

# Junction problems for thin inclusions in elastic bodies

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**Abstract.** Equilibrium problems for a 2D elastic bodies with thin Euler-Bernoulli and Timoshenko elastic inclusions are considered. It is assumed that inclusions have a joint point, and a junction problem for these inclusions is analyzed. Existence of solutions is proved, and different equivalent formulations of problems are discussed. In particular, junction conditions at the joint point are found. A delamination of the elastic inclusions is also assumed. In this case, inequality type boundary conditions are imposed at the crack faces to prevent a mutual penetration between crack faces. A convergence to infinity of a rigidity parameter of the elastic inclusions is investigated. Limit problems are analyzed.

## 1. Setting of the problem

Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  be a bounded domain with Lipschitz boundary  $\Gamma$ . Denote  $\gamma_b = (0, 1) \times \{0\}$ ,  $\gamma_t = (1, 2) \times \{0\}$ ,  $\gamma = \gamma_b \cup \gamma_t \cup \{(1, 0)\}$  assuming  $\bar{\gamma} \subset \Omega$ , see Figure 1 Denote by  $\nu = (0, 1)$  a unit normal vector to  $\gamma$ ;  $\tau = (0, 1)$ ,  $\Omega_\gamma = \Omega \setminus \bar{\gamma}$ .

The domain  $\Omega_\gamma$  represents a region with an elastic material,  $\gamma_b$  and  $\gamma_t$  are thin elastic Euler-Bernoulli and Timoshenko inclusions, respectively, incorporated in the elastic material. This means that a behavior of the inclusions is described by the Euler- Bernoulli and Timoshenko equations.

Let  $B = \{b_{ijkl}\}, i, j, k, l = 1, 2$ , be a given elasticity tensor with the usual properties of symmetry and positive definiteness,

$$b_{ijkl} = b_{jikl} = b_{klij}, \quad i, j, k, l = 1, 2, \quad b_{ijkl} \in L^\infty(\Omega), \\ b_{ijkl}\xi_{ij}\xi_{kl} \geq c_0|\xi|^2 \quad \forall \xi_{ji} = \xi_{ij}, \quad c_0 = \text{const} > 0 .$$

Summation convention over repeated indices is used; all functions with two lower indices are assumed to be symmetric in these indices. Let  $f = (f_1, f_2) \in L^2(\Omega)^2$  be a given function.

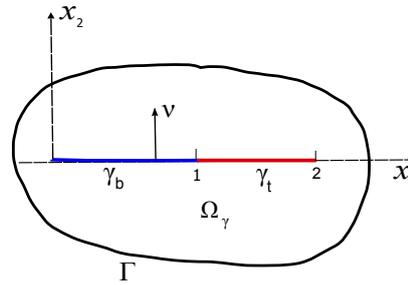
We first provide a variational formulation of the equilibrium problem for the elastic body with thin inclusions  $\gamma_b, \gamma_t$ . A space is introduced

$$W = \{(u, v, w, \varphi) \mid u \in H_0^1(\Omega)^2, (v, w) \in H^1(\gamma)^2, v \in H^2(\gamma_b), \\ \varphi \in H^1(\gamma_t); v = u_\nu, w = u_\tau \text{ on } \gamma; v_x(1-) + \varphi(1+) = 0\}$$

with the norm

$$\|(u, v, w, \varphi)\|_W^2 = \|u\|_{H_0^1(\Omega)^2}^2 + \|(v, w)\|_{H^1(\gamma)^2}^2 + \|v\|_{H^2(\gamma_b)}^2 + \|\varphi\|_{H^1(\gamma_t)}^2.$$





**Figure 1.** Elastic body with thin inclusions

Here,  $u = (u_1, u_2)$ ,  $u_\nu = u\nu$ ,  $u_\tau = u\tau$ . The standard notations  $H_0^1(\Omega)$ ,  $H^1(\gamma)$ , etc., are used for Sobolev spaces. We identify functions defined on  $\gamma$  with functions of the variable  $x$ ;  $x = x_1$ ,  $h_x = \frac{dh}{dx}$ ,  $(x_1, x_2) \in \Omega$ . For a simplicity, we write  $\sigma(u)\varepsilon(u) = \sigma_{ij}(u)\varepsilon_{ij}(u)$ .

