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四节点二十四自由度平板壳单元几何刚度矩阵显式解析式的推演算法研究

文颖*, 曾庆元

(中南大学 土木工程学院, 长沙 410075)

摘要:几何刚度矩阵的推演是结构几何非线性有限元分析的重点和难点之一。推导几何刚度矩阵显式解析表达式成为简化非线性有限元列式,提高分析效率的关键。本文在协同转动法框架下,基于刚体运动法则对四节点二十四自由度的平板壳单元几何刚度矩阵显式解析式进行了推导和讨论;分析了悬臂梁大转动、不同壁厚条件下筒支圆柱形屋顶空间大变形两个经典算例。研究表明:(1)几何刚度矩阵的显式计算公式不仅为板壳结构几何非线性列式提供了方便而且具有良好的精度;(2)推导的几何刚度矩阵适用于各类型四边形二十四自由度平板壳单元模型;(3)与数值积分相比,采用解析形式的几何刚度矩阵可以显著提高非线性响应计算效率。

关键词:四边形平板壳元;几何刚度矩阵;刚体运动法则;几何非线性;解析表达式

中图分类号:TU311.4;TU33

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1 引言

薄壁结构具有较高的面内强度、自重轻、便于工场预制和现场拼装以及制作成本低等优点,在大跨度柔性桥梁,大跨度屋盖结构,高层建筑以及近海钻井平台等工程实践中获得广泛应用。由于面外刚度较低,面外缺陷和变形对结构受力行为影响较大,几何非线性特征显著。薄壁结构几何非线性响应计算以及稳定问题受到结构工程师们高度关注,历来是结构工程领域研究的热点和难点。

从计算力学角度来看,薄板、薄壳非线性有限元分析技术无疑是精确描述薄壁构件非线性受力-变形特征的最佳手段。大变形、大转动背景下板壳有限元列式的关键一步是推求单元几何刚度矩阵。传统的推导方法是^[1,2]基于连续介质有限变形理论,列出考虑初应力影响的单元非线性应变能计算式,通过引入单元位移形函数得到几何刚度矩阵的积分算式。由于板壳单元内初应力分布难以显式给出,单元几何刚度矩阵不能显式积出,只好采用数值积分方案计算几何刚度矩阵元素。随着有限元分析的计算规模不断扩大,采用数值积分形成单

元几何刚度矩阵需要耗费大量计算资源和计算机时,严重影响了数值分析效率,这些问题在计算机软、硬件技术高速发展的今天仍旧存在。

为了减轻板壳单元几何非线性分析负担、提高计算效率,计算力学界开展了大量研究工作,不少学者提出了推求性能优异的板壳单元几何刚度矩阵的新颖算法。Argyris^[3]提出了自然模态法推导三角形薄壳单元几何刚度矩阵,简化了非线性分析过程。Zhu^[4]改进了Argyris算法,简化推导过程,得到对于不同壳单元具有统一外观的几何刚度矩阵。上述几何刚度矩阵仅考虑膜内力的贡献而忽略面外力矩的影响。Shi和Voyiadjis^[5]采用拟协调元方法导出五个节点自由度的四节点板单元几何刚度矩阵显式表达式。Kim和Lomboy^[6]也运用拟协调技术推求了带面内转动自由度(六个节点自由度)的四节点壳单元显式几何刚度矩阵。Gal和Levy^[7]提出扰动法,通过计算单元等效节点抗力梯度分别形成单元面内、面外几何刚度矩阵。Yang等^[8]采用一套全新思路,基于刚体运动法则推导了三角形平板壳单元显式几何刚度矩阵。数值算例说明,这套方法分析结构几何非线性问题非常有效。随着单元网格的加密,数值解很快收敛于精确解。

随着板壳有限元理论与应用研究的深入,涌现了一大批数值性能优、应用范围广的四边形板壳单元^[9,10]。其中,四节点二十四自由度四边形平板壳

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作者简介:文颖*(1981-),男,博士,讲师
(E-mail: ywen_ce@csu.edu.cn);
曾庆元(1925-),男,教授,中国工程院院士.

