

# MHA021 Finite Element Method

## Exam 2022-01-12, 8:30-12:30

Instructor: Jim Brouzoulis (phone 070-261 5494). The instructor will visit the exam around 9:30 and 11:30.

Solution: Example solutions will be posted within a few days after the exam on the course homepage.

Grading: The grades will be reported to the registration office on 1 February 2022 the latest.

Review: It will be possible to review the grading at the Division of Dynamics (floor 3 in M-building) on 3 February 12:00-13:00 and 8 February 12:00-13:00.

Permissible aids: Chalmers type approved pocket calculator and MATLAB with the CALFEM toolbox. On the computer, you can find the CALFEM manual (excluding the examples section) and the CALFEM finite element method functions. **Note:** A formula sheet (as a pdf) is also available on the computer.

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## Exam instructions

Please note that the solutions to Problems 1 and 3 should (Problem 1) and could (Problem 3) be solved by use of MATLAB and CALFEM. Be extra careful to read the instructions for these problems.

The CALFEM finite element files are provided under the directory `C:\_Exam_`. Should you need to refer to the CALFEM manual, you can find this also (excluding the examples section) under `C:\_Exam_`.

Please also note that we will collect all files saved under the directory `C:\_Exam_` and subdirectories. This in order to be able to review these files during the exam corrections. Therefore, it is very important that you save all your files under `C:\_Exam_` in the appropriate subdirectories created for each problem.

Finally, close MATLAB and log-out from the computer when you are finished with the exam.

**Remember to write the computer name on the front of the exam cover and in any MATLAB files!**

## Problem 1

Consider the plane truss in Figure 1(a), subjected to three point forces. All the members have the same cross-sectional area  $A$  and Young's modulus  $E$ . A finite element model of the structure has been created and consists of 7 bar elements, with nodal numbering and element orientation according to Figure 1(b).

### Tasks:

(a) **Determine the horizontal displacement at node 5.** Start from the provided file `problem1.m` (see the subdirectory for Problem 1 under `C:\_Exam\_`), containing the coordinates for the elements (the `Ex` and `Ey` matrices), and write a script that establishes the system of equations  $\mathbf{K}\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{f}$  for the structure, and solves this. It is important that you use the provided node and element numbering.

**Please write your answer to the problem on the hand-in paper. (2.0p)**

(b) Extend the script from subtask (a) and **determine the minimum required cross-sectional area  $A$** , such that the maximum normal stress (magnitude) in any member is below the yield limit  $\sigma_y$ .

**Please write your answer to the problem on the hand-in paper (1.0p)**

Use the following numerical values:  $\phi = 70^\circ$ ,  $L = 2$  m,  $P = 17$  kN,  $E = 210$  GPa,  $A = 10^{-4}$  m<sup>2</sup> and  $\sigma_y = 250$  MPa (also given in the provided MATLAB file).

