

## Barenberg

## Medium Thick Plate Theory

## Assumptions

1. Only Forces on the Surfaces of the Slab are Normal to the surface
2. Slab is of Uniform thickness
3. No in-plane forces
4. X-Y Plane is at the mid-depth of the slab
5. Deformation within the elements normal to the slab surfaces can be ignored (i.e.,  $\epsilon_z \Rightarrow 0$ )
6. Shear deformations are small and can be ignored. (See Compatibility Conditions)

Ref: Theory of Plates and Shells, Timoshenko, S and Woinowsky-Krieger, Art 21, P77-83

Theory of Elasticity, Timoshenko, S  
Chapter 1.

## Pavement Analysis

The following relationships from elastic theory are needed to develop the basic equations for the elastic slab theory

$$1. (a) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = \epsilon_x; \quad (b) \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = \epsilon_y; \quad (c) \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} = \epsilon_z$$

$$(d) \gamma_{xy} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial x}; \quad (e) \gamma_{xz} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial x}; \quad (f) \gamma_{yz} = \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial y}$$

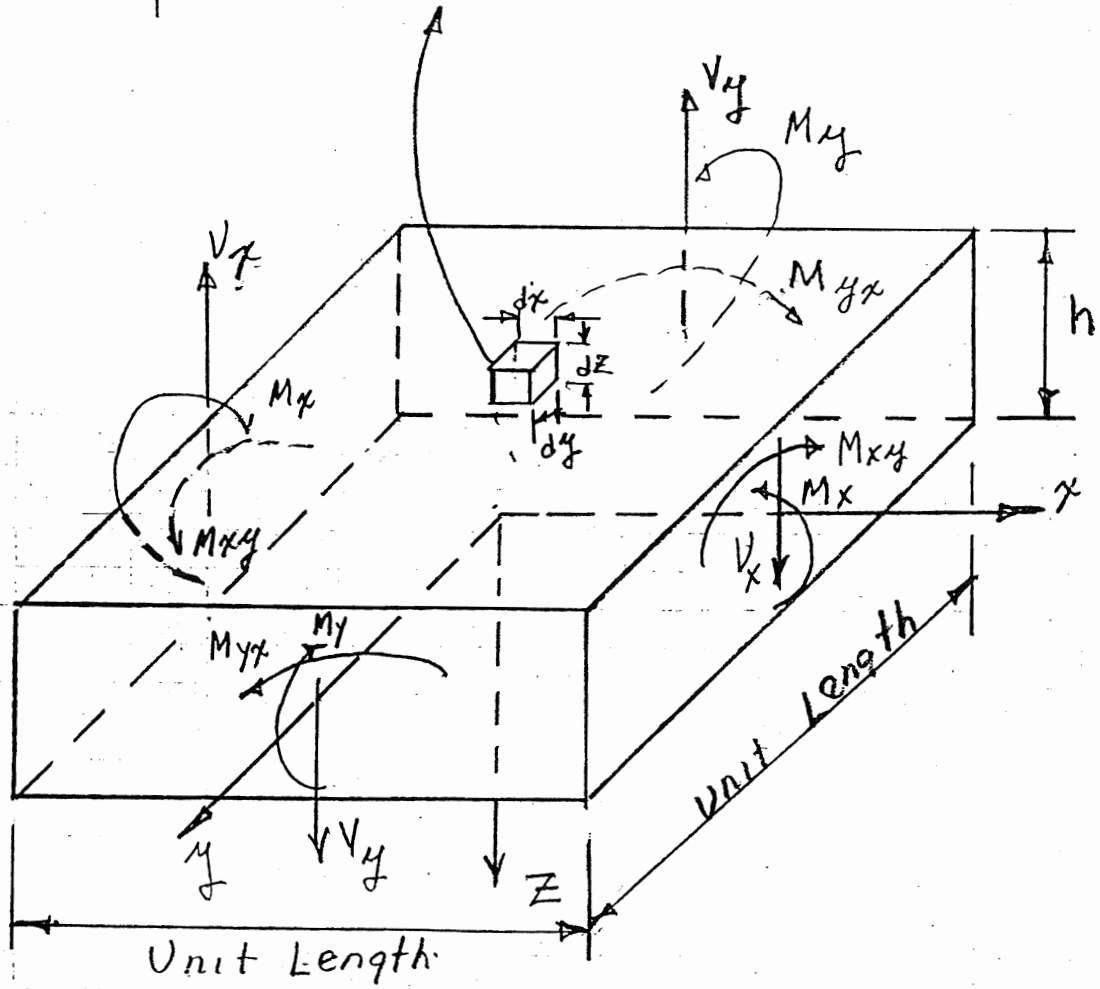
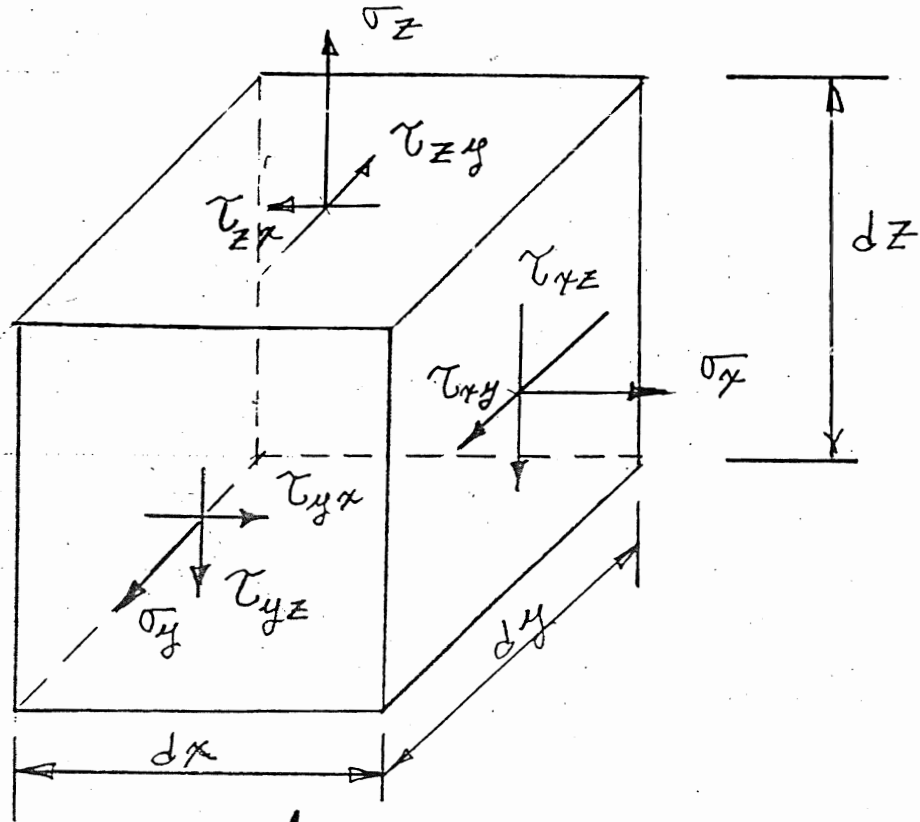
From Hooke's law we can also write

