

ANSEL C. UGURAL



# STRESSES

IN PLATES AND SHELLS

SECOND EDITION



# STRESSES IN PLATES AND SHELLS

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**SECOND EDITION**

**Ansel C. Ugural**  
**New Jersey Institute of Technology**

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## STRESSES IN PLATES AND SHELLS

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# LIST OF SYMBOLS

$A$	area, constant
$a, b$	dimensions, outer and inner radii of annular plate
$c$	distance from neutral axis to outer fiber
$D$	flexural rigidity [ $D = Et^3/12(1 - \nu^2)$ ]
$d$	diameter, distance
$[D]$	elasticity matrix
$E$	modulus of elasticity
$F$	resultant external loading on shell element, concentrated force
$f$	frequency
$G$	modulus of elasticity in shear
$g$	acceleration of gravity ( $\approx 9.81 \text{ m/s}^2$ )
$h$	mesh width, numerical factor, depth
$I$	moment of inertia
$J$	polar moment of inertia
$k$	modulus of elastic foundation, numerical factor, axial load factor for slender members in compression
$[k]$	stiffness matrix of finite element
$[K]$	stiffness matrix of whole structure
$L$	length, span
$m$	integer, numerical factor
$M$	moment per unit distance, moment, moment-sum [ $M = (M_x + M_y)/(1 + \nu)$ ]
$\bar{m}$	mass per unit area
$M^*$	thermal moment resultant per unit distance
$M_x, M_y$	bending moments per unit distance on $x$ and $y$ planes, moments
$M_{xy}$	twisting moment per unit distance on $x$ plane
$M_r, M_\theta$	radial and tangential moments per unit distance
$M_{r\theta}$	twisting moment per unit distance on radial plane
$M_\phi$	meridional bending moment per unit distance on parallel plane
$M_s$	meridional bending moment per unit distance on parallel plane of conical shell
$M_{x\theta}$	twisting moment per unit distance on axial plane of cylindrical shell
$n$	factor of safety, integer, numerical factor
$N$	normal force per unit distance
$N_{cr}$	critical compressive load per unit distance
$N^*$	thermal force resultant per unit distance
$N_x, N_y$	normal forces per unit distance on $x$ and $y$ planes
$N_{xy}$	shear force per unit distance on $x$ plane and parallel to $y$ axis
$N_r, N_\theta$	radial and tangential forces per unit distance

$N_\phi$	meridional force per unit distance on parallel plane
$N_{\phi\theta}$	shear force per unit distance on parallel plane and perpendicular to meridional plane
$N_{x\theta}$	shear force per unit distance on axial plane and parallel to $y$ axis of cylindrical shell
$N_s$	normal force per unit distance on parallel plane of conical shell
$p$	intensity of distributed transverse load per unit area or length, pressure, surface force per unit area
$p^*$	equivalent transverse load per unit area
$P$	concentrated force
$Q$	first moment of area
$\{Q\}$	nodal force matrix of finite element
$Q_x, Q_y$	shear force per unit distance on $x$ and $y$ planes
$Q_r, Q_\theta$	radial and tangential shear forces per unit distance
$Q_\theta$	shear force per unit distance on plane perpendicular to the axial plane of cylindrical shell
$Q_\phi$	meridional shear force per unit distance on parallel plane
$R$	reactive forces
$r$	radius, radius of gyration
$r, \theta$	polar coordinates
$r_x, r_y$	radii of curvature of midsurface in $xz$ and $yz$ planes
$r_1, r_2$	radii of curvature of midsurface in meridional and parallel planes, principal radii of curvature
$s$	distance measured along generator in conical shell
$S$	elastic section modulus
$T$	kinetic energy, temperature, torque
$t$	thickness
$u, v, w$	displacements in $x, y$ , and $z$ directions; axial, tangential, and radial displacements in shell midsurface
$U$	strain energy
$U_o$	strain energy density
$V$	shear force
$V_x, V_y$	effective shear force per unit distance on $x$ and $y$ planes
$V_r, V_\theta$	radial and tangential effective shear forces per unit distance
$W$	work, weight
$x, y, z$	distances, rectangular coordinates
$\alpha$	angle, coefficient of thermal expansion, numerical factor
$\beta$	angle, cylinder geometry parameter [ $\beta^4 = 3(1 - \nu^2)/a^2t^2$ ], numerical factor
$\gamma$	shear strain, weight per unit volume or specific weight
$\gamma_{xy}, \gamma_{yz}, \gamma_{zx}$	shear strains in the $xy, yz$ , and $zx$ planes
$\gamma_{r\theta}$	shear strain in the $r\theta$ plane
$\delta$	deflection, finite difference operator, numerical factor, variational symbol