单元由于(1)引入面内自旋自由度克服单元共面时刚度矩阵奇异,具有较好的数值稳定性;(2)单元节点包含六个自由度,可与空间梁单元连接与耦合,具有较广的适用性,而吸引国内外学者深入研究^[11-13]。这些研究主要致力于通过构造有效单元模型提高计算效率、稳定性和精度。现阶段采用四节点二十四自由度平板壳单元计算薄壁结构几何非线性响应一般存在:(1)几何刚度矩阵无法显式给出而增加有限元分析工作量;(2)几何刚度矩阵依赖于单元位移模型,应用面较窄等问题。

本文根据协同转动法 CR(Co-rotational Approach)的基本假定,运用刚体运动法则对四节点二十四自由度的平板壳单元几何刚度矩阵显式解析式的推导进行了探讨,提出与单元位移模型无关的几何刚度矩阵显式公式。研究结果可直接用于薄壁构件大位移、大转动非线性行为数值模拟,为简化分析过程、提高计算效率和扩大应用范围提供了有效途径。数值算例结果表明,本文推导的几何刚度矩阵适用性良好,具有很高的精度。

2 单元运动模型

考虑典型四节点、二十四自由度四边形平板壳单元,如图 1 所示。选取 x 轴和 y 轴与单元中面相邻边界重合, z 轴垂直于中面。单元的长(沿 x 坐标方向)、宽和厚度分别为 AA 、 BB 和 h 。

为了考察单元连续变形的力学行为,选取任意典型增量变形作为研究对象。假定增量变形起始和结束时单元构型分别用 C_1 和 C_2 表示,如图 2 所示。在 C_1 下,单元局部坐标系用 xyz 表示。基于连续介质力学极点分解定理(Polar decomposition theorem),可以引入中间构型 C_2' 将增量变形分解成两类性质迥异的运动过程,分别是由 C_1 到 C_2' 经历的刚体运动和发生在 C_2' 与 C_2 之间的微小自然

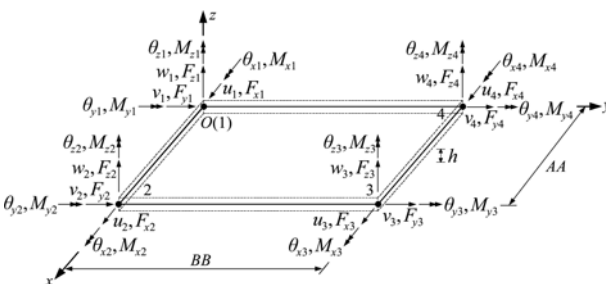


图 1 四节点、二十四自由度平板壳单元
Fig. 1 The 4-node, 24 degrees of freedom flat shell element

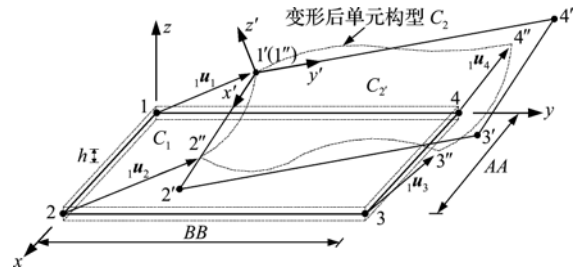


图 2 单元增量变形示意图
Fig. 2 Incremental deformation between C_1 and C_2

变形。 C_2' 在 CR 法中又称为协同构型,用刚性坐标系 $x'y'z'$ 来描述。为表述方便,本文约定左上标表示变量出现时所在的单元构型,左下标表示变量的参考构型。

CR 法认为发生在协同构型上的自然变形从量级上远小于刚体运动^[14]。因此,单元几何构型的改变对其受力行为的影响主要依赖于刚体运动分量。众所周知,与刚体运动对应的单元应变为零,刚体运动仅改变单元初应力的作用方向而不影响其大小。假定 C_1 下,单元初始节点力 \mathbf{F} 为

$$\mathbf{F} = (\mathbf{F}_{x1}, \mathbf{F}_{y1}, \mathbf{F}_{z1}, \mathbf{M}_{x1}, \mathbf{M}_{y1}, \mathbf{M}_{z1}, \mathbf{F}_{x2}, \mathbf{F}_{y2}, \mathbf{F}_{z2}, \mathbf{M}_{x2}, \mathbf{M}_{y2}, \mathbf{M}_{z2}, \mathbf{F}_{x3}, \mathbf{F}_{y3}, \mathbf{F}_{z3}, \mathbf{M}_{x3}, \mathbf{M}_{y3}, \mathbf{M}_{z3}, \mathbf{F}_{x4}, \mathbf{F}_{y4}, \mathbf{F}_{z4}, \mathbf{M}_{x4}, \mathbf{M}_{y4}, \mathbf{M}_{z4})^T \quad (1)$$

