Chapter 1

Demo problem: Compression of 2D circular disk

In this example we study the compression of a 2D circular disk, loaded by an external pressure. We also demonstrate:

- how to "upgrade" a Mesh to a SolidMesh
- why it is necessary to use "undeformed MacroElements" to ensure that the numerical results converge to the correct solution under mesh refinement if the domain has curvilinear boundaries.
- · how to switch between different constitutive equations
- · how to incorporate isotropic growth into the model

We validate the numerical results by comparing them against the analytical solution of the equations of linear elasticity which are valid for small deflections.

1.1 The problem

The figure below shows a sketch of the basic problem: A 2D circular disk of radius a is loaded by a uniform pressure p_0^* . We wish to compute the disk's deformation for a variety of constitutive equations.

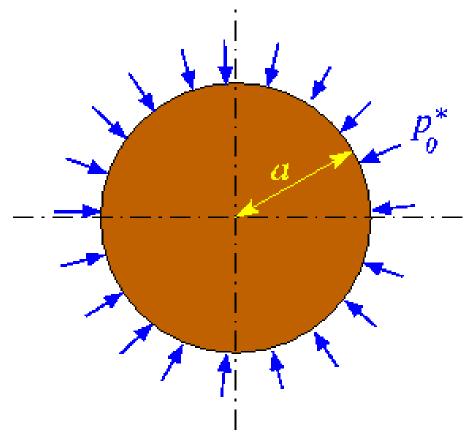


Figure 1.1 Sketch of the problem.

The next sketch shows a variant of the problem: We assume that the material undergoes isotropic growth (e. \leftarrow g. via a biological growth process or thermal expansion, say) with a constant growth factor Γ . We refer to the the document "Solid mechanics: Theory and implementation" for a detailed discussion of the theory of isotropic growth. Briefly, the growth factor defines the relative increase in the volume of an infinitesimal material element, relative to its volume in the stress-free reference configuration. If the growth factor is spatially uniform, isotropic growth leads to a uniform expansion of the material. For a circular disk, uniform growth increases the disk's radius from a_0 to $a=a_0\sqrt{\Gamma}$ without inducing any internal stresses. This uniformly expanded disk may then be regarded as the stress-free reference configuration upon which the external pressure acts.

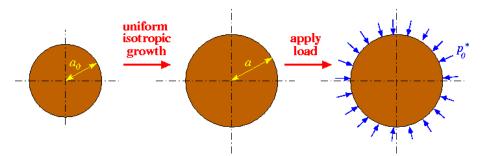


Figure 1.2 Sketch of the problem.

1.2 Results

The animation shows the disk's deformation when subjected to uniform growth of $\Gamma=1.1$ and loaded by a pressure that ranges from negative to positive values. All lengths were scaled on the disks initial radius (i.e. its radius in the

1.2 Results 3

absence of growth and without any external load).

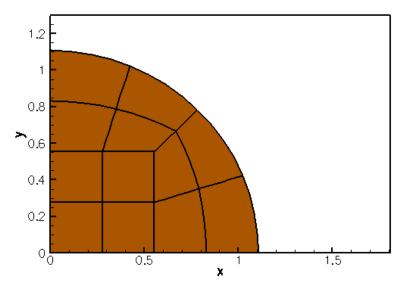


Figure 1.3 Deformation of the uniformly grown disk when subjected to an external pressure.

The figure below illustrates the disk's load-displacement characteristics by plotting the disk's non-dimensional radius as function of the non-dimensional pressure, $p_0 = p_0^*/\mathcal{S}$, where \mathcal{S} is the characteristic stiffness of the material, for a variety of constitutive equations.

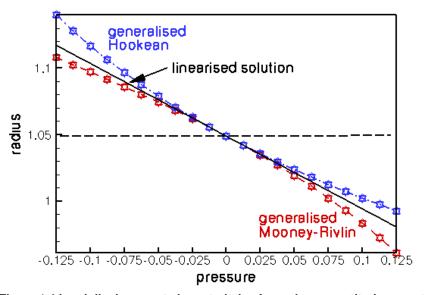


Figure 1.4 Load displacement characteristics for various constitutive equations.

