

# Handin3

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## 1 Biharmonic equation

Consider the Navier-Cauchy equation in the absence of anybody forces - the only forces are at boundaries

$$(1 - 2\sigma)\nabla^2 \mathbf{u} + \nabla (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}) = 0,$$

where  $\mathbf{u}$  is the deformation field. Show that  $\mathbf{u}$  satisfies the bi-harmonic equation

$$\nabla^4 \mathbf{u} = 0,$$

even if there is a constant gravitational force acting on the body. It is useful to remember that although  $\mathbf{u}$  may satisfy a biharmonic equation any solution of the biharmonic equation is not a solution of the Navier-Cauchy equation. Now show that if  $\mathbf{v}$  is a solution of the biharmonic equation then a general solution for the Navier-Cauchy equation (without volume force) can be written as

$$\mathbf{u} = \nabla^2 \mathbf{v} - \frac{1}{2(1 - \sigma)} \nabla (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}).$$

### *Hint*

Assume  $\mathbf{u}$  is on the form

$$\mathbf{u} = \nabla^2 \mathbf{v} + A \nabla (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}),$$

where  $\mathbf{v}$  solves the bi-harmonic equation. Then substitute this  $\mathbf{u}$  into the Navier-Cauchy equation (without volume force) to find A.

### **Answer**

We first show that  $\mathbf{u}$  satisfies the bi-harmonic equation. We start by taking the divergence of the Navier-Cauchy equation:

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \nabla \cdot \left( (1 - 2\sigma)\nabla^2 \mathbf{u} + \nabla (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}) \right) \\ &= (1 - 2\sigma)\nabla^2 (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}) + \nabla \cdot (\nabla (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u})) \\ &= (1 - 2\sigma)\nabla^2 (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}) + \nabla \cdot (\nabla^2 \mathbf{u}) \\ \implies \nabla^2 (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}) &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Taking the Laplacian operator of the Navier-Cauchy equations yields:

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \nabla^2 \left[ (1 - 2\sigma)\nabla^2 \mathbf{u} + \nabla (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}) \right] \\ &= (1 - 2\sigma)\nabla^2 \nabla^2 \mathbf{u} + \nabla^2 (\nabla (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u})) \\ &= (1 - 2\sigma)\nabla \cdot \nabla^2 (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}) + (\nabla^4 [\mathbf{u}]) \\ &= \nabla^4 \mathbf{u} \end{aligned}$$

In the case of a constant gravitational field, then we take the divergence of a constant vector field  $\tilde{\mathbf{g}}$ , which is zero. Thus, the biharmonic equation still holds for a constant gravitational field. One can expand that statement and say that it holds for all vector-fields of which the divergence is zero. Now suppose that  $\mathbf{u}$  can be written as in the hint, using that  $\mathbf{v}$  is a solution of the biharmonic equation, we rewrite the Navier-Cauchy equation:

$$\begin{aligned}
(1 - 2\sigma)\nabla^2\mathbf{u} &= -\nabla[\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}] \\
&= -\nabla\left(\nabla \cdot \left[\nabla^2\mathbf{v} + A\nabla(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v})\right]\right) \\
&= -\left(\nabla^4\mathbf{v} + \nabla \cdot A\nabla(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v})\right) \\
&= -\nabla \cdot A\nabla(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}) = -A\left(\nabla \cdot \nabla^2\mathbf{v}\right) \\
\Rightarrow \nabla^2\mathbf{u} &= -\frac{A}{1 - 2\sigma}\left(\nabla \cdot \nabla^2\mathbf{v}\right)
\end{aligned}$$

Using this result, one obtains the following:

$$\mathbf{u} = \nabla^2\mathbf{v} - \frac{1}{2(1 - \sigma)}\nabla(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}).$$

## Question 2

What is the equation of deformation of a small volume in a homogeneous and isotropic material in three dimensions?

### Answer

For an isotropic material and homogeneous material, the stress is given by:

$$\sigma_{\alpha,\beta} = \frac{Y}{1 + \sigma_p} \left( s_{\alpha,\beta} + \frac{\sigma_p}{1 - 2\sigma_p} s_{\kappa,\kappa} \delta_{\alpha,\beta} \right),$$

where  $Y$  is the Young's modulus,  $\sigma_p$  is the Poisson's ratio,  $s_{\alpha,\beta}$  is the strain tensor, and  $\delta_{\alpha,\beta}$  is the Kronecker delta. Rewriting the stress-tensor in terms of the deformation field, we get:

$$\begin{aligned}
\sigma_{\alpha,\beta} &= \frac{Y}{1 + \sigma_p} \left( \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial u_\alpha}{\partial x_\beta} + \frac{\partial u_\beta}{\partial x_\alpha} \right) + \frac{\sigma_p}{1 - 2\sigma_p} \left( \frac{\partial u_\kappa}{\partial x_\kappa} \right) \delta_{\alpha,\beta} \right) \\
\sigma &= \frac{Y}{1 + 2\sigma_p} \left( \frac{1}{2} \left[ \nabla(u) + \nabla(u)^T \right] + \frac{\sigma_p}{1 - 2\sigma_p} \text{tr}(\nabla u) \right)
\end{aligned}$$

