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Static Equilibrium of cables 11/10/2018

Geometric nonlinearity

Consider a string of undeformed lenght ℓ_r , stretched to a length $\ell_0 = L > \ell_r$ under an initial normal load N_0 and under a concentrated load at midspan:



Geometric nonlinearity



• The resultant of the internal forces at node C is:

$$P(u) = 2N\sin\alpha = 2N\frac{u}{\left(\frac{\ell}{2}\right)} = \frac{4N}{\ell}u$$



For
$$u \ll \ell_0$$
 \therefore $\ell(u) \simeq \ell_0$; $N(u) \simeq N_0$

$$P(u) \simeq \frac{4N_0}{\ell_0}u = k_0 u$$

 k_0 is a initial stiffness, around the initial straight configuration

A non-linear equilibrium problem:





Defining the unbalanced load function:

$$g(u) = P(u) - F$$

Equibrium corresponds to

$$g\left(u^{*}\right) = P\left(u^{*}\right) - F = 0$$

Newton's Method

Expanding g(u) in Taylor's series, around a trial displacement u_i

$$g(u^{*}) = g(u_{i}) + \frac{dg}{du}\Big|_{u_{i}} (u^{*} - u_{i}) + \frac{1}{2} \frac{d^{2}g}{du^{2}}\Big|_{u_{i}} (u^{*} - u_{i})^{2} + \dots = 0$$

Truncating this expansion at the linear term we obtain a nonzero umbalanced load, thus corresponding to a diaplacement

 $u' \neq u^*$

We seek an approximation u_{i+1} such that

$$g\left(u_{i+1}\right) + \frac{dg}{du}\Big|_{u_i}\left(u_{i+1} - u_i\right) = 0$$

That is
$$u_{i+1} = u_i - \frac{dg}{du}\Big|_{u_i} g(u_i)$$

Defining that Tangent Stiffness

$$k_t^i = \frac{dg}{du}\Big|_{u_i}$$

$$u_{i+1} = u_i - (k_t^i)^{-1} g(u_i)$$

It can be shown that this recurrence, in a suficiently small vicinity of u* , converges to it with quadratic rates (provided u* is a stable point).

For the taut string:

$$k_{t} = 4k \left[\left(1 - \frac{\ell_{r}}{\ell} \right) + 4 \frac{\ell_{r}}{\ell^{3}} u^{2} \right]$$

where

$$\ell = \ell\left(u\right) = \sqrt{\ell_0^2 + 4u^2}$$

Note that, as expected:

$$u \to 0 \therefore k_t \to 4k \left(1 - \frac{\ell_r}{\ell_0} \right) = \frac{4N_0}{\ell_0} = k_0$$
(initial, geometric stiffness)

 $u \to \infty \therefore k_t \to 4k$





Exercise 1 – Derive k_t for a string loaded at midspan

$$k_{t} = 4k \left[\left(1 - \frac{\ell_{r}}{\sqrt{L^{2} + 4u^{2}}} \right) + 4 \frac{\ell_{r}}{\sqrt{\left(L^{2} + 4u^{2}\right)^{3}}} u^{2} \right]$$



Find u* for F=20N using Newton's Method





The Dynamic Relaxation Method

DRM solves complicated nonlinear equilibrium problems, $\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{u}^*) = \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{u}^*) - \mathbf{f} = 0$

replacing the static problem by a pseudo-dynamic analysis, with fictitious masses and damping matrices

 $\mathbf{M}\ddot{\mathbf{u}} + \mathbf{C}\dot{\mathbf{u}} + \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{u}(t)) = \mathbf{f}$



DRM with Viscous Damping

 $\mathbf{M}\ddot{\mathbf{u}} + \mathbf{C}\dot{\mathbf{u}} + \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{f}_0$



$$\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{0} \implies \mathbf{M}\ddot{\mathbf{u}} + \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{f}_0$$

If the systems kinetic energy is arbitrary zeroed whenever it reaches a maximum, the system will eventually come to a rest, usually faster than with viscous damping:





Transient of kinetic energy during the shape finding of a cable network via DR, with kinetic damping



Several instants of the DRM applied to a cable network

DRM shows no advantage to solve small to medium sized problems, whenever Newton's Method shows good, 2nd order convergence;

It is a robust technique, much useful in cases where Newton's Method fails to converge;

DRM may brings economy for solution of very large problems, since the computational costs for Newton's method grows with the square of the number of DOF, whilst the cost of DRM grows linearly;

However, when the discretization is refined, the critical time-step is also reduced, and more steps are required for the system to come to a rest.