刚体运动完成后,初始节点力 \mathbf{F} 随转至 C_2' 下而变成 \mathbf{F}' 。这两组节点力虽然大小相等,却以不同坐标系为参照。因此,单元几何刚度便主要体现在刚体运动引起初始节点力作用方向的改变上。

3 几何刚度矩阵显式解析式的推导

由于单元几何刚度主要反映刚性运动引起初始节点力作用方向的变化,它只与单元几何外形相关,与单元材料特性、截面积及截面惯性矩等参数均无关,故与单元几何外形一致的几何体均可用来计算原型单元的几何刚度矩阵。Yang 等^[8]运用刚体运动思想给出 18 个自由度的三角形薄板单元的几何刚度矩阵计算式。为了应用文献[8]的结论,将四边形平板壳单元沿着对角线方向分为两个刚性三角形块,如图 3 所示。

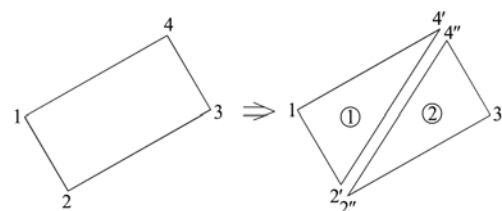


图 3 单元刚性分解示意图
Fig. 3 Decomposition of flat shell element into rigid elements

假定三角形块① $\Delta_{1-2'-4'}$ 的节点力为 \mathbf{F}_1 ,块② $\Delta_{3-4''-2''}$ 的节点力为 \mathbf{F}_2 ,即

$$\mathbf{F}_1 = (\mathbf{F}_{x1}, \mathbf{F}_{y1}, \mathbf{F}_{z1}, \mathbf{M}_{x1}, \mathbf{M}_{y1}, \mathbf{M}_{z1}, \mathbf{F}_{x2'}, \mathbf{F}_{y2'}, \mathbf{F}_{z2'}, \mathbf{M}_{x2'}, \mathbf{M}_{y2'}, \mathbf{M}_{z2'}, \mathbf{F}_{x4'}, \mathbf{F}_{y4'}, \mathbf{F}_{z4'}, \mathbf{M}_{x4'}, \mathbf{M}_{y4'}, \mathbf{M}_{z4'})^T \quad (2a)$$

$$\mathbf{F}_2 = (\mathbf{F}_{x2''}, \mathbf{F}_{y2''}, \mathbf{F}_{z2''}, \mathbf{M}_{x2''}, \mathbf{M}_{y2''}, \mathbf{M}_{z2''}, \mathbf{F}_{x3}, \mathbf{F}_{y3}, \mathbf{F}_{z3}, \mathbf{M}_{x3}, \mathbf{M}_{y3}, \mathbf{M}_{z3}, \mathbf{F}_{x4''}, \mathbf{F}_{y4''}, \mathbf{F}_{z4''}, \mathbf{M}_{x4''}, \mathbf{M}_{y4''}, \mathbf{M}_{z4''})^T \quad (2b)$$

式(2)中只有节点1、3的节点力是已知的,且等于四边形单元的节点力,剩下的节点力是待求的。未知节点力总数达到24,故需要24个相互独立的求解条件。从图3可以看出,求解条件分成两大类,分别是节点平衡条件和三角形块平衡条件:

(1) 节点2的平衡条件,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=2',2''} \mathbf{F}_{xi} &= \mathbf{F}_{x2}, \quad \sum_{i=2',2''} \mathbf{F}_{yi} = \mathbf{F}_{y2} \\ \sum_{i=2',2''} \mathbf{F}_{zi} &= \mathbf{F}_{z2}, \quad \sum_{i=2',2''} \mathbf{M}_{xi} = \mathbf{M}_{x2} \\ \sum_{i=2',2''} \mathbf{M}_{yi} &= \mathbf{M}_{y2}, \quad \sum_{i=2',2''} \mathbf{M}_{zi} = \mathbf{M}_{z2} \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

