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# **FORMULATION OF STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS**

**LECTURE 7**

**52 MINUTES**

**LECTURE 7** Formulation and calculation of isoparametric structural elements

Beam, plate and shell elements

Formulation using Mindlin plate theory and unified general continuum formulation

Assumptions used including shear deformations

Demonstrative examples: two-dimensional beam, plate elements

Discussion of general variable-number-nodes elements

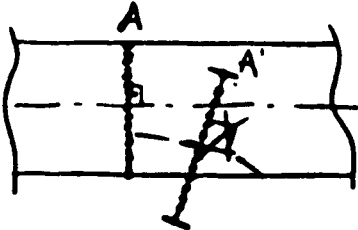
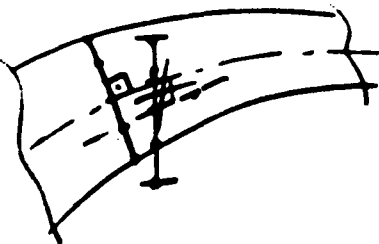
Transition elements between structural and continuum elements

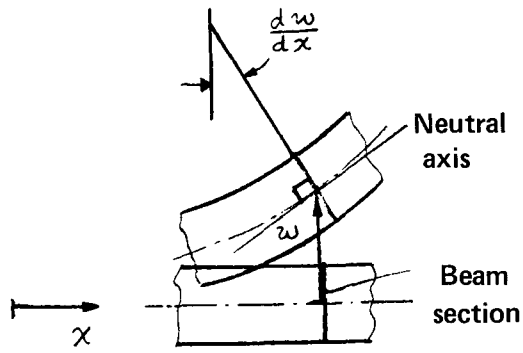
Low- versus high-order elements

**TEXTBOOK:** Sections: 5.4.1, 5.4.2, 5.5.2, 5.6.1

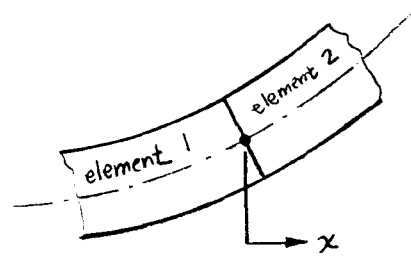
Examples: 5.20, 5.21, 5.22, 5.23, 5.24, 5.25, 5.26, 5.27

<u>FORMULATION OF STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS</u>	<u>Strength of Materials Approach</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● beam, plate and shell elements</li> <li>● isoparametric approach for interpolations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● straight beam elements                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use beam theory including shear effects</li> </ul> </li> <li>● plate elements                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use plate theory including shear effects</li> <li>(Reissner/Mindlin)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<u>Continuum Approach</u>	" particles remain on a straight line during deformation "
<p>Use the general principle of virtual displacements, but</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-- exclude the stress components not applicable</li> <li>-- use kinematic constraints for particles on sections originally normal to the mid-surface</li> </ul>	<p>e.g. beam</p>  <p>e.g. shell</p> 



Deformation of cross-section

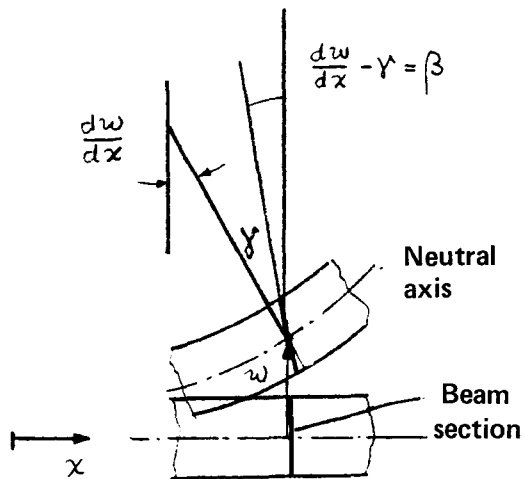


Boundary conditions between beam elements

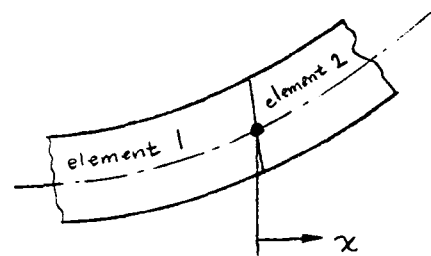
$$w \Big|_{x-0} = w \Big|_{x+0} ; \frac{dw}{dx} \Big|_{x-0} = \frac{dw}{dx} \Big|_{x+0}$$

