



Numerical Analysis

Estimates of the modeling error for the Kirchhoff–Love plate model

*Estimation de l'erreur de modélisation pour le modèle de plaque de Kirchhoff–Love*Sergey Repin^a, Stefan A. Sauter^b^a St. Petersburg Department of V.A. Steklov Institute of Mathematics, Fontanka 27, 191 023 St. Petersburg, Russia^b Institut für Mathematik, Universität Zürich, Winterthurerstrasse 190, CH-8057 Zürich, Switzerland

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ABSTRACT

In this Note we consider the Kirchhoff–Love model for approximating problems in linear elasticity on thin plates under certain hypotheses. We will present computable error majorants for the arising modelling error. The majorant for the relative error converges with a rate $O(h^{1/2})$ in the thickness parameter h provided that the KL solution possesses extra regularity.

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R É S U M É

Dans ce travail on considère le modèle de Kirchhoff–Love pour approcher les problèmes de plaques minces sous certaines conditions. Nous présentons des majorants d'erreur calculables. La borne de l'erreur relative converge comme $O(h^{1/2})$ en terme du paramètre d'épaisseur h pourvu que la KL solution ait un peu plus de régularité.

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Dans ce travail nous nous intéressons à l'erreur commise lorsque l'on remplace un problème tridimensionnel d'élasticité linéaire pour des objets minces par le modèle de Kirchhoff–Love (voir [7]). Plus précisément soit $\hat{\omega}$ le déplacement scalaire de la surface moyenne ω d'un corps Ω solution d'une équation biharmonique en dimension 2. Dans le modèle (1, 1, 2) on reconstruit le déplacement tridimensionnel $\mathbf{v}_{\text{KL}}^{112}$ en utilisant $\hat{\omega}$ et une fonction auxiliaire \hat{W} qui incorpore les différentes couches dans $\mathbf{v}_{\text{KL}}^{112}$. L'erreur peut être estimée par notre nouveau majorant comme suit. Soit $\Omega = \omega \times]-h/2, h/2[\subset \mathbb{R}^3$, où $\omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ est un domaine Lipschitzien et h est supposé petit. Le champ des déplacements est noté \mathbf{u} et le tenseur des déformations par $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{u}) := \frac{1}{2}(\nabla \mathbf{u} + (\nabla \mathbf{u})^T)$. Dans le cas important de l'élasticité linéaire isotrope, la relation entre le tenseur des contraintes et des déformations peut s'écrire

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma} = 2\mu \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} + \lambda(\text{trace } \boldsymbol{\varepsilon})\mathbb{I} \quad \text{et} \quad \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} = \frac{1}{2\mu} \boldsymbol{\sigma} - \frac{\nu}{2\mu(1+\nu)}(\text{trace } \boldsymbol{\sigma})\mathbb{I}, \quad (1)$$

où λ et μ sont les constantes de Lamé, ν est le coefficient de Poisson et \mathbb{I} est l'identité. Soit Γ la partie latérale de Ω et S_{\ominus} , S_{\oplus} les parties inférieures et supérieures. On recherche $\boldsymbol{\sigma}$, tenseur des contraintes, satisfaisant les conditions d'équilibre

$$\text{Div } \boldsymbol{\sigma} + \mathbf{f} = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{dans } \Omega, \quad \mathbf{u}|_{\Gamma} = 0, \quad \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \mathbf{n}|_{S} = 0. \quad (2)$$

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Dans le modèle de Kirchhoff et Love on resout tout d'abord l'équation biharmonique satisfaite par le déplacement de la surface moyenne \hat{w} , i.e.,

$$\int_{\omega} \hat{\Delta} \hat{w} \hat{\Delta} \hat{\varphi} \, d\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \int_{\omega} \hat{g}_0 \hat{\varphi} \, d\hat{\mathbf{x}}$$

pour tout $\hat{\varphi} \in H_0^2(\omega)$, où \hat{g}_0 désigne une force mise à l'échelle. Ce déplacement est alors utilisé pour reconstruire le champ de déplacement tridimensionnel en définissant

$$\mathbf{v}_{\text{KL}}^{112} := (-x_3 \hat{w}_{,1}, -x_3 \hat{w}_{,2}, \hat{w} + x_3^2 \hat{W})^T$$