$$(g) \epsilon_x = \frac{1}{E} [\sigma_x - \mu(\sigma_y + \sigma_z)] \quad (j) \gamma_{xy} = \frac{\tau_{xy}}{G}$$

$$(h) \epsilon_y = \frac{1}{E} [\sigma_y - \mu(\sigma_x + \sigma_z)] \quad (k) \gamma_{xz} = \frac{\tau_{xz}}{G}$$

$$(i) \epsilon_z = \frac{1}{E} [\sigma_z - \mu(\sigma_x + \sigma_y)] \quad (l) \gamma_{yz} = \frac{\tau_{yz}}{G}$$

$$2. G = \frac{E}{2(1+\mu)}$$



a)  $0 = \int_{-\frac{h}{2}}^{+\frac{h}{2}} \sigma_x dz = N_x = \text{Normal Force per Unit width}$

b)  $0 = \int_{-\frac{h}{2}}^{+\frac{h}{2}} \sigma_y dz = N_y = \text{Normal Force per Unit width}$

c)  $0 = \int_{-\frac{h}{2}}^{+\frac{h}{2}} \tau_{xy} dz = N_{xy}$

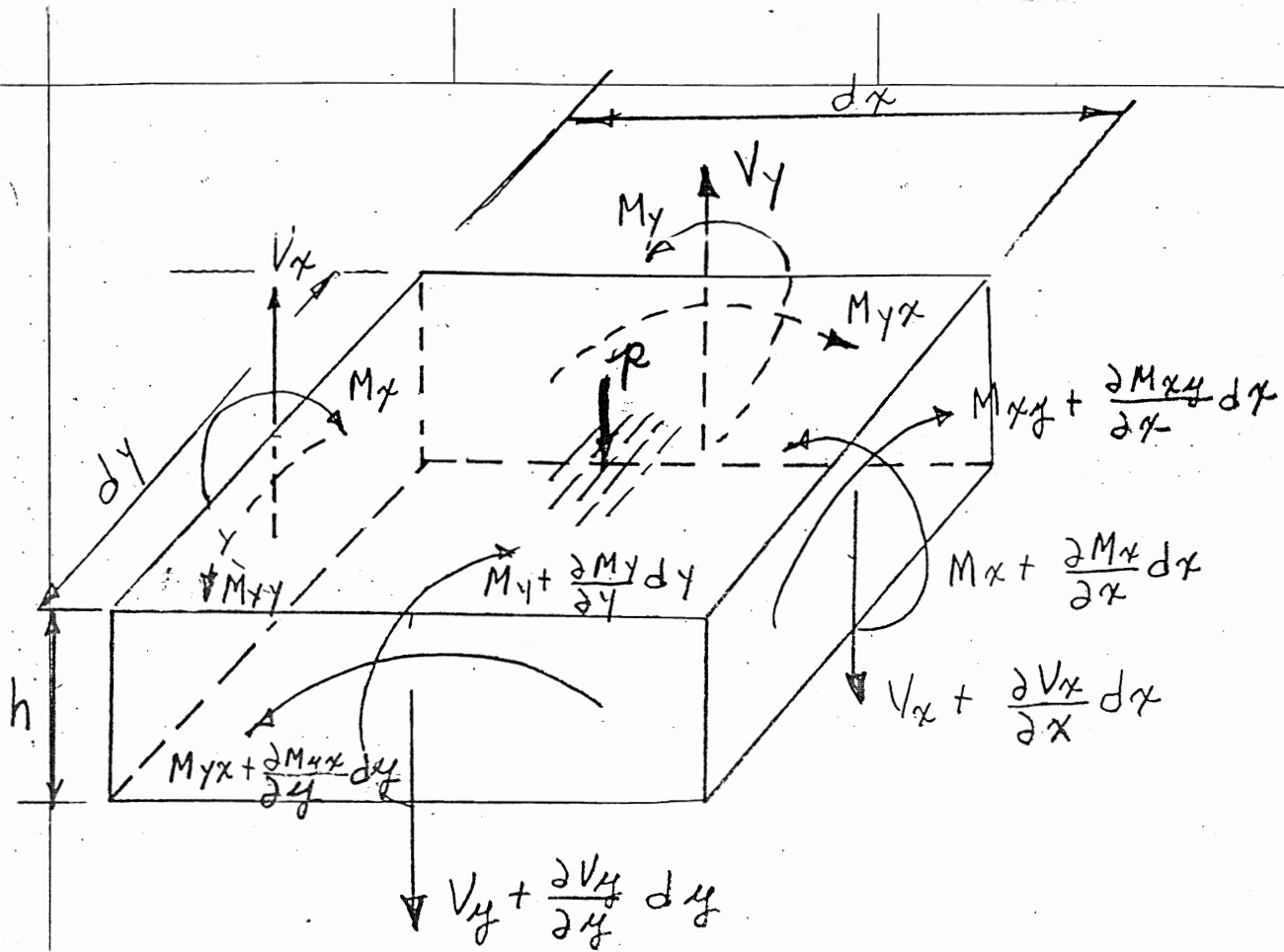
d)  $\int_{-\frac{h}{2}}^{+\frac{h}{2}} \sigma_x z dz = M_x = \text{Bending Moment/unit length}$   
 ( $M_x$  is positive when comp on Top of Slab)

e)  $\int_{-\frac{h}{2}}^{+\frac{h}{2}} \sigma_y z dz = M_y$

f)  $\int_{-\frac{h}{2}}^{+\frac{h}{2}} \tau_{xy} z dz = M_{xy} = \text{Twisting moment}$

g)  $\int_{-\frac{h}{2}}^{+\frac{h}{2}} \tau_{xz} dz = V_x \neq 0$  Shearing force per unit length.

h)  $\int_{-\frac{h}{2}}^{+\frac{h}{2}} \tau_{yz} dz = V_y \neq 0$



### Equilibrium Equations

$$\sum F_v = 0 \quad \downarrow +$$

$$p dx dy - V_x dy + \left[ V_x + \frac{\partial V_x}{\partial x} dx \right] dy - V_y dx$$

$$+ \left[ V_y + \frac{\partial V_y}{\partial y} dy \right] dx = 0$$

$$p dx dy + \frac{\partial V_x}{\partial x} dx dy + \frac{\partial V_y}{\partial y} dx dy = 0$$

or

$$\boxed{\frac{\partial V_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial V_y}{\partial y} = -p}$$