The identity is considered

$$(u, v, w, \varphi) \in W, \tag{1}$$

$$\int_{\Omega_\gamma} \sigma(u)\varepsilon(\bar{u}) - \int_{\Omega_\gamma} f\bar{u} + \int_{\gamma_b} v_{xx}\bar{v}_{xx} + \int_{\gamma} w_x\bar{w}_x + \int_{\gamma_t} \{(v_x + \varphi)(\bar{v}_x + \bar{\varphi}) + \varphi_x\bar{\varphi}_x\} = 0 \quad \forall (\bar{u}, \bar{v}, \bar{w}, \bar{\varphi}) \in W. \tag{2}$$

**Theorem 1.** The problem (1)-(2) has a unique solution.

We are able to provide a differential formulation of the problem (1)-(2). It is necessary to find functions  $u = (u_1, u_2)$ ,  $v, w, \varphi$ ,  $\sigma = \{\sigma_{ij}\}$ ,  $i, j = 1, 2$ , as follows

$$-\text{div } \sigma = f, \sigma - B\varepsilon(u) = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega_\gamma, \tag{3}$$

$$v_{xxxx} = [\sigma_\nu] \text{ on } \gamma_b, -w_{xx} = [\sigma_\tau] \text{ on } \gamma, \tag{4}$$

$$-v_{xx} - \varphi_x = [\sigma_\nu], -\varphi_{xx} + v_x + \varphi = 0 \quad \text{on } \gamma_t, \tag{5}$$

$$(u, v, w, \varphi) \in W; v_{xxx} = v_{xx} = w_x = 0 \text{ for } x = 0, \tag{6}$$

$$w_x(1-) = w_x(1+); v_x + \varphi = \varphi_x = w_x = 0 \text{ for } x = 2, \tag{7}$$

$$-v_{xxx}(1-) = (v_x + \varphi)(1+); v_{xx}(1-) = -\varphi_x(1+). \tag{8}$$

Here,  $\varepsilon_{ij}(u) = \frac{1}{2}(u_{i,j} + u_{j,i})$ ,  $\sigma_\nu = \sigma_{ij}\nu_j\nu_i$ ,  $\sigma_\tau = \sigma_{ij}\nu_j\tau_i$ , and  $[h] = h^+ - h^-$  is a jump of a function  $h$  on  $\gamma$ , where  $h^\pm$  are the traces of  $h$  on the faces  $\gamma^\pm$ . The signs  $\pm$  correspond to positive and negative directions of  $\nu$ .

The function  $u = (u_1, u_2)$  describes a displacement field of the elastic body; functions  $w, v$  fit to displacements of the inclusions  $\gamma_b, \gamma_t$  along the axis  $x_1$  and axis  $x_2$  respectively; the function  $\varphi$  describes a rotation angle of the inclusion  $\gamma_t$ . Observe that a part of boundary conditions for functions  $u, v, w, \varphi$  is included in the condition  $(u, v, w, \varphi) \in W$ .

Relations (3) are the equilibrium equations for the elastic body and Hooke's law; (4)-(5) are the Euler-Bernoulli and Timoshenko equilibrium equations for the inclusions  $\gamma_b$  and  $\gamma_t$ . According to the condition  $(u, v, w, \varphi) \in W$ , the vertical (along the axis  $x_2$ ) and tangential (along the axis  $x_1$ ) displacements of the elastic body coincide with the inclusion displacements

at  $\gamma$ . The right-hand sides  $[\sigma_\nu], [\sigma_\tau]$  in (4), (5) describe forces acting on  $\gamma$  from the surrounding elastic media.

**Theorem 2.** *Problem formulations (3)-(8) and (1)-(2) are equivalent provided that the solutions are smooth.*

By (8) and the first relations of (6), (7), we can write a complete system of junction conditions at the joint point (1, 0):

$$\begin{aligned} w(1-) &= w(1+), \quad v(1-) = v(1+), \quad v_x(1-) = -\varphi(1+), \\ w_x(1-) &= w_x(1+), \quad -v_{xxx}(1-) = (v_x + \varphi)(1+), \quad v_{xx}(1-) = -\varphi_x(1+). \end{aligned}$$

## 2. Delaminated elastic inclusion

Assume that the Euler-Bernoulli part  $\gamma_b$  of the inclusion  $\gamma$  is delaminated, please refer to Figure 1. This means that a crack is located between  $\gamma_b$  and the elastic matrix. To fix a situation, the delamination is assumed to be at the positive side of  $\gamma_b$ . In this case, displacements  $v, w$  of the inclusion  $\gamma_b$  should coincide with displacements of the elastic body at  $\gamma_b^-$ . In our model, inequality type boundary conditions are considered at the crack faces to prevent a mutual penetration between the faces.