$\{\delta\}$	nodal displacement matrix of finite element
$\varepsilon$	normal strain
$\epsilon$	transmissibility
$\varepsilon_x, \varepsilon_y, \varepsilon_z$	normal strains in $x$ , $y$ , and $z$ directions
$\varepsilon_r, \varepsilon_\theta$	radial and tangential normal strains
$\varepsilon_\theta, \varepsilon_\phi$	normal strain of the parallel circle and of the meridian
$\theta$	angle, angular nodal displacement
$\kappa$	curvature
$\lambda$	sphere parameter [ $\lambda^4 = 3(1 - \nu^2)a^2/t^2$ ], numerical factor
$\nu$	Poisson's ratio
$\Pi$	potential energy
$\rho$	density (mass per unit volume)
$\sigma$	normal stress
$\sigma_x, \sigma_y, \sigma_z$	normal stresses on the $x$ , $y$ , and $z$ planes
$\sigma_r, \sigma_\theta$	radial and tangential normal stresses
$\sigma_\phi$	meridional normal stress on parallel plane
$\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3$	principal stresses
$\sigma_{cr}$	compressive stress at critical load
$\sigma_u$	ultimate tension stress
$\sigma_{uc}$	ultimate compression stress
$\sigma_{yp}$	yield stress
$\tau$	shear stress
$\tau_{xy}, \tau_{yz}, \tau_{zx}$	shear stresses on the $x$ , $y$ , and $z$ planes and parallel to the $y$ , $z$ , and $x$ directions
$\tau_{r\theta}$	shear stress on radial plane and parallel to the tangential plane
$\tau_u$	ultimate stress in shear
$\tau_{yp}$	yield stress in shear
$\phi$	angle, stress function, numerical factor, angle of twist
$\chi$	change of curvature in shell
$\omega$	natural circular frequency, rad/s

# PREFACE

## INTRODUCTION

The subject matter of this text is usually covered in one-semester senior and one-semester graduate level courses dealing with the *analysis of plates and shells, stress analysis, pressure vessels, analysis of thin-walled structures, advanced statics, or special topics in solid and structural mechanics*. As sufficient material is provided for a full year of study, the book may stimulate the development of courses in *advanced engineering design*. The coverage presumes a knowledge of elementary mechanics of materials.

The text is intended to serve a twofold purpose: to complement **classroom lectures** and to accommodate the needs of **practicing engineers** in the analysis of beam, plate, and shell structures. The material presented is applicable to aeronautical, astronautical, chemical, civil, mechanical, and ocean engineering; engineering mechanics; and science curricula. This volume attempts to provide synthesis and analysis that cut through the clutter and save readers time. It is hoped that clarity of presentation is maintained, as well as simplicity as permitted by the nature of the subject, unpretentious depth, an effort to encourage intuitive understanding, and a shunning of the irrelevant.

## APPROACH

Emphasis is given to computer-oriented **numerical techniques** in the solution of problems resisting **analytical approaches**. The reader is helped to realize that a firm grasp of fundamentals is necessary to perform the critical interpretations, so important when computer-based solutions are employed. However, the stress placed upon numerical methods is not intended to deny the merit of **classical analysis**, which is given a rather full treatment. The volume attempts to fill what the writer believes is a void in the world of texts.

The book offers a simple, comprehensive, and methodical presentation of the principles of beam, plate, and shell theories and their applications to numerous structural elements, including domes, pressure vessels, tanks, and pipes. Theories of failures are employed in predicting the behavior of beams, plates, and shells under combined loading. Above all, an effort is made to provide a visual interpretation of the basic equations and of the means by which loads are resisted in shells and plates. A balance is presented between the theory necessary to gain insight into the mechanics and the numerical solutions, both so useful in performing stress analysis in a more realistic setting. Throughout the text, the author has attempted to provide the fundamentals of theory and application necessary to prepare students for more advanced study and for professional practice. Development of the physical and mathematical aspects of the subject is deliberately pursued.