(1)

$$\sum M_y = 0 \quad \curvearrowright$$

$$+ M_x dy - \left[ M_x + \frac{\partial M_x}{\partial x} dx \right] dy + M_{xy} dx$$

$$- \left[ M_{xy} + \frac{\partial M_{xy}}{\partial y} dy \right] dx$$

$$+ \left[ V_x + \frac{\partial V_x}{\partial x} dx \right] dy \frac{dx}{2} + V_x dy \frac{dx}{2} = 0$$

$$- \frac{\partial M_x}{\partial x} dx dy - \frac{\partial M_{xy}}{\partial y} dx dy + \frac{\partial V_x}{\partial x} dx dy \frac{dx}{2} = 0$$

Second order  
Term  $\rightarrow 0$

$$+ V_x dx dy = 0$$

$$\boxed{\frac{\partial M_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial M_{xy}}{\partial y} = V_x} \quad (2)$$

$$\text{By } \sum M_x = 0$$

$$\boxed{\frac{\partial M_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial M_{xy}}{\partial x} = V_y} \quad (3)$$

Substituting Eq 2+3 into Eq 1 gives

$$\frac{\partial^2 M_x}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 M_{xy}}{\partial x \partial y} + \frac{\partial^2 M_y}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 M_{xy}}{\partial x \partial y} = -p$$

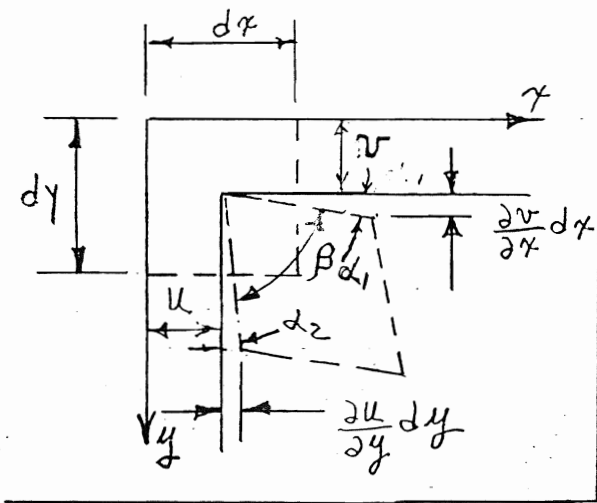
$$\boxed{\frac{\partial^2 M_x}{\partial x^2} + 2 \frac{\partial^2 M_{xy}}{\partial x \partial y} + \frac{\partial^2 M_y}{\partial y^2} = -p} \quad (4)$$

For Beams all  $\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \equiv 0$

To establish the compatibility relationships in terms of strains and deformations we need to establish some basic stress strain relationships.

Displacements in the  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $z$  directions are designated by the symbols  $u$ ,  $v$  and  $w$  respectively. Also, strains in the  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $z$  directions are designated by the symbols  $\epsilon_x$ ,  $\epsilon_y$  and  $\epsilon_z$ . By definition the following relationships hold

$$\epsilon_x = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}; \quad \epsilon_y = \frac{\partial v}{\partial y}; \quad \epsilon_z = \frac{\partial w}{\partial z}$$



Shear strain  $\gamma_{ij}$  is defined as the angle change or distortion occurring within an element. Thus in the figure shown

$$\gamma_{xy} = 90 - \beta = \alpha_1 + \alpha_2$$

$$\gamma_{xy} = \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 = \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} dy \equiv \gamma_{xy} = \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}$$

Similarly

$$\gamma_{xz} = \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial z}$$

$$\gamma_{yz} = \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial z}$$

The relationship between stress and strain for an "elastic" material is given by Hooke's Law as follows

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \epsilon_x &= \frac{1}{E} [\sigma_x - \mu(\sigma_y + \sigma_z)] \\ \epsilon_y &= \frac{1}{E} [\sigma_y - \mu(\sigma_x + \sigma_z)] \\ \epsilon_z &= \frac{1}{E} [\sigma_z - \mu(\sigma_x + \sigma_y)] \end{aligned} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{where } E \text{ is the} \\ \text{modulus of elasticity} \\ \text{of the material and} \\ \mu \text{ is Poisson's ratio.} \end{array}$$

