = \{v \in L^p(\Omega); \forall \alpha, |\alpha| \leq m, \partial^{\alpha} v \in L^p(\Omega)\}.$$

$$W_0^{m,p}(\Omega) = \text{closure of } \mathcal{D}(\Omega) \text{ in } W^{m,p}(\Omega).$$

$$\|v\|_{m,p,\Omega} = \left(\sum_{|\alpha| \leq m} \int_{\Omega} |\partial^{\alpha} v|^p dx \right)^{1/p}, \quad 1 \leq p < \infty.$$

$$\|v\|_{m,\infty,\Omega} = \max_{|\alpha| \leq m} \left\{ \text{ess. sup}_{x \in \Omega} |\partial^{\alpha} v(x)| \right\} \text{ (also used to denote the norm in } C^m(\bar{\Omega})).$$

$$\|v\|_{m,p,\Omega}^* = \text{norm in the dual space of } W^{m,p}(\Omega).$$

$$|v|_{m,p,\Omega} = \left(\sum_{|\alpha|=m} \int_{\Omega} |\partial^{\alpha} v|^p dx \right)^{1/p}, \quad 1 \leq p < \infty.$$

$$|v|_{m,\infty,\Omega} = \max_{|\alpha|=m} \left\{ \text{ess. sup}_{x \in \Omega} |\partial^{\alpha} v(x)| \right\}.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{v} &= \{w \in W^{k+1,p}(\Omega); (w-v) \in P_k(\Omega)\}, \\ \|\dot{v}\|_{k+1,p,\Omega} &= \inf_{p \in P_k(\Omega)} \|v+p\|_{k+1,p,\Omega}, \quad v \in \dot{v}, \\ |\dot{v}|_{k+1,p,\Omega} &= |v|_{k+1,p,\Omega}, \quad v \in \dot{v}. \end{aligned} \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{notation in the} \\ \text{quotient space} \\ W^{k+1,p}(\Omega)/P_k(\Omega) \end{array} \right\}$$

$$[v]_{m,\Omega} = \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \int_{\Omega} |D^m v(x)(e_i^m)|^2 dx \right)^{1/2}.$$

$$[v]_{m,p,\Omega} = \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \int_{\Omega} |D^m v(x)(e_i^m)|^p dx \right)^{1/p}.$$

$$|v|_{\varphi;m,\Omega} = \left\{ \int_{\Omega} \varphi \sum_{|\beta|=m} |\partial^{\beta} v|^2 dx \right\}^{1/2} \text{ (weighted semi-norm)}.$$

$$|v|_{m,\infty,K} = \sup_{x \in K} \|D^m v(x)\|_{\mathcal{L}_m(\mathbb{R}^n;\mathbb{R})} \text{ (for } v: K \subset \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}).$$

$$|F|_{m,\infty,\hat{K}} = \sup_{\hat{x} \in \hat{K}} \|D^m F(\hat{x})\|_{\mathcal{L}_m(\mathbb{R}^n;\mathbb{R}^n)} \text{ (for } F: \hat{K} \subset \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n).$$

$$[F]_{m,\infty,\hat{K}} = \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \sup_{\hat{x} \in \hat{K}} \|D^m F(\hat{x})(e_i)^m\| \text{ (for } F: \hat{K} \subset \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n).$$

$$H^m(K), W^{m,p}(K), \|\cdot\|_{m,p,K}, \text{ etc. } \dots: \text{ alternate notation for } H^m(\hat{K}), W^{m,p}(\hat{K}), \|\cdot\|_{m,p,\hat{K}}, \text{ etc. } \dots (K: \text{ a subset of } \mathbb{R}^n \text{ with interior } \hat{K}).$$

$$H^{1/2}(\Gamma) = \{r \in L^2(\Gamma); \exists v \in H^1(\Omega); \text{tr } v = r \text{ on } \Gamma\}.$$

$\|r\|_{H^{1/2}(\Gamma)} = \inf\{\|v\|_{1,\Omega}; v \in H^1(\Omega), \text{tr } v = r \text{ on } \Gamma\}.$

$H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)$: dual space of $H^{1/2}(\Gamma)$.