Polygonal cable



$$\begin{array}{l} h_{i} = h^{*} \\ \sum M_{(i)}^{left} = 0 \\ \sum F_{x} = 0 \end{array} \end{array} \Rightarrow H_{A} = H_{B} = \frac{V_{A} x_{i}}{h^{*}} = H \qquad \text{`Thrust'}$$

$$\sum M_{(i+1)}^{right} = 0 \implies h_{i+1} = \frac{V_B}{H} \left(L - x_{i+1} \right)$$

$$(x_i, h_i) \implies (\ell_i, \alpha_i) \implies N_i = \frac{H}{\cos \alpha_i}$$

Plane cable under distributed vertical loads



$$\sum F_x = 0 \implies -T_0 \cos \theta_0 + T(x) \cos \theta(x) = 0 \quad \forall x$$

 $H = T(x)\cos\theta(x) = T_0\cos\theta_0$ constant! ('Thrust')

Plane cable under distributed vertical loads



$$\sum F_{V} = -V_{0} - \int_{0}^{x} w(\xi) d\xi + V(x) = 0, \quad \forall x$$
$$V(x) - V_{0} = \int_{0}^{x} w(\xi) d\xi = 0, \quad \forall x \qquad \therefore \quad V(x) \text{ is a primitive of } w(x)$$
$$\frac{dV}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx} \left(\int_{0}^{x} w(\xi) d\xi \right) = w(x)$$

Plane cable under distributed vertical loads



$$\sum M_{(0)} = Vx - Hy - \int_0^x \left(\xi w(\xi)\right) d\xi = 0, \quad \forall x$$

Deriving with respect to x:

$$\frac{dV}{dx}x + V - H\frac{dy}{dx} - xw(x) = 0$$



$$w(x) = w_0$$
 \therefore $y = \frac{1}{H} \int \left(\int w_0 dx \right) dx = \frac{w_0}{2H} x^2 + Cx + D$

$$\begin{array}{l} y(0) = 0 \\ \frac{dy}{dx}\Big|_{x=0} = 0 \end{array} \implies C = D = 0 \quad \therefore \quad y = \frac{w_0}{2H} x^2 \quad \text{, a parabola!} \\ y\left(\frac{L}{2}\right) = h \quad \Rightarrow \qquad H = \frac{w_0 L^2}{8h} \quad \text{"Thrust formula"} \end{array}$$

$$y = \left(\frac{4h}{L^2}\right)x^2$$



 $T = \frac{H}{\cos \theta}$ is maximum at the supports, where $\cos \theta$ is minimum!

$$T_{\max} = \sqrt{H^2 + V_A^2} = \frac{w_0 L}{2} \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{L}{4h}\right)^2}$$



The lenght of a differential cable element is: $ds = \sqrt{dx^2 + dy^2} = dx \left(1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$

The total lenght of the cable is:

$$\ell = \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} ds = \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} \left(1 + \left(\frac{8hx}{L^2}\right)^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} dx = \frac{L}{2} \left(\left(1 + \lambda^2\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} + \frac{L}{4h} \arcsin \lambda \right), \quad \text{where: } \lambda = \frac{4h}{L}$$

For small sags,
$$\frac{h}{L} \le 0.1$$
 \Rightarrow $\ell \simeq L + \frac{8h^2}{3L}$ Lenght of the parabolic cable

EX. 4 - Given L = 30m, h = 2m, find a, H, N_{max}, ℓ



Catenary cable (cable under self-weight)



cable of homogeneous material and uniform cros-section , $w(s) = w_0$

Setting the origin ad the cable's midpoint: s(0) = 0; $\frac{dy}{dx}\Big|_{s=0} = 0$; V(0) = 0

$$V(x) = \int_0^x w(\xi) d\xi = \int_0^{s(x)} w(s(x)) ds = \int_0^s w_0 ds = w_0 s$$
$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{V}{H} = \frac{W_0}{H} s$$

Catenary cable (cable under self-weight)



