

Department of Mechanical Engineering

# A practical method for evaluating stability of local structures using strain energy variation (변형에너지 변분을 이용한 국부 구조의 실용적인 안정성 평가 방법)

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2019. 11. 21.

**Ph.D. degree dissertation presentation** 

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# INTRODUCTIONS

#### Mississippi bridge collapse case

Bowed gusset plates (June 2003)



Overall collapse (August 1, 2007)



#### **Cause of collapse**

Misprediction of resistance capacity of local gusset structure subject to bridge pay loads

#### **Typical local structures in thin-walled ship and offshore structures**



Trends in weight reduction of hull and offshore structures in design optimization

#### How to remedy buckling failures : Practical and reasonable action plan



Photos of buckling failure patterns in ship and offshore steel structures

#### **Code and Rule based limit state evaluation for regular geometry**





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 $\sigma_{y,Sd}$ 

111111

- As per the guidance issued by AISC, API and Classification Societies.
- Typical types of structural geometry and load distribution are pre-defined.

**Idealization of irregular geometry : Very limited to apply** 







b = Plate Area / a where, a, b = characterized lengths





 $l_2$  = Plate Area /  $l_1$ where,  $l_{1, l_2}$  = characterized lengths

### Needs for the method for evaluating stability of local structures

- Simple and applicable to arbitrary parts of structures
- Precise failure decision of the evaluated area
- Quantitative evaluation of safety margin
- Identification of damaged areas
- Practical and cost-effective with FE analysis

### **Research Objectives**

- Develop a method using nonlinear FE analysis to evaluate the stability of arbitrary shape of structures.
- Suggest a method to identify damaged areas that lost stability without performing an iterative FE analysis.
- Reduce the computing time required for extensive nonlinear FE analysis to evaluate large degrees of freedom models using the model reduction method.

## **PREVIOUS STUDIES**





Triangular plate (Aung 2006, Jaunky et al. 1995a, Wang and Liew 1994, Xiang 2002, Xiang et al. 1994) Various plate and girder shapes (Jamshidi and Fallah 2019, Jaunky et al. 1995b, Saadatpour et al. 1998, Tham and Szeto 1990, Wang et al. 1994, Wu and Feng 2003)



Arbitrarily stiffened plate (Brubak et al. 2007a, Brubak et al. 2007b, Kim et al. 2018, Kim et al. 2019)



Perforated plates (Kim et al. 2009, Kim et al. 2015, Komur and Sonmez 2008, Mohammadzadeh et al. 2018, Muhammad and Singh 2005, Saad-Eldeen et al. 2016



#### Lee et al. (2015)

- Ultimate strength characteristics was investigated for the ship brackets through nonlinear FEA, and developed a simple design formula to predict ultimate strength.
- One side of the bracket was subjected to prescribed rotational displacement while maintaining a straight line and the other side was fixed.
- In this way, the displacement of the bracket boundary is idealized and the ultimate reaction moment is extracted.



- Zi et al. performed the ultimate strength analysis for non-typical local structures applied in Tension Leg Platform (TLP), a type of offshore structure.
- Nonlinear FEA of the bracket girder itself was performed with linear increment of prescribed displacement vector from the global FEA at reference load.
- The critical load, which changes the structure from stable to unstable, was judged by using the strain energy criterion.
- The safety factor is proposed to be the square root of the ratio of the strain energy at critical load to the strain energy at reference load.

### **Practical contributions**

The proposed method can be used for following practical purposes:

- Identify whether the target local structure is buckled and find the magnitude of the external force acting on the global structure.
- Identify areas where local buckling occurs in the global structure. That is, damaged areas can be identified.
- Calculate residual strength of the damaged areas and evaluate the effectiveness of the local reinforcement.
- Reduce analysis time economically through the model-reduction technique for large FE models.

### PROPOSED METHOD

### **Stability**

#### **Stability of a ball in different gravity field conditions**



### Variation criterion for stable state

Law of conservation of energy  $\Pi = U - W$ 

Small Variation of Equilibrium state at constant load

$$\Delta \Pi = \Pi \left( q_1 + \delta q_1, \dots, q_n + \delta q_n \right) - \Pi \left( q_1, \dots, q_n \right) \approx \delta \Pi + \delta^2 \Pi$$

$$\partial \Pi = \frac{1}{1!} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{\partial \Pi}{\partial q_{i}} \, \delta q_{i} \qquad \delta^{2} \Pi = \frac{1}{2!} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \frac{\partial^{2} \Pi}{\partial q_{i} \partial q_{j}} \, \delta q_{i} \delta q_{j}$$

 $\delta \Pi = 0$  at equilibrium state  $\delta^2 \Pi > 0$  if equilibrium state is stable (Lagrange-Dirichlet theorem)

### Variation criterion for stable state





von Mises truss with spring

### **Structural Stability**

#### **Stability evaluation by** *P***-**δ **curve**



Locally Stable or Unstable?

