# MODAL ANALYSIS OF TAPERED BEAM-COLUMN EMBEDDED IN WINKLER ELASTIC FOUNDATION

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## Abstract

Modal analysis of tapered piles embedded in elastic foundations is investigated. The pile is modeled via Bernoulli-Euler beam theory and discrete singular convolution is used for modeling. Some parametric results have been presented for tapered pile in elastic foundation.

Keywords: Beam-column; elastic foundation; tapered piles; discrete singular convolution.

## **1. Introduction**

There are different type problems related to soil-structure interaction can be modeled by means of a beam or a beam-column on an elastic foundation. Winkler foundation model is extensively used by engineers and researchers because of its simplicity. The analysis of beam-columns on elastic foundations have been carried out in the literature, namely by Zhaohua and Cook [1], Yankelevsky and Eisenberger [2], Doyle and Pavlovic [3], Yokoyama [4], Valsangkar and Pradhanang [5], De Rosa and Maurizi [6], Halabe and Jain [7], West and Mafi [8], Matsunaga [9] and Kameswara et al. [10]. In this paper, discrete singular convolution method technique is presented for computation of the free vibration analysis of a pile embedded in elastic foundation. The method of DSC is used for vibration response of tapered piles in elastic foundation [29].

## 2. Discrete Singular Convolution (DSC)

Discrete singular convolution (DSC) method is a recently proposed numerical method in science and applied mechanics [11-14]. The method of discrete singular convolution (DSC) was proposed to solve linear and nonlinear differential equations by Wei [15, 16], and later it was introduced to solid and fluid [17-19]. It has been also successfully employed for different vibration problems of structural members such as plates and shells [20–23]. For more details of the mathematical background and application of the DSC method in solving problems in engineering, the readers may refer to some recently published reference [24-38]. In the context of distribution theory, a singular convolution can be defined by [11]

$$F(t) = (T * \eta)(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} T(t - x)\eta(x)dx$$
(1)

where T is a kind of singular kernel such as Hilbert, Abel and delta type, and  $\eta(t)$  is an element of the space of the given test functions. In the present approach, only singular kernels of delta type are chosen. This type of kernel is defined by [12]

$$T(x) = \delta^{(r)}(x);$$
 (r=0,1,2,...,). (2)

where subscript *r* denotes the *r*th-order derivative of distribution with respect to parameter *x*. In order to illustrate the DSC approximation, consider a function F(x). In the method of DSC, numerical approximations of a function and its derivatives can be treated as convolutions with some kernels. According to DSC method, the *rth* derivative of a function F(x) can be approximated as [13]

$$F^{(r)}(x) \approx \sum_{k=-M}^{M} \delta_{\Delta,\sigma}^{(r)}(x_i - x_k) f(x_k); \quad (r=0,1,2,...,).$$
(3)

where  $\Delta$  is the grid spacing,  $x_k$  are the set of discrete grid points which are centered around x, and 2M+1 is the effective kernel, or computational bandwidth. It is also known, the regularized Shannon kernel (RSK) delivers very small truncation errors when it use the above convolution algorithm. The regularized Shannon kernel (RSK) is given by [14]

$$\delta_{\Delta,\sigma}(x-x_k) = \frac{\sin[(\pi/\Delta)(x-x_k)]}{(\pi/\Delta)(x-x_k)} \exp\left[-\frac{(x-x_k)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right]; \sigma > 0$$
(4)

The researchers is generally used the regularized delta Shannon kernel by this time. The required derivatives of the DSC kernels can be easily obtained using the below formulation [15]

$$\delta_{\Delta\sigma}^{(r)}(x-x_j) = \frac{d^r}{dx^r} \Big[ \delta_{\Delta\sigma}(x-x_j) \Big] \Big|_{x=x_i},$$
(5)

#### **3. Fundamental Equations**

The governing equations for free vibration of tapered beam-column embedded in Winkler foundation (Fig. 1) using the Euler-Bernoulli beam theory can be written as:

$$EI(x)\frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^4} + p\frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} + kw - \rho A\frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial t^2} = 0, \quad \text{for } 0 < x < L_s$$
(6)

$$EI(