

<sup>1</sup> A principle meshfree formulation for thin shells with  
<sup>2</sup> naturally consistent enforcement of essential boundary  
<sup>3</sup> conditions

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## 4 1. Introduction

5 Thin shell is one of the most frequently used structure in engineering prac-  
6 tice, where the thickness of this kind structure is often much smaller than its  
7 radius. With the Kirchhoff-Love hypothesis [1–3], the transverse shear defor-  
8 mation is eliminated in thin shell analysis, such that at least C1 continuous  
9 shape functions are required within Galerkin methods. In static and dynamic  
10 simulation of structure, the conventional finite element methods [1,2] are one  
11 of the most popular approximation scheme, however the construction of C1  
12 continuity is still a big challenge for cell-based finite element methods. In last  
13 three decades, the meshfree methods [1–3] equipped high order smoothed shape  
14 functions have attracted significant research attention, while the meshfree shape  
15 functions are established based upon a set of scattered nodes and the high or-  
16 der continuity of shape functions is easily fulfilled even with low order basis  
17 function. For thin shell analysis, this high order meshfree approximations can  
18 also alleviate the membrane locking caused by the mismatched approximation  
19 order of membrane strain and bending strain [1]. Moreover, in general, the  
20 nodal-based meshfree approximations can release the burden of mesh distortion  
21 and have the flexibility of local refinement. Due to these advantages, a wide  
22 variety meshfree methods are proposed and have been applied to many scien-  
23 tific or engineering fields. Among of them, moving least squares (MLS) and  
24 reproducing kernel (RK) meshfree approximations built their shape functions  
25 by enforcing the so-call consistency conditions, where the consistency condi-  
26 tions require that the corresponding approximations should exactly reproduce  
27 every functions spanned by basis functions, and this conditions usually serve  
28 as a basic requirement for the error convergence of resolved Galerkin solutions  
29 [1]. However, the high order smoothed meshfree shape functions accompany  
30 with the severely overlapping supports, which leads to a misalignment between  
31 numerical integration domains and supports of shape functions. As a result,  
32 the meshfree shape functions usually exhibit a piecewise rational nature in each  
33 integration domains, and it brings a serious difficulty to the accurate numerical  
34 integration in Galerkin weak forms [1].

## 2. Hu-Washizu's formulation of complementary energy for thin shell

### 2.1. Kinematics for thin shell

Consider the configuration of a shell  $\bar{\Omega}$ , as shown in Fig. ??, which can be easily described by a parametric curvilinear coordinate system  $\boldsymbol{\xi} = \{\xi^i\}_{i=1,2,3}$ . The mid-surface of the shell is specified by the in-plane coordinates  $\boldsymbol{\xi} = \{\xi^\alpha\}_{\alpha=1,2}$ , as the thickness direction of shell is by  $\xi^3$ ,  $-\frac{h}{2} \leq \xi^3 \leq \frac{h}{2}$ ,  $h$  is the thick of shell. In this work, Latin indices take the values from 1 to 3, and Greek indices are evaluated by 1 or 2. For the Kirchhoff hypothesis [? ], the position  $\mathbf{x} \in \bar{\Omega}$  are defined by linear functions with respect to  $\xi^3$  :

$$\mathbf{x}(\xi^1, \xi^2, \xi^3) = \mathbf{r}(\xi^1, \xi^2) + \xi^3 \mathbf{a}_3(\xi^1, \xi^2) \quad (1)$$

in which  $\mathbf{r}$  means the position on the mid-surface of shell, and the  $\mathbf{a}_3$  is corresponding normal direction. For the mid-surface of shell, the in-plane covariant base vector with respect to  $\xi^\alpha$  can be derived by a trivial partial differentiation to  $\mathbf{r}$ :

$$\mathbf{a}_\alpha = \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial \xi^\alpha} = \mathbf{r}_{,\alpha}, \alpha = 1, 2 \quad (2)$$

for a clear expression, the subscript comma denotes the partial differentiation operation with respect to in-plane coordinates  $\xi^\alpha$ . And the normal vector  $\mathbf{a}_3$  can be obtained by the normalized cross product of  $\mathbf{a}_\alpha$ 's as follow:

$$\mathbf{a}_3 = \frac{\mathbf{a}_1 \times \mathbf{a}_2}{\|\mathbf{a}_1 \times \mathbf{a}_2\|} \quad (3)$$

where  $\|\bullet\|$  is the Euclidean norm operator.

With the assumption of infinitesimal deformation, the strain components respected to global contravariant base can be sated as:

$$\epsilon_{ij} = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{x}_{,i} \cdot \mathbf{u}_{,j} + \mathbf{u}_{,i} \cdot \mathbf{x}_{,j}) \quad (4)$$

where  $\mathbf{u}$  is the displacement for shell deformation. To fulfillment with Kirchhoff hypothesis, the displacement is assumed to be the following form:

$$\mathbf{u}(\xi^1, \xi^2, \xi^3) = \mathbf{v}(\xi^1, \xi^2) + \boldsymbol{\theta}(\xi^1, \xi^2) \xi^3 \quad (5)$$

in which the quadratic and higher order terms are neglected.  $\mathbf{v}$ ,  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$  respect the displacement and rotation in mid-surface.

Subsequently, plugging Eqs. (1) and (5) into Eq. (4) and neglecting quadratic terms, the strain components can be rephrased as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon_{\alpha\beta} &= \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{a}_\alpha \cdot \mathbf{v}_{,\beta} + \mathbf{v}_{,\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{a}_\beta) \\ &+ \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{a}_{3,\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{v}_{,\beta} + \mathbf{v}_{,\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{3,\beta} + \mathbf{a}_\alpha \cdot \boldsymbol{\theta}_{,\beta} + \boldsymbol{\theta}_{,\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{a}_\beta) \xi^3 \\ &= \epsilon_{\alpha\beta} + \kappa_{\alpha\beta} \xi^3 \end{aligned} \quad (6a)$$

$$\epsilon_{\alpha 3} = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{a}_\alpha \cdot \boldsymbol{\theta} + \mathbf{v}_{,\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{a}_3) + \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{a}_3 \cdot \boldsymbol{\theta})_{,\alpha} \xi^3 \quad (6b)$$

$$\epsilon_{33} = \mathbf{a}_3 \cdot \boldsymbol{\theta} \quad (6c)$$

where  $\varepsilon_{\alpha\beta}$ ,  $\kappa_{\alpha\beta}$  are membrane and bending strains respectively:

$$\varepsilon_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{a}_\alpha \cdot \mathbf{v}_{,\beta} + \mathbf{v}_{,\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{a}_\beta) \quad (7)$$

$$\kappa_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{a}_{3,\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{v}_{,\beta} + \mathbf{v}_{,\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{3,\beta} + \mathbf{a}_\alpha \cdot \boldsymbol{\theta}_{,\beta} + \boldsymbol{\theta}_{,\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{a}_\beta) \quad (8)$$