# Evaluation through local FE analyses (Zi. et al. 2017)

### **Evaluation through local FE analyses (Zi. et al. 2017)**



1. Linear FE analysis for the global structure

2. Nonlinear FE analysis only for the local structure with the prescribed displacement

### **Evaluation through local FE analyses (Zi. et al. 2017)**



- 3. Buckling occurs when the second variation becomes zero first at  $\lambda_c$  on the plots of the variations of the strain energy (*U*) with respect to  $\lambda$ ,
- 4. Usage factor is calculated with the displacement factor  $\lambda_s$  corresponding to the service load:

$$\eta = \sqrt{\frac{U(\lambda_s)}{U(\lambda_c)}}$$

# Direct evaluation through global FE analysis (Proposed evaluation method)





1. Nonlinear incremental FE analysis for the global structure 2. Local load is approximated to with a local load ratio

 $\mathbf{f}_i \simeq \tilde{\lambda}_i \mathbf{f}_r, \ \mathbf{f}_r$  is reference local load

#### Local load approximation

### Approximated load method

Sum squared error function :  $\varphi_i = (\mathbf{f}_i - \tilde{\lambda}_i \mathbf{f}_r) \cdot (\mathbf{f}_i - \tilde{\lambda}_i \mathbf{f}_r)$ Local load ratio ( $\tilde{\lambda}_i$ ) is derived by the least squares fitting method

 $\widetilde{\lambda}_i = \frac{\mathbf{f}_i \cdot \mathbf{f}_r}{\mathbf{f}_r \cdot \mathbf{f}_r}$ 

#### Norm value method

Local load ratio ( $\overline{\lambda_i}$ ) defined as a ratio to the norm values (magnitudes of local load vectors)  $\overline{f_i \cdot f_i}$ 

$$\overline{\lambda}_i = \sqrt{\frac{\mathbf{f}_i \cdot \mathbf{f}_i}{\mathbf{f}_r \cdot \mathbf{f}_r}}$$



The second variation of the strain energy  $\approx$  second-order term of the incremental external work

 $\Delta U_i = \Delta W_i = \mathbf{f}_i \cdot \Delta \mathbf{u}_i + 0.5 \Delta \mathbf{f}_i \cdot \Delta \mathbf{u}_i$ 

3. Stability limit: Load level at which the sign of the second variation of the strain energy shifts from positive to negative  $(0.5\Delta \mathbf{f}_i \cdot \Delta \mathbf{u}_i = 0)$ 



displacement index (x)

Displacement index is introduced to investigate tendencies such as the severity of deformation at a specific load step

$$\frac{\Delta W_i}{\left|\mathbf{f}_r\right|} = \tilde{\lambda}_i \Delta x_i + 0.5 \Delta \tilde{\lambda}_i \Delta x_i$$

$$\Delta x_i = \frac{\Delta W_i}{\left|\mathbf{f}_r\right| \left(\tilde{\lambda}_i + 0.5\Delta \tilde{\lambda}_i\right)}$$

4. local safety factor (LSF) is proposed as the measure of the safety in the structural design

$$LSF = \frac{1}{\tilde{\eta}} = \frac{\tilde{\lambda}_c}{\tilde{\lambda}_s}$$

#### Challenge:

Quantitative measure of the local safety factor is very important because the local load distribution is varying depending on load level in the global structure.