The physical significance of the solutions, and practical applications, are given emphasis. With regard to application, often classical engineering examples are used to maintain simplicity and lucidity. The author has made a special effort to illustrate important principles and applications with numerical examples. A variety of problems is provided for solution by the student. *Answers to selected problems* are given at the end of the book. A **sign convention**, consistent with vector mechanics, is employed throughout for loads, internal force resultants, and stresses. This convention conforms to that used in most classical mechanics of materials and elasticity texts, as well as to that most often employed in numerical analysis of complex structures. The International System of Units (SI) is used.

The expression defining the small lateral deflection of the midplane of a thin plate is formulated in two ways. The first utilizes the fundamental assumptions made in the customary *theory of beams and plates*. The second is based upon the differential equations of equilibrium for the *three-dimensional stress*. The former approach, which requires less mathematical rigor but more physical interpretation, is regarded as more appealing to the engineer, and is equally used in the case of thin shells. Emphasized also are the energy aspects of plate and shell bending and buckling because of the importance of *energy methods* in the solution of many real-life problems and in modern computational techniques. Because of the introductory nature of this book, the classical approaches requiring extensive mathematical background are not treated.

Recent publications dealing with shell-bending theory include analytical presentations generally valid for any shell under any kind of loading. These formulations usually necessitate the employment of tensor notation, vector analysis, and a system of curvilinear coordinates. The theory introduced in this text is a special case of the above. The equations governing shells are developed only to the extent necessary for solving the more usual engineering problems. The finite element method is applied to treat plates of nonuniform thickness and arbitrary shape as well as to represent shells of arbitrary form subjected to variable loading.

Most chapters are substantially self-contained. Hence, the order of presentation can be smoothly altered to meet an instructor's preference. It is suggested, however, that Chap. 3 be studied first. The remaining chapters may be taken in any sequence except that Chaps. 12 and 13 should be read before Chaps. 14 and 15. Numerous alternatives are possible in making selections from the book for two single-semester courses. The chapters have been arranged in a sequence compatible with an orderly study of the analysis of plates and shells. *Part I* and a number of sections marked with an asterisk (\*) are optional and can be omitted. Some chapters are carefully integrated by means of cross-referencing.

## NEW TO THIS EDITION

This second edition of *Stresses in Plates and Shells* seeks to preserve the objectives and emphasis of the previous edition. It is extended to include

stresses in bars and beams, analysis of composite plates and shells, and some other additional topics described below. A major effort has been made to provide a more comprehensive and modern text. The concept of “design to meet strength requirements” as those requirements relate to individual members, elastic design criteria, basic design process, and design factor of safety are briefly discussed. The examples and problems that appear throughout the book illustrate the close link between analysis and design.

Practical stress analysis is usually done using widely available and highly sophisticated software. This demands that engineering courses emphasize more the *fundamentals* and the basis of the *computer-oriented methods*. To this end great care is taken to explain the **three aspects of solid mechanics problems**, basic assumptions made in developing engineering theory of typical structural members, and the implications and limitations of the method.

Included are the *new materials* dealing with fundamental principles of stress analysis; engineering materials; exact theory of plates; plates in the form of a sector; plates with variable flexural rigidity; long rectangular plates; rectangular plates on elastic foundation; thermal stresses in plates; rectangular orthotropic plates; laminated composite plates; circular panels; dynamic stresses in plates; folded structures; shells of general shape; spherical shells; laminated composite cylindrical shells; approximate and energy methods for plates and shells; and tables of area characteristics, material properties, units, and beam and plate stresses and deflections.

The entire text has been reexamined and many major improvements are made throughout by elimination, rearrangement, and the addition of Chaps. 1 and 2 and Secs. 3.5, 3.9, 3.11, 3.13, 4.4, 4.7, 6.5, 7.7, 7.10, 8.6, 8.9, 8.10, 9.3, 10.5, 12.10, 12.11, 13.10, 13.12, 15.5, 15.7, 15.8, 15.9, 15.11, 15.12, and App. B. Some sections are expanded to improve upon previous expositions. The temptation to increase greatly the material covered is resisted. However, it is considered desirable to add a *large* number of new real-life examples and problems. Most problems can be readily modified for in-class tests. References, listed at the end of each chapter, provide readily available sources where additional information can be obtained.