(2) 节点4的平衡条件,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=4',4''} \mathbf{F}_{xi} &= \mathbf{F}_{x4}, \quad \sum_{i=4',4''} \mathbf{F}_{yi} = \mathbf{F}_{y4} \\ \sum_{i=4',4''} \mathbf{F}_{zi} &= \mathbf{F}_{z4}, \quad \sum_{i=4',4''} \mathbf{M}_{xi} = \mathbf{M}_{x4} \\ \sum_{i=4',4''} \mathbf{M}_{yi} &= \mathbf{M}_{y4}, \quad \sum_{i=4',4''} \mathbf{M}_{zi} = \mathbf{M}_{z4} \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

(3) 块① $\Delta_{1-2'-4'}$ 的平衡条件,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1,2',4'} \mathbf{F}_{xi} &= 0, \quad \sum_{i=1,2',4'} \mathbf{F}_{yi} = 0 \\ \sum_{i=1,2',4'} \mathbf{F}_{zi} &= 0, \quad \sum_{i=1,2',4'} \mathbf{M}_{xi} + Y_i \mathbf{F}_{zi} = 0 \\ \sum_{i=1,2',4'} \mathbf{M}_{yi} - X_i \mathbf{F}_{zi} &= 0 \\ \sum_{i=1,2',4'} \mathbf{M}_{zi} - Y_i \mathbf{F}_{xi} + X_i \mathbf{F}_{yi} &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

(4) 块② $\Delta_{3-4''-2''}$ 的平衡条件,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=3,2'',4''} \mathbf{F}_{xi} &= 0, \quad \sum_{i=3,2'',4''} \mathbf{F}_{yi} = 0 \\ \sum_{i=3,2'',4''} \mathbf{F}_{zi} &= 0, \quad \sum_{i=3,2'',4''} \mathbf{M}_{xi} + Y_i \mathbf{F}_{zi} = 0 \\ \sum_{i=3,2'',4''} \mathbf{M}_{yi} - X_i \mathbf{F}_{zi} &= 0 \\ \sum_{i=3,2'',4''} \mathbf{M}_{zi} - Y_i \mathbf{F}_{xi} + X_i \mathbf{F}_{yi} &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

式中 X_i 和 Y_i 代表节点 i 的局部坐标。由式(3~6)解得未知节点力(见附录)。这样,可以得出三角形刚性单元的几何刚度矩阵 $\mathbf{k}_g^{\text{TPE}}$ 为

$$\mathbf{k}_g^{\text{TPE}} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{k}_{1,1} & \mathbf{k}_{1,2} & \mathbf{k}_{1,3} \\ \mathbf{k}_{1,2}^T & \mathbf{k}_{2,2} & \mathbf{k}_{2,3} \\ \mathbf{k}_{1,3}^T & \mathbf{k}_{2,3}^T & \mathbf{k}_{3,3} \end{bmatrix} \quad (7)$$

式中,子矩阵的下标代表三角形单元的角点编号,刚度元素的显式表达式见文献[8]的附录,它们都是三角形刚性单元节点力的函数,这里不再赘述。

四边形平板壳单元的几何刚度矩阵由两个三角形子单元的几何刚度矩阵集合得到,故有

$$\mathbf{k}_g = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{k}_{1,1} & \mathbf{k}_{1,2'} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{k}_{1,4'} \\ \mathbf{k}_{1,2'}^T & \mathbf{k}_{2',2'} + \mathbf{H}^T \mathbf{k}_{2'',2''} \mathbf{H} & \mathbf{H}^T \mathbf{k}_{2'',3} \mathbf{H} & \mathbf{H}^T \mathbf{k}_{2'',4} \mathbf{H} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{H}^T \mathbf{k}_{2'',3} \mathbf{H} & \mathbf{H}^T \mathbf{k}_{3,3} \mathbf{H} & \mathbf{H}^T \mathbf{k}_{3,4} \mathbf{H} \\ \mathbf{k}_{1,4'}^T & \mathbf{H}^T \mathbf{k}_{2'',4} \mathbf{H} & \mathbf{H}^T \mathbf{k}_{3,4} \mathbf{H} & \mathbf{k}_{4',4'} + \mathbf{H}^T \mathbf{k}_{4'',4''} \mathbf{H} \end{bmatrix} \quad (8)$$