Denote  $\Omega_b = \Omega \setminus \bar{\gamma}_b$  and introduce a set of admissible functions

$$\begin{aligned} K &= \{(u, v, w, \varphi) \mid u \in H^1_\Gamma(\Omega_b)^2, (v, w) \in H^1(\gamma)^2, v \in H^2(\gamma_b), \\ &\varphi \in H^1(\gamma_t), u|_{\gamma^-} = (w, v), [u_\nu] \geq 0 \text{ on } \gamma_b; v_x(1-) + \varphi(1+) = 0\}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $H^1_\Gamma(\Omega_b) = \{\phi \in H^1(\Omega_b) \mid \phi = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma\}$ . Notice that the inequality  $[u_\nu] \geq 0$  included in the definition of  $K$  provides a mutual nonpenetration between the crack faces  $\gamma_b^\pm$ . An equilibrium problem for the elastic body with the delaminated Euler-Bernoulli inclusion  $\gamma_b$  and the Timoshenko inclusion  $\gamma_t$  can be formulated as follows. We have to find functions  $u = (u_1, u_2), v, w, \varphi, \sigma = \{\sigma_{ij}\}, i, j = 1, 2$ , as follows

$$-\text{div } \sigma = f, \sigma - B\varepsilon(u) = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega_\gamma, \tag{9}$$

$$v_{xxxx} = [\sigma_\nu] \text{ on } \gamma_b, \quad -w_{xx} = [\sigma_\tau] \text{ on } \gamma, \tag{10}$$

$$-v_{xx} - \varphi_x = [\sigma_\nu], \quad -\varphi_{xx} + v_x + \varphi = 0 \quad \text{on } \gamma_t, \tag{11}$$

$$(u, v, w, \varphi) \in K; \quad v_{xxx} = v_{xx} = w_x = 0 \text{ for } x = 0, \tag{12}$$

$$w_x(1-) = w_x(1+); \quad v_x + \varphi = \varphi_x = w_x = 0 \text{ for } x = 2, \tag{13}$$

$$\sigma_\nu^+ \leq 0, \quad \sigma_\tau^+ = 0, \quad \sigma_\nu^+[u_\nu] = 0 \text{ on } \gamma_b, \tag{14}$$

$$-v_{xxx}(1-) = (v_x + \varphi)(1+); \quad v_{xx}(1-) = -\varphi_x(1+). \tag{15}$$

As before, a part of boundary conditions is included in the relation  $(u, v, w, \varphi) \in K$ .

Remark that the problem (9)-(15) admits an equivalent variational formulation. Indeed, a solution  $(u, v, w, \varphi)$  satisfies a variational inequality

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_{\Omega_b} \sigma(u)\varepsilon(\bar{u} - u) - \int_{\Omega_b} f(\bar{u} - u) + \int_{\gamma_b} v_{xx}(\bar{v}_{xx} - v_{xx}) + \\ &\quad + \int_{\gamma_t} \{\varphi_x(\bar{\varphi}_x - \varphi_x) + (v_x + \varphi)(\bar{v}_x + \bar{\varphi} - v_x - \varphi)\} + \\ &+ \int_{\gamma} w_x(\bar{w}_x - w_x) \geq 0 \quad \forall (\bar{u}, \bar{v}, \bar{w}, \bar{\varphi}) \in K; (u, v, w, \varphi) \in K. \end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