Also

$$\gamma_{xy} = \frac{\tau_{xy}}{G}; \quad \gamma_{xz} = \frac{\tau_{xz}}{G}; \quad \gamma_{yz} = \frac{\tau_{yz}}{G}$$

where

$$G = \frac{E}{2(1+\mu)}$$

The equations above can be rearranged as follows:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \sigma_x &= \lambda e + 2G\epsilon_x \\ \sigma_y &= \lambda e + 2G\epsilon_y \\ \sigma_z &= \lambda e + 2G\epsilon_z \end{aligned} \right\} \quad \text{h.}$$

where

$$e = (\epsilon_x + \epsilon_y + \epsilon_z); \quad \lambda = \frac{\mu E}{(1+\mu)(1-2\mu)}$$

If  $\epsilon_z$  is small and can be ignored then the above equations (h) can be simplified to

$$\sigma_x = \frac{E}{1-\mu^2} [\epsilon_x + \mu\epsilon_y]$$

$$\sigma_y = \frac{E}{1-\mu^2} [\epsilon_y + \mu\epsilon_x]$$



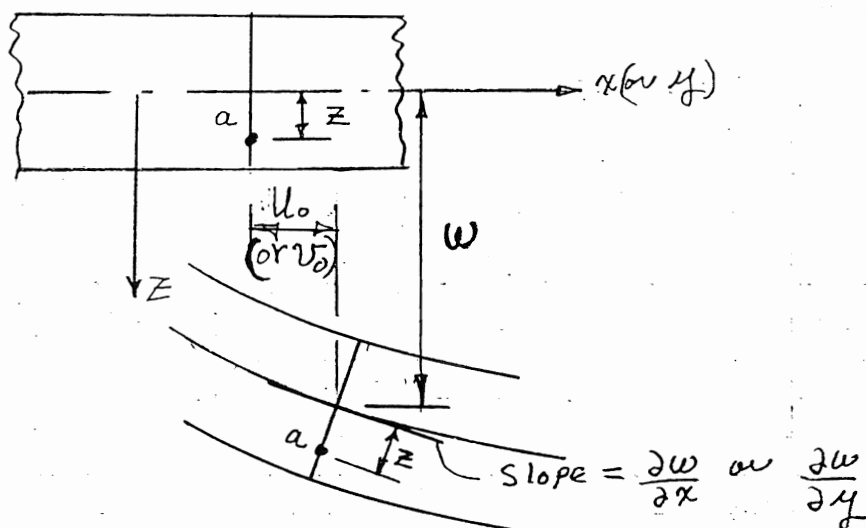
Substituting the basic relationships of  $\epsilon_x = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}$  and  $\epsilon_y = \frac{\partial v}{\partial y}$  gives the stresses in terms of strain as

$$\sigma_x = \frac{E}{1-\mu^2} \left[ \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \mu \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right] \quad (i)$$

$$\sigma_y = \frac{E}{1-\mu^2} \left[ \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + \mu \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right] \quad (j)$$

$$\tau_{xy} = \frac{E}{2(1+\mu)} \left[ \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right] \quad (k)$$

Relationships between  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}$ ,  $\frac{\partial w}{\partial x}$  and  $\frac{\partial w}{\partial y}$  etc are called compatibility conditions and are determined from the figure below provided lines  $\perp$  to planes before bending remain  $\perp$  during bending.



Displacement of Point (a) in "x" direction is given by

$$u = u_0 - z \frac{\partial w}{\partial x}$$

$$\therefore \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = 0 - z \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} \quad \text{or, Similarly, } \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = -z \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y^2}$$

$$\text{Also } \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = -z \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x \partial y} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} = -z \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x \partial y}$$

Substituting the compatibility relationships into equations i, j, k gives

$$\sigma_x = \frac{E}{1-\mu^2} \left[ -Z \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} - \mu Z \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y^2} \right] = -\frac{EZ}{1-\mu^2} \left[ \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} + \mu \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y^2} \right] \quad (l)$$

$$\sigma_y = \frac{E}{1-\mu^2} \left[ -Z \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y^2} - \mu Z \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} \right] = -\frac{EZ}{1-\mu^2} \left[ \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y^2} + \mu \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} \right] \quad (m)$$

$$\tau_{xy} = \frac{E}{2(1+\mu)} \left[ -Z \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x \partial y} - Z \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x \partial y} \right] = -\frac{EZ}{1+\mu} \left[ \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x \partial y} \right] \quad (n)$$