In accordance with Kirchhoff hypothesis, the thickness of shell will not change and the deformation related with direction of  $\xi^3$  will be vanished, i.e.  $\epsilon_{3i} = 0$ . Thus, the rotation  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$  can be rewritten as:

$$\epsilon_{3i} = 0 \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \boldsymbol{\theta} \cdot \mathbf{a}_\alpha + \mathbf{v}_{,\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{a}_3 = 0 \\ \boldsymbol{\theta} \cdot \mathbf{a}_3 = 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \boldsymbol{\theta} = -\mathbf{v}_{,\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{a}_3 \mathbf{a}^\alpha \quad (9)$$

where  $\mathbf{a}^\alpha$ 's are the in-plane contravariant base vectors,  $\mathbf{a}^\alpha \cdot \mathbf{a}_\beta = \delta^\alpha_\beta$ ,  $\delta$  is the Kronecker delta function. Substituting Eq. (9) into Eq. (8) leads to:

$$\kappa_{\alpha\beta} = (\Gamma_{\alpha\beta}^\gamma \mathbf{v}_{,\gamma} - \mathbf{v}_{,\alpha\beta}) \cdot \mathbf{a}_3 = -\mathbf{v}_{,\alpha}|_\beta \cdot \mathbf{a}_3 \quad (10)$$

in which  $\Gamma_{\alpha\beta}^\gamma = \mathbf{a}_{\alpha,\beta} \cdot \mathbf{a}^\gamma$  is namely Christoffel symbol of the second kind.

$$\varepsilon_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{a}_\alpha \cdot \mathbf{v}_{,\beta} + \mathbf{a}_\beta \cdot \mathbf{v}_{,\alpha}) \quad (11)$$

$$\theta_{\mathbf{n}} = \mathbf{a}_3 \cdot \mathbf{v}_{,\alpha} n^\alpha \quad (12)$$

$$\kappa_{\alpha\beta} = (\Gamma_{\alpha\beta}^\gamma \mathbf{v}_{,\gamma} - \mathbf{v}_{,\alpha\beta}) \cdot \mathbf{a}_3 = -\mathbf{v}_{,\alpha}|_\beta \cdot \mathbf{a}_3 \quad (13)$$

$$\mathbf{t} = \mathbf{t}_N + \mathbf{t}_M \quad (14)$$

$$\mathbf{t}_N = \mathbf{a}_\alpha N^{\alpha\beta} n_\beta \quad (15)$$

$$\mathbf{t}_M = (\mathbf{a}_3 M^{\alpha\beta})|_\beta n_\alpha + (\mathbf{a}_3 M^{\alpha\beta} s_\alpha n_\beta)_{,\gamma} s^\gamma \quad (16)$$

$$M_{\mathbf{nn}} = M^{\alpha\beta} n_\alpha n_\beta \quad (17)$$

$$\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{b}_N + \mathbf{b}_M \quad (18)$$

$$\mathbf{b}_N = (\mathbf{a}_\alpha N^{\alpha\beta})|_\beta \quad (19)$$

$$\mathbf{b}_M = (\mathbf{a}_3 M^{\alpha\beta})_{,\alpha}|_\beta \quad (20)$$

$$P = -[[M^{\alpha\beta} s_\alpha n_\beta]] \quad (21)$$

68 *2.2. Galerkin weak form for Hu-Washizu principle of complementary energy*

69 In accordance with the Hu-Washizu variational principle of complementary  
70 energy [1], the corresponding complementary functional, denoted by  $\Pi$ , is listed  
71 as follow:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \Pi(\mathbf{v}, \varepsilon_{\alpha\beta}, \kappa_{\alpha\beta}, N^{\alpha\beta}, M^{\alpha\beta}) \\
&= \int_{\Omega} \frac{h}{2} \varepsilon_{\alpha\beta} C^{\alpha\beta\gamma\eta} \varepsilon_{\gamma\eta} d\Omega + \int_{\Omega} \frac{h^3}{24} \kappa_{\alpha\beta} C^{\alpha\beta\gamma\eta} \kappa_{\gamma\eta} d\Omega \\
&+ \int_{\Omega} \varepsilon_{\alpha\beta} (N^{\alpha\beta} - h C^{\alpha\beta\gamma\eta} \varepsilon_{\gamma\eta}) d\Omega + \int_{\Omega} \kappa_{\alpha\beta} (M^{\alpha\beta} - \frac{h^3}{12} C^{\alpha\beta\gamma\eta} \kappa_{\gamma\eta}) d\Omega \\
&- \int_{\Gamma_v} \mathbf{t} \cdot \bar{\mathbf{v}} d\Gamma + \int_{\Gamma_{\theta}} M_{nn} \bar{\theta}_n d\Gamma - (P \mathbf{a}_3 \cdot \bar{\mathbf{v}})_{\mathbf{x} \in C_w} \\
&+ \int_{\Gamma_M} \theta_n (M_{nn} - \bar{M}_{nn}) d\Gamma - \int_{\Gamma_t} \mathbf{v} \cdot (\mathbf{t} - \bar{\mathbf{t}}) d\Gamma - \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{a}_3 (P - \bar{P})_{\mathbf{x} \in C_P} \\
&- \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{v} \cdot (\mathbf{b} - \bar{\mathbf{b}}) d\Omega
\end{aligned} \tag{22}$$

72 Introducing a standard variational argument to Eq. (22),  $\delta\Pi = 0$ , and consid-  
73 ering the arbitrariness of virtual variables,  $\delta\mathbf{v}$ ,  $\delta\varepsilon_{\alpha\beta}$ ,  $\delta\kappa_{\alpha\beta}$ ,  $N^{\alpha\beta}$ ,  $M^{\alpha\beta}$  lead to  
74 the following weak form:

$$- \int_{\Omega} h \delta\varepsilon_{\alpha\beta} C^{\alpha\beta\gamma\eta} \varepsilon_{\gamma\eta} d\Omega + \int_{\Omega} \delta\varepsilon_{\alpha\beta} N^{\alpha\beta} d\Omega = 0 \tag{23a}$$