a) Beam deformations excluding shear effect

Fig. 5.29. Beam deformation mechanisms



Deformation of cross-section



$$w \Big|_{x-0} = w \Big|_{x+0}$$

$$\beta \Big|_{x-0} = \beta \Big|_{x+0}$$

Boundary conditions between beam elements

b) Beam deformations including shear effect

Fig. 5.29. Beam deformation mechanisms

We use

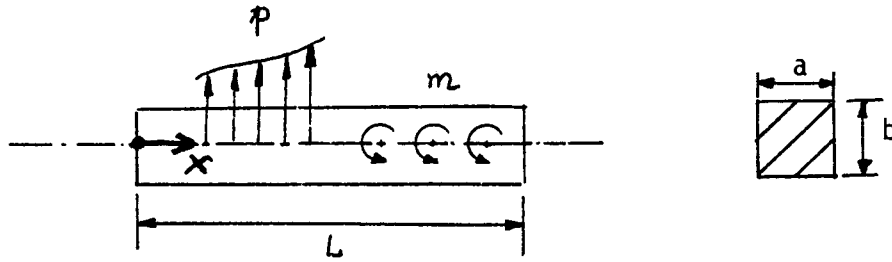
$$\beta = \frac{dw}{dx} - \gamma \quad (5.48)$$

$$\tau = \frac{V}{A_S} ; \gamma = \frac{\tau}{G} ; k = \frac{A_S}{A} \quad (5.49)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi = & \frac{EI}{2} \int_0^L \left( \frac{d\beta}{dx} \right)^2 dx + \frac{GAk}{2} \int_0^L \left( \frac{dw}{dx} - \beta \right)^2 dx \\ & - \int_0^L p w dx - \int_0^L m \beta dx \end{aligned} \quad (5.50)$$

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$$\begin{aligned} & EI \int_0^L \left( \frac{d\beta}{dx} \right) \delta \left( \frac{d\beta}{dx} \right) dx \\ & + GAk \int_0^L \left( \frac{dw}{dx} - \beta \right) \delta \left( \frac{dw}{dx} - \beta \right) dx \\ & - \int_0^L p \delta w dx - \int_0^L m \delta \beta dx = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (5.51)$$

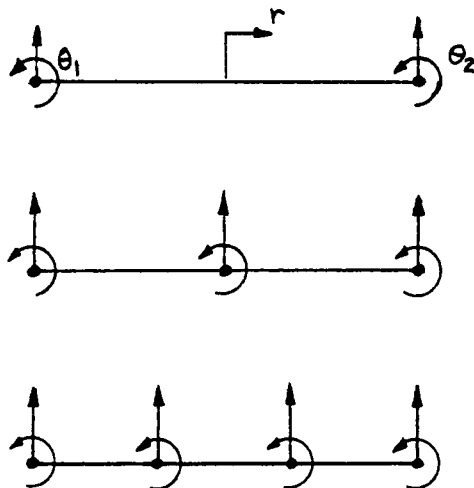


(a) Beam with applied loading

$E$  = Young's modulus,  $G$  = shear modulus

$$k = \frac{5}{6}, \quad A = ab, \quad I = \frac{ab^3}{12}$$

Fig. 5.30. Formulation of two-dimensional beam element



(b) Two, three- and four-node models;  
 $\theta_i = \beta_i, i=1, \dots, q$  (Interpolation functions are given in Fig. 5.4)