This text offers a wide range of about 100 fully worked-out illustrative examples; 275 problem sets, many of which are drawn from engineering practice; a multitude of formulas and tabulations of beam, plate, and shell theory solutions from which direct and practical design calculations can be made; analyses of plates and shells made of isotropic as well as composite materials under ordinary and high temperature loadings; numerical methods amenable to computer solution; and applications of the formulas developed and of the theories of failures to increasingly important structural members.

## SUPPLEMENT

The book is accompanied by a **Solutions Manual**, available to instructors. It is written and class-tested by the author, and features complete solutions to all problems in the text.

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Ansel C. Ugural

# CONTENTS

LIST OF SYMBOLS    xiii

PREFACE    xvii

## \*PART I

### FUNDAMENTALS    1

---

#### Chapter 1

#### BASIC CONCEPTS    3

- 1.1            Introduction    3
- 1.2            Methods of Analysis    4
- 1.3            Conditions of Equilibrium    5
- 1.4            Stress Defined    6
- 1.5            Internal-Force Resultants    9
- 1.6            Differential Equations of Equilibrium    11
- 1.7            Transformation of Stress    13
- 1.8            Strain Defined    16
- 1.9            Components of Strain, Conditions of Compatibility    18
- 1.10          Large Strains    19
- 1.11          Transformation of Strain    20
- 1.12          Engineering Materials    21
- 1.13          Stress-Strain Diagrams    22
- 1.14          Hooke's Law, Poisson's Ratio    23
- 1.15          Rational Design Procedure    26
- 1.16          Factor of Safety    28
- References    29
- Problems    30

#### Chapter 2

#### STRESS ANALYSIS OF SIMPLE MEMBERS    35

- 2.1            Introduction    35
- 2.2            Axially Loaded Members    36
- 2.3            Stress Concentration Factors    39
- 2.4            Torsion of Circular Bars    40

2.5	Stresses in Beams	42
2.6	Deflection of Beams by Integration	46
2.7	Beam Deflections by Superposition	50
2.8	Thin-Walled Pressure Vessels	51
2.9	Yield and Fracture Criteria	53
2.10	Strain Energy	59
2.11	Castigliano's Theorem	61
	References	64
	Problems	64

## **PART II**

### **PLATES 69**

---

#### **Chapter 3**

#### **ELEMENTS OF PLATE-BENDING THEORY 71**

3.1	Introduction	71
3.2	General Behavior of Plates	72
3.3	Strain-Curvature Relations	74
3.4	Stresses and Stress Resultants	76
3.5	Equations for Transformation of Moment	79
3.6	Variation of Stress within a Plate	80
3.7	The Governing Equation for Deflection of Plates	82
3.8	Boundary Conditions	84
3.9	Exact Theory of Plates	87
3.10	Methods for Solution of Plate Deflections	89
3.11	Strain Energy of Plates	95
3.12	Energy Methods in Theory of Plates	96
*3.13	Natural Frequencies of Plates by Energy Method	98
	References	99
	Problems	100

#### **Chapter 4**

#### **CIRCULAR PLATES 105**

4.1	Introduction	105
4.2	Basic Relations in Polar Coordinates	105
4.3	The Axisymmetrical Bending	109
4.4	Equations of Equilibrium for Axisymmetrically Loaded Circular Plates	110
4.5	Uniformly Loaded Circular Plates	112
*4.6	Effect of Shear on the Plate Deflection	115
4.7	Local Stresses at the Point of Application of a Concentrated Load	116
4.8	Circular Plates under a Concentrated Load at the Center	117

- 4.9 Annular Plates with Simply Supported Outer Edges 121
- 4.10 Deflection and Stress by Superposition 124
- 4.11 The Ritz Method Applied to Bending of Circular Plates 129
- 4.12 Asymmetrical Bending of Circular Plates 132
- \*4.13 Deflection by the Reciprocity Theorem 134
- References 135
- Problems 136