$$- \int_{\Omega} \frac{h^3}{12} \delta\kappa_{\alpha\beta} C^{\alpha\beta\gamma\eta} \kappa_{\gamma\eta} d\Omega + \int_{\Omega} \delta\kappa_{\alpha\beta} M^{\alpha\beta} d\Omega = 0 \tag{23b}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_{\Omega} \delta N^{\alpha\beta} \varepsilon_{\alpha\beta} d\Omega - \int_{\Gamma} \delta \mathbf{t}_N \cdot \mathbf{v} d\Gamma + \int_{\Omega} \delta \mathbf{b}_N \cdot \mathbf{v} d\Omega \\
& \quad + \int_{\Gamma_v} \delta \mathbf{t}_N \cdot \mathbf{v} d\Gamma = \int_{\Gamma_v} \delta \mathbf{t}_N \cdot \bar{\mathbf{v}} d\Gamma
\end{aligned} \tag{23c}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_{\Omega} \delta M^{\alpha\beta} \kappa_{\alpha\beta} d\Omega - \int_{\Gamma} \delta M_{nn} \theta_n d\Gamma + \int_{\Gamma} \delta \mathbf{t}_M \cdot \mathbf{v} d\Gamma + (\delta P \mathbf{a}_3 \cdot \mathbf{v})_{\mathbf{x} \in C} + \int_{\Omega} \delta \mathbf{b}_M \cdot \mathbf{v} d\Omega \\
& + \int_{\Gamma_{\theta}} \delta M_{nn} \theta_n d\Gamma - \int_{\Gamma_v} \delta \mathbf{t}_M \cdot \mathbf{v} d\Gamma - (\delta P \mathbf{a}_3 \cdot \mathbf{v})_{\mathbf{x} \in C_v} \\
& = \int_{\Gamma_{\theta}} \delta M_{nn} \bar{\theta}_n d\Gamma - \int_{\Gamma_v} \delta \mathbf{t}_M \cdot \bar{\mathbf{v}} d\Gamma - (\delta P \mathbf{a}_3 \cdot \bar{\mathbf{v}})_{\mathbf{x} \in C_v}
\end{aligned} \tag{23d}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_{\Gamma} \delta \theta_{\mathbf{n}} M_{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}} d\Gamma - \int_{\Gamma} \delta \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{t} d\Gamma - (\delta \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{a}_3 P)_{\mathbf{x} \in C} + \int_{\Omega} \delta \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{b} d\Omega \\
& - \int_{\Gamma_{\theta}} \delta \theta_{\mathbf{n}} M_{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}} d\Gamma + \int_{\Gamma_v} \delta \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{t} d\Gamma + (\delta \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{a}_3 P)_{\mathbf{x} \in C_v} = - \int_{\Gamma_t} \delta \mathbf{v} \cdot \bar{\mathbf{t}} d\Gamma - \int_{\Omega} \delta \mathbf{v} \cdot \bar{\mathbf{b}} d\Omega
\end{aligned} \tag{23e}$$

79 where the geometric relationships of Eq. ( ) is used herein.

### 80 **3. Mixed meshfree formulation for modified Hellinger-Reissner weak** 81 **form**

#### 82 *3.1. Reproducing kernel approximation for displacement*

83 In this study, the displacement is approximated by traditional reproducing  
84 kernel approximation. As shown in Fig, the mid-surface of the shell  $\Omega$  is dis-  
85 cretized by a set of meshfree nodes  $\{\boldsymbol{\xi}_I\}_{I=1}^{n_p}$  in parametric configuration, where  
86  $n_p$  is the total number of meshfree nodes. The approximated displacement  
87 namely  $\mathbf{v}^h$  can be expressed by:

$$\mathbf{v}(\boldsymbol{\xi}) = \sum_{I=1}^{n_p} \Psi_I(\boldsymbol{\xi}) \mathbf{d}_I \quad (24)$$

88 in which  $\Psi_I$  and  $\mathbf{d}_I$  is the shape function and nodal coefficient tensor related  
89 by node  $\boldsymbol{\xi}_I$ . According to reproducing kernel approximation [? ], the shape  
90 function takes the following form:

$$\Psi_I(\boldsymbol{\xi}) = \mathbf{p}^T(\boldsymbol{\xi}) \mathbf{c}(\boldsymbol{\xi}) \phi(\boldsymbol{\xi}_I - \boldsymbol{\xi}) \quad (25)$$

91 where  $\mathbf{p}$  is the basis function vector, and in this study, the following quadratic  
92 basis function is considered:

$$\mathbf{p} = \{1, \xi^1, \xi^2, (\xi^1)^2, \xi^1 \xi^2, (\xi^2)^2\}^T \quad (26)$$

93 The kernel function denoted by  $\phi$  controls the support and smoothness of  
94 meshfree shape functions. The quantic B-spline function with square support is  
95 used herein as the kernel function:

$$\phi(\boldsymbol{\xi}_I - \boldsymbol{\xi}) = \phi(\hat{s}_1) \phi(\hat{s}_2), \quad \hat{s}_\alpha = \frac{|\xi_I^\alpha - \xi^\alpha|}{s_{\alpha I}} \quad (27)$$

96 with

$$\phi(\hat{s}_\alpha) = \frac{1}{5!} \begin{cases} (3 - 3\hat{s}_\alpha)^5 - 6(2 - 3\hat{s}_\alpha)^5 + 15(1 - 3\hat{s}_\alpha)^5 & \hat{s}_\alpha \leq \frac{1}{3} \\ (3 - 3\hat{s}_\alpha)^5 - 6(2 - 3\hat{s}_\alpha)^5 & \frac{1}{3} < \hat{s}_\alpha \leq \frac{2}{3} \\ (3 - 3\hat{s}_\alpha)^5 & \frac{2}{3} < \hat{s}_\alpha \leq 1 \\ 0 & \hat{s}_\alpha > 1 \end{cases} \quad (28)$$

97 and  $\hat{s}_{\alpha I}$  means the characterized size of support for meshfree shape function  $\Psi_I$ .

98 The unknown vector  $\mathbf{c}$  in shape function are determined by the fulfillment  
99 of the so-call consistency condition:

$$\sum_{I=1}^{n_p} \Psi_I(\boldsymbol{\xi}) \mathbf{p}(\boldsymbol{\xi}_I) = \mathbf{p}(\boldsymbol{\xi}) \quad (29)$$

100 or equivalently

$$\sum_{I=1}^{n_p} \Psi_I(\boldsymbol{\xi}) \mathbf{p}(\boldsymbol{\xi}_I - \boldsymbol{\xi}) = \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{0}) \quad (30)$$

101 Substituting Eq. (24) into (30), yields:

$$\mathbf{A}(\boldsymbol{\xi})\mathbf{c}(\boldsymbol{\xi}) = \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{0}) \Rightarrow \mathbf{c}(\boldsymbol{\xi}) = \mathbf{A}^{-1}(\boldsymbol{\xi})\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{0}) \quad (31)$$

102 where  $\mathbf{A}$  is the moment matrix:

$$\mathbf{A}(\boldsymbol{\xi}) = \sum_{I=1}^{n_p} \phi(\boldsymbol{\xi}_I - \boldsymbol{\xi}) \mathbf{p}(\boldsymbol{\xi}_I - \boldsymbol{\xi}) \mathbf{p}^T(\boldsymbol{\xi}_I - \boldsymbol{\xi}) \quad (32)$$

103 Taking Eq. (31) back into Eq. (24), the expression of meshfree shape function  
104 can be given by:

$$\Psi_I(\boldsymbol{\xi}) = \mathbf{p}^T(\boldsymbol{\xi}_I - \boldsymbol{\xi}) \mathbf{A}^{-1}(\boldsymbol{\xi}) \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{0}) \phi(\boldsymbol{\xi}_I - \boldsymbol{\xi}) \quad (33)$$