According to equation (d)

$$M_x = \int_{-h/2}^{+h/2} \sigma_x z dz \quad (d)$$

Substituting eq. l for  $\sigma_x$  in eq(d) gives

$$M_x = -\frac{E}{1-\mu^2} \int_{-h/2}^{h/2} \left[ \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} + \mu \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y^2} \right] z^2 dz = -\frac{E}{1-\mu^2} \left[ \frac{z^3}{3} \right]_{-h/2}^{h/2}$$

$$M_x = -\frac{E}{1-\mu^2} \left[ \frac{h^3}{8} + \frac{h^3}{8} \right] = \frac{-Eh^3}{12(1-\mu^2)} \left[ \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} + \mu \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y^2} \right]$$

Let  $D = \frac{Eh^3}{12(1-\mu^2)}$  Then

$$M_x = -D \left[ \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} + \mu \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y^2} \right] \quad (o)$$

Similarly

$$M_y = -D \left[ \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y^2} + \mu \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} \right] \quad (p)$$

$$M_{xy} = \frac{-E}{12(1+\mu)(1-\mu)} h^3 \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x \partial y} = -D(1-\mu) \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x \partial y} \quad (q)$$

Also, after differentiation as indicated

$$\frac{\partial^2 M_x}{\partial x^2} = -D \left[ \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^4} + \mu \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^2 \partial y^2} \right] \quad (r)$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 M_y}{\partial y^2} = -D \left[ \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial y^4} + \mu \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^2 \partial y^2} \right] \quad (s)$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 M_{xy}}{\partial x \partial y} = -D(1-\mu) \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^2 \partial y^2} \quad (t)$$

Substituting equations r, s and t into equation (4) yields

$$-D \left[ \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^4} + \mu \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^2 \partial y^2} + 2(1-\mu) \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^2 \partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial y^4} + \mu \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^2 \partial y^2} \right] = -p$$

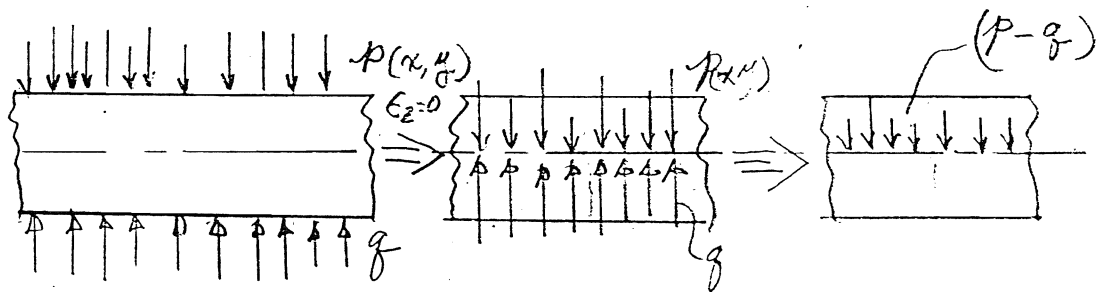
The terms with  $\mu$  cancel leaving

$$\boxed{\frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^4} + 2 \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^2 \partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial y^4} = \frac{p}{D}} \quad - (5)$$

Equation 5 is LaGrange Equation for Elastic Slabs with unspecified boundary and Support Conditions. This equation is the basis for both the Westergaard equation of a slab on a dense liquid (Winkler) subgrade and the slab on an elastic solid subgrade.

Ref Theory of Plates and Shells, Timoshenko, S and Art 57, 58, 59, Chapter 8

In the development of equation 5 two important assumptions were made with respect to its application to pavement slabs. It was assumed that there was no in-plane forces, and that all loads are normal to the slab surface. It follows, therefore, that there can be no shear stress at the bottom of the slab, i.e., between the slab and the supporting subgrade. Also, since  $\epsilon_z \Rightarrow 0$ , it can be assumed that all forces normal to the slab surfaces can be assumed to be acting at the midplane of the slab as shown in the sketch.



Thus Eq 5 can be written as

$$\frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^2} + 2 \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial^2 x \partial^2 y} + \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial y^4} = \frac{p-q}{D} = \frac{p}{D} - \frac{q}{D}$$

The problem now is to express "q" as a function of the deflection "w"

Westergaard assumed that at any point under the slab, the value for "q" is directly proportional to the deflection "w" at that point. Thus, if "k" is the proportionality constant, then  $q = kw$  where "k" is the modulus of subgrade reaction. Also, since "q" is a function of "w", it should be placed on the L.H side of eq 5 so the equation becomes

$$\left[ \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^4} + \frac{2\partial^4 w}{\partial x^2 \partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial y^4} + \frac{kw}{D} \right] = \frac{P}{D} \quad [6]$$

To solve this eq, the coefficient for w should be of the same order as the differentials.