Fig. 5.30. Formulation of two-dimensional beam element

The interpolations are now

$$w = \sum_{i=1}^q h_i w_i ; \beta = \sum_{i=1}^q h_i \theta_i \quad (5.52)$$

$$\underline{w} = \underline{H}_w \underline{U} ; \quad \beta = \underline{H}_\beta \underline{U} \quad (5.53)$$

$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial x} = \underline{B}_w \underline{U} ; \quad \frac{\partial \beta}{\partial x} = \underline{B}_\beta \underline{U}$$

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Where

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{U}^T &= [w_1 \dots w_q \theta_1 \dots \theta_q] \\ \underline{H}_w &= [h_1 \dots h_q \ 0 \dots 0] \\ \underline{H}_\beta &= [0 \dots 0 \ h_1 \dots h_q] \end{aligned} \quad (5.54)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{B}_w &= J^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial h_1}{\partial r} & \dots & \frac{\partial h_q}{\partial r} & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ \underline{B}_\beta &= J^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \dots & 0 & \frac{\partial h_1}{\partial r} & \dots & \frac{\partial h_q}{\partial r} \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned} \quad (5.55)$$

So that

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{K} = EI \int_{-1}^1 \underline{B}_\beta^T \underline{B}_\beta \det J \, dr \\ + GAK \int_{-1}^1 (\underline{B}_w - \underline{H}_\beta)^T (\underline{B}_w - \underline{H}_\beta) \det J \, dr \end{aligned} \quad (5.56)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{R} = \int_{-1}^1 \underline{H}_w^T p \det J \, dr \\ + \int_{-1}^1 \underline{H}_\beta^T m \det J \, dr \end{aligned} \quad (5.57)$$

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Considering the order of interpolations required, we study

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi = \int_0^L \left( \frac{d\beta}{dx} \right)^2 dx + \alpha \int_0^L \left( \frac{dw}{dx} - \beta \right)^2 dx ; \\ \alpha = \frac{GAK}{EI} \end{aligned} \quad (5.60)$$

Hence

- use parabolic (or higher-order) elements
- discrete Kirchhoff theory
- reduced numerical integration