### 105 3.2. Reproducing kernel gradient smoothing approximation for effective stress 106 and strain

107 In Galerkin meshfree formulation, the mid-plane of thin shell  $\Omega$  is split by  
108 a set of integration cells  $\Omega_C$ 's,  $\cup_{C=1}^{n_c} \Omega_C \approx \Omega$ . With the inspiration of repro-  
109 ducing kernel smoothing framework, the Cartesian and covariant derivatives of  
110 displacement,  $\mathbf{v}_{,\alpha}$  and  $-\mathbf{v}_{,\alpha}|_{\beta}$ , in strains  $\varepsilon_{\alpha\beta}$ ,  $\kappa_{\alpha\beta}$  are approximated by  $(p-1)$ -th  
111 order polynomials in each integration cells. In integration cell  $\Omega_C$ , the approx-  
112 imated derivatives and strains denoted by  $\mathbf{v}_{,\alpha}^h$ ,  $\varepsilon_{\alpha\beta}^h$  and  $-\mathbf{v}_{,\alpha}|_{\beta}^h$ ,  $\kappa_{\alpha\beta}^h$  can be  
113 expressed by:

$$\mathbf{v}_{,\alpha}^h(\boldsymbol{\xi}) = \mathbf{q}^T(\boldsymbol{\xi}) \mathbf{d}_{\alpha}^{\varepsilon}, \quad \varepsilon_{\alpha\beta}^h(\boldsymbol{\xi}) = \mathbf{q}^T(\boldsymbol{\xi}) \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{a}_{\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{d}_{\beta}^{\varepsilon} + \mathbf{a}_{\beta} \cdot \mathbf{d}_{\alpha}^{\varepsilon}) \quad (34)$$

$$-\mathbf{v}_{,\alpha}|_{\beta}^h(\boldsymbol{\xi}) = \mathbf{q}^T(\boldsymbol{\xi}) \mathbf{d}_{\alpha\beta}^{\kappa}, \quad \kappa_{\alpha\beta}^h(\boldsymbol{\xi}) = \mathbf{q}^T(\boldsymbol{\xi}) \mathbf{a}_3 \cdot \mathbf{d}_{\alpha\beta}^{\kappa} \quad (35)$$

115 where  $\mathbf{q}$  is the  $(p-1)$ th order polynomial vector and has the following form:

$$\mathbf{q} = \{1, \xi^1, \xi^2, \dots, (\xi^2)^{p-1}\}^T \quad (36)$$

116 and the  $\mathbf{d}_{\alpha}^{\varepsilon}$ ,  $\mathbf{d}_{\alpha\beta}^{\kappa}$  are the corresponding coefficient vector tensors. For the con-  
117 ciseness, the mixed usage of tensor and vector is introduced in this study, for  
118 example, the component of coefficient tensor vector  $\mathbf{d}_{\alpha I}^{\varepsilon}$ ,  $\mathbf{d}_{\alpha}^{\varepsilon} = \{\mathbf{d}_{\alpha I}^{\varepsilon}\}$ , is a three  
119 dimensional tensor,  $\dim \mathbf{d}_{\alpha I}^{\varepsilon} = \dim \mathbf{v}$ .

120 In order to meet the integration constraint of thin shell problem, the ap-  
121 proximated stresses  $N^{\alpha\beta h}$ ,  $M^{\alpha\beta h}$  are assumed to be a similar form with strains,  
122 yields:

$$N^{\alpha\beta h}(\boldsymbol{\xi}) = \mathbf{q}^T(\boldsymbol{\xi}) \mathbf{a}^{\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{d}_{\beta}^N, \quad \mathbf{a}_{\alpha} N^{\alpha\beta h}(\boldsymbol{\xi}) = \mathbf{q}^T(\boldsymbol{\xi}) \mathbf{d}_{\beta}^N \quad (37)$$

$$M^{\alpha\beta h}(\boldsymbol{\xi}) = \mathbf{q}^T(\boldsymbol{\xi}) \mathbf{a}_3 \cdot \mathbf{d}_{\alpha\beta}^M, \quad \mathbf{a}_3 M^{\alpha\beta h}(\boldsymbol{\xi}) = \mathbf{q}^T(\boldsymbol{\xi}) \mathbf{d}_{\alpha\beta}^M \quad (38)$$

124 substituting the approximations of Eqs. (24), (34), (35), (37), (38) into Eqs.  
125 (23c), (23d) can express  $\mathbf{d}_{\beta}^{\varepsilon}$  and  $\mathbf{d}_{\alpha\beta}^{\kappa}$  by  $\mathbf{d}$  as:

$$\mathbf{d}_{\beta}^{\varepsilon} = \mathbf{G}^{-1} \left( \sum_{I=1}^{n_p} (\tilde{\mathbf{g}}_{\beta I} - \bar{\mathbf{g}}_{\beta I}) \mathbf{d}_I + \hat{\mathbf{g}}_{\beta} \right) \quad (39)$$



126

$$\mathbf{d}_{\alpha\beta}^\kappa = \mathbf{G}^{-1} \left( \sum_{I=1}^{n_p} (\tilde{\mathbf{g}}_{\alpha\beta I} - \bar{\mathbf{g}}_{\alpha\beta I}) \mathbf{d}_I + \hat{\mathbf{g}}_{\alpha\beta} \right) \quad (40)$$

127 with

$$\mathbf{G} = \int_{\Omega_C} \mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{q} d\Omega \quad (41)$$

128

$$\tilde{\mathbf{g}}_{\beta I} = \int_{\Gamma_C} \Psi_I \mathbf{q} n_\beta d\Gamma - \int_{\Omega_C} \Psi_I \mathbf{q}^*|_\beta d\Omega \quad (42a)$$

$$\bar{\mathbf{g}}_{\beta I} = \int_{\Gamma_C \cap \Gamma_v} \Psi_I \mathbf{q} n_\beta d\Gamma \quad (42b)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{g}}_\beta = \int_{\Gamma_C \cap \Gamma_v} \mathbf{q} n_\beta \bar{\mathbf{v}} d\Gamma \quad (42c)$$

