

Quasistatic Contact Problems in Viscoelasticity and Viscoplasticity

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Preface

Phenomena of contact between deformable bodies or between deformable and rigid bodies abound in industry and everyday life. Contact of braking pads with wheels, tires with roads, pistons with skirts are just a few simple examples. Common industrial processes such as metal forming, metal extrusion, involve contact evolutions. Because of the importance of contact processes in structural and mechanical systems, a considerable effort has been made in its modeling and numerical simulations. The engineering literature concerning this topic is extensive. Owing to their inherent complexity, contact phenomena are modeled by nonlinear evolutionary problems that are difficult to analyze.

In early mathematical publications it was invariably assumed that the deformable bodies were linearly elastic and the processes were static. However, long time ago it was recognized the need to consider contact problems involving viscoelastic and viscoplastic materials as well as a large variety of contact and frictional boundary conditions, which lead to time dependent models. The mathematical theory of contact problems, that can predict reliably the evolution of the contact process in different situations and under various conditions, is emerging currently. It deals with rigorous modeling of the contact phenomena, based on the fundamental physical principles, as well as with the variational and numerical analysis of the models. A thorough treatment of contact problems require knowledge from functional analysis, modern partial differential equations, numerical approximations and error analysis.

The purpose of this book is to introduce the reader a mathematical theory of contact problems involving deformable bodies. The contents cover the mechanical modeling, mathematical formulations, variational analysis, and the numerical solution of the associated formulations. Our intention is to give a complete treatment of some contact problems by presenting arguments and results in modeling, analysis, and numerical simulations.

In the book we treat quasistatic contact processes in the infinitesimal strain theory. Quasistatic processes arise when the applied forces vary slowly in time, and therefore the system response is relatively slow so that the inertial terms in the equations of motion can be neglected. We model the material behavior with elastic, viscoelastic or viscoplastic constitutive laws; some of our results are extended to materials with internal state variables and to perfectly plastic materials. The contact is modeled with various conditions, including Signorini nonpenetration condition, normal compliance and normal damped response conditions. The friction is modeled with versions of Coulomb's and Tresca's friction laws or with laws involving a dissipative frictional potential. We also consider problems with

friction and wear and we use a version of the Archard law to model the evolution of wear.

Variational analysis of the models includes existence and uniqueness results of weak solutions as well as results of continuous dependence of the solution on the data and parameters. Links between different mechanical models are discussed; for example, elasticity as a limiting case of viscoelasticity, perfect plasticity as a limiting case of viscoplasticity, Signorini non-penetration condition as a limiting case of the normal compliance contact condition. In carrying out the variational analysis we systematically use results on elliptic and evolutionary variational inequalities, convex analysis, nonlinear equations with monotone operators and fixed points of operators.

Two kinds of approximation schemes are introduced and analyzed. When only the spatial variables are discretized, we obtain semi-discrete schemes. If both the spatial and temporal variables are discretized, we arrive at fully discrete schemes. For both kinds of schemes we prove existence and uniqueness results. We show convergence of the discrete solutions under the basic solution regularity available from the well-posedness results of the variational problems. We also present optimal order error estimates under additional regularity assumption on the solution.

To demonstrate the performance of the numerical schemes, a number of numerical simulations are discussed. The test problems range from one to three dimensional geometries. The finite element method is used to discretize the spatial domain and finite differences are used for the time derivatives. We describe in the book numerical results in the study of some model contact problems for elastic, viscoelastic and viscoplastic materials.

The book is intended to be self-contained and accessible to a large number of readers. It is divided into four parts, as described in the following.

Part I is devoted to the basic notions and results which are fundamental to the development later in this book. We review here the background on functional analysis, function spaces, finite difference approximations and finite element method. Then we apply these results in the study of elliptic and evolutionary variational inequalities. The material presented in this part is self-contained. It does not need any knowledge in Contact Mechanics and could be aimed at graduate students and researchers interested in a general treatment of variational problems and their numerical approximations.