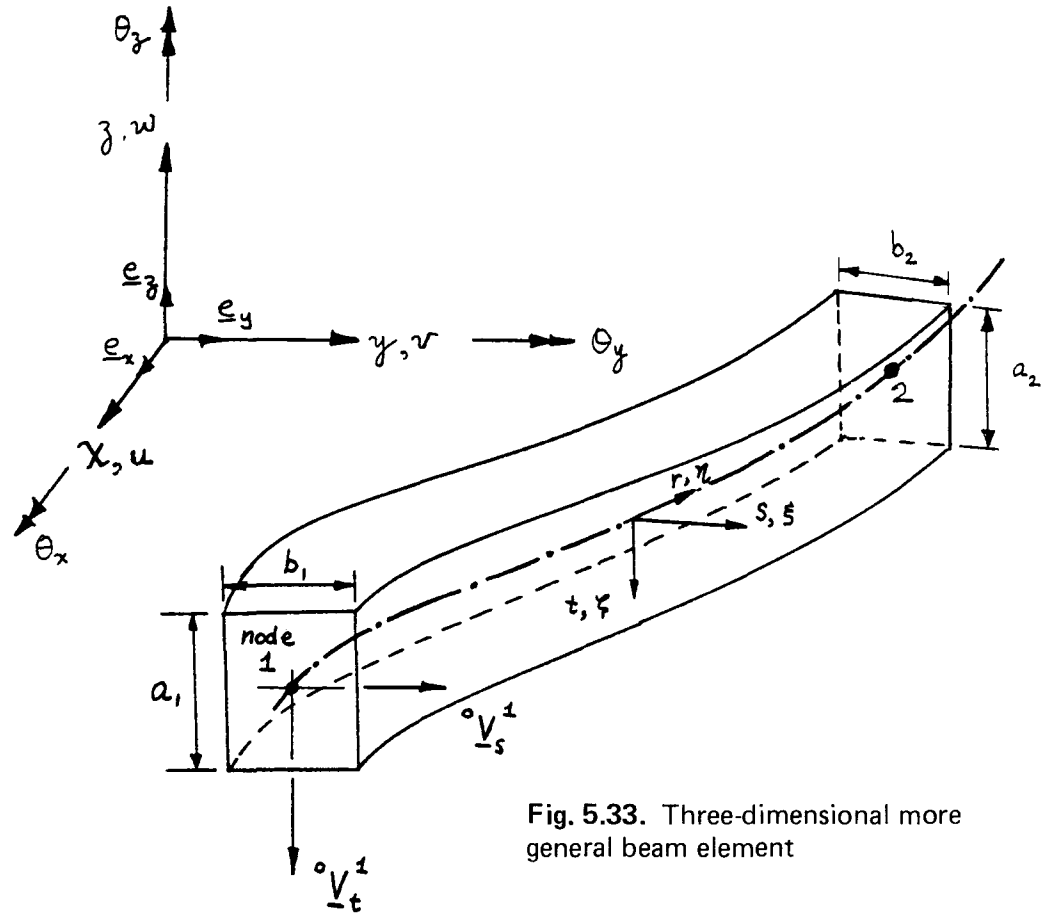


Fig. 5.33. Three-dimensional more general beam element

Here we use

$$\begin{aligned}
 l_x(r,s,t) &= \sum_{k=1}^q h_k l_{x_k} + \frac{t}{2} \sum_{k=1}^q a_k h_k l_{V_{tx}^k} \\
 &\quad + \frac{s}{2} \sum_{k=1}^q b_k h_k l_{V_{sx}^k} \\
 l_y(r,s,t) &= \sum_{k=1}^q h_k l_{y_k} + \frac{t}{2} \sum_{k=1}^q a_k h_k l_{V_{ty}^k} \\
 &\quad + \frac{s}{2} \sum_{k=1}^q b_k h_k l_{V_{sy}^k} \\
 l_z(r,s,t) &= \sum_{k=1}^q h_k l_{z_k} + \frac{t}{2} \sum_{k=1}^q a_k h_k l_{V_{tz}^k} \\
 &\quad + \frac{s}{2} \sum_{k=1}^q b_k h_k l_{V_{sz}^k}
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{5.61}$$

So that

$$\begin{aligned}u(r,s,t) &= {}^1x - {}^0x \\v(r,s,t) &= {}^1y - {}^0y \\w(r,s,t) &= {}^1z - {}^0z\end{aligned}\quad (5.62)$$

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and

$$\begin{aligned}u(r,s,t) &= \sum_{k=1}^q h_k u_k + \frac{t}{2} \sum_{k=1}^q a_k h_k v_{tx}^k \\&\quad + \frac{s}{2} \sum_{k=1}^q b_k h_k v_{sx}^k \\v(r,s,t) &= \sum_{k=1}^q h_k v_k + \frac{t}{2} \sum_{k=1}^q a_k h_k v_{ty}^k \\&\quad + \frac{s}{2} \sum_{k=1}^q b_k h_k v_{sy}^k \\w(r,s,t) &= \sum_{k=1}^q h_k w_k + \frac{t}{2} \sum_{k=1}^q a_k h_k v_{tz}^k \\&\quad + \frac{s}{2} \sum_{k=1}^q b_k h_k v_{sz}^k\end{aligned}\quad (5.63)$$

Finally, we express the vectors  $\underline{v}_t^k$  and  $\underline{v}_s^k$  in terms of rotations about the Cartesian axes  $x, y, z$ ,

$$\underline{v}_t^k = \underline{\theta}_k \times \underline{v}_t^k$$

$$\underline{v}_s^k = \underline{\theta}_k \times \underline{v}_s^k \quad (5.65)$$

where

$$\underline{\theta}_k = \begin{bmatrix} \theta_x^k \\ \theta_y^k \\ \theta_z^k \end{bmatrix} \quad (5.66)$$