(appelé modèle 112, voir (11)), où \hat{W} est une fonction de $H_0^1(\omega)$. On pose $\boldsymbol{\tau}_{\text{KL}}^{112} := \mathbb{L} \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{v}_{\text{KL}}^{112})$, où \mathbb{L} est le tenseur d'élasticité. Une autre reconstruction possible est donnée par

$$\boldsymbol{\tau}_{\text{KL}}^{im}(\hat{\mathbf{q}}) := \begin{bmatrix} -2\mu x_3 (\hat{w}_{,11} + \frac{\nu}{1-\nu} \hat{\Delta} \hat{w}) & -2\mu x_3 \hat{w}_{,12} & \frac{1}{2}(x_3^2 - \frac{h^2}{4}) \hat{q}_1 \\ -2\mu x_3 \hat{w}_{,12} & -2\mu x_3 (\hat{w}_{,22} + \frac{\nu}{1-\nu} \hat{\Delta} \hat{w}) & \frac{1}{2}(x_3^2 - \frac{h^2}{4}) \hat{q}_2 \\ \frac{1}{2}(x_3^2 - \frac{h^2}{4}) \hat{q}_1 & \frac{1}{2}(x_3^2 - \frac{h^2}{4}) \hat{q}_2 & -(2x_3^3 - \frac{1}{2}x_3 h^2) \hat{f}_0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad (3)$$

où

$$\hat{\mathbf{q}} \in Q_{\hat{g}_0} := \left\{ \hat{\mathbf{q}}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) \in H(\omega, \text{div}) \mid \text{div} \hat{\mathbf{q}} - \frac{2\mu}{1-\nu} \hat{g}_0 = 0, \text{ p.p. } \hat{\mathbf{x}} \in \omega \right\}. \quad (4)$$

L'estimation fondamentale d'erreur sur l'énergie $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}_{\text{KL}}^{112})$ est la suivante.

Les fonctions $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbf{V}_0 := \{\mathbf{w} \in H^1(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^3) \mid \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{0} \text{ on } \Gamma\}$, resp. $\boldsymbol{\tau} \in \Sigma := L^2(\Omega, \mathbb{R}_{\text{sym}}^{3 \times 3})$, sont munies de la norme $\|\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{w})\|^2 := (\mathbb{L} \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{w}), \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{w}))_{\Omega}$ et $\|\boldsymbol{\tau}\|_*^2 := (\mathbb{L}^{-1} \boldsymbol{\tau}, \boldsymbol{\tau})_{\Omega}$, où $(\cdot, \cdot)_{\Omega}$ désigne le produit scalaire dans L^2 pour les fonctions scalaires, vectorielles ou tensorielles. De plus $\|\cdot\|_{\Omega} := (\cdot, \cdot)_{\Omega}^{1/2}$.

Théorème. Pour tout $\beta > 1$ on a

$$\|\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}_{\text{KL}}^{112})\|^2 \leq \beta \|\boldsymbol{\tau}_{\text{KL}}^{112} - \boldsymbol{\tau}_{\text{KL}}^{im}\|_*^2 + \frac{2\beta C_{\omega}^2}{c_1^2(\beta - 1)} \sum_{i=1}^2 \|r_i(\boldsymbol{\tau}_{\text{KL}}^{im})\|_{\Omega}^2, \quad (5)$$

avec $r_i(\boldsymbol{\tau})$, $i = 1, 2, 3$, défini en (9). Si $\hat{\Delta} \hat{w}$ possède des dérivées faibles de carré sommable (ce qui est vrai pour des domaines réguliers ou des domaines convexes et polygonaux), alors

$$\|\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}_{\text{KL}}^{112})\|^2 \leq M_2(\hat{w}, \hat{W}, \hat{\mathbf{q}}) := \beta (\mathcal{M}_1(\hat{W}, \hat{\mathbf{q}}) + \mathcal{M}_2(\hat{w}, \hat{W})) + \frac{\beta}{\beta - 1} \mathcal{M}_3(\hat{w}, \hat{\mathbf{q}}), \quad (6)$$

pour tout $\hat{W} \in H_0^1(\omega)$ et $\hat{\mathbf{q}} \in Q_{\hat{g}_0}(\omega)$, où $\rho(\hat{w}, \hat{W}) := 2\hat{W} - \frac{\nu}{1-\nu} \hat{\Delta} \hat{w}$ et