Part II presents preliminary material in Contact Mechanics. We summarize here basic notions and general principles of Mechanics of Continua. Then we introduce contact boundary conditions with or without friction as well as constitutive laws which are used in the rest of the book. We also present preliminary results on variational and numerical analysis in contact problems and we apply these results in the study of models involving elastic bodies. The material in Part II is aimed at those readers who are interested in the mechanical background of contact problems and mathematical theory of some contact problems in elasticity.

Parts III and IV represent the main parts of the book. They deal with the study of quasistatic problems for Kelvin-Voigt viscoelastic materials and rate-type viscoplastic materials, respectively. These parts are written based on our original research. We consider here a number of problems with various contact and frictional or frictionless boundary conditions, for which we provide variational analysis and numerical approximations. For some of the contact problems, we include results of numerical simulations to show the performance of the numerical schemes. These two parts of the book would interest mainly researchers for an in-depth knowledge of the mathematical theory of quasistatic contact problems.

The list of the references at the end of the book is by no means exhaustive. It only includes papers or books that were used for or are directly connected with the subjects treated in this book. Each part is concluded with a section entitled *Bibliographical Notes* that discusses references on the principal results treated, as well as information on important topics related to, but not included in, the body of the text.

Each of the four parts of the book is divided into several chapters. All the chapters are numbered consecutively. Mathematical relations (equalities or inequalities) are numbered by chapter and their order of occurrence. For example, (5.3) is the third numbered mathematical relation in Chapter 5. Definitions, examples, problems, theorems, lemmas, corollaries, propositions and remarks are numbered consecutively within each chapter. For example, in Chapter 10, Problem 10.1 is followed by Theorem 10.2.

The present book is the result of three years of cooperation between the two authors. In writing it we have drawn on the results of our joint collaboration with numerous colleagues and friends to whom we address our thanks. We express our gratitude to Professor Meir Shillor for our beneficial cooperation as well as for the interesting discussions on the models treated in the book. We particularly thank Dr. J.R. Fernández-García who provided the numerical simulations included in Parts III, IV of the book. We extend our thanks to Dr. M. Barboteu who realized the numerical results in Part II of the book. We especially thank Professor Shing-Tung Yau for his support and encouragement of our work.

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Contents

Preface	iii
List of Symbols	xi
I Nonlinear Variational Problems and Numerical Approximation	1
1 Preliminaries of Functional Analysis	3
1.1 Normed Spaces and Banach Spaces	3
1.2 Linear Operators and Linear Functionals	8
1.3 Hilbert Spaces	14
1.4 Convex Functions	17
1.5 Banach Fixed-point Theorem	22
2 Function Spaces and Their Properties	25
2.1 The Spaces $C^m(\bar{\Omega})$ and $L^p(\Omega)$	25
2.2 Sobolev Spaces	29
2.3 Spaces of Vector-valued Functions	37
3 Introduction to Finite Difference and Finite Element Approximations	43
3.1 Finite Difference Approximations	43
3.2 Basis of the Finite Element Approximation	45
3.3 Finite Element Interpolation Error Estimates	53

3.4	Finite Element Analysis of Linear Elliptic Boundary Value Problems	55
4	Variational Inequalities	61
4.1	Elliptic Variational Inequalities	61
4.2	Approximation of Elliptic Variational Inequalities	68
4.3	An Evolutionary Variational Inequality	71
4.4	Semi-discrete Approximations of the Evolutionary Variational Inequality	79
4.5	Fully Discrete Approximations of the Evolutionary Variational Inequality	82
	<i>Bibliographical Notes</i>	91
 II Mathematical Modelling in Contact Mechanics		93
5	Preliminaries of Contact Mechanics of Continua	95
5.1	Kinematics of Continua	95
5.2	Dynamics of Continua	100
5.3	Physical Setting of Contact Problems	105
5.4	Contact Boundary Conditions and Friction Laws	107
6	Constitutive Relations in Solid Mechanics	117
6.1	Physical Background and Experiments	117
6.2	Constitutive Relations in Elasticity	125
6.3	Constitutive Relations in Viscoelasticity	130
6.4	Constitutive Relations in Viscoplasticity	137
7	Background on Variational and Numerical Analysis in Contact Mechanics	147
7.1	Function Spaces in Solid Mechanics	148
7.2	Semi-discrete and Fully Discrete Approximations	159
7.3	Convergence under Basic Solution Regularity	163
7.4	Some Inequalities	168
8	Contact Problems in Elasticity	173
8.1	Frictionless Contact Problems	173
8.2	Numerical Analysis of the Frictionless Contact Problems	180
8.3	Quasistatic Frictional Contact Problems	184
8.4	Numerical Analysis of Quasistatic Frictional Contact Problems	187
8.5	Numerical Examples	191
	<i>Bibliographical Notes</i>	197