Substituting  $k^4 = \frac{D}{h}$  into Equation 6 gives

$$\frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^4} + \frac{2\partial^4 w}{\partial x^2 \partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial y^4} + \frac{w}{h^4} = \frac{P}{h^4 l^4} \quad (7)$$

or

$$l^4 \left[ \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^4} + \frac{2\partial^4 w}{\partial x^2 \partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial y^4} \right] + w = \frac{P}{h}$$

see scroll  
17.5.96  
(7a) p150

Equation 7 or 7a is the basic equation for solution of slabs resting on a dense liquid (Winkler) subgrade.

In Equations 7 and 7a

$k$  represents the subgrade strength and is referred to as "the Modulus of Subgrade Reaction". It has the dimension of  $\frac{\#/in^2}{in}$  or pounds per cubic inch, hence the term "Dense Liquid" applied to the subgrade.

$$l^4 = \frac{D}{k} \quad \text{or} \quad l = \sqrt[4]{\frac{E h^3}{12(1-\mu^2)k}}$$

The dimension for  $l$  is one of length and in English units is almost always given in inches (cm or m in SI units).

$l$  is referred to in the literature as "the radius of relative stiffness" of the slab.

Solutions to Equation 7 or 7a depend upon the location of the load and boundary conditions. (Mechanics of the solutions will not be discussed.)

If the slab is assumed to be infinitely large, and if the applied load is a concentrated force, then the basic solution to Equation 7 is

Set  $P = (h_w = \bar{w})$  over total area

$$w = -\frac{P l^2}{2\pi D} \operatorname{hei} \bar{x} \quad (8)$$

$$\text{where } \bar{x} = \frac{x}{l}$$

$\operatorname{hei} \bar{x}$  is a Bessel function for a complex argument. (Tabulated for specific values of  $\bar{x}$ ).

For small values of  $\bar{x}$

$$\operatorname{hei}(\bar{x}) = -(\bar{x}^2/4) \log \bar{x} - \pi/4 + (1 + \log 2 - \gamma) \bar{x}^2/4 + \dots$$

where  $\gamma = 0.5772157 \dots$  (Euler's Constant), and  
 $\log 2 - \gamma = 0.11593 \dots$

Thus, For small  $\bar{x}$

$$\operatorname{hei} \bar{x} = -\left(\frac{\bar{x}^2}{4}\right) \log \bar{x} - \frac{\pi}{4} + 1.116 \left(\frac{\bar{x}^2}{4}\right) + \dots \quad (U)$$

For large values of  $\bar{x}$

$$\operatorname{hei}(\bar{x}) \approx -\frac{e^{-\sigma}}{\sqrt{2\bar{x}}} \sin\left(\sigma + \frac{\pi}{8}\right) \quad (V)$$

$$\text{where } \sigma = \frac{\bar{x}}{\sqrt{2}}$$

Since the deflection is maximum at the point of contact,  $w_{\max}$  at  $\bar{x} = 0$ .

From equation (U),

$$\operatorname{hei}(\bar{x}) = -\frac{\pi}{4} \text{ at } \bar{x} = 0$$

Thus, the maximum deflection at

an interior point of a large slab  
Under a concentrated load is, by  
Equations 8 and 11

$$W_0 = -\frac{Pl^2}{2\pi D} \cdot \left(-\frac{\pi}{4}\right) = \frac{Pl^2}{8D} \quad (w)$$

which can be rewritten as

$$W_0 = \frac{Pl^2}{8D} = \frac{Pl^2}{8k\left(\frac{D}{k}\right)} = \frac{Pl^2}{8kl^4} = \frac{P}{8kl^2} \quad (w)$$

Equations (O), (P) and (Q) give the expressions for moments in the slab in terms of the deflections "w". Differentiating the equations such as u and v and substituting into equations o, p and q give expressions for moments, which can be expressed in terms of stress by observing

$$\sigma_x = \frac{Ez}{1-\mu^2} \frac{M_x}{\frac{Eh^3}{12(1-\mu^2)}} = \frac{12M_x z}{h^3}$$