1.2.1 Generalised Hooke's law

The blue, dash-dotted line corresponds to oomph-lib's generalisation of Hooke's law (with Young's modulus E and Poisson ratio ν) in which the dimensionless second Piola Kirchhoff stress tensor (non-dimensionalised with the

material's Young's modulus E, so that $\mathcal{S}=E$) is given by

$$\sigma^{ij} = \frac{1}{2(1+\nu)} \left(G^{ik} G^{jl} + G^{il} G^{jk} + \frac{2\nu}{1-2\nu} G^{ij} G^{kl} \right) \gamma_{kl}.$$

Here $\gamma_{ij}=1/2(G_{ij}-g_{ij})$ is Green's strain tensor, formed from the difference between the deformed and undeformed metric tensors, G_{ij} and g_{ij} , respectively. The three different markers identify the results obtained with the two forms of the principle of virtual displacement, employing the displacement formulation (squares), and a pressure/displacement formulation with a continuous (delta) and a discontinuous (nabla) pressure interpolation.

For zero pressure the disk's non-dimensional radius is equal to the uniformly grown radius $\sqrt{\Gamma}=1.0488$. For small pressures the load-displacement curve follows the linear approximation

$$r = \sqrt{\Gamma} (1 - p_0(1 + \nu)(1 - 2\nu)).$$

We note that the generalised Hooke's law leads to strain softening behaviour under compression (the pressure required to reduce the disk's radius to a given value increases more rapidly than predicted by the linear approximation) whereas under expansion (for negative external pressures) the behaviour is strain softening.

1.2.2 Generalised Mooney-Rivlin law

The red, dashed line illustrates the behaviour when Fung & Tong's generalisation of the Mooney-Rivlin law (with Young's modulus, E, Poisson ratio ν and Mooney-Rivlin parameter C_1) is used as the constitutive equation. For this constitutive law, the non-dimensional strain energy function $W=W^*/\mathcal{S}$, where the characteristic stress is given by Young's modulus, i.e. $\mathcal{S}=E$, is given by

$$W = \frac{1}{2}(I_1 - 3) + (G - C_1)(I_2 - 3) + (C_1 - 2G)(I_3 - 1) + (I_3 - 1)^2 \frac{G(1 - \nu)}{2(1 - 2\nu)},$$

where

$$G = \frac{E}{2(1+\nu)}$$

is the shear modulus, and I_1, I_2 and I_3 are the three invariants of Green's strain tensor. See "Solid mechanics: Theory and implementation" for a detailed discussion of strain energy functions. The figure shows that for small deflections, the disk's behaviour is again well approximated by linear elasticity. However, in the large-displacement regime the Mooney-Rivlin is strain hardening under extension and softening under compression when compared to the linear elastic behaviour.

1.3 Global parameters and functions

As usual we define the global problem parameters in a namespace. We provide pointers to the constitutive equations and strain energy functions to be explored, and define the associated constitutive parameters.

1.4 The driver code 5

Next we define the pressure load, using the general interface defined in the <code>SolidTractionElement</code> class. The arguments of the function reflect that the load on a solid may be a function of the Lagrangian and Eulerian coordinates, and the external unit normal on the solid. Here we apply a spatially constant external pressure of magnitude <code>P</code> which acts in the direction of the negative outer unit normal on the solid.

Finally, we define the growth function and impose a spatially uniform expansion that (in the absence of any external load) would increase the disk's volume by 10%.

```
/// Uniform volumetric expansion
double Uniform_gamma=1.1;

/// Growth function
void growth_function(const Vector<double>& xi, double& gamma)
{
   gamma = Uniform_gamma;
}
} // end namespace
```

1.4 The driver code

The driver code is very short: We store the command line arguments (as usual, we use a non-zero number of command line arguments as an indication that the code is run in self-test mode and reduce the number of steps performed in the parameter study) and create a strain-energy-based constitutive equation: Fung & Tong's generalisation of the Mooney-Rivlin law.

We build a problem object, using the displacement-based RefineableQPVDElements to discretise the domain, and perform a parameter study, exploring the disk's deformation for a range of external pressures.

We repeat the exercise with elements from the RefineableQPVDElementWithContinuousPressure family which discretise the principle of virtual displacements (PVD) in the pressure/displacement formulation, using continuous pressures (Q2Q1; Taylor Hood).

The next computation employs RefineableQPVDElementWithPressure elements in which the pressure is interpolated by piecewise linear but globally discontinuous basis functions (Q2Q-1; Crouzeiux-Raviart).