$\|\cdot\|_{H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)}$: norm of $H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)$.

$\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_\Gamma$: duality pairing between the spaces $H^{-1/2}(\Gamma)$ and $H^{1/2}(\Gamma)$.

$W_0^1(\mathbf{R}^3)$ = completion of $\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{R}^3)$ with respect to the norm $|\cdot|_{1,\mathbf{R}^3}$.

$H(\text{div}; \Omega) = \{q \in (L^2(\Omega))^n; \text{div } q \in L^2(\Omega)\}.$

$\|q\|_{H(\text{div}; \Omega)} = (|q|_{0,\Omega}^2 + |\text{div } q|_{0,\Omega}^2)^{1/2}.$

Elasticity

λ, μ : Lamé's coefficient of a material.

$E = \frac{\mu(3\lambda + 2\mu)}{\lambda + \mu}$: Young's modulus.

$\sigma = \frac{\lambda}{2(\lambda + \mu)}$: Poisson's coefficient.

$\epsilon_{ij}(v) = \frac{1}{2}(\partial_j v_i + \partial_i v_j)$: components of the (linearized) strain tensor.

σ_{ij} : components of the stress tensor.

e : thickness of a plate, or a shell.

A : area of a cross section of an arch.

I : moment of inertia of a cross-section of an arch.

$(\gamma_{\alpha\beta})$: strain tensor (of the middle surface of a shell).

$(\bar{\rho}_{\alpha\beta})$: change of curvature tensor (of the middle surface of a shell).

Some spaces of polynomials

P_k : space of all polynomials in x_1, \dots, x_n of degree $\leq k$.

$P_3' = \{p \in P_3; \phi_{ijk}(p) = 0, \quad 1 \leq i < j < k \leq n+1\}, \quad \text{with} \quad \phi_{ijk}(p) =$

$$12p(a_{ijk}) + 2 \sum_{l=i,j,k} p(a_l) - 3 \sum_{\substack{l,m=i,j,k \\ l \neq m}} p(a_{ilm}) \quad (\text{cf. the } n\text{-simplex of type (3')}).$$

$P_3'' = \{p \in P_3; \psi_{ijk}(p) = 0, \quad 1 \leq i < j < k \leq n+1\}, \quad \text{with} \quad \psi_{ijk}(p) =$

$$6p(a_{ijk}) - 2 \sum_{l=i,j,k} p(a_l) - \sum_{l=i,j,k} Dp(a_l)(a_l - a_{ijk}) \quad (\text{cf. the Hermite } n\text{-simplex of type (3')}).$$

$P_3'(K) = \{p \in P_3(K); \partial_\nu p \in P_3(K') \text{ for each side } K' \text{ of } K\}$

$$= \{p \in P_3(K); \chi_{ij}(\partial_\nu p) = 0, \quad 1 \leq i < j \leq 3\}, \quad \text{with} \quad \chi_{ij}(v) =$$

$$4(v(a_i) + v(a_j)) - 8v(a_{ij}) + Dv(a_i)(a_j - a_{ij}) + Dv(a_j)(a_i - a_{ij}) \quad (\text{cf. the Bell triangle}).$$

Q_k : space of all polynomials in x_1, \dots, x_n , of degree $\leq k$ with respect to each variable x_i , $1 \leq i \leq n$.

$Q'_2 = \{p \in Q_2; 4p(a_9) + \sum_{i=1}^4 p(a_i) - 2 \sum_{i=3}^8 p(a_i) = 0\}$ (cf. the rectangle of type (2')).

$Q'_3 = \{p \in Q_3; \psi_i(p) = 0, 1 \leq i \leq 4\}$, with $\psi_1(p) = 9p(a_{13}) + 4p(a_1) + 2p(a_2) + p(a_3) + 2p(a_4) - 6p(a_5) - 3p(a_6) - 3p(a_{11}) - 6p(a_{12})$, etc. . . (cf. the rectangle of type (3')).