式中 \mathbf{H} 为坐标变换矩阵,由下式给出

$$\mathbf{H} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{h} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{h} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{h} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (9)$$

得出几何刚度矩阵的显式解析式后,彻底解决数值积分运算效率低的问题^[13]。此外,本文以矩形单元为例只是为了叙述方便。在刚性运动背景下,上述推导思路适用于具有任意直线或曲线边界的单元。

4 基于增量-迭代技术的非线性方程求解

基于更新的拉格朗日列式(Updated-Lagrange formulation),得到结构线性化增量平衡方程为

$$\left(\sum \mathbf{T}^T \mathbf{k}_n \mathbf{T} + \sum \mathbf{T}^T \mathbf{k}_g \mathbf{T} \right) \mathbf{u} = {}^2\mathbf{P} - {}^1\mathbf{P} \quad (10)$$

式中 \mathbf{k}_n 为小变形弹性刚度矩阵,它依赖于单元位移模型, \mathbf{T} 为单元坐标变换矩阵, ${}^1\mathbf{P}$ 和 ${}^2\mathbf{P}$ 分别为 C_1 与 C_2 下节点外荷载, \mathbf{u} 为节点位移增量, \sum 为组集单元刚度矩阵。

求解非线性方程普遍采用增量-迭代技术。典型增量步内,平衡迭代过程可分成三个阶段。

(1) 预测阶段(Predictor)

假定结构处于第 j 增量步,第 $l-1$ 次迭代已经完成。显然,结构尚未达到平衡,需要依据方程

$$\left(\sum \mathbf{T}_{l-1}^T \mathbf{k}_n \mathbf{T}_{l-1} + \sum \mathbf{T}_{l-1}^T (\mathbf{k}_g)_{l-1}^j \mathbf{T}_{l-1} \right) \mathbf{u}_l^j = {}^2\mathbf{P} - \sum \mathbf{T}_{l-1}^T \mathbf{r}_{l-1}^j \quad (11)$$

“预测”位移增量。 \mathbf{r}_{l-1}^j 为单元局部坐标系下初始节点力,特别地 $\sum \mathbf{T}_0^T \mathbf{r}_0^j = {}^1\mathbf{P}$, \mathbf{u}_l^j 为位移增量。

(2) 校正阶段(Corrector)

本阶段主要任务是修正结构几何和受力状态。其中,修正单元节点坐标可以得到更新的结构构型,单元节点力的校正至关重要,它关系到非线性分析的精度^[8]。单元节点力校正式可写为

$$r_i^j = r_{i-1}^j + k_n T_{i-1} u_i^j \quad (12)$$

式中没有出现几何刚度项。因为刚体运动直接决定了单元几何刚度,而刚体运动并不改变单元节点力的大小,这使得一阶线性理论可用来描述单元在协同构型下的力学行为^[14]。

(3) 迭代判敛阶段(Convergence Check)

当 $|u_i^j| < \epsilon (\epsilon = 1.0 \times 10^{-3})$, $|\sum T_{i-1}^T r_{i-1}^j| < \eta(\epsilon)$, 认为结构恢复平衡,停止迭代;否则,继续迭代。

根据上述非线性方程求解思路,编制了薄壁构件几何非线性分析程序,采用柱面弧长算法形成具有外荷载自适应调整功能的加载系统,追踪结构大变形、大转动非线性响应的全过程。

5 数值算例

算例 1 端弯矩作用下悬臂梁的大转动分析

选择该经典 benchmark 算例的目的是,它可以有效地检验几何非线性分析模型处理大转动问题的数值稳定性及计算精度^[15]。本文将悬臂梁沿梁长划分为 10 个平板壳单元,采用文献^[16]提出的膜元描述面内变形,面外挠曲则采用 Bogner 提出的具有 C¹ 连续性的薄板弯曲单元^[17]模拟。端部弯矩从零开始一直增加到使梁弯成一个圈为止(悬臂梁端部转角从 0°增加到 360°)。图 4 给出了

