

A HYBRID-TREFFTZ PERFORATED ELEMENT FEATURING NODES ON THE HOLE BOUNDARY

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Finite Element analysis of airframe under High Velocity Impacts hardly succeeds in representing the failure of the structure when it occurs in riveted joint areas [1]. The most advanced connector models are able to describe the non-linear behaviour of the rivet until rupture [2], but, the structural embrittlement caused by holes in the sheets (riveting process) is not introduced in the standard shell FE to which rivets macro-elements are connected [3]. The research aims to enhance the modelling of riveted joints in structural computations by developing “super-elements”, which take into account the stress concentrations due to holes, and, the interaction between both the rivet and the sheet macro-models. The formulation of a 16-node Hybrid-Trefftz (HT) perforated super-FE featuring 8 nodes that can be loaded on the hole boundary is thus proposed in this paper.

The new perforated FE (Fig. 1) is a generalization of the 8-node HT FE developed by Leconte *et al.* [4] that does not features nodes on the hole boundary. Its formulation is based on a HT displacement variational principle. In the new formulation, the hole boundary (denoted by S_p) is now taken into account in the principle (1). The super-FE is supposed to be completely surrounded by conventional FE, and, is formulated so that the displacement compatibility is ensured only on the external boundary (denoted by S_i) and not on the internal boundary, $\tilde{\mathbf{u}} = \tilde{\mathbf{N}}\tilde{\mathbf{q}}_{ext}$ (otherwise, it would correspond to the case of an inclusion [5]). The homogeneous solutions \mathbf{u}^h and \mathbf{T}^h (traction vector) are expressed by $\mathbf{u}^h = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{d}$ and $\mathbf{T}^h = \mathbf{M}\mathbf{d}$, where \mathbf{d} is the vector of external and internal nodal displacements, \mathbf{U} and \mathbf{M} are the shape functions calculated from complex variable methods [6]. Loads applied on the hole boundary are taken into account in the FE formulation by a particular solution, $(\mathbf{u}^p, \mathbf{T}^p)$, which is added to the homogeneous one. The particular solution considered here enables to apply concentrated forces on the nodes of the hole boundary [7]. The interaction with the rivet model can then be established.

$$\Pi_{HT} [\mathbf{d}, \tilde{\mathbf{q}}_{ext}] = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{d}^t \mathbf{H} \mathbf{d} + \mathbf{d}^t \mathbf{L} \tilde{\mathbf{q}}_{ext} + \mathbf{d}^t \mathbf{r}^c + \tilde{\mathbf{q}}_{ext}^t \mathbf{r}^d \quad (1)$$

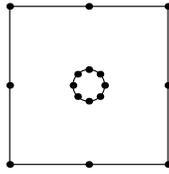


Figure 1: A 16-node HT super-FE featuring 8 nodes for the hole boundary.

$$\text{with } \mathbf{H} = \int_{S_p} \mathbf{M}^t \mathbf{U} dS - \int_{S_i} \mathbf{M}^t \mathbf{U} dS, \quad \mathbf{L} = \int_{S_i} \mathbf{M}^t \tilde{\mathbf{N}} dS, \quad \mathbf{r}^d = \int_{S_i} \tilde{\mathbf{N}}^t \mathbf{T}^p dS, \quad \text{and}$$

$$\mathbf{r}^c = \frac{1}{2} \left[\int_{S_p} \mathbf{M}^t \mathbf{u}^p dS + \int_{S_p} \mathbf{U}^t \mathbf{T}^p dS - \int_{S_i} \mathbf{M}^t \mathbf{u}^p dS - \int_{S_i} \mathbf{U}^t \mathbf{T}^p dS \right].$$

If the minimization of the Π_{HT} functional was performed with respect to \mathbf{d} and $\tilde{\mathbf{q}}_{ext}$, it would lead to a system where the internal degrees of freedom would be eliminated from the formulation. To keep \mathbf{q}_{int} into the element formulation, it is necessary to decompose $\mathbf{d} = [\mathbf{q}_{ext}^t, \mathbf{q}_{int}^t]$ in order to express Π_{HT} as a function of \mathbf{q}_{ext} , \mathbf{q}_{int} and $\tilde{\mathbf{q}}_{ext}$. The stiffness matrix \mathbf{K} of the new FE is obtained by taking stationary conditions with respect to \mathbf{q}_{ext} and $\mathbf{q} = [\tilde{\mathbf{q}}_{ext}^t, \mathbf{q}_{int}^t]$, successively. The expected system $\mathbf{K}\mathbf{q} = \mathbf{f}$ is finally obtained: the compatibility condition is enforced on the external boundary only, and the FE features nodes on its hole boundary. The hole boundary loading is performed through the force vector \mathbf{f} which is composed of $(\mathbf{u}^p, \mathbf{T}^p)$. The new perforated super-FE has been implemented into the FE code ZéBuLoN, tested for different types of external loads (tension, shear, etc.), and validated thanks to reference data from a fine conventional mesh.

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