Next, we change the constitutive equation to oomph-lib's generalised Hooke's law,

1.5 The mesh 7

before repeating the parameter studies with the same three element types:

```
// Case 3: No pressure, generalised Hooke's law
  //Set up the problem
  StaticDiskCompressionProblem<RefineableQPVDElement<2,3>
      > problem;
 cout << "gen. Hooke: RefineableOPVDElement<2,3> " << std::endl;</pre>
 //Run the simulation
 problem.parameter_study(3);
} // done case 3
// Case 4: Continuous pressure formulation with generalised Hooke's law
 //Set up the problem
 StaticDiskCompressionProblem<
  RefineableOPVDElementWithContinuousPressure<2> > problem;
 cout << "gen. Hooke: RefineableQPVDElementWithContinuousPressure<2> "
      << std::endl;
 //Run the simulation
 problem.parameter_study(4);
} // done case 4
// Case 5: Discontinous pressure formulation with generalised Hooke's law
  //Set up the problem
  StaticDiskCompressionProblem<RefineableQPVDElementWithPressure<2>
      > problem;
 cout << "gen. Hooke: RefineableQPVDElementWithPressure<2> " << std::endl;</pre>
 problem.parameter_study(5);
} // done case 5
// Clean up
delete Global_Physical_Variables::Constitutive_law_pt;
Global_Physical_Variables::Constitutive_law_pt=0;
} // end of main
```

1.5 The mesh

We formulate the problem in cartesian coordinates (ignoring the problem's axisymmetry) but discretise only one quarter of the domain, applying appropriate symmetry conditions along the x and y axes. The computational domain may be discretised with the RefineableQuarterCircleSectorMesh that we already used in many previous examples. To use the mesh in this solid mechanics problem we must first "upgrade" it to a SolidMesh. This is easily done by multiple inheritance:

```
template <class ELEMENT>
class ElasticRefineableQuarterCircleSectorMesh :
  public virtual RefineableQuarterCircleSectorMesh<ELEMENT>,
  public virtual SolidMesh
{
```

The constructor calls the constructor of the underlying RefineableQuarterCircleSectorMesh and sets the Lagrangian coordinates of the nodes to their current Eulerian positions, making the initial configuration stress-free

We also provide a helper function that creates a mesh of SolidTractionElements which are attached to the curved domain boundary (boundary 1). These elements will be used to apply the external pressure load.

```
/// Function to create mesh made of traction elements
void make_traction_element_mesh(SolidMesh*& traction_mesh_pt)
   // Make new mesh
  traction_mesh_pt = new SolidMesh;
  // Loop over all elements on boundary 1:
  unsigned b=1;
  unsigned n_element = this->nboundary_element(b);
  for (unsigned e=0;e<n_element;e++)</pre>
   {
     // The element itself:
    FiniteElement* fe_pt = this->boundary_element_pt(b,e);
    // Find the index of the face of element e along boundary b
    int face index = this->face index at boundary(b,e);
     // Create new element
    traction_mesh_pt->add_element_pt(new SolidTractionElement<ELEMENT>
                                       (fe_pt, face_index));
};
```

1.6 The Problem class

The definition of the Problem class is very straightforward. In addition to the constructor and the (empty) actions_before_newton_solve() and actions_after_newton_solve() functions, we provide the function parameter_study(...) which performs a parameter study, computing the disk's deformation for a range of external pressures. The member data includes pointers to the mesh of "bulk" solid elements, and the mesh of SolidTractionElements that apply the pressure load. The trace file is used to document the disk's load-displacement characteristics by plotting the radial displacement of the nodes on the curvilinear boundary, pointers to which are stored in the vector Trace_node_pt.

1.7 The Constructor 9

```
/// Uniform compression of a circular disk in a state of plane strain,
/// subject to uniform growth.
//=====
template<class ELEMENT>
class StaticDiskCompressionProblem : public Problem
public:
 /// Constructor:
StaticDiskCompressionProblem();
 /// Run simulation: Pass case number to label output files
void parameter_study(const unsigned& case_number);
 /// Doc the solution
 void doc_solution(DocInfo& doc_info);
 /// Update function (empty)
void actions_after_newton_solve() {}
 /// Update function (empty)
void actions_before_newton_solve() {}
private:
 /// Trace file
ofstream Trace file:
 /// Vector of pointers to nodes whose position we're tracing
Vector<Node*> Trace_node_pt;
 /// Pointer to solid mesh
ElasticRefineableOuarterCircleSectorMesh<ELEMENT>*
     Solid_mesh_pt;
 /// Pointer to mesh of traction elements
SolidMesh* Traction_mesh_pt;
};
```

1.7 The Constructor

We start by constructing the mesh of "bulk" SolidElements, using the Ellipse object to specify the shape of the curvilinear domain boundary.