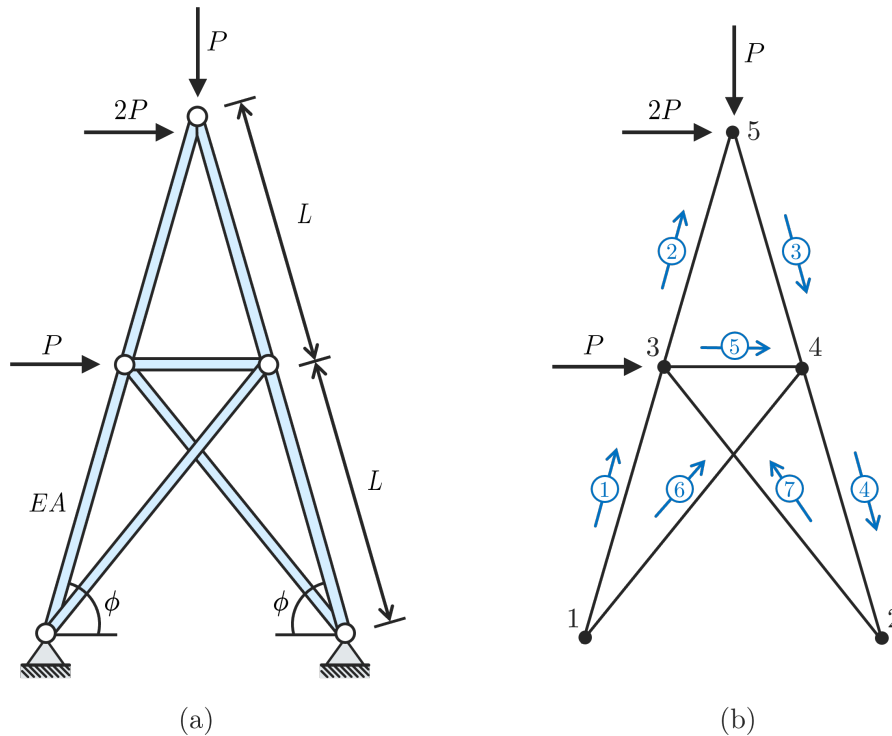


Figure 1: Plane truss structure to be analysed in Problem 1.

## Problem 2

Consider the roof as depicted in Figure 2, in which the temperature distribution is to be computed. Sun radiation leads to a heat supply to the roof along its upper surface. As a result, the amount of inflowing heat per unit surface is  $\bar{q}$  [W/m<sup>2</sup>] (the heat convection along this surface is negligible in comparison to  $\bar{q}$ ). Furthermore, the left and right boundaries can be considered as insulated, and the surrounding air temperature is  $T_{out}$  (to be considered for the convection on the lower surface).

The out-of-plane width of the roof is such that it is sufficient to consider a planar 2D cross section. As a consequence, the roof cross section has been discretised into linear triangular heat flow elements.

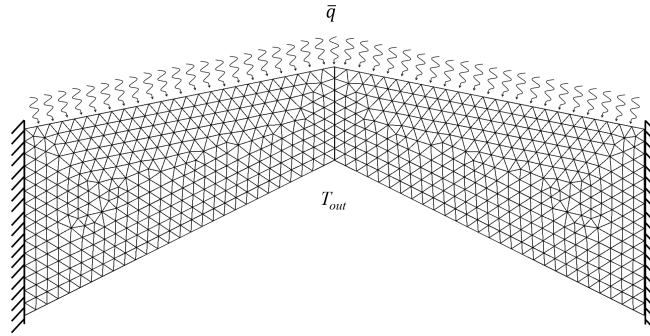


Figure 2: Illustration of the roof construction to be considered in Problem 2

### Tasks:

(a) For a general 2D heat flow problem, the governing partial differential equation is given by:

$$-\text{div}(\mathbf{q}t) + Qt = 0.$$

where  $\mathbf{q}$  is the heat flux vector,  $t$  is the thickness and  $Q$  is the external heat supply.

**Please derive this governing equation by considering heat balance of an arbitrary domain. (0.5p)**

(b) For the particular problem (Figure 2), **utilise symmetry and make a sketch of the smallest possible simulation domain where you indicate the different boundary parts. Then state the strong form of the current 2D heat flow problem**, which can be solved to determine the temperature distribution inside the roof.

Make sure to clearly define any additional notations you introduce. **(0.5p)**

(c) **From the strong form, derive and state the corresponding weak form of the 2D heat flow problem. (1.0p)**

(d) Introduce suitable FE approximations for  $v$  and  $T$  and then **derive and state the discrete FE formulation** of the boundary value problem. **(1.0p)**

### Problem 3

Consider a concrete retaining wall – a landfill supporting structure – ( $E = 40$  GPa,  $\nu = 0.2$ ) as depicted in Figure 3. The wall is 3 metres high, and has a varying thickness as shown in the figure (base width is 1 m and top width is 0.53 m).

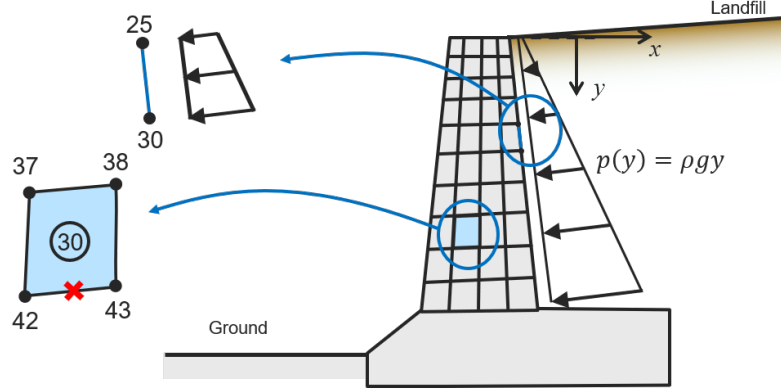


Figure 3: 2D section of a landfill wall to be analysed in Problem 3.