129

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\mathbf{g}}_{\alpha\beta I} &= \int_{\Gamma_C} \Psi_I \gamma n^\gamma \mathbf{q} n_\alpha n_\beta d\Gamma - \int_{\Gamma_C} \Psi_I (\mathbf{q}^{**}|_\beta n_\alpha + (\mathbf{q} s_\alpha n_\beta)_{,\gamma} s^\gamma) d\Gamma \\ &\quad + [[\Psi_I \mathbf{q} s_\alpha n_\beta]]_{\mathbf{x} \in C_C} - \int_{\Omega_C} \Psi_I \mathbf{q}^{**}_{,\alpha}|_\beta d\Omega \end{aligned} \quad (43a)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\mathbf{g}}_{\alpha\beta I} &= \int_{\Gamma_C \cap \Gamma_\theta} \Psi_I \gamma n^\gamma \mathbf{q} n_\alpha n_\beta d\Gamma - \int_{\Gamma_C \cap \Gamma_v} \Psi_I (\mathbf{q}^{**}|_\beta n_\alpha + (\mathbf{q} s_\alpha n_\beta)_{,\gamma} s^\gamma) d\Gamma \\ &\quad + [[\Psi_I \mathbf{q} s_\alpha n_\beta]]_{\mathbf{x} \in C_C \cap C_v} \end{aligned} \quad (43b)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\mathbf{g}}_{\alpha\beta} &= \int_{\Gamma_C \cap \Gamma_\theta} \mathbf{q} n_\alpha n_\beta \mathbf{a}_3 \bar{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_n d\Gamma - \int_{\Gamma_C \cap \Gamma_v} (\mathbf{q}^{**}|_\beta n_\alpha + (\mathbf{q} s_\alpha n_\beta)_{,\gamma} s^\gamma) \bar{\mathbf{v}} d\Gamma \\ &\quad + [[\mathbf{q} s_\alpha n_\beta \bar{\mathbf{v}}]]_{\mathbf{x} \in C_C \cap C_v} \end{aligned} \quad (43c)$$

130 plugging Eqs. (39) and (40) back into Eqs. (34) and (35) respectively gives the  
 131 final expression of  $\mathbf{v}_{,\alpha}^h$ ,  $\varepsilon_{\alpha\beta}^h$  and  $-\mathbf{v}_{,\alpha\beta}^h$ ,  $\kappa_{\alpha\beta}^h$  as:

$$\mathbf{v}_{,\alpha}^h = \sum_{I=1}^{n_p} (\tilde{\Psi}_{I,\alpha} - \bar{\Psi}_{I,\alpha}) \mathbf{d}_I + \mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{G}^{-1} \hat{\mathbf{g}}_\alpha \quad (44a)$$

132

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon_{\alpha\beta}^h &= \sum_{I=1}^{n_p} \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{a}_\alpha \tilde{\Psi}_{I,\beta} + \mathbf{a}_\beta \tilde{\Psi}_{I,\alpha}) \cdot \mathbf{d}_I - \sum_{I=1}^{n_p} \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{a}_\alpha \bar{\Psi}_{I,\beta} + \mathbf{a}_\beta \bar{\Psi}_{I,\alpha}) \cdot \mathbf{d}_I \\ &\quad + \mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{G}^{-1} \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{a}_\alpha \cdot \hat{\mathbf{g}}_\beta + \mathbf{a}_\beta \cdot \hat{\mathbf{g}}_\alpha) \\ &= \bar{\varepsilon}_{\alpha\beta}^h - \bar{\varepsilon}_{\alpha\beta}^h + \hat{\varepsilon}_{\alpha\beta}^h \end{aligned} \quad (44b)$$

133

$$-\mathbf{v}_{,\alpha\beta}^h = \sum_{I=1}^{n_p} (\tilde{\Psi}_{I,\alpha\beta} - \bar{\Psi}_{I,\alpha\beta}) \mathbf{d}_I + \mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{G}^{-1} \hat{\mathbf{g}}_{\alpha\beta} \quad (45a)$$

134

$$\begin{aligned} \kappa_{\alpha\beta}^h &= \sum_{I=1}^{n_p} \tilde{\Psi}_{I,\alpha\beta} \mathbf{a}_3 \cdot \mathbf{d}_I - \sum_{I=1}^{n_p} \bar{\Psi}_{I,\alpha\beta} \mathbf{a}_3 \cdot \mathbf{d}_I + \mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{G}^{-1} \mathbf{a}_3 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{g}}_{\alpha\beta} \\ &= \bar{\kappa}_{\alpha\beta}^h - \bar{\kappa}_{\alpha\beta}^h + \hat{\kappa}_{\alpha\beta}^h \end{aligned} \quad (45b)$$

135 with

$$\tilde{\Psi}_{I,\alpha}(\xi) = \mathbf{q}^T(\xi) \mathbf{G}^{-1} \tilde{\mathbf{g}}_{\alpha I}, \quad \bar{\Psi}_{I,\alpha}(\xi) = \mathbf{q}^T(\xi) \mathbf{G}^{-1} \bar{\mathbf{g}}_{\alpha I} \quad (46)$$

136

$$\begin{cases} \tilde{\varepsilon}_{\alpha\beta}^h = \sum_{I=1}^{n_p} \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{a}_\alpha \tilde{\Psi}_{I,\beta} + \mathbf{a}_\beta \tilde{\Psi}_{I,\alpha}) \cdot \mathbf{d}_I \\ \bar{\varepsilon}_{\alpha\beta}^h = \sum_{I=1}^{n_p} \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{a}_\alpha \bar{\Psi}_{I,\beta} + \mathbf{a}_\beta \bar{\Psi}_{I,\alpha}) \cdot \mathbf{d}_I \\ \hat{\varepsilon}_{\alpha\beta}^h = \mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{G}^{-1} \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{a}_\alpha \cdot \hat{\mathbf{g}}_\beta + \mathbf{a}_\beta \cdot \hat{\mathbf{g}}_\alpha) \end{cases} \quad (47)$$

137

$$\tilde{\Psi}_{I,\alpha\beta}(\xi) = \mathbf{q}^T(\xi) \mathbf{G}^{-1} \tilde{\mathbf{g}}_{\alpha\beta I}, \quad \bar{\Psi}_{I,\alpha\beta}(\xi) = \mathbf{q}^T(\xi) \mathbf{G}^{-1} \bar{\mathbf{g}}_{\alpha\beta I} \quad (48)$$

138

$$\begin{cases} \tilde{\kappa}_{\alpha\beta}^h = \sum_{I=1}^{n_p} \tilde{\Psi}_{I,\alpha\beta} \mathbf{a}_3 \cdot \mathbf{d}_I \\ \bar{\kappa}_{\alpha\beta}^h = \sum_{I=1}^{n_p} \bar{\Psi}_{I,\alpha\beta} \mathbf{a}_3 \cdot \mathbf{d}_I \\ \hat{\kappa}_{\alpha\beta}^h = \mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{G}^{-1} \mathbf{a}_3 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{g}}_{\alpha\beta} \end{cases} \quad (49)$$

139 Furthermore, taking Eqs. (34) and (35) into Eqs.(23a) and (23b) can obtain  
140 the approximated effective stresses  $N^{\alpha\beta h}$ ,  $M^{\alpha\beta h}$  and their coefficients  $\mathbf{d}_\beta^N$ ,  $\mathbf{d}_{\alpha\beta}^M$   
141 as:

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} (\delta \mathbf{d}_\alpha^\varepsilon \cdot \mathbf{a}_\beta + \delta \mathbf{d}_\beta^\varepsilon \cdot \mathbf{a}_\alpha) h C^{\alpha\beta\gamma\eta} \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{a}_\gamma \cdot \mathbf{d}_\eta^\varepsilon + \mathbf{a}_\eta \cdot \mathbf{d}_\gamma^\varepsilon) \mathbf{G} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} (\delta \mathbf{d}_\alpha^\varepsilon \cdot \mathbf{d}_\beta^N + \delta \mathbf{d}_\beta^\varepsilon \cdot \mathbf{d}_\alpha^N) \mathbf{G} \\ \Rightarrow \mathbf{d}_N^\beta &= \mathbf{a}_\beta h C^{\alpha\beta\gamma\eta} \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{a}_\gamma \cdot \mathbf{d}_\eta^\varepsilon + \mathbf{a}_\eta \cdot \mathbf{d}_\gamma^\varepsilon) \end{aligned} \quad (50)$$

142

$$\begin{aligned} & \delta \mathbf{d}_{\alpha\beta}^\kappa \cdot \mathbf{a}_3 \frac{h^3}{12} C^{\alpha\beta\gamma\eta} \mathbf{a}_3 \cdot \mathbf{d}_{\gamma\eta}^\kappa \mathbf{G} = \delta \mathbf{d}_{\alpha\beta}^\kappa \cdot \mathbf{d}_{\alpha\beta}^M \mathbf{G} \\ \Rightarrow \mathbf{d}_M^{\alpha\beta} &= \mathbf{a}_3 \frac{h^3}{12} C^{\alpha\beta\gamma\eta} \mathbf{a}_3 \cdot \mathbf{d}_{\gamma\eta}^\kappa \end{aligned} \quad (51)$$

143

$$N^{\alpha\beta h} = h C^{\alpha\beta\gamma\eta} (\tilde{\varepsilon}_{\gamma\eta}^h - \bar{\varepsilon}_{\gamma\eta}^h + \hat{\varepsilon}_{\gamma\eta}^h) = \tilde{N}^{\alpha\beta h} - \bar{N}^{\alpha\beta h} + \hat{N}^{\alpha\beta h} \quad (52)$$

144

$$M^{\alpha\beta h} = \frac{h^3}{12} C^{\alpha\beta\gamma\eta} (\tilde{\kappa}_{\gamma\eta}^h - \bar{\kappa}_{\gamma\eta}^h + \hat{\kappa}_{\gamma\eta}^h) = \tilde{M}^{\alpha\beta h} - \bar{M}^{\alpha\beta h} + \hat{M}^{\alpha\beta h} \quad (53)$$

145 with

$$\tilde{N}^{\alpha\beta h} = h C^{\alpha\beta\gamma\eta} \tilde{\varepsilon}_{\gamma\eta}^h, \quad \bar{N}^{\alpha\beta h} = h C^{\alpha\beta\gamma\eta} \bar{\varepsilon}_{\gamma\eta}^h, \quad \hat{N}^{\alpha\beta h} = h C^{\alpha\beta\gamma\eta} \hat{\varepsilon}_{\gamma\eta}^h \quad (54)$$

146

$$\tilde{M}^{\alpha\beta h} = \frac{h^3}{12} C^{\alpha\beta\gamma\eta} \tilde{\kappa}_{\gamma\eta}^h, \quad \bar{M}^{\alpha\beta h} = \frac{h^3}{12} C^{\alpha\beta\gamma\eta} \bar{\kappa}_{\gamma\eta}^h, \quad \hat{M}^{\alpha\beta h} = \frac{h^3}{12} C^{\alpha\beta\gamma\eta} \hat{\kappa}_{\gamma\eta}^h \quad (55)$$

147 It is noted that, referring to reproducing kernel gradient smoothing frame-  
148 work [? ],  $\tilde{\Psi}_{I,\alpha}$ ,  $\tilde{\Psi}_{I,\alpha\beta}$  are actually the first and second order smoothed gradients

149 in curvilinear coordinates.  $\tilde{\mathbf{g}}_{\alpha I}$  and  $\tilde{\mathbf{g}}_{\alpha\beta I}$  are the right hand side integration con-  
150 straints for first and second order gradients, then this formulation can meet the  
151 variational consistency for the  $p$ -th order polynomials. It should be known that,  
152 in curved model, the variational consistency for non-polynomial functions, like  
153 trigonometric functions, should be required for the polynomial solution. Even  
154 with  $p$ -th order variational consistency, the proposed formulation can not ex-  
155 actly reproduce the solution spanned by basis functions, however the accuracy  
156 of reproducing kernel smoothed gradients is still better than traditional meshfree  
157 formulation, this will be evidenced by numerical examples in further section.

158 **4. Naturally variational enforcement for essential boundary condi-**  
 159 **tions**

160 *4.1. Discrete equilibrium equations*

161 With the approximated effective stresses and strains, the last equation of  
 162 weak form becomes:

$$-\sum_{C=1}^{n_e}(\tilde{\mathbf{g}}_{\alpha I}^T - \bar{\mathbf{g}}_{\alpha I}^T)\mathbf{d}_N^\alpha - \sum_{C=1}^{n_e}(\tilde{\mathbf{g}}_{\alpha\beta I}^T - \bar{\mathbf{g}}_{\alpha\beta I}^T)\mathbf{d}_M^{\alpha\beta} = \mathbf{f}_I \quad (56)$$

163 where  $\mathbf{f}_I$ 's are the components of the traditional force vector:

$$\mathbf{f}_I = \int_{\Gamma_t} \Psi_I \bar{\mathbf{t}} d\Gamma - \int_{\Gamma_M} \Psi_{I,\gamma} n^\gamma \bar{M}_{nn} d\Gamma + [[\Psi_I \mathbf{a}_3 \bar{P}]]_{\mathbf{x} \in C_P} + \int_{\Omega} \Psi_I \bar{\mathbf{b}} d\Omega \quad (57)$$

164 and further substituting coefficients  $\mathbf{d}_N^\alpha$ ,  $\mathbf{d}_M^{\alpha\beta}$  into Eq. (56) gives the final discrete  
 165 equilibrium equations:

$$\begin{aligned} & -\sum_{C=1}^{n_e}(\tilde{\mathbf{g}}_{\alpha I}^T - \bar{\mathbf{g}}_{\alpha I}^T)\mathbf{d}_N^\alpha - \sum_{C=1}^{n_e}(\tilde{\mathbf{g}}_{\alpha\beta I}^T - \bar{\mathbf{g}}_{\alpha\beta I}^T)\mathbf{d}_M^{\alpha\beta} \\ & = \sum_{C=1}^{n_e} \sum_{J=1}^{n_p} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{a}_\alpha \tilde{\mathbf{g}}_{\beta I}^T h C^{\alpha\beta\gamma\eta} \mathbf{a}_\gamma \tilde{\mathbf{g}}_{\eta J} + \tilde{\mathbf{g}}_{\alpha\beta I}^T \mathbf{a}_3 \frac{h^3}{12} C^{\alpha\beta\gamma\eta} \mathbf{a}_3 \tilde{\mathbf{g}}_{\gamma\eta} \\ -\mathbf{a}_\alpha \bar{\mathbf{g}}_{\beta I}^T h C^{\alpha\beta\gamma\eta} \mathbf{a}_\gamma \tilde{\mathbf{g}}_{\eta J} - \mathbf{a}_\alpha \tilde{\mathbf{g}}_{\beta I}^T h C^{\alpha\beta\gamma\eta} \mathbf{a}_\gamma \bar{\mathbf{g}}_{\eta J} \\ -\bar{\mathbf{g}}_{\alpha\beta I}^T \mathbf{a}_3 \frac{h^3}{12} C^{\alpha\beta\gamma\eta} \mathbf{a}_3 \tilde{\mathbf{g}}_{\gamma\eta J} - \tilde{\mathbf{g}}_{\alpha\beta I}^T \mathbf{a}_3 \frac{h^3}{12} C^{\alpha\beta\gamma\eta} \mathbf{a}_3 \bar{\mathbf{g}}_{\gamma\eta J} \\ +\mathbf{a}_\alpha \tilde{\mathbf{g}}_{\beta I}^T h C^{\alpha\beta\gamma\eta} \mathbf{a}_\gamma \hat{\mathbf{g}}_{\eta J} - \mathbf{a}_\alpha \bar{\mathbf{g}}_{\beta I}^T h C^{\alpha\beta\gamma\eta} \mathbf{a}_\gamma \hat{\mathbf{g}}_{\eta J} \\ +\tilde{\mathbf{g}}_{\alpha\beta I}^T \mathbf{a}_3 \frac{h^3}{12} C^{\alpha\beta\gamma\eta} \mathbf{a}_3 \hat{\mathbf{g}}_{\gamma\eta J} - \bar{\mathbf{g}}_{\alpha\beta I}^T \mathbf{a}_3 \frac{h^3}{12} C^{\alpha\beta\gamma\eta} \mathbf{a}_3 \hat{\mathbf{g}}_{\gamma\eta J} \\ +\mathbf{a}_\alpha \bar{\mathbf{g}}_{\beta I}^T h C^{\alpha\beta\gamma\eta} \mathbf{a}_\gamma \bar{\mathbf{g}}_{\eta J} + \bar{\mathbf{g}}_{\alpha\beta I}^T \mathbf{a}_3 \frac{h^3}{12} C^{\alpha\beta\gamma\eta} \mathbf{a}_3 \bar{\mathbf{g}}_{\gamma\eta J} \end{pmatrix} \\ & = \sum_{J=1}^{n_p} (\mathbf{K}_{IJ} + \tilde{\mathbf{K}}_{IJ} + \bar{\mathbf{K}}_{IJ}) \cdot \mathbf{d}_J - \tilde{\mathbf{f}}_I - \bar{\mathbf{f}}_I \end{aligned} \quad (58)$$

166 where

$$\mathbf{K}_{IJ} = \int_{\Omega} \tilde{\varepsilon}_{\alpha\beta I} \tilde{N}_J^{\alpha\beta} d\Omega + \int_{\Omega} \tilde{\kappa}_{\alpha\beta I} \tilde{M}_J^{\alpha\beta} d\Omega \quad (59)$$

167

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\mathbf{K}}_{IJ} &= - \int_{\Gamma_v} (\Psi_I \tilde{\mathbf{t}}_J + \tilde{\mathbf{t}}_I \Psi_J) d\Gamma \\ &+ \int_{\Gamma_\theta} (\Psi_{I,\gamma} n^\gamma \mathbf{a}_3 \tilde{M}_{nnJ} + \mathbf{a}_3 \tilde{M}_{nnI} \Psi_{I,\gamma} n^\gamma) d\Gamma \\ &+ ([[\Psi_I \mathbf{a}_3 P_J]] + [[P_I \mathbf{a}_3 \Psi_J]])_{\mathbf{x} \in C_v} \end{aligned} \quad (60a)$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{f}}_I = - \int_{\Gamma_v} \tilde{\mathbf{t}}_I \cdot \bar{\mathbf{v}} d\Gamma + \int_{\Gamma_\theta} \tilde{M}_{nn} \bar{\theta}_n d\Gamma + [[\tilde{P}_I \mathbf{a}_3 \cdot \bar{\mathbf{v}}]]_{\mathbf{x} \in C_v} \quad (60b)$$

$$\bar{\mathbf{K}}_{IJ} = - \int_{\Gamma_v} \bar{\mathbf{t}}_I \Psi_J d\Gamma + \int_{\Gamma_\theta} \mathbf{a}_3 \bar{M}_{nnI} \Psi_{J,\gamma} n^\gamma d\Gamma + [[\bar{P}_I \mathbf{a}_3 \Psi_J]]_{\mathbf{x} \in C_v} \quad (61a)$$

$$\bar{\mathbf{f}}_I = - \int_{\Gamma_v} \bar{\mathbf{t}}_I \cdot \bar{\mathbf{v}} d\Gamma + \int_{\Gamma_\theta} \bar{M}_{nn} \bar{\theta}_n d\Gamma + [[\bar{P}_I \mathbf{a}_3 \cdot \bar{\mathbf{v}}]]_{\mathbf{x} \in C_v} \quad (61b)$$

169 The detailed derivations of Eqs (59)-(61) are listed in the Appendix. As  
 170 shown in these equations, the Eq. (59) is the conventional stiffness matrix  
 171 evaluated by smoothed gradients  $\tilde{\Psi}_{I,\alpha}$ ,  $\tilde{\Psi}_{I,\alpha|\beta}$ , and the Eqs. (60) and (61)  
 172 contribute for the enforcement of essential boundary.

#### 173 4.2. Comparison with Nitsche's method

174 The Nitsche's method for enforcing essential boundary can be regarded as a  
 175 combination of Lagrangian multiplier method and penalty method, in which the  
 176 Lagrangian multiplier is represented by the approximated displacement. The  
 177 corresponding total potential energy functional  $\Pi_P$  is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_P(\mathbf{v}) = & \int_{\Omega} \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon_{\alpha\beta} N^{\alpha\beta} d + \int_{\Omega} \frac{1}{2} \kappa_{\alpha\beta} M^{\alpha\beta} d\Omega \\ & - \int_{\Gamma_t} \mathbf{v} \cdot \bar{\mathbf{t}} d\Gamma + \int_{\Gamma_M} \mathbf{v}_{,\gamma} n^\gamma \mathbf{a}_3 M_{nn} d\Gamma + (\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{a}_3 P)_{\mathbf{x} \in C_P} - \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{v} \cdot \bar{\mathbf{b}} d\Omega \\ & - \underbrace{\int_{\Gamma_v} \mathbf{t} \cdot (\mathbf{v} - \bar{\mathbf{v}}) d\Gamma + \int_{\Gamma_\theta} M_{nn} (\theta_n - \bar{\theta}_n) d\Gamma + (P \mathbf{a}_3 \cdot (\mathbf{v} - \bar{\mathbf{v}}))_{\mathbf{x} \in C_v}}_{\text{consistent term}} \quad (62) \\ & + \underbrace{\frac{\alpha_v}{2} \int_{\Gamma_v} \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{v} d\Gamma + \frac{\alpha_\theta}{2} \int_{\Gamma_\theta} \theta_n^2 d\Gamma + \frac{\alpha_C}{2} (\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{v})_{\mathbf{x} \in C_v}}_{\text{stabilized term}} \end{aligned}$$