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M}_1(\hat{W}, \hat{\mathbf{q}}) &:= \frac{h^5}{40} \int_{\omega} \left(\frac{\mu}{2} |\hat{\nabla} \hat{W}|^2 + \frac{1}{3} (\hat{W}_{,1} \hat{q}_1 + \hat{W}_{,2} \hat{q}_2) + \frac{1}{3\mu} |\hat{\mathbf{q}}|^2 \right) d\hat{\mathbf{x}}, \\ \mathcal{M}_2(\hat{w}, \hat{W}) &:= \frac{h^3}{420} \int_{\omega} \left(70 \frac{\mu(1-\nu)}{(1-2\nu)} \rho^2(\hat{w}, \hat{W}) - 14\rho(\hat{w}, \hat{W}) \hat{f} + \frac{\hat{f}^2}{\mu(1+\nu)} \right) d\hat{\mathbf{x}}, \\ \mathcal{M}_3(\hat{w}, \hat{\mathbf{q}}) &:= \frac{C_{\omega}^2 h^3}{6c_1^2} \int_{\omega} \left(\left| \hat{q}_1 - \frac{2\mu}{1-\nu} \hat{\Delta} \hat{w}_{,1} \right|^2 + \left| \hat{q}_2 - \frac{2\mu}{1-\nu} \hat{\Delta} \hat{w}_{,2} \right|^2 \right) d\hat{\mathbf{x}}. \end{aligned}$$

1. Statement of the problem

Let $\Omega := \omega \times]-h/2, h/2[\subset \mathbb{R}^3$ where $\omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ is a Lipschitz domain and h is small compared to the width of ω . Further geometric quantities are

$$S_0 := \omega \times \{0\}, \quad S_{\oplus} := \omega \times \left\{ \frac{h}{2} \right\}, \quad S_{\ominus} := \omega \times \left\{ -\frac{h}{2} \right\}, \quad \Gamma := \partial\omega \times \left(-\frac{h}{2}, \frac{h}{2} \right)$$

and $\mathbf{n}(\hat{\mathbf{x}})$ is the normal vector for $S := S_{\oplus} \cup S_{\ominus}$.

The displacement field and the strain tensor are denoted by \mathbf{u} and $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{u}) := \frac{1}{2}(\nabla \mathbf{u} + (\nabla \mathbf{u})^T)$ and coupled with the stress tensor via the Hooke's law $\boldsymbol{\sigma} := \mathbb{L} \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$, where the tensor of elasticity constants \mathbb{L} satisfies the standard symmetry conditions,

is uniformly positive definite and bounded in the L^∞ -norm. For the case of isotropic material the corresponding relation is presented by (1). We consider the problem of finding the stress tensor $\boldsymbol{\sigma}$ such that the equilibrium and boundary conditions

$$\text{Div } \boldsymbol{\sigma} + \mathbf{f} = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad \mathbf{u}|_\Gamma = \mathbf{0}, \quad \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \mathbf{n}|_S = \mathbf{0} \tag{7}$$

are satisfied. For the external force, we assume $\mathbf{f} = (0, 0, \hat{f}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}))^\top$ with $\hat{f} \in L^2(\omega)$ and, for $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, x_3)$, we set $\hat{\mathbf{x}} := (x_1, x_2)$.

A function $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbf{V}_0 := \{\mathbf{w} \in H^1(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^3) \mid \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{0} \text{ on } \Gamma\}$ is a generalized solution of (7) if it satisfies the variational relation

$$\int_\Omega \mathbb{L} \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{u}) : \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{w}) \, d\mathbf{x} = \int_\Omega \hat{f} w_3(\mathbf{x}) \, d\mathbf{x} \tag{8}$$

for all $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbf{V}_0$. Functions $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbf{V}_0$ resp. $\boldsymbol{\tau} \in \Sigma := L^2(\Omega, \mathbb{R}_{\text{sym}}^{3 \times 3})$ are equipped with the corresponding energy norms $\|\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{w})\|^2 := (\mathbb{L} \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{w}), \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{w}))_\Omega$ and $\|\boldsymbol{\tau}\|^2 := (\mathbb{L}^{-1} \boldsymbol{\tau}, \boldsymbol{\tau})_\Omega$, where $(\cdot, \cdot)_\Omega$ denotes the L^2 -scalar product for scalar functions, vectors, and tensors. Further $\|\cdot\|_\Omega := (\cdot, \cdot)_\Omega^{1/2}$, and we denote by $\|\cdot\|_\omega, \|\cdot\|_{S_\oplus}, \|\cdot\|_{S_\ominus}$ the L^2 -norms on $\omega, S_\oplus, S_\ominus$.