But
$$ds = dx \left(1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} = dx \left(1 + \left(\frac{w_0 s}{H}\right)^2\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

changing variables:
$$u = \frac{w_0}{H}s \implies du = \frac{w_0}{H}ds \implies ds = \frac{H}{w_0}du$$

$$\frac{H}{w_0}du = dx(1+u^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

separating variables:
$$dx = \frac{H}{w_0} \frac{du}{\sqrt{1+u^2}}$$

Catenary cable (cable under self-weight)



integrating at both sides: $x = \frac{H}{w_0} \int \frac{du}{\sqrt{1+u^2}} = \frac{H}{w_0} \operatorname{arcsinh}(u) + C$



$$x = 0 \implies s = u = 0 \implies C = 0$$

$$x = \frac{H}{w_0} \operatorname{arcsinh}\left(\frac{w_0}{H}s\right)$$

Catenary cable (cable under self-weight)



Catenary cable (cable under self-weight)



Note that H is still unknow! It can be determined imposing $y\left(\frac{L}{2}\right) = h$

Then numerically solving

$$\mathbf{h} = \frac{H}{w_0} \left(\cosh\left(\frac{w_0 L}{2H}\right) - 1 \right)$$

For h~L/10, the parabola and the catenary practically superimpose:



Parabolic cable



Catenary cable









EX. 5 - Given $w_0 = 5kN / m$; h = 6m; L = 20m, find H, y(x) and ℓ

> Answers: H = 45.945kN; $y(x) = 9.189[\cosh(0.10883x) - 1]$

von Mises' Truss ("snap-through system")





Deformations of a parabolic cable



Deformations of a parabolic cable

Deformations of a parabolic cable





Small deformations for a parabolic cable with small sags:

Consider a cable with $h = h_r \ll L$

Find the initial stifness of the cable for uniform transversal load.



Ex. 6 – Small deformations for a parabolic cable with small sags:

Stiffness around the initial shape $(h = h_r)$:

$$k_0 \simeq \frac{128}{3} \frac{EA}{L^4} h_r^2$$
 (em N/m²)

$$u \simeq \frac{w}{k_0}$$

the stiffness drops with the square of the span!



 $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}(t) = x(t)\vec{i} + y(t)\vec{j} + z(t)\vec{k}$







$$\mathbf{\tau} \cdot \mathbf{\tau} = 1 \quad \forall s$$





Frenet-Serret Triedron $\{\tau, \nu, \beta\}$



Cable Equilibrium in Vectorial Description



Cable Equilibrium in vector Description



We arrive at a system of three scalar equilibrium equations:

$$\frac{dN}{ds} + b_{\tau} = 0$$
$$\frac{N}{\rho} = p$$
$$b_{\beta} = 0$$

- Tangential equilibrium is analogous to a axially loaded bar! $P_1 \leftarrow dx$ $P_2 \leftarrow L$
- \otimes Transversal loading provoques curvature of the cable!
- ⊗ The cable adjusts its form in such a way that there is no binormal loading!

Velaria

cable under uniform transversal pressure p₀



$$\frac{N_0}{\rho} = p_0 \implies \rho = \frac{N_0}{p_0} = \rho_0$$
 constant!

The velaria is a circular arch!

Velaria

Deformation of infinitely long panels:



$$p = \frac{64Et}{3L} \left(\frac{\delta}{L}\right)^3$$



Deformation of flat circular membranes of radius R=L/2:

$$p = \frac{3Et}{3(1-v)R} \left(\frac{\delta}{R}\right)^3$$







Delta [cm]	S ₀ [kN/m]	S _{tot} [kN/m]	w [kN/m]	
R=5m				
72.112	0.0	8.7	8.3	
70	0.7	8.9	8.5	
60	4.4	10.4	10.1	
50	8.3	12.5	12.2	
40	12.9	15.6	15.4	
30	19.3	20.8	20.6	
20	30.6	31.2	31.1	
10	62.3	62.5	62.0	

R=2.5m				
Delta [cm]	S ₀ [kN/m]	S _{tot} [kN/m]	w [kN/m]	
28.618	0.0	8.7	8.3	
20	5.1	7.8	7.7	
10	15.0	15.6	15.5	
5	31.1	31.2	31.2	

 $p=1 \, kN \, / \, m^2$