178 where the consistent term rephrased from Lagrangian multiplier method con-  
 179 tributes to enforce the essential boundary and meet the variational consistency  
 180 condition. However the consistent term can not always ensure the coercivity  
 181 of stiffness, so the penalty method is introduced to be regarded as a stabilized  
 182 term. With a standard variational argument, the corresponding weak form can

183 be stated as:

$$\begin{aligned}
\delta\Pi_P(\mathbf{v}) &= \int_{\Omega} \delta\varepsilon_{\alpha\beta} N^{\alpha\beta} d + \int_{\Omega} \delta\kappa_{\alpha\beta} M^{\alpha\beta} d\Omega \\
&\quad - \int_{\Gamma_t} \delta\mathbf{v} \cdot \bar{\mathbf{t}} d\Gamma + \int_{\Gamma_M} \delta\mathbf{v}_{,\gamma} n^{\gamma} \mathbf{a}_3 M_{nn} d\Gamma + (\delta\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{a}_3 P)_{\mathbf{x} \in C_P} - \int_{\Omega} \delta\mathbf{v} \cdot \bar{\mathbf{b}} d\Omega \\
&\quad - \int_{\Gamma_v} \delta\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{t} d\Gamma + \int_{\Gamma_{\theta}} \delta\theta_{\mathbf{n}} M_{nn} d\Gamma + (\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{a}_3 P)_{\mathbf{x} \in C_v} \\
&\quad - \int_{\Gamma_v} \delta\mathbf{t} \cdot (\mathbf{v} - \bar{\mathbf{v}}) d\Gamma + \int_{\Gamma_{\theta}} \delta M_{nn} (\theta_{\mathbf{n}} - \bar{\theta}_{\mathbf{n}}) d\Gamma + (\delta P \mathbf{a}_3 \cdot (\mathbf{v} - \bar{\mathbf{v}}))_{\mathbf{x} \in C_v} \\
&\quad + \alpha_v \int_{\Gamma_v} \delta\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{v} d\Gamma + \alpha_{\theta} \int_{\Gamma_{\theta}} \delta\theta_{\mathbf{n}} \theta_{\mathbf{n}} d\Gamma + \alpha_C (\delta\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{v})_{\mathbf{x} \in C_v} \\
&= 0
\end{aligned} \tag{63}$$

184 in which  $\alpha_v$ ,  $\alpha_{\theta}$  and  $\alpha_C$  are experimental artificial parameters. Further invoking  
185 the conventional reproducing kernel approximation of Eq. (24) leads to the  
186 following discrete equilibrium equations:

$$\sum_{J=1}^{n_p} (\mathbf{K}_{IJ} + \mathbf{K}_{IJ}^c + \mathbf{K}_{IJ}^s) \mathbf{d}_J = \mathbf{f}_I + \mathbf{f}^c + \mathbf{f}^s \tag{64}$$

187 where the stiffness  $\mathbf{K}_{IJ}$  is identical with Eq. (59).  $\mathbf{K}_{IJ}^c$  and  $\mathbf{K}_{IJ}^s$  are the stiffness  
188 matrix for consistent and stabilized terms respectively, and have the following  
189 forms:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{K}_{IJ}^c &= - \int_{\Gamma_v} \left( (\mathcal{T}^{\alpha} \Psi_{I,\alpha} + \mathcal{V}^{\alpha\beta} \Psi_{I,\alpha|\beta}) \Psi_J + \Psi_I (\mathcal{T}^{\alpha} \Psi_{J,\alpha} + \mathcal{V}^{\alpha\beta} \Psi_{J,\alpha|\beta}) \right) d\Gamma \\
&\quad + \int_{\Gamma_M} (\mathcal{M}^{\alpha\beta} \Psi_{I,\alpha|\beta} \mathbf{a}_3 \Psi_{J,\gamma} n^{\gamma} + \Psi_{I,\gamma} n^{\gamma} \mathbf{a}_3 \mathcal{M}^{\alpha\beta} \Psi_{J,\alpha|\beta}) d\Gamma
\end{aligned} \tag{65a}$$

190 **5. Numerical examples**

	Linear patch test		Quadratic patch test	
	$L_2$ -Error	$H_e$ -Error	$L_2$ -Error	$H_e$ -Error
191 GI-Penalty				
GI-Nitsche				
RKGSi-Penalty				
RKGSi-Nitsche				
RKGSi-HR				

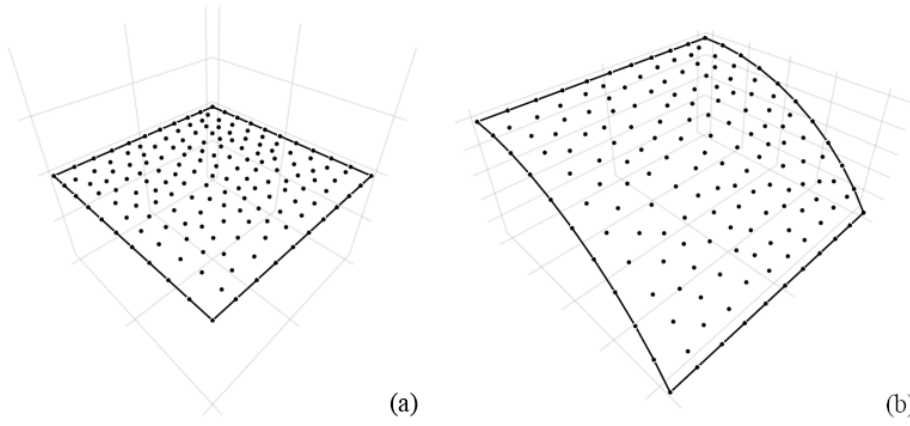


Figure 1: Meshfree discretization for patch test





193 **Appendix A. Covariant derivatives**

194     This Appendix lists the covariant derivatives needed for the method devel-  
195     oped in this study.

$$v_\alpha|_\beta \tag{A.1}$$

<sup>196</sup> **Appendix B. Derivations for stiffness metrics and force vectors**

<sup>197</sup> This Appendix details the derivations of stiffness

198 **References**

- 199 [1] H. Dah-wei, A method for establishing generalized variational principle 6 (6)  
200 501–509. doi:10.1007/BF01876390.  
201 URL <http://link.springer.com/10.1007/BF01876390>