Next we choose the nodes on the curvilinear domain boundary (boundary 1) as the nodes whose displacement we document in the trace file.

```
// Setup trace nodes as the nodes on boundary 1 (=curved boundary)
// in the original mesh.
unsigned n_boundary_node = Solid_mesh_pt->nboundary_node(1);
Trace_node_pt.resize(n_boundary_node);
for(unsigned j=0;j<n_boundary_node;j++)
{Trace_node_pt[j]=Solid_mesh_pt->boundary_node_pt(1,j);}
```

The QuarterCircleSectorMesh that forms the basis of the "bulk" mesh contains only three elements — not enough to expect the solution to be accurate. Therefore we apply one round of uniform mesh refinement before attaching the SolidTractionElements to the mesh boundary 1, using the function make_traction_\circleSectorMesh.

```
// Refine the mesh uniformly
Solid_mesh_pt->refine_uniformly();
// Now construct the traction element mesh
Solid_mesh_pt->make_traction_element_mesh(Traction_mesh_pt);
```

We add both meshes to the Problem and build a combined global mesh:

```
// Solid mesh is first sub-mesh
add_sub_mesh(Solid_mesh_pt);

// Traction mesh is second sub-mesh
add_sub_mesh(Traction_mesh_pt);

// Build combined "global" mesh
build_global_mesh();
```

Symmetry boundary conditions along the horizontal and vertical symmetry lines require that the nodes' vertical position is pinned along boundary 0, while their horizontal position is pinned along boundary 2.

```
// Pin the left edge in the horizontal direction
unsigned n_side = mesh_pt()->nboundary_node(2);
for(unsigned i=0;i<n_side;i++)
   {Solid_mesh_pt->boundary_node_pt(2,i)->pin_position(0);}

// Pin the bottom in the vertical direction
unsigned n_bottom = mesh_pt()->nboundary_node(0);
for(unsigned i=0;i<n_bottom;i++)
   {Solid_mesh_pt->boundary_node_pt(0,i)->pin_position(1);}
```

Since we are using refineable solid elements, we pin any "redundant" pressure degrees of freedom in the "bulk" solid mesh (see the exercises in another tutorial for a more detailed discussion of this issue).

```
// Pin the redundant solid pressures (if any)
PVDEquationsBase<2>::pin_redundant_nodal_solid_pressures(
    Solid_mesh_pt->element_pt());
```

Next, we complete the build of the elements in the "bulk" solid mesh by passing the pointer to the constitutive equation and the pointer to the isotropic-growth function to the elements:

1.8 Post-processing

```
//Complete the build process for elements in "bulk" solid mesh
unsigned n_element =Solid_mesh_pt->nelement();
for(unsigned i=0;i<n_element;i++)
{
    //Cast to a solid element
    ELEMENT *el_pt = dynamic_cast<ELEMENT*>(Solid_mesh_pt->element_pt(i));

    // Set the constitutive law
    el_pt->constitutive_law_pt() =
        Global_Physical_Variables::Constitutive_law_pt;

    // Set the isotropic growth function pointer
    el_pt->isotropic_growth_fct_pt()=Global_Physical_Variables::growth_function
    ;
}
```

We repeat this exercise for the SolidTractionElements which must be given a pointer to the function that applies the pressure load

```
// Complete build process for SolidTractionElements
n_element=Traction_mesh_pt->nelement();
for(unsigned i=0;i<n_element;i++)
{
    //Cast to a solid traction element
    SolidTractionElement<ELEMENT> *el_pt =
        dynamic_cast<SolidTractionElement<ELEMENT>*>
        (Traction_mesh_pt->element_pt(i));

    //Set the traction function
    el_pt->traction_fct_pt() = Global_Physical_Variables::constant_pressure
    ;
}
```

Finally, we set up the equation numbering scheme and report the number of unknowns.

```
//Set up equation numbering scheme
cout << "Number of equations: " << assign_eqn_numbers() << std::endl;
}</pre>
```