We can now find

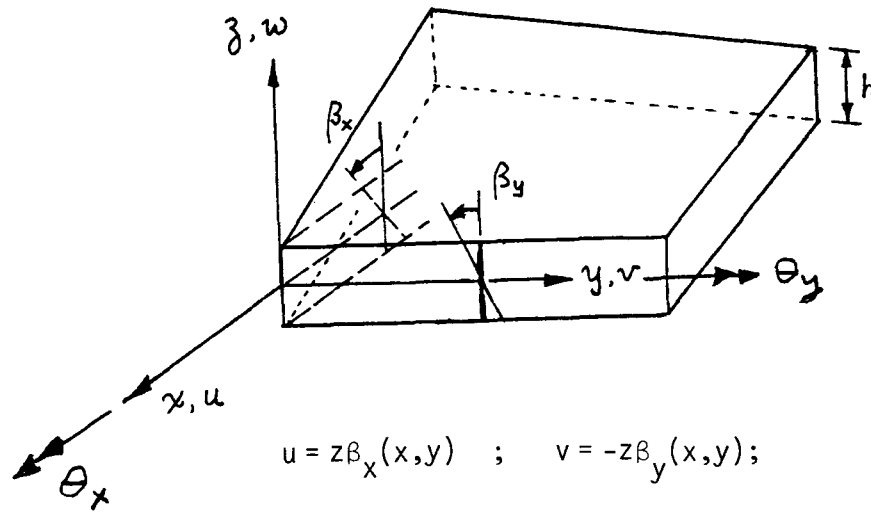
$$\begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_{nn} \\ \gamma_{n\xi} \\ \gamma_{n\zeta} \end{bmatrix} = \sum_{k=1}^q B_k \underline{u}_k \quad (5.67)$$

where

$$\underline{u}_k^T = [u_k \ v_k \ w_k \ \theta_x^k \ \theta_y^k \ \theta_z^k] \quad (5.68)$$

and then also have

$$\begin{bmatrix} \tau_{nn} \\ \tau_{n\xi} \\ \tau_{n\zeta} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} E & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & Gk & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & Gk \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_{nn} \\ \gamma_{n\xi} \\ \gamma_{n\zeta} \end{bmatrix} \quad (5.77)$$



**Fig. 5.36.** Deformation mechanisms in analysis of plate including shear deformations

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Hence

$$\begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_{xx} \\ \epsilon_{yy} \\ \gamma_{xy} \end{bmatrix} = z \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial \beta_x}{\partial x} \\ -\frac{\partial \beta_y}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial \beta_x}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial \beta_y}{\partial x} \end{bmatrix} \quad (5.79)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \gamma_{yz} \\ \gamma_{zx} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} - \beta_y \\ \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} + \beta_x \end{bmatrix} \quad (5.80)$$

and

$$\begin{bmatrix} \tau_{xx} \\ \tau_{yy} \\ \tau_{xy} \end{bmatrix} = z \frac{E}{1-\nu^2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \nu & 0 \\ \nu & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1-\nu}{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial \beta_x}{\partial x} \\ -\frac{\partial \beta_y}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial \beta_x}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial \beta_y}{\partial x} \end{bmatrix} \quad (5.81)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \tau_{yz} \\ \tau_{zx} \end{bmatrix} = \frac{E}{2(1+\nu)} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} - \beta_y \\ \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} + \beta_x \end{bmatrix} \quad (5.82)$$