## **Chapter 5**

### **RECTANGULAR PLATES 141**

- 5.1 Introduction 141
- 5.2 Navier's Solution for Simply Supported Rectangular Plates 141
- 5.3 Simply Supported Rectangular Plates under Various Loadings 144
- 5.4 Lévy's Solution for Rectangular Plates 149
- 5.5 Lévy's Method Applied to Nonuniformly Loaded Rectangular Plates 158
- 5.6 Rectangular Plates under Distributed Edge Moments 162
- 5.7 Method of Superposition Applied to Bending of Rectangular Plates 165
- \*5.8 The Strip Method 168
- \*5.9 Simply Supported Continuous Rectangular Plates 171
- \*5.10 Rectangular Plates Supported by Intermediate Columns 174
- 5.11 Rectangular Plates on Elastic Foundation 177
- 5.12 The Ritz Method Applied to Bending of Rectangular Plates 179
- References 185
- Problems 185

## **Chapter 6**

### **PLATES OF VARIOUS GEOMETRICAL FORMS 193**

- 6.1 Introduction 193
- \*6.2 Method of Images 193
- 6.3 Equilateral Triangular Plate with Simply Supported Edges 196
- 6.4 Elliptical Plates 198
- 6.5 Sector-Shaped Plates 200
- \*6.6 Stress Concentration around Holes in a Plate 203
- References 205
- Problems 206

## **Chapter 7**

### **NUMERICAL METHODS 209**

- 7.1 Introduction 209
- 7.2 Finite Differences 210
- 7.3 Solution of the Finite Difference Equations 214

*7.4	Plates with Curved Boundaries	224
*7.5	The Polar Mesh	227
*7.6	The Triangular Mesh	228
7.7	The Finite Element Method	230
7.8	Properties of a Finite Element	231
7.9	Formulation of the Finite Element Method	233
7.10	Beam Element	236
7.11	Triangular Finite Element	239
7.12	Rectangular Finite Element	244
	References	248
	Problems	250

## **Chapter 8**

### **ANISOTROPIC PLATES 253**

8.1	Introduction	253
8.2	Basic Relationships	254
8.3	Determination of Rigidities	255
8.4	Rectangular Orthotropic Plates	256
8.5	Elliptic and Circular Orthotropic Plates	262
8.6	Deflection by the Energy Method	263
*8.7	Plates of Isotropic Multilayers	266
8.8	The Finite Element Solution	268
8.9	A Typical Layered Orthotropic Plate	270
8.10	Laminated Composite Plates	273
	References	278
	Problems	279

## **Chapter 9**

### **PLATES UNDER COMBINED LATERAL AND IN-PLANE LOADS 281**

9.1	Introduction	281
9.2	Governing Equation for the Deflection Surface	281
9.3	Buckling of Plates	284
9.4	Application of the Energy Method	288
*9.5	The Finite Difference Solution	293
9.6	Plates with Small Initial Curvature	296
*9.7	Bending to a Cylindrical Surface	298
	References	302
	Problems	302

## **Chapter 10**

### **LARGE DEFLECTIONS OF PLATES 305**

10.1	Introduction	305
10.2	Plate Behavior When Deflections Are Large	305

- 10.3 Comparison of Small- and Large-Deflection Theories 306
- 10.4 General Equations for Large Deflections of Plates 310
- 10.5 Deflections by the Energy Method 312
- 10.6 The Finite Element Solution 316
- References 318
- Problems 319

## **Chapter 11**

### **THERMAL STRESSES IN PLATES 321**

- 11.1 Introduction 321
- 11.2 Stress, Strain, and Displacement Relations 322
- 11.3 Stress Resultants 323
- 11.4 The Governing Differential Equations 324
- 11.5 Simply Supported Rectangular Plate Subject to an Arbitrary Temperature Distribution 325
- 11.6 Simply Supported Rectangular Plate with Temperature Distribution Varying over the Thickness 327
- 11.7 Analogy Between Thermal and Isothermal Plate Problems 328
- 11.8 Axisymmetrically Heated Circular Plates 330
- References 334
- Problems 334