$T_3(K)$: space of tricubic polynomials (i.e., whose restrictions along any parallel to any side of a triangle K are polynomials of degree ≤ 3 in one variable).

Notation special to \mathbf{R}^n

$e_i, 1 \leq i \leq n$: canonical basis of \mathbf{R}^n , also denoted e^i , for $n = 3$.

$\|v\| = \left(\sum_{i=1}^n |v_i|^2\right)^{1/2}$: Euclidean norm of the vector $v = (v_i)_{i=1}^n$.

$\|B\| = \sup_{v \in \mathbf{R}^n} \frac{\|Bv\|}{\|v\|}$: norm of the matrix B , induced by the Euclidean vector norm.

$a \cdot b$: Euclidean scalar product in \mathbf{R}^n of the vectors a and b .

$a \times b$: vector product of the vectors a and b .

$\det B$: determinant of a square matrix B .

$\text{meas}(A) = dx\text{-measure of a set } A \subset \mathbf{R}^n \left(= \int_A dx \right)$.

$d\gamma$ = superficial measure along a Lipschitz-continuous boundary of an open subset of \mathbf{R}^n .

$\lambda_j = \lambda_j(x)$: barycentric coordinates of a point $x \in \mathbf{R}^n, 1 \leq j \leq n+1$.

$a_{ij} = \frac{a_i + a_j}{2}, i < j$.

$a_{ijj} = \frac{2a_i + a_j}{3}, i \neq j$.

$a_{ijk} = \frac{a_i + a_j + a_k}{3}, i \neq j, j \neq k, k \neq i$.

$L_k(K) = \left\{ x = \sum_{j=1}^{n+1} \lambda_j a_j; \sum_{j=1}^{n+1} \lambda_j = 1, \lambda_j \in \left\{ 0, \frac{1}{k}, \dots, \frac{k-1}{k}, 1 \right\}, 1 \leq j \leq n+1 \right\}$.

$\hat{M}_k = \left\{ x = \left(\frac{i_1}{k}, \frac{i_2}{k}, \dots, \frac{i_n}{k} \right) \in \mathbf{R}^n; i_j \in \{0, 1, \dots, k\}, 1 \leq j \leq n \right\}$.

$M_k(K) = F_K(M_k), F_K: x \rightarrow F_K(x) = B_K x + b_K, B_K$: diagonal matrix.

Finite Elements (most common notation)

(K, P, Σ) or (K, P_K, Σ_K) : finite element.

$P = P_K$: space of functions p , or $p_K: K \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$.

$\Sigma = \Sigma_K$: set of degrees of freedom of a finite element.

$\varphi_i = \varphi_{i,K}$, $1 \leq i \leq N$: degrees of freedom of a finite element.

$p_i = p_{i,K}$, $1 \leq i \leq N$: basis functions of a finite element.

\mathcal{N}_K : set of nodes of a finite element.

$s = s_K$: maximal order of directional derivatives found in the set Σ .

$\Pi v = \Pi_K v = P^-$, or P_{K^-} , interpolant of a function v .

$\text{dom } \Pi = \mathcal{C}^s(K)$.

$h_K = \text{diam}(K)$.

$\rho_K = \sup\{\text{diam}(S); S \text{ is a ball contained in } K\}$.

$\hat{x} \in \hat{K} \rightarrow x = F(\hat{x}) \in K$: bijection between points of \hat{K} and $K = F(\hat{K})$ (F : bijection).

$\hat{v}: \hat{K} \rightarrow \mathbf{R} \rightarrow v = \hat{v} \cdot F^{-1}: K \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$: bijection between functions defined over \hat{K} and $K = F(\hat{K})$ (F : bijection).