The total potential for the element is:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi = & \frac{1}{2} \int_A \int_{-h/2}^{h/2} [\epsilon_{xx} \quad \epsilon_{yy} \quad \gamma_{xy}] \begin{bmatrix} \tau_{xx} \\ \tau_{yy} \\ \tau_{xy} \end{bmatrix} dz \, dA \\ & + \frac{k}{2} \int_A \int_{-h/2}^{h/2} [\gamma_{yz} \quad \gamma_{zx}] \begin{bmatrix} \tau_{yz} \\ \tau_{zx} \end{bmatrix} dx \, dA \\ & - \int_A w \, p \, dA \end{aligned} \quad (5.83)$$

or performing the integration through the thickness

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi = \frac{1}{2} \int_A \underline{\kappa}^T \underline{C}_b \underline{\kappa} \, dA + \frac{1}{2} \int_A \underline{\gamma}^T \underline{C}_s \underline{\gamma} \, dA \\ - \int_A w \, p \, dA \quad (5.84) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\underline{\kappa} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial \beta_x}{\partial x} \\ -\frac{\partial \beta_y}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial \beta_x}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial \beta_y}{\partial x} \end{bmatrix} ; \underline{\gamma} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} - \beta_y \\ \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} + \beta_x \end{bmatrix} \quad (5.86)$$

$$\underline{C}_b = \frac{Eh^3}{12(1-\nu^2)} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \nu & 0 \\ \nu & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1-\nu}{2} \end{bmatrix} ;$$

$$\underline{C}_s = \frac{Ehk}{2(1+\nu)} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (5.87)$$

Using the condition  $\delta\Pi = 0$  we obtain the principle of virtual displacements for the plate element.

$$\int_A \delta \underline{\kappa}^T \underline{C}_b \underline{\kappa} \, dA + \int_A \delta \underline{\gamma}^T \underline{C}_s \underline{\gamma} \, dA - \int_A \delta w \, p \, dA = 0 \quad (5.88)$$

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We use the interpolations

$$w = \sum_{i=1}^q h_i w_i \quad ; \quad \beta_x = \sum_{i=1}^q h_i \theta_y^i$$

$$\beta_y = \sum_{i=1}^q h_i \theta_x^i \quad (5.89)$$

and

$$x = \sum_{i=1}^q h_i x_i \quad ; \quad y = \sum_{i=1}^q h_i y_i$$

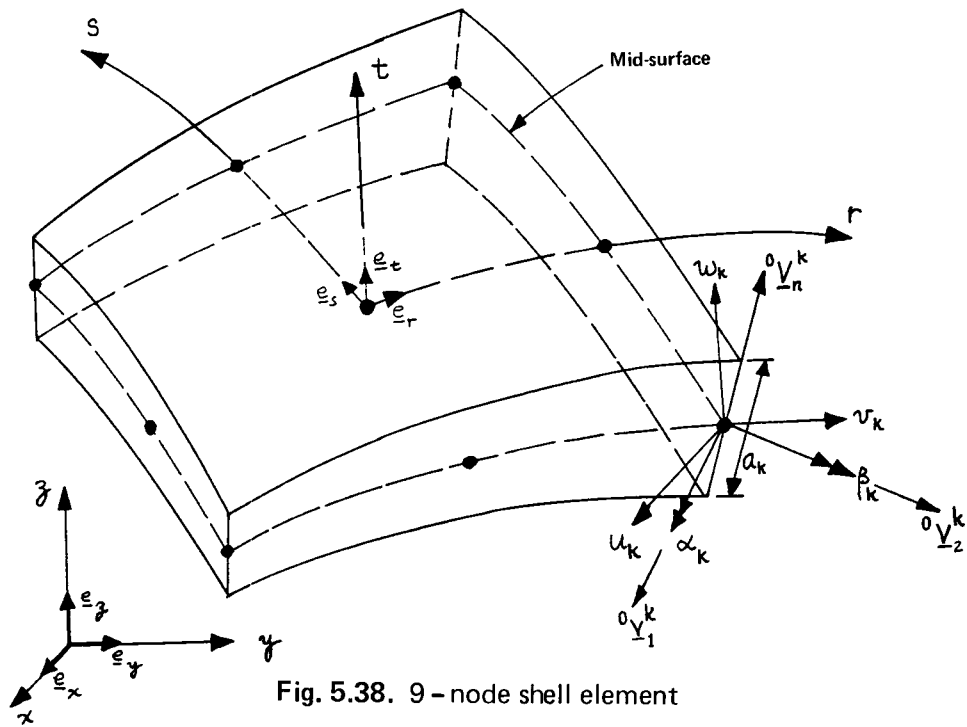


Fig. 5.38. 9 - node shell element

For shell elements we proceed as in the formulation of the general beam elements,