#### **Identification of damaged areas**



- Unstable element
  - : negative second variation of the strain energy in a element
- Considered damage evaluation area



#### **Computational efficiency improvement by static condensation**



$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{K}_{11} & \mathbf{K}_{12} \\ \mathbf{K}_{21} & \mathbf{K}_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{U}_1 \\ \mathbf{U}_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{R}_1 \\ \mathbf{R}_2 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{K}_{condensed} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\mathbf{K}_{21}\mathbf{K}_{11}^{-1}\mathbf{K}_{12} + \mathbf{K}_{22} \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{R}_{condensed} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\mathbf{K}_{21}\mathbf{K}_{11}^{-1}\mathbf{R}_1 + \mathbf{R}_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

1: slave (removed) DOF 2: master (residual) DOF

- For large FE model, the static condensation method is cost-effective.
- Condensed stiffness is linear and does not require nonlinear iterations every time.
- It is necessary to select the area considering the analysis cost and the analysis error

### NUMERICAL EXAMPLES



#### (Step 1) Local load distribution



- Incremental FE analysis with 20 intervals
- Simply supported and straight edge
- Initial imperfection: 5.73 mm

Local load distribution

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120 Node sequence number

-600

Local load extraction node sequence



#### (Step 3) Stability evaluation





#### (Step 4) Measurement of LSF (Local Safety Factor )



#### Local safety factors for a stiffened rectangular plate structure

|                | Direct evaluation<br>through global FE<br>analysis (Proposed) | Evaluation method through<br>local FE analysis<br>(Zi et al. 2017) | Design formula<br>(DNV, 2010) |
|----------------|---|--|-------------------------------|
| No. 1<br>plate | 4.00  | 6.67   | 4.26                          |



- Max. initial imperfection : 2.5mm (1<sup>st</sup> buckling mode shape)
- Applied load = 100 Mpa

11.02

90

Reference load = 1 MPawth load increment = 1 MPa







- Elastic and plastic deformations (five-time scale)
- Red color indicates material plasticity





Considered local bracket girder structure

- Max. initial imperfection = 3.5mm (major buckling mode shape)
- Applied load = 100 x hydrostatic pressure
- Reference load = hydrostatic pressure







- Elastic and plastic deformations
- Red color indicates material plasticity

# Damaged area identification

### **Damaged area identification : Stiffened plate**



### Model reduction

**Reduced domain structural analysis** 



Nonlinear analysis domain of stringer unit for superelement analysis and prescribed displacement analysis



Nonlinear analysis domain of extended stringer for superelement analysis

#### **Comparisons with reduced domain structural analysis**



|                     | Full domain | Model reduction | Extended<br>model reduction | Prescribed<br>displacement |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Local safety factor | 10.22       | 11.03           | 9.95                        | 11.84                      |
| (Normalized)        | 1.00        | 1.08            | 0.97                        | 1.16                       |

#### **Standard Errors of local load**



| Standard error of local load | Model reduction | Extended<br>model reduction | Prescribed<br>displacement |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
|                              | 120             | 42                          | 195                        |

**Comparisons with reduced domain structural analysis** 



#### **Comparisons with reduced domain structural analysis**



|                     | Full domain | Model reduction | Extended<br>model reduction | Prescribed<br>displacement |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Local safety factor | 3.22        | 3.63            | 3.03                        | 3.35                       |
| (Normalized)        | 1.00        | 1.12            | 0.94                        | 1.04                       |

#### **Computing Resource**

 System: GenuineIntel / 2600 MHz / RAM 251GB
Platform: Intel linux 3.10.0-693.el7.x86\_64



| Item              |                            | Full domain | Model reduction | Extended<br>model reduction | Prescribed<br>displacement |
|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Number of         | <b>Residual model</b>      | 37,809      | 159             | 2,423                       | 159                        |
| Nodes             | <b>Condensed interface</b> |             | 44              | 263                         |                            |
| Time<br>(seconds) | Condensation               |             | 16              | 54                          |                            |
|                   | <b>Iterative run</b>       | 2,023       | 9               | 186                         | 16                         |
|                   | Total                      | 2,023       | 25              | 240                         | 16                         |

# CONCLUSIONS

### Conclusions

- The proposed method was applicable to arbitrary parts of general structures and the local resistance capacity could be precisely quantified by the local safety factor.
- Through the global FE analysis, complicated interactions between local and global structures were directly considered.
- The method could be easily used to define vulnerable areas by easily changing the local extents without additional finite element analysis.
- When the target local structure loses stability, the magnitude of the external force acting on the global structure could be calculated.
- The computational efficiency was improved by use of the model reduction technique for large FE models.

### **Future studies**

- The method can be applied to demonstrate strength proofs of irregularly reinforced structures and weakened plate openings which are frequently required to be evaluated, not predefined in design formulas.
- In addition, the residual strength can be identified to determine the reinforcement of local structures after structural damages from grounding or collision accidents.



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