### 3. Rigidity of Euler-Bernoulli beam goes to infinity

In practice, a solution of the problem (9)-(15) should depend on the rigidity parameters of the elastic inclusions. In the model (9)-(15), these parameters were taken to be equal to 1. In this section we introduce a rigidity parameter  $\delta > 0$  in the Euler-Bernoulli equations of the problem (9)-(15) and analyze its passage to infinity. For a fixed parameter  $\delta$ , we have to solve the following problem: to find  $u^\delta, v^\delta, w^\delta, \varphi^\delta, \sigma^\delta = \{\sigma_{ij}^\delta\}, i, j = 1, 2$ , such that

$$-\operatorname{div} \sigma^\delta = f, \sigma^\delta - B\varepsilon(u^\delta) = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega_\gamma, \tag{17}$$

$$\delta v_{xxxx}^\delta = [\sigma_\nu^\delta] \text{ on } \gamma_b, \quad -\operatorname{div}(a^\delta w_x^\delta) = [\sigma_\tau^\delta] \text{ on } \gamma, \tag{18}$$

$$-v_{xx}^\delta - \varphi_x^\delta = [\sigma_\nu^\delta], \quad -\varphi_{xx}^\delta + v_x^\delta + \varphi^\delta = 0 \quad \text{on } \gamma_t, \tag{19}$$

$$(u^\delta, v^\delta, w^\delta, \varphi^\delta) \in K; \quad v_{xxx}^\delta = v_{xx}^\delta = w_x^\delta = 0 \text{ for } x = 0, \tag{20}$$

$$\delta w_x^\delta(1-) = w_x^\delta(1+); \quad v_x^\delta + \varphi^\delta = \varphi_x^\delta = w_x^\delta = 0 \text{ for } x = 2, \tag{21}$$

$$\sigma_\nu^{\delta+} \leq 0, \quad \sigma_\tau^{\delta+} = 0, \quad \sigma_\nu^{\delta+}[u_\nu^\delta] = 0 \text{ on } \gamma_b, \tag{22}$$

$$-\delta v_{xxx}^\delta(1-) = (v_x^\delta + \varphi^\delta)(1+); \quad \delta v_{xx}^\delta(1-) = -\varphi_x^\delta(1+). \tag{23}$$

Here,  $a^\delta(x) = 1$  on  $\gamma_t$ , and  $a^\delta(x) = \delta$  on  $\gamma_b$ .

The problem (17)-(23) admits an equivalent variational formulation. A unique solution of the variational inequality (with  $\sigma(u^\delta) = \sigma^\delta$ ) exists

$$(u^\delta, v^\delta, w^\delta, \varphi^\delta) \in K, \tag{24}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\Omega_b} \sigma(u^\delta) \varepsilon(\bar{u} - u^\delta) - \int_{\Omega_b} f(\bar{u} - u^\delta) + \delta \int_{\gamma_b} v_{xx}^\delta (\bar{v}_{xx} - v_{xx}^\delta) + \\ & + \int_{\gamma_t} \{ \varphi_x^\delta (\bar{\varphi}_x - \varphi_x^\delta) + (v_x^\delta + \varphi^\delta) (\bar{v}_x + \bar{\varphi} - v_x^\delta - \varphi^\delta) \} + \\ & + \int_{\gamma} a^\delta w_x^\delta (\bar{w}_x - w_x^\delta) \geq 0 \quad \forall (\bar{u}, \bar{v}, \bar{w}, \bar{\varphi}) \in K. \end{aligned} \tag{25}$$

Our aim is to justify a passage to the limit as  $\delta \rightarrow \infty$  in the problem (24)-(25).

Introduce a set of infinitesimal rigid displacements

$$\begin{aligned} R(\gamma_b) = \{ \rho = (\rho_1, \rho_2) \mid \rho(x_1, x_2) = d(-x_2, x_1) + (d^1, d^2), \\ (x_1, x_2) \in \gamma_b \}, \quad d, d^1, d^2 \in \mathbb{R}, \end{aligned}$$

and a set of admissible functions

$$\begin{aligned} K_r = \{ (u, v, w, \varphi) \mid u \in H_\Gamma^1(\Omega_b)^2, (v, w, \varphi) \in H^1(\gamma_t)^3, [u_\nu] \geq 0 \text{ on } \gamma_b; \\ u|_{\gamma_t} = (w, v), \quad u|_{\gamma_b^-} = (\rho_1, \rho_2) \in R(\gamma_b), \quad \rho_{2x}(1) + \varphi(1) = 0 \}. \end{aligned}$$