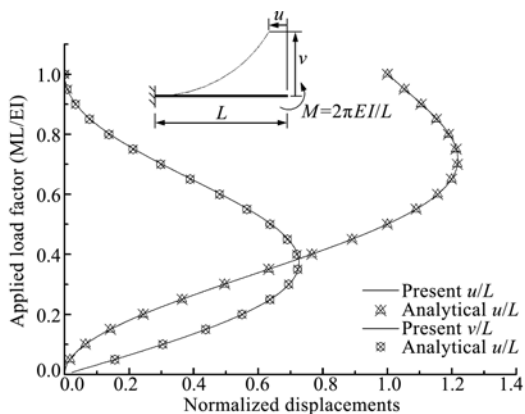


图 4 承受端弯矩作用悬臂梁的弯矩-端部转角曲线
Fig. 4 Moment-end rotation curve of cantilever beam subjected to end bending moment

弯矩-端部转角曲线,数值计算结果与解析解吻合良好。

算例 2 圆柱壳屋顶的空间大变形分析

两对边简支的圆柱壳屋顶承受中央竖向集中力 P 的作用。这里考虑两种具有不同厚度屋顶的空间大变形问题:一种柱壳屋顶的厚度为 12.7 mm,另一种厚度为 6.35 mm。该算例也是结构空间几何非线性分析的 benchmark 考题^[18],受到普遍关注的原因在于屋顶受到顶部集中力的作用出现跳跃失稳现象。两种厚度的屋顶拥有相同材料特性参数: $E = 3.10275 \times 10^3 \text{ MPa}$, $\mu = 0.3$,几何参数 $R = 2.54 \text{ m}$, $L = 0.254 \text{ m}$, $\theta = 0.1 \text{ rad}$ 。出于对称性考虑,只选取 1/4 的屋顶进行分析。采用文献^[11]提出的四节点、二十四自由度平板壳单元模型离散圆柱壳屋顶,对于 12.7 mm 厚屋顶采用 8×8 网格进行数值模拟,而 6.35 mm 厚屋顶分别采用 8×8 和 16×16 网格计算。计算结果如图 5 所示,用 8×8 网格分析 12.7 mm 厚屋顶可以获得较高的计算精度,而分析 6.35 mm 厚屋顶则不够理想,采用 16×16 网格方能满足工程计算精度要求,这与文献^[18]的结论一致。

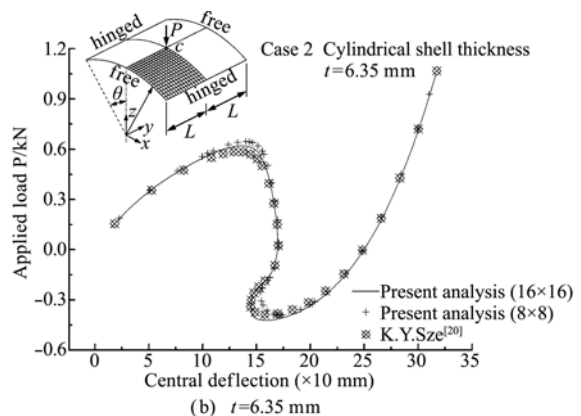
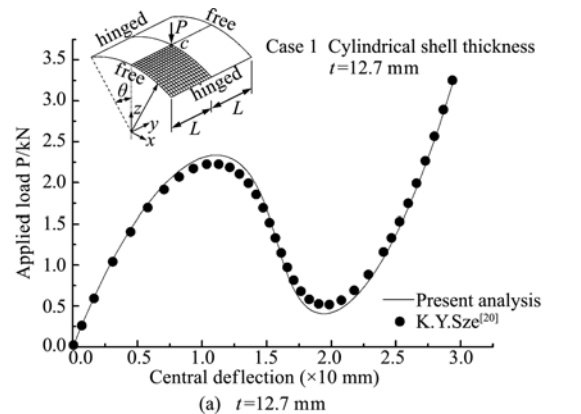


图 5 圆柱壳屋顶的荷载-挠度曲线
Fig. 5 Load-deflection curve of the hinged cylindrical roof with a thickness of 12.7 mm and 6.35 mm

6 结 语

在 CR 法框架内,结构单元的几何刚度主要来源于刚体运动分量引起初始内力作用方向的转变。因此,本文将作刚体运动的四边形平板壳单元分割成两个三角形刚性子单元。基于公共节点和子单元的平衡条件,求得三角形刚性单元节点力并按照文献[8]的研究结果写出三角形单元几何刚度矩阵,然后依据形成结构刚度矩阵的“对号入座”法则,最终导出四节点二十四自由度平板壳单元几何刚度矩阵解析公式,该公式具有如下特点。