III	Contact Problems in Viscoelasticity	199
9	A Frictionless Contact Problem	201
9.1	Problem Statement	201
9.2	An Existence and Uniqueness Result	204
9.3	Numerical Approximations	205
9.4	Dual Formulation	211
10	Bilateral Contact with Slip Dependent Friction	215
10.1	Problem Statement	215
10.2	An Existence and Uniqueness Result	217
10.3	Semi-discrete Approximation	222
10.4	Fully Discrete Approximations	226
10.5	Dual Formulation	230
11	Frictional Contact with Normal Compliance	235
11.1	Problem Statement	235
11.2	An Abstract Problem and its Well-posedness	238
11.3	Semi-discrete Approximation	243
11.4	Fully Discrete Approximation	245
11.5	Applications to the Contact Problem	248
11.6	Continuous Dependence with Respect to Contact Conditions	253
11.7	Numerical Examples	255
12	Frictional Contact with Normal Damped Response	263
12.1	Problem Statement	263
12.2	An Abstract Problem and its Well-posedness	265
12.3	Semi-discrete Approximation of the Abstract Problem . . .	270
12.4	Fully Discrete Approximation of the Abstract Problem . . .	272
12.5	Applications to the Contact Problem	275
12.6	Two Field Variational Formulations	279
12.7	Numerical Examples	282
13	Other Viscoelastic Contact Problems	293
13.1	Bilateral Contact with Nonlocal Coulomb Friction Law . . .	293
13.2	Bilateral Contact with Friction and Wear	297
13.3	Contact with Normal Compliance, Friction and Wear	300
13.4	Contact with Dissipative Frictional Potential	305
	<i>Bibliographical Notes</i>	315
IV	Contact Problems in Viscoplasticity	317
14	A Signorini Contact Problem	319
14.1	Problem Statement	319
14.2	Existence and Uniqueness Results	322

14.3	Some Properties of the Solution	327
15	Frictionless Contact with Dissipative Potential	331
15.1	Problem Statement and Variational Analysis	331
15.2	Semi-discrete Approximation	334
15.3	Fully Discrete Approximation	337
15.4	The Signorini Contact Problem	340
15.5	A Frictionless Contact Problem with Normal Compliance .	343
15.6	A Convergence Result	346
15.7	Numerical Examples	351
16	Frictionless Contact between Two Viscoplastic Bodies	359
16.1	Problem Statement	359
16.2	Unique Solvability and Properties of the Solution	362
16.3	Semi-discrete Approximation	365
16.4	Fully Discrete Approximation	370
16.5	Numerical Examples	373
17	Bilateral Contact with Tresca's Friction Law	377
17.1	Problem Statement	377
17.2	Existence and Uniqueness Results	380
17.3	Some Properties of the Solution	388
17.4	Semi-discrete Approximation	391
17.5	Fully Discrete Approximation	397
17.6	Convergence of the Fully Discrete Scheme	403
18	Other Viscoplastic Contact Problems	411
18.1	Contact with Simplified Coulomb's Friction Law	411
18.2	Contact with Dissipative Frictional Potential	413
18.3	Stress Formulation in Perfect Plasticity	418
18.4	A Frictionless Contact Problem for Materials with Internal State Variable	429
	<i>Bibliographical Notes</i>	437
	References	439
	Index	456