In the absence of body forces, the equation of motion is given by:

$$\begin{aligned}
0 &= \nabla \cdot \sigma \\
&= \frac{Y}{1 + 2\sigma_p} \nabla \cdot \left( \frac{1}{2} \left[ \nabla(u) + \nabla(u)^T \right] + \frac{\sigma_p}{1 - 2\sigma_p} \text{tr}(\nabla u) \right)
\end{aligned}$$

## Question 3

Now consider the kind of deformation where  $u_z = 0$  everywhere in a three-dimensional body (that is homogeneous and isotropic with elastic coefficients  $Y$  and  $\sigma$ ) and  $u_x$  and  $u_y$  are functions of  $x$  and  $y$  alone (not functions of  $z$ ). Note that the dimension on the body along the  $z$  direction remains constant. Hence, although  $u_z = 0$  everywhere,  $\sigma_{z,z}$  is not zero.

a)

What is the equations of equilibrium involving the stresses  $\sigma_{i,j}$  where  $i, j$  are  $x$  and  $y$ .

**Answer**

The equations of equilibrium are given by:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial \sigma_{\alpha,\beta}}{\partial x_\beta} &= \rho \frac{\partial^2 u_\alpha}{\partial t^2} \\ \Rightarrow \frac{\partial \sigma_{x,x}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \sigma_{x,y}}{\partial y} &= \rho \frac{\partial^2 u_x}{\partial t^2} \\ \Rightarrow \frac{\partial \sigma_{x,y}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \sigma_{y,y}}{\partial y} &= \rho \frac{\partial^2 u_y}{\partial t^2}\end{aligned}$$

b)

Show that for a scalar function  $\psi(x, y)$  the equations of equilibrium are satisfied by the following choice

$$\sigma_{x,x} = \frac{\partial^2 \psi(x, y)}{\partial y^2} \quad (1)$$

$$\sigma_{x,y} = -\frac{\partial^2 \psi(x, y)}{\partial y \partial x} \quad (2)$$

$$\sigma_{y,y} = \frac{\partial^2 \psi(x, y)}{\partial x^2} \quad (3)$$

$$(4)$$

**Answer**

c)

Find out what kind of partial differential equation  $\psi$  obeys. *Hint:* Write the stress in terms of strains

$$\sigma_{\alpha,\beta} = \frac{Y}{1+\sigma} \left( s_{\alpha,\beta} + \frac{\sigma}{1-2\sigma} s_{\kappa,\kappa} \delta_{\alpha,\beta} \right).$$

Take trace on both sides. The function  $\psi$  is known as the Airy stress function.

**Answer**

Using the hint, one gets the following:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Tr}(\sigma_{\alpha,\beta}) &= \frac{Y}{1+\sigma} \text{Tr} \left( s_{\alpha,\beta} + \frac{\sigma}{1-2\sigma} s_{\kappa,\kappa} \delta_{\alpha,\beta} \right) \\ \sigma_{x,x} + \sigma_{y,y} + \sigma_{z,z} &= \frac{Y}{1+\sigma} \left( \text{Tr}(S) + \frac{\sigma}{1-2\sigma} \text{Tr}(S) \right) \\ &= \frac{Y}{1+\sigma} \left( s_{x,x} + s_{y,y} + s_{z,z} + \frac{\sigma}{1-2\sigma} [s_{x,x} + s_{y,y} + s_{z,z}] \right)\end{aligned}$$

## Contact mechanics

A sphere made of isotropic material with Young's modulus  $Y$  and Poisson's ratio  $\sigma$  and mass  $M$  with uniform density falls from a height  $h$  on a flat surface. The gravitational acceleration  $g$  is constant. The surface is very hard compared to the sphere such that you can ignore any deformation of the surface. Estimate the amount of time the sphere stays in contact with the surface.

**Answer**

## Problem for extra credit

A cylinder made of isotropic material with Young's modulus  $Y$  and Poisson's ratio  $\sigma$  is resting on a flat surface. Ignore the deformations of the surface. If the cylinder has mass per unit length  $m$  and uniform gravitational acceleration is  $g$  calculate the area of contact. Note that we did contact of spheres in class. You need to generalize the ideas to contact of cylinder with a flat surface.

**Answer**