(1) 能够合理反映单元几何刚度,在工程分析许可的有限元网格密度下,可以获得较高的精度。

(2) 相比数值积分方案,显著减少几何非线性分析列式工作量,提高有限元程序代码执行效率。

(3) 与单元位移模型无关,应用范围广,特别适合通用有限元程序使用。

本文研究成果为简化薄壁结构大位移、大转动分析及提高有限元分析效率提供了切实可行的途径。

附 录:

$${}^1F_{x2'} = \frac{1}{4}({}^1F_{x2} - {}^1F_{x4} - 2{}^1F_{x1})$$

$${}^1F_{y2'} = \frac{1}{4}({}^1F_{y2} - {}^1F_{y4} - 2{}^1F_{y1})$$

$${}^1F_{z2'} = \frac{1}{4}({}^1F_{z2} - {}^1F_{z4} - 2{}^1F_{z1})$$

$${}^1F_{x4'} = \frac{1}{4}(-{}^1F_{x2} + {}^1F_{x4} - 2{}^1F_{x1})$$

$${}^1F_{y4'} = \frac{1}{4}(-{}^1F_{y2} + {}^1F_{y4} - 2{}^1F_{y1})$$

$${}^1F_{z4'} = \frac{1}{4}(-{}^1F_{z2} + {}^1F_{z4} - 2{}^1F_{z1})$$

$${}^1F_{x2''} = \frac{1}{4}({}^1F_{x2} - {}^1F_{x4} - 2{}^1F_{x3})$$

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$${}^1F_{z2''} = \frac{1}{4}({}^1F_{z2} - {}^1F_{z4} - 2{}^1F_{z3})$$

$${}^1F_{x4''} = \frac{1}{4}(-{}^1F_{x2} + {}^1F_{x4} - 2{}^1F_{x3})$$

$${}^1F_{y4''} = \frac{1}{4}(-{}^1F_{y2} + {}^1F_{y4} - 2{}^1F_{y3})$$

$${}^1F_{z4''} = \frac{1}{4}(-{}^1F_{z2} + {}^1F_{z4} - 2{}^1F_{z3})$$

$${}^1M_{x2'} = \frac{1}{4}({}^1M_{x2} - {}^1M_{x4} - 2{}^1M_{x1}) - \frac{1}{4}BB({}^1F_{z4'} - {}^1F_{z4''})$$

$${}^1M_{y2'} = \frac{1}{4}({}^1M_{y2} - {}^1M_{y4} - 2{}^1M_{y1}) + \frac{1}{4}AA(2{}^1F_{z2'} + {}^1F_{z4'} + {}^1F_{z4''})$$

$${}^1M_{z2'} = \frac{1}{4}({}^1M_{z2} - {}^1M_{z4} - 2{}^1M_{z1}) + \frac{1}{4}BB({}^1F_{x4'} - {}^1F_{x4''}) -$$

$$\frac{1}{4}AA(2{}^1F_{y2'} + {}^1F_{y4'} + {}^1F_{y4''})$$

$${}^1M_{x4'} = \frac{1}{4}(-{}^1M_{x2} + {}^1M_{x4} - 2{}^1M_{x1}) - \frac{1}{4}BB(3{}^1F_{z4'} + {}^1F_{z4''})$$

$${}^1M_{y4'} = \frac{1}{4}(-{}^1M_{y2} + {}^1M_{y4} - 2{}^1M_{y1}) + \frac{1}{4}AA(2{}^1F_{z2'} - {}^1F_{z4'} - {}^1F_{z4''})$$

$${}^1M_{z4'} = \frac{1}{4}(-{}^1M_{z2} + {}^1M_{z4} - 2{}^1M_{z1}) + \frac{1}{4}BB(3{}^1F_{x4'} + {}^1F_{x4''}) -$$

$$\frac{1}{4}AA(2{}^1F_{y2'} - {}^1F_{y4'} - {}^1F_{y4''})$$

$${}^1M_{x2''} = \frac{1}{4}({}^1M_{x2} - {}^1M_{x4} - 2{}^1M_{x3}) - \frac{1}{4}BB(2{}^1F_{z2''} + {}^1F_{z4'} + {}^1F_{z4''})$$