$$l_x(r,s,t) = \sum_{k=1}^q h_k l_{x_k} + \frac{t}{2} \sum_{k=1}^q a_k h_k l_{V_{nx}}^k$$

$$l_y(r,s,t) = \sum_{k=1}^q h_k l_{y_k} + \frac{t}{2} \sum_{k=1}^q a_k h_k l_{V_{ny}}^k$$

$$l_z(r,s,t) = \sum_{k=1}^q h_k l_{z_k} + \frac{t}{2} \sum_{k=1}^q a_k h_k l_{V_{nz}}^k$$

(5.90)



Therefore,

$$u(r,s,t) = \sum_{k=1}^q h_k u_k + \frac{t}{2} \sum_{k=1}^q a_k h_k v_{nx}^k$$

$$v(r,s,t) = \sum_{k=1}^q h_k v_k + \frac{t}{2} \sum_{k=1}^q a_k h_k v_{ny}^k$$

$$w(r,s,t) = \sum_{k=1}^q h_k w_k + \frac{t}{2} \sum_{k=1}^q a_k h_k v_{nz}^k$$

where (5.91)

$$\underline{v}_{-n}^k = \underline{1}_{-n}^k - \underline{0}_{-n}^k \quad (5.92)$$

To express  $\underline{v}_n^k$  in terms of rotations at the nodal - point k we define

$$\underline{0}_{-1}^k = \left( \underline{e}_y \times \underline{0}_{-n}^k \right) / \left| \underline{e}_y \times \underline{0}_{-n}^k \right| \quad (5.93a)$$

$$\underline{0}_{-2}^k = \underline{0}_{-n}^k \times \underline{0}_{-1}^k \quad (5.93b)$$

then

$$\underline{v}_{-n}^k = -\underline{0}_{-2}^k \alpha_k + \underline{0}_{-1}^k \beta_k \quad (5.94)$$

## Formulation of structural elements

Finally, we need to recognize the use of the following stress - strain law

$$\underline{\tau} = \underline{C}_{sh} \underline{\epsilon} \quad (5.100)$$

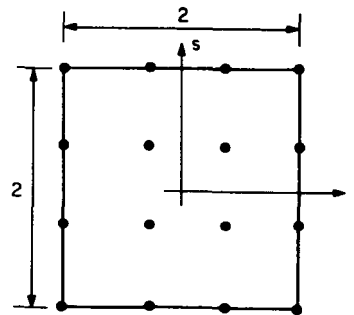
$$\underline{\epsilon}^T = [\epsilon_{xx} \quad \epsilon_{yy} \quad \epsilon_{zz} \quad \gamma_{xy} \quad \gamma_{yz} \quad \gamma_{zx}]$$

$$\underline{C}_{sh} = \underline{Q}_{sh}^T \left( \frac{E}{1-\nu^2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \nu & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & & & \frac{1-\nu}{2} & 0 & 0 \\ & & & & \frac{1-\nu}{2} & 0 \\ & & & & & \frac{1-\nu}{2} \end{bmatrix} \right) \underline{Q}_{sh}$$

