SUSTAINABLE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS COLLECTION

Mohammad Noori, Editor

Numerical Structural Analysis

Steven O'Hara Carisa H. Ramming



NUMERICAL STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS

STEVEN E. O'HARA CARISA H. RAMMING



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NUMERICAL STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS

ABSTRACT

As structural engineers move further into the age of digital computation and rely more heavily on computers to solve problems, it remains paramount that they understand the basic mathematics and engineering principles used to design and analyze building structures. The analysis of complex structural systems involves the knowledge of science, technology, engineering, and math to design and develop efficient and economical buildings and other structures. The link between the basic concepts and application to real world problems is one of the most challenging learning endeavors that structural engineers face. A thorough understanding of the analysis procedures should lead to successful structures.

The primary purpose of this book is to develop a structural engineering student's ability to solve complex structural analysis problems that they may or may not have ever encountered before. The book will cover and review numerical techniques to solve mathematical formulations. These are the theoretical math and science principles learned as prerequisites to engineering courses, but will be emphasized in numerical formulation. A basic understanding of elementary structural analysis is important and many methods will be reviewed. These formulations are necessary in developing the analysis procedures for structural engineering. Once the numerical formulations are understood, engineers can then develop structural analysis methods that use these techniques. This will be done primarily with matrix structural stiffness procedures. Both of these will supplement both numerical and computer solutions. Finally, advanced stiffness topics will be developed and presented to solve unique structural problems. These include member end releases, nonprismatic, shear, geometric, and torsional stiffness.

KEY WORDS

adjoint matrix, algebraic equations, area moment, beam deflection, carry-over factor, castigliano's theorems, cofactor matrix, column matrix,

complex conjugate pairs, complex roots, conjugate beam, conjugate pairs, convergence, diagonal matrix, differentiation, distinct roots, distribution factor, eigenvalues, elastic stiffness, enke roots, extrapolation, flexural stiffness, geometric stiffness, homogeneous, identity matrix, integer, integration, interpolation, inverse, joint stiffness factor, linear algebraic equations, lower triangular matrix, matrix, matrix minor, member end release, member relative stiffness factor, member stiffness factor, moment-distribution, non-homogeneous, non-prismatic members, partial pivoting, pivot coefficient, pivot equation, polynomials, principal diagonal, roots, rotation, rotational stiffness, row matrix, second-order stiffness, shear stiffness, slope-deflection, sparse matrix, square matrix, stiffness matrix, structural flexibility, structural stiffness, symmetric transformation, torsional stiffness, transcendental equations, transformations, transmission, transposed matrix, triangular matrix, upper triangular matrix, virtual work, visual integration

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ROOTS OF ALGEBRAIC AND TRANSCENDENTAL EQUATIONS

In structural engineering, it is important to have a basic knowledge of how computers and calculators solve equations for unknowns. Some equations are solved simply by algebra while higher order equations will require other methods to solve for the unknowns. In this chapter, methods of finding roots to various equations are explored. The *roots* of an equation are defined as values of x where the solution of an equation is true. The most common roots are where the value of the function is zero. This would indicate where a function crosses an axis. Roots are sometimes *complex roots* where they contain both a real number and an imaginary unit.

1.1 EQUATIONS

Equations are generally grouped into two main categories, algebraic equations and transcendental equations. The first type, an *algebraic equation*, is defined as an equation that involves only powers of x. The powers of x can be any real number whether positive or negative. The following are examples of algebraic equations:

$$8x^{3} - 3x^{2} + 5x - 6 = 0$$

$$\frac{1}{x} + 2\sqrt{x} = 0$$

$$x^{1.25} - 3\pi = 0$$

The second type is *transcendental equations*. These are non-algebraic equations or functions that transcend, or cannot be expressed in terms of