It can be proved that  $\delta \rightarrow +\infty$ ,

$$u^\delta \rightarrow u \text{ weakly in } H_\Gamma^1(\Omega_b)^2, \quad \varphi^\delta \rightarrow \varphi \text{ weakly in } H^1(\gamma_t), \tag{26}$$

$$v^\delta \rightarrow v \text{ weakly in } H^1(\gamma), \text{ weakly in } H^2(\gamma_b), \quad v_{xx} = 0 \text{ in } \gamma_b, \tag{27}$$

$$w^\delta \rightarrow w \text{ weakly in } H^1(\gamma), \quad w_x = 0 \text{ in } \gamma_b. \tag{28}$$

Moreover,

$$(u, v, w, \varphi) \in K_r, \int_{\Omega_b} \sigma(u) \varepsilon(\bar{u} - u) - \int_{\Omega_b} f(\bar{u} - u) + \int_{\gamma_t} \{\varphi_x(\bar{\varphi}_x - \varphi_x) + (v_x + \varphi)(\bar{v}_x + \bar{\varphi} - v_x - \varphi) + w_x(\bar{w}_x - w_x)\} \geq 0 \quad \forall (\bar{u}, \bar{v}, \bar{w}, \bar{\varphi}) \in K_r. \quad (29)$$

The problem (29) admits an equivalent differential formulation: find displacements  $u = (u_1, u_2)$ ,  $v, w$ , a rotation angle  $\varphi$ , a stress tensor  $\sigma = \{\sigma_{ij}\}, i, j = 1, 2$ , and  $\rho^0 \in R(\gamma_b)$  as follows

$$-\operatorname{div} \sigma = f, \sigma - B\varepsilon(u) = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega_\gamma, \quad (30)$$

$$-v_{xx} - \varphi_x = [\sigma_\nu], -\varphi_{xx} + v_x + \varphi = 0, -w_{xx} = [\sigma_\tau] \quad \text{on } \gamma_t, \quad (31)$$

$$u^- = \rho^0, \sigma_\nu^+ \leq 0, \sigma_\tau^+ = 0, \sigma_\nu^+[u_\nu] = 0 \quad \text{on } \gamma_b, \quad (32)$$

$$(u, v, w, \varphi) \in K_r; v_x + \varphi = \varphi_x = w_x = 0 \quad \text{for } x = 2, \quad (33)$$

$$\int_{\gamma_b} [\sigma_\nu] \rho + (w_x \rho_1)(1) - (\varphi_x \rho_{2x})(1) + ((v_x + \varphi) \rho_2)(1) = 0 \quad \forall \rho = (\rho_1, \rho_2) \in R(\gamma_b). \quad (34)$$

Thus, the following statement can be proved.

**Theorem 3.** *The solutions of the problem (24)-(25) converge to the solution of (29) in the sense (26)-(28) as  $\delta \rightarrow \infty$ .*

The model (30)-(34), or (29), describes an equilibrium state for the elastic body with the rigid inclusion  $\gamma_b$  and elastic Timoshenko inclusion  $\gamma_t$ . The identity (34) provides equilibrium conditions for the rigid inclusion  $\gamma_b$ , i.e. a principal vector of forces and a principal vector of moments acting on  $\gamma_b$  are equal to zero. Indeed, denoting  $(\sigma\nu)^\pm$  by  $(\sigma^1, \sigma^2)^\pm$  on  $\gamma_b^\pm$ , the condition (34) can be rewritten in the following form:

$$\int_{\gamma_b} [\sigma^1] = -w_x(1), \int_{\gamma_b} [\sigma^2] = -(v_x + \varphi)(1), \quad (35)$$

$$\int_{\gamma_b} ([\sigma^2]x_1 - [\sigma^1]x_2) = \varphi_x(1). \quad (36)$$

We can also write junction conditions included in the definition of  $K_r$ :

$$w(1) = \rho_1^0(1), v(1) = \rho_2^0(1), \varphi(1) + \rho_{2x}^0(1) = 0 \quad (37)$$

and consider (35)-(37) as a complete system of junction conditions at the joint point  $(1, 0)$ . Consequently, nonlocal condition (34) can be seen as a part of junction conditions at the joint point  $(1, 0)$ .

## References

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