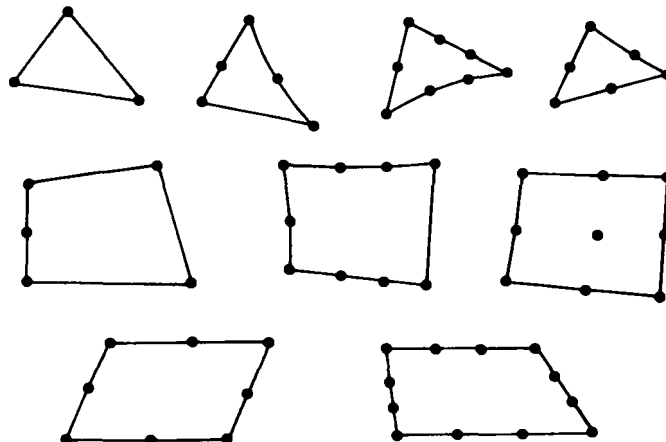
symmetric

(5.101)

16 - node parent element with cubic interpolation



Some derived elements:



Variable - number - nodes shell element

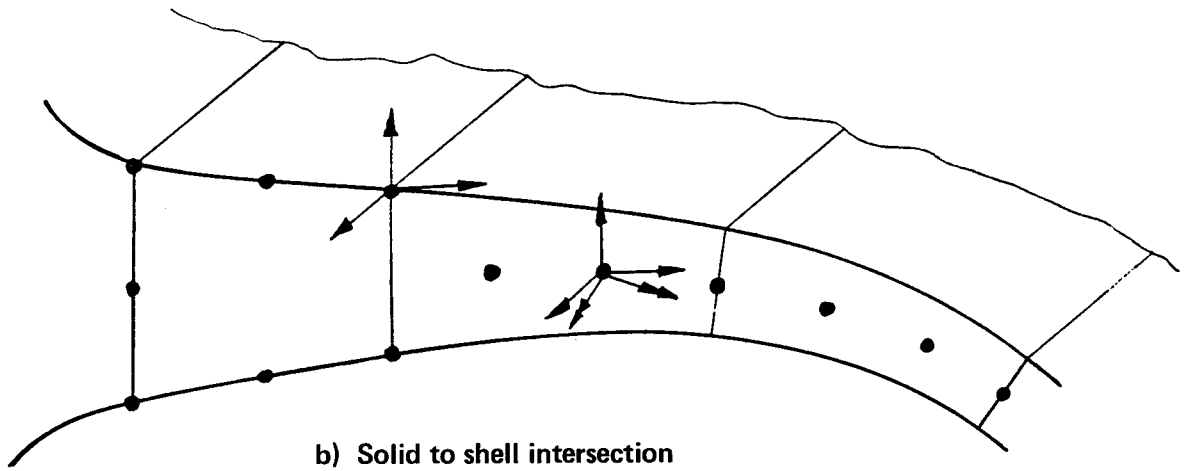
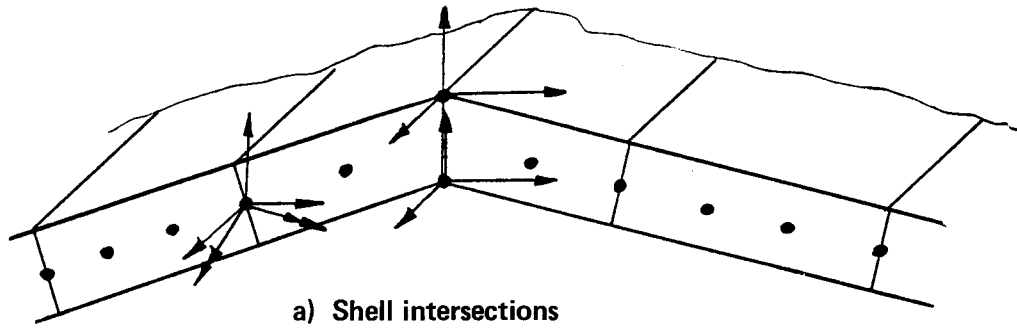


Fig. 5.39. Use of shell transition elements

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Resource: Finite Element Procedures for Solids and Structures  
Klaus-Jürgen Bathe

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