## **PART III**

### **SHELLS 337**

---

## **Chapter 12**

### **MEMBRANE STRESSES IN SHELLS 339**

- 12.1 General Behavior and Common Theories of Shells 339
- 12.2 Load Resistance Action of a Shell 340
- 12.3 Geometry of Shells of Revolution 343
- 12.4 Symmetrically Loaded Shells of Revolution 344
- 12.5 Some Typical Cases of Shells of Revolution 346
- 12.6 Axially Symmetric Deformation 355
- 12.7 Asymmetrically Loaded Shells of Revolution 357
- \*12.8 Shells of Revolution under Wind Loading 359
- 12.9 Cylindrical Shells of General Shape 361
- \*12.10 Folded Structures 366
- \*12.11 Shells of General Form 367
- \*12.12 Breakdown of Elastic Action in Shells 371
- References 372
- Problems 373

**Chapter 13****BENDING STRESSES IN SHELLS 381**

- 13.1 Introduction 381
- 13.2 Shell Stress Resultants 381
- 13.3 Force, Moment, and Displacement Relations 383
- 13.4 Compound Stresses in a Shell 385
- 13.5 Strain Energy in the Bending and Stretching of Shells 386
- 13.6 Axisymmetrically Loaded Circular Cylindrical Shells 386
- 13.7 A Typical Case of the Axisymmetrically Loaded Cylindrical Shell 390
- 13.8 Shells of Revolution under Axisymmetrical Loads 393
- 13.9 Governing Equations for Axisymmetrical Displacements 396
- 13.10 Spherical Shells under Axisymmetrical Load 398
- 13.11 Comparison of Bending and Membrane Stresses 400
- \*13.12 Simplified Theory of Spherical Shells under Axisymmetrical Load 401
- 13.13 The Finite Element Representations of Shells of General Shape 405
- 13.14 The Finite Element Solution of Axisymmetrically Loaded Shells 406
- References 408
- Problems 409

**Chapter 14****APPLICATIONS TO PIPES, TANKS, AND PRESSURE VESSELS 411**

- 14.1 Introduction 411
- 14.2 Pipes Subjected to Edge Forces and Moments 412
- 14.3 Reinforced Cylinders 415
- 14.4 Cylindrical Tanks 418
- 14.5 Thermal Stresses in Cylinders 420
- 14.6 Thermal Stresses in Compound Cylinders 423
- 14.7 Discontinuity Stresses in Pressure Vessels 426
- 14.8 Cylindrical Vessel with Hemispherical Heads 427
- 14.9 Cylindrical Vessel with Ellipsoidal Heads 429
- 14.10 Cylindrical Vessel with Flat Heads 430
- \*14.11 Design Formulas for Conventional Pressure Vessels 432
- References 433
- Problems 434

**Chapter 15****CYLINDRICAL SHELLS UNDER GENERAL LOADS 439**

- 15.1 Introduction 439
- 15.2 Differential Equations of Equilibrium 440
- 15.3 Kinematic Relationships 441

15.4	The Governing Equations for Deflections	443
*15.5	Approximate Relations	444
15.6	A Typical Case of Asymmetrical Loading	446
15.7	Curved Circular Panels	449
*15.8	A Simple Theory of Bending of Curved Circular Panels	450
*15.9	Curved Circular Panels with Ends Simply Supported and Straight Edges Free	453
15.10	Inextensional Deformations	457
15.11	A Typical Layered Orthotropic Cylindrical Shell	460
15.12	Laminated Composite Cylindrical Shells	463
*15.13	Symmetrical Buckling under Uniform Axial Pressure	465
15.14	Nonsymmetrical Buckling under Uniform Axial Compression	468
	References	471
	Problems	472

APPENDICES

---

**Appendix A**  
**FOURIER SERIES EXPANSIONS 475**

A.1	Single Fourier Series	475
A.2	Half-Range Expansions	477
A.3	Double Fourier Series	479

**Appendix B**  
**TABLES 481**

B.1	Conversion Factors: SI Units to U.S. Customary Units	481
B.2	SI Unit Prefixes	482
B.3	Typical Properties for Some Common Materials	483
B.4	Properties of Common Areas	484
B.5	Beam Deflections and Slopes	485
B.6	Restrained Beam Reactions and Deflections	486

---

**ANSWERS TO SELECTED PROBLEMS 487**

**NAME INDEX 491**

**SUBJECT INDEX 495**