$${}^1M_{y2''} = \frac{1}{4}({}^1M_{y2} - {}^1M_{y4} - 2{}^1M_{y3}) + \frac{1}{4}AA({}^1F_{z4''} - {}^1F_{z4'})$$

$${}^1M_{z2''} = \frac{1}{4}({}^1M_{z2} - {}^1M_{z4} - 2{}^1M_{z3}) + \frac{1}{4}BB(2{}^1F_{x2''} + {}^1F_{x4'} + {}^1F_{x4''}) -$$

$$\frac{1}{4}AA({}^1F_{y4''} - {}^1F_{y4'})$$

$${}^1M_{x4''} = \frac{1}{4}(-{}^1M_{x2} + {}^1M_{x4} - 2{}^1M_{x3}) - \frac{1}{4}BB(2{}^1F_{z2''} - {}^1F_{x4'} - {}^1F_{z4''})$$

$${}^1M_{y4''} = \frac{1}{4}(-{}^1M_{y2} + {}^1M_{y4} - 2{}^1M_{y3}) + \frac{1}{4}AA(3{}^1F_{z4''} + {}^1F_{z4'})$$

$${}^1M_{z4''} = \frac{1}{4}(-{}^1M_{z2} + {}^1M_{z4} - 2{}^1M_{z3}) + \frac{1}{4}BB(2{}^1F_{x2''} - {}^1F_{x4'} - {}^1F_{x4''}) -$$

$$\frac{1}{4}AA({}^1F_{y4'} + 3{}^1F_{y4''})$$

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Applicability of double slip and rotation rate model for elliptical granular assemblage

JIANG Ming-jing^{*1,2}, SHEN Zhi-fu^{1,2}, LI Li-qing^{1,2}

(1. Department of Geotechnical Engineering, Tongji University, Shanghai 200092;

2. Key Laboratory of Geotechnical and Underground Engineering of Ministry of Education, Tongji University, Shanghai 200092)

Abstract: The averaged micro-pure rotation rate (APR) based on the relative movement of contact between two ellipses has been derived first. The APR was then introduced into the double slip and rotation rate model (DSR² model) which was proposed originally for plastic flow of circular granular assemblages. A developed distinct element method (DEM) program NS2D was utilized to generate two-dimensional assemblages of elliptical particles with individual aspect ratio of 1.4 and 1.7. Then a series of undrained monotonic and cyclic simple shear tests on these assemblages were conducted to reproduce the plastic flow of elliptical particles and to validate the DSR² model. The results show that the developed NS2D program which is based on elliptical particles can reproduce the plastic flow behaviors of sand. The DSR² model appears to be able to predict the variation of angular velocity in kinematic models of both circular and elliptical particle assemblages. This indicates that the APR is an important variable which bridges discrete and continuum granular mechanics.

Key words: granular flow; distinct element method; elliptical particles; DSR² model; averaged micro-pure rotation rate

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## Algorithm for deriving explicitly the analytical expression of geometric stiffness matrix of the 4-node, 24 degrees of freedom flat shell element

WEN Ying<sup>\*</sup>, ZENG Qing-yuan

(School of Civil Engineering, Central South University, Changsha 410075, China)

**Abstract:** The derivation of geometric stiffness matrix is an essential and difficult stage in conducting the finite element analysis of geometrically nonlinear structural problems. Any attempt to obtaining explicitly the analytical expression of geometric stiffness matrix is of great importance for simplifying the formulation, and in particular for improving efficiency and effectiveness of the overall procedure. In the context of co-rotational formulation, an algorithm analytically leading to the geometric stiffness matrix of the 4-node quadrilateral flat shell element with a total of 24 degrees of freedom was presented based on the rigid body motion rule and consecutively subject to discussion. Two benchmark problems, namely the large rotation problem of a cantilever beam and the large deflection behaviour of a hinged semi-cylindrical roof with two typical thicknesses subjected to a central pinching force, were analyzed for demonstrating the reliability and robustness of the proposed procedure. The results of numerical study reveal that: (1) The explicit formula derived herein provides a great deal of convenience while preserving acceptable accuracy of solution; (2) The derived analytical geometric stiffness matrix is element-type independent and (3) As compared with numerical integration, the analytical approach is featured by a significant improvement in computational efficiency.

**Key words:** quadrilateral flat shell element; geometric stiffness matrix; rigid body motion rule; geometric nonlinearity; analytical expression