Maximum values for  $\sigma_x$  occur at the top and bottom faces of the slab where  $z = \pm \frac{h}{2}$ . Substituting into the above equation gives

$$(\sigma_x)_{\max} = \frac{6M_x}{h^2}$$



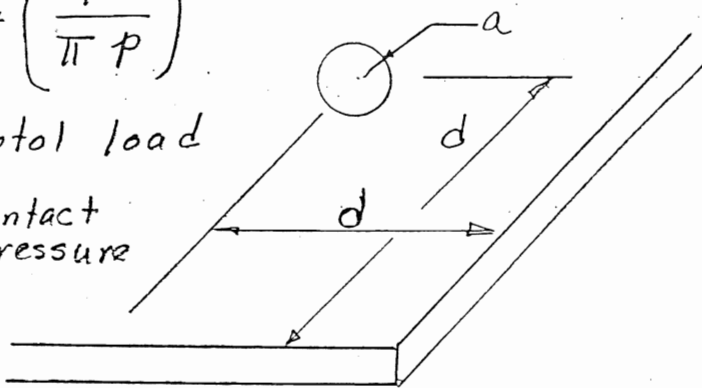
Substituting for  $M_{x,y}$  the equations for stresses and deflections shown on pages 17 and 18 can be obtained for the following loading conditions and limitations

INTERIOR Loading

$$a = \left( \frac{P}{\pi p} \right)^{1/2}$$

$P$  = Total load

$p$  = Contact Pressure

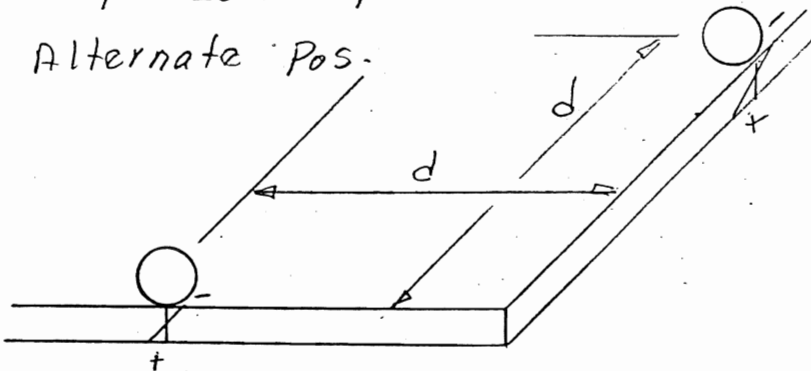


$d_{min} = 5\frac{1}{2}l$   
desired

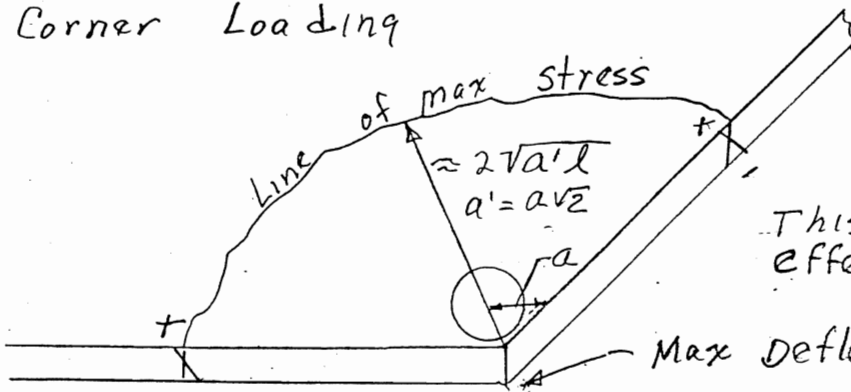
$d_{min} = 3l$   
Practical min

Edge Loading

Alternate Pos.



Corner Loading



This is a cantilever effect

Max deflection @ Corner



$\gamma = \text{Euler's Constant} = 0.577215$

$\mu = \text{Poisson's Ratio for Concrete (0.15) Typ}$

$\ln = \text{Natural log}$

$\log = \text{log to base 10}$

$P = \text{Total load (pounds)}$

$h = \text{Slab Thickness (inches)}$

$l = \text{Radius of Relative Stiffness}$

$$= \sqrt[4]{\frac{E h^3}{12(1-\mu) k}} \quad \text{for } \mu = .15 \quad l = \sqrt[4]{\frac{E h^3}{11.23 k}}$$

$k = \text{Modulus of Subgrade Reaction}$

$$= \frac{p}{w} = \frac{\text{psi}}{\text{in}} = \text{pci}$$

$E = \text{Modulus of Concrete}$

$$E = 57,000 \sqrt{f'_c} \approx 4,000,000 \text{ psi (Typ)}$$

Note: Max subgrade stress =  $k \times w_{\max}$

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