Home assignment 1

A bar is loaded by its own weight as shown in the figure. Determine the equilibrium equation in terms of the dimensionless displacement $a = u_{Y2}/L$ with the large deformation theory. Without external loading, area of the crosssection, length of the bar, and density of the material are A, L, and ρ , respectively. Young's modulus of the material is C. Find also the displacement according to the linear theory by simplifying the equilibrium equation with the assumption $|\mathbf{a}| \ll 1$.



Solution template

Virtual work densities of the non-linear bar model

$$\delta w_{\Omega^{\circ}}^{\text{int}} = -\left(\frac{d\delta u}{dx} + \frac{du}{dx}\frac{d\delta u}{dx} + \frac{dv}{dx}\frac{d\delta v}{dx} + \frac{dw}{dx}\frac{d\delta w}{dx}\right)CA^{\circ}\left[\frac{du}{dx} + \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{du}{dx}\right)^{2} + \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{dv}{dx}\right)^{2} + \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{dw}{dx}\right)^{2}\right],$$

$$\delta w_{\Omega^{\circ}}^{\text{ext}} = A^{\circ}\rho^{\circ}\left(\delta ug_{x} + \delta vg_{y} + \delta wg_{z}\right)$$

are based on the Green-Lagrange strain definition, which works also when rotations/displacements are large. The expressions depend on all displacement components, material property is denoted by C (kind of Young's modulus), and the superscript in the cross-sectional area A° (and in other quantities) refers to the initial geometry where strain and stress vanish.

The non-zero displacement component of the structure is the vertical displacement of node 2 i.e. $u_{x2} = u_{Y2}$. Linear approximations to the displacement components (two-node element) are

$$u = (1 - \frac{x}{L})u_{Y2}$$
 and $v = w = 0 \implies \frac{du}{dx} = -\frac{u_{Y2}}{L}$ and $\frac{dv}{dx} = \frac{dw}{dx} = 0$.

In terms of the dimensionless displacement $a = u_{Y2} / L$, virtual work densities simplify to

$$\delta w_{\Omega^\circ}^{\text{int}} = -(-\delta \mathbf{a} + a\delta \mathbf{a})CA(-\mathbf{a} + \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{a}^2),$$

$$\delta w_{\Omega^{\circ}}^{\text{ext}} = -(1 - \frac{x}{L})\delta u_{Y2}A\rho g = -\delta a(1 - \frac{x}{L})LA\rho g .$$

Virtual work expressions are integrals of the densities over the domain occupied by the element

$$\delta W = \int_0^L (\delta w_{\Omega^\circ}^{\text{int}} + \delta w_{\Omega^\circ}^{\text{ext}}) dx = -\delta a[(-1+a)CAL(-a+\frac{1}{2}a^2) + \frac{1}{2}L^2A\rho g].$$

Principle of virtual work and the fundamental lemma of variation calculus imply that

$$Ca(2-3a+a^2)+L\rho g=0$$
 in which $a=\frac{u_{Y2}}{L}$.

Assuming that $\left|a\right|\!\ll\!1$, only the linear part in a matters and the equilibrium equation simplifies to

$$Ca + \frac{1}{2}L\rho g = 0 \implies a = \frac{u_{Y2}}{L} = -\frac{1}{2}\frac{L\rho g}{C}.$$