1.8 Post-processing

The post-processing function outputs the shape of the deformed disk. We use the trace file to record how the disk's volume (area) and the radii of the control nodes on the curvilinear domain boundary vary with the applied pressure. To facilitate the validation of the results against the analytical solution, we also add the radius predicted by the linear theory to the trace file.

```
doc_info.number());
some_file.open(filename);
Solid_mesh_pt->output(some_file,npts);
some_file.close();
//Find number of solid elements
unsigned nelement = Solid_mesh_pt->nelement();
// Work out volume
double volume = 0.0;
for (unsigned e=0;e<nelement;e++)</pre>
 {volume+= Solid_mesh_pt->finite_element_pt(e)->size();}
// Exact outer radius for linear elasticity
double nu=Global_Physical_Variables::Nu;
double exact_r=sqrt(Global_Physical_Variables::Uniform_gamma) *
 (1.0-Global_Physical_Variables::P/
Global_Physical_Variables::E
  *((1.0+nu)*(1.0-2.0*nu)));
// Write trace file: Problem parameters
<< exact_r << " ";
// Write radii of trace nodes
unsigned ntrace_node=Trace_node_pt.size();
for (unsigned j=0; j<ntrace_node; j++)</pre>
  Trace_file << sqrt(pow(Trace_node_pt[j]->x(0),2)+
                     pow(Trace_node_pt[j]->x(1),2)) << " ";
Trace_file << std::endl;</pre>
} // end of doc solution
```

1.9 Performing the parameter study

The function parameter_study(...) computes the disk's deformation for a range of external pressures and outputs the results. The output directory is labelled by the unsigned function argument. This ensures that parameter studies performed with different constitutive equations are written into different directories.

```
template<class ELEMENT>
void StaticDiskCompressionProblem<ELEMENT>::parameter_study
const unsigned& case_number)
 // Output
DocInfo doc info;
char dirname[100];
sprintf(dirname, "RESLT%i", case_number);
// Set output directory
doc_info.set_directory(dirname);
 // Step number
doc_info.number()=0;
 // Open trace file
char filename[100];
sprintf(filename, "%s/trace.dat", doc_info.directory().c_str());
Trace_file.open(filename);
 //Parameter incrementation
double delta_p=0.0125;
unsigned nstep=21;
 // Perform fewer steps if run as self-test (indicated by nonzero number
 // of command line arguments)
 if (CommandLineArgs::Argc!=1)
```

```
{
  nstep=3;
}

// Offset external pressure so that the computation sweeps
// over a range of positive and negative pressures
Global_Physical_Variables::P =-delta_p*double(nstep-1)*0.5;

// Do the parameter study
for(unsigned i=0;i<nstep;i++)
{
  //Solve the problem for current load
  newton_solve();

  // Doc solution
  doc_solution(doc_info);
  doc_info.number()++;

  // Increment pressure load
  Global_Physical_Variables::P += delta_p;
}
} // end of parameter study</pre>
```

1.10 Comments and Exercises

1.10.1 The use of MacroElements in solid mechanics problems

Recall how oomph-lib employs MacroElements to represent the exact domain shapes in adaptive computations involving problems with curvilinear boundaries. When an element is refined, the (Eulerian) position of any newly-created nodes is based on the element's MacroElement counterpart, rather than being determined by finite-element interpolation from the "father element". This ensures that (i) newly-created nodes on curvilinear domain boundaries are placed exactly onto those boundaries and (ii) that newly-created nodes in the interior are placed at positions that match smoothly onto the boundary.

This strategy is adapted slightly for solid mechanics problems:

- 1. The Eulerian position of newly-created SolidNodes is determined by finite element interpolation from the "father element", unless the newly-created SolidNode is located on a domain boundary and its position is pinned by displacement boundary conditions.
- 2. The same procedure is employed to determine the Lagrangian coordinates of newly-created SolidNodes.

These modifications ensure that, as before, newly-created nodes on curvilinear domain boundaries are placed exactly onto those boundaries if their positions are pinned by displacement boundary conditions. (If the nodal positions are not pinned, the node's Eulerian position will be determined as part of the solution.) The use of finite-element interpolation from the "father element" in the interior of the domain for both Lagrangian and Eulerian coordinates ensures that the creation of new nodes does not induce any stresses into a previously computed solution.

1.10.2 Exercises

1. Our discretisation of the problem in cartesian coordinates did not exploit the problem's axisymmetry. Examine the trace file to assess to which extent the computation retained the axisymmetry.

1.11 PDF file

A pdf version of this document is available.