The supported soil gives rise to a pressure load acting (perpendicular) on the right surface of the wall  $p(y) = \rho gy$ , where  $\rho = 2000$  kg/m<sup>3</sup> is the soil density,  $g = 9.81$  m/s<sup>2</sup> is the gravitational acceleration constant and  $y$  is the depth measured from the top. To clarify, this means that the traction along the right surface is  $\mathbf{t} = -p\mathbf{n}$ , where  $\mathbf{n}$  is an outward pointing surface normal.

In this problem, we will consider the loading on the wall. More particularly, we will study the resulting load contribution along an inclined element edge (between nodes 25 and 30), and the stress in a specific point of element 30 (with nodes 37, 38, 42 and 43).

Since the wall is straight and sufficiently long (10 m long out of the sketched plane) it is sufficient to consider a 2D section under the assumption of plane strain. As a consequence, the wall has been discretised with quadrilateral isoparametric plane strain elements (bilinear approximation).

The general weak form for this type of problem is given by:

$$\int_A (\tilde{\nabla} \mathbf{v})^T t \mathbf{D} \tilde{\nabla} \mathbf{u} dA = \int_A \mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{b} t dA + \int_{\mathcal{L}_g} \mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{t} t d\mathcal{L} + \int_{\mathcal{L}_h} \mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{h} t d\mathcal{L},$$

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{g} \text{ along } \mathcal{L}_g,$$

where  $\mathbf{v}$  is the weight function,  $t$  is the thickness,  $\mathbf{D}$  is the material (constitutive) 2D stiffness matrix,  $\mathbf{u}$  is the displacement vector,  $\mathbf{b}$  is the body load (due to gravity),  $\mathbf{t}$  is the unknown surface traction along  $\mathcal{L}_g$  and  $\mathbf{h}$  is the known (prescribed) surface traction along  $\mathcal{L}_h$ .

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With standard Voigt notation for the in-plane stress and strain, the 2D plane strain elasticity matrix is given by:

$$\mathbf{D} = \frac{E}{(1+\nu)(1-2\nu)} \begin{bmatrix} 1-\nu & \nu & 0 \\ \nu & 1-\nu & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1-2\nu}{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

Nodal coordinates:

Node 25:  $x = 8.7$  cm,  $y = 100.0$  cm

Node 30:  $x = 14.0$  cm,  $y = 130.0$  cm

Node 37:  $x = -47.5$  cm,  $y = 180.0$  cm

Node 38:  $x = -26.5$  cm,  $y = 175.0$  cm

Node 42:  $x = -54.0$  cm,  $y = 220.0$  cm

Node 43:  $x = -26.5$  cm,  $y = 215.0$  cm

***When solving the tasks below, you may benefit from using MATLAB. However, make sure that the entire solution can be followed through what you hand in on paper!***

**Tasks:**

**(a) For element 30, calculate the Jacobian matrix associated with the isoparametric mapping in the midpoint of the element edge between nodes 42 and 43 (marked with a red cross). (0.75p)**

**(b) Assume that the FE problem above has been solved. For element 30, the nodal displacements have been determined as:**

Node 37:  $u_x = -0.8$  mm,  $u_y = 4.1$  mm

Node 38:  $u_x = -1.0$  mm,  $u_y = 4.8$  mm

Node 42:  $u_x = -0.3$  mm,  $u_y = 0.0$  mm

Node 43:  $u_x = -0.6$  mm,  $u_y = 0.8$  mm

**For this deformed state, calculate the in-plane stress components ( $\sigma_{xx}$ ,  $\sigma_{yy}$ ,  $\sigma_{xy}$ ) for the same edge midpoint (marked with the red cross). (0.75p)**

**(c) Calculate the boundary load vector contributions from the applied pressure along the inclined edge between nodes 25 and 30. Also explain to which positions in the global load vector these are to be added. (1.5p)**

*If you find this problem too challenging, you may solve the problem with the simplification that the pressure distribution is approximated as constant over the element edge between nodes 25 and 30. This can be motivated by the fact that this approach will converge to the correct load as the mesh is refined.*

*If you choose this option, then please choose an appropriate pressure value with a good motivation. This will however limit the maximum points to 2.0p for this problem (c).*