$F \in (\hat{P})^n \Leftrightarrow F_i \in \hat{P}$, $1 \leq i \leq n$, with \hat{P} : space of functions $\hat{p}: \hat{K} \subset \mathbf{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$.

$\tilde{K} = \tilde{F}(\hat{K})$, where $\tilde{F} \in (P_1(\hat{K}))^n$ and $\tilde{F}(\hat{a}_i) = a_i$, $1 \leq i \leq n+1$, } for isoparametric simplicial elements

$h_K = \text{diam}(\tilde{K})$,

$\rho_K = \text{diameter of the sphere inscribed in } \tilde{K}$.

$\int_K \varphi(x) dx \sim \sum_{i=1}^L \omega_i \varphi(b_i)$: quadrature formula with weights ω_i and nodes b_i .

$\hat{E}(\hat{\varphi}) = \int_K \hat{\varphi}(\hat{x}) d\hat{x} - \sum_{i=1}^L \hat{\omega}_i \hat{\varphi}(\hat{b}_i)$: quadrature error functional on \hat{K} .

$E_K(\varphi) = \int_K \varphi(x) dx - \sum_{i=1}^L \omega_{i,K} \varphi(b_{i,K})$: quadrature error functional on $K = F_K(\hat{K})$, with $\omega_{i,K} = \hat{\omega}_i J_{F_K}(\hat{b}_i)$, $b_{i,K} = F_K(\hat{b}_i)$.

Finite element spaces (most common notation)

\mathcal{T}_h : triangulation of a set $\bar{\Omega}$.

X_h : finite element space without boundary conditions.

$X_{0h} = \{v_h \in X_h; v_h = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma\}$.

$X_{00h} = \{v_h \in X_h; v_h = \partial_\nu v_h = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma\}$.

V_h : finite element space with boundary conditions.

Σ_h = set of degrees of freedom of a finite element space X_h .

φ_k or φ_{kh} , $1 \leq k \leq M$: degrees of freedom of a finite element space X_h .

$(w_k)_{k=1}^M$: basis in a finite element space X_h or V_h .

\mathcal{N}_h : set of nodes of a finite element space X_h .

$\Pi_h v$: X_h -interpolant of a function v .

$\text{dom } \Pi_h = \mathcal{C}^s(\bar{\Omega})$, $s = \max_{K \in \mathcal{T}_h} s_K$.

Various sets of hypotheses concerning the finite element method

(FEM 1): Existence of a triangulation.

(FEM 2): The spaces P_K , $K \in \mathcal{T}_h$, contain polynomials or “nearly polynomials”.

(FEM 3): There exists a basis in the finite element space V_h whose functions have “small” support.

(\mathcal{T}_h 1): $\bar{\Omega} = \bigcup_{K \in \mathcal{T}_h} K$.

(\mathcal{T}_h 2): $\forall K \in \mathcal{T}_h$, $\dot{K} \neq \emptyset$.

(\mathcal{T}_h 3): $K_1 \neq K_2 \Rightarrow \dot{K}_1 \cap \dot{K}_2 = \emptyset$.

(\mathcal{T}_h 4): For all $K \in \mathcal{T}_h$, the boundary ∂K is Lipschitz-continuous.

(\mathcal{T}_h 5): Condition on adjacent finite elements.

(H1): Regularity of a family of triangulations.

(H2): All finite elements (K, P_K, Σ_K) , $K \in \bigcup_h \mathcal{T}_h$, are affine-equivalent to a single reference finite element.

(H3): All finite elements (K, P_K, Σ_K) , $K \in \bigcup_h \mathcal{T}_h$, are of class \mathcal{C}^0 .

(H4): The family of triangulations satisfies an inverse assumption.

(H1*): The family (K, P_K, Σ_K) , $K \in \bigcup_h \mathcal{T}_h$, is almost affine.

(H2*): All finite elements (K, P_K, Σ_K) , $K \in \bigcup_h \mathcal{T}_h$, are of class \mathcal{C}^1 .

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