In the classical theory of the Kirchhoff–Love plates, the above-described 3D model is replaced by an ansatz via the scalar valued deflection \hat{w} of the middle surface

$$u_1(\mathbf{x}) = -x_3 \hat{w}_{,1}, \quad u_2(\mathbf{x}) = -x_3 \hat{w}_{,2}, \quad u_3(\mathbf{x}) = \hat{w}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}).$$

We introduce the scaled loads $\hat{g}_0 := \frac{6(1-\nu)}{\mu} \hat{f}_0$ with $\hat{f}(h) := h^2 \hat{f}_0$ and deduce \hat{w} as the solution of the problem: find $\hat{w} \in H_0^2(\omega)$:

$$\int_\omega \hat{\Delta} \hat{w} \hat{\Delta} \hat{\varphi} \, d\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \int_\omega \hat{g}_0 \hat{\varphi} \, d\hat{\mathbf{x}} \quad \forall \hat{\varphi} \in H_0^2(\omega).$$

Historically, the subject of error estimation in dimension reduction models was mainly focused on a priori asymptotic error estimates that evaluate the difference between original and reduced models in terms of small (geometric) parameters. In this context, models in the elasticity theory have been studied by different authors (see e.g., [1,3–6,14] and the references therein). Papers [9,10] are devoted to asymptotic consistency of models in the linearized plate theory.

2. Error bound for plate type elastic bodies

Let $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{V}_0$ denote an approximation of the exact solution \mathbf{u} of (8) obtained by some suitable reconstruction of a plate model. In this section, we present different estimates of the modeling error generated by \mathbf{v} . Let

$$\Sigma_{\text{Div}, \mathbf{n}} := \{\boldsymbol{\tau} \in \Sigma \mid \text{Div } \boldsymbol{\tau} \in (L^2(\Omega))^3; \boldsymbol{\tau} \cdot \mathbf{n} \in (L^2(S))^3\}.$$

The following error majorant was introduced in [13] which contains also the proof of the next theorem (see also [11,12]). We use the short notation

$$r_i(\boldsymbol{\tau}) := \text{div}\{\tau_{ij}\}_{j=1}^3 = \tau_{i1,1} + \tau_{i2,2} + \tau_{i3,3}, \quad i = 1, 2, 3. \tag{9}$$

Theorem 2.1. Assume that $r_3(\boldsymbol{\tau}) + h^2 \hat{f}_0 = 0$ in Ω and $\tau_{i,3}|_{S_\ominus \cup S_\oplus} = 0$ for $i = 1, 2, 3$. Then,

$$\|\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v})\|^2 \leq M_1(\mathbf{v}, \boldsymbol{\tau}) := \beta \|\mathbb{L} \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{v}) - \boldsymbol{\tau}\|_\star^2 + \frac{2\beta C_\omega^2}{c_1^2(\beta - 1)} \sum_{i=1}^2 \|r_i(\boldsymbol{\tau})\|_\Omega^2, \tag{10}$$

for any $\beta > 1$ and where C_ω is the constant in the Friedrichs inequality related to the plain domain ω and $c_1 > 0$ is the lowest eigenvalue of \mathbb{L} .

3. Error bound for the KL model

Let $\hat{w} = \hat{w}(x_1, x_2)$ be a solution of the Kirchhoff–Love problem. To measure the corresponding modeling error we need to reconstruct 3D displacements and stresses.

We employ here the so-called (112)-model for the dimension reconstruction of the displacements, strains, and stresses (see [1,2,8]) and set

$$\mathbf{v}_{\text{KL}}^{112} := \mathbf{v}_{\text{KL}}^{112}(\hat{w}, \hat{W}) := (-x_3 \hat{w}_{,1}, -x_3 \hat{w}_{,2}, \hat{w} + x_3^2 \hat{W})^\top, \tag{11}$$

where $\hat{W}(\hat{\mathbf{x}})$ is a specially selected function. Henceforth, we assume that $\hat{W} \in H_0^1(\omega)$. In our analysis, we employ two reconstructions of 3D stresses based on \hat{w} and \hat{W} . The first one reconstructs stresses in accordance with 3D elasticity

relations, i.e., $\boldsymbol{\tau}_{\text{KL}}^{112}(\hat{w}, \hat{W}) := \mathbb{L}\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{v}_{\text{KL}}^{112}(\hat{w}, \hat{W}))$. Another possible reconstruction (originally introduced in [8]) of the stress tensor uses the KL relations (1) for the components τ_{sk} , $s, k = 1, 2$, while the components τ_{i3} , $i = 1, 2, 3$, are not zero (as in the classical KL theory) and are defined with the help of a correction functions $\hat{\mathbf{q}}$. This *improved* reconstruction has the form (3), where we assume that $\hat{\mathbf{q}} \in Q_{\hat{g}_0}$ (cf. (4)). This implies that the conditions of Theorem 2.1 are satisfied.

3.1. Error estimate

From (10) we deduce the following theorem (see [13]):

Theorem 3.1. *For any $\beta > 1$ it holds*

$$\|\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}_{\text{KL}}^{112})\|^2 \leq \beta \|\boldsymbol{\tau}_{\text{KL}}^{112} - \boldsymbol{\tau}_{\text{KL}}^{im}\|^2 + \frac{2\beta C_\omega^2}{c_1^2(\beta - 1)} \sum_{i=1}^2 \|r_i(\boldsymbol{\tau}_{\text{KL}}^{im})\|_\Omega^2. \tag{12}$$

If $\hat{\Delta}\hat{w}$ possesses square summable generalized derivatives (which is true for domains with smooth boundaries or for convex polygonal domains) then $\|\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}_{\text{KL}}^{112})\|^2 \leq M_2(\hat{w}, \hat{W}, \hat{\mathbf{q}})$ for all $\hat{W} \in H_0^1(\omega)$ and $\hat{\mathbf{q}} \in Q_{\hat{g}_0}(\omega)$, where M_2 is as in (6).

Note that $C_\omega \leq \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{ab}{\sqrt{a^2+b^2}}$ holds if ω is contained in a rectangle with side lengths a and b . Thus, $M_2(\hat{w}, \hat{W}, \hat{\mathbf{q}})$ contains only known functions and constants. If \hat{w} is known, then the majorant is directly computable. By selecting $\hat{\mathbf{q}}$ and \hat{W} , we can (approximately) minimize the value of the majorant. The number obtained presents a *guaranteed* upper bound of the modeling error encompassed in \hat{w} .

4. Asymptotic behavior of the error majorant

In this section, we will choose \hat{W} and $\hat{\mathbf{q}}$ in a concrete way and will get a simplified version of the majorant which will allow us to detect the asymptotic behavior of the modelling error. By estimating the products $\langle \hat{\nabla}\hat{W}, \hat{\mathbf{q}} \rangle$ and $\rho(\hat{w}, \hat{W})\hat{f}$ appearing in the definition of M_1, M_2 by Young's inequalities we obtain an upper bound of M_i , $i = 1, 2$, which is minimal by choosing \hat{W} as the minimizer of the functional

$$J : H_0^1(\omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad J(\hat{Z}) := h^2 \|\hat{\nabla}\hat{Z}\|_\omega^2 + \frac{80(1-\nu)}{3(1-2\nu)} \|\rho(\hat{w}, \hat{Z})\|_\omega^2.$$

The function $\hat{\mathbf{q}}$ is selected by $\hat{\mathbf{q}} := \frac{2\mu}{1-\nu} \hat{\nabla}\hat{\Delta}\hat{w} \in Q_{\hat{g}_0}$; we assume here that \hat{w} is sufficiently regular. The proof of the following theorem is in [13] and uses some regularity results for the minimizer \hat{W} (see [1,2]):

Theorem 4.1. *For any $\gamma > 1$, it holds*

$$\|\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}_{\text{KL}}^{112})\|^2 \leq M_3(\hat{w}, \hat{W}, \hat{\mathbf{q}}_0) := \frac{\mu\gamma}{80} h^5 \|\hat{\nabla}\hat{W}\|_\omega^2 + \frac{\mu(1-\nu)}{3(1-2\nu)} h^3 \|\rho(\hat{w}, \hat{W})\|_\omega^2 + h^5 \mathcal{R}(\hat{w}, \hat{f}_0), \tag{13}$$

where

$$\mathcal{R}(\hat{w}, \hat{f}_0) = C_{\mu,\nu,\gamma}^I \|\hat{\nabla}\hat{\Delta}\hat{w}\|_\omega^2 + C_{\mu,\nu,\gamma}^{II} h^2 \|\hat{f}_0\|_\omega^2$$

and the $C_{\mu,\nu,\gamma}^{I,II}$ are positive constants depending only on μ, ν, γ .

By using this theorem the following asymptotic behavior of the error majorant can be derived (see [13])

$$\frac{\sqrt{M_3(\hat{w}, \hat{W}, \hat{\mathbf{q}}_0)}}{\|\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{v}_{\text{KL}}^{112})\|} \leq ch^{1/2} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\sqrt{M_3(\hat{w}, \hat{W}, \hat{\mathbf{q}}_0)}}{\|\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{u})\|} \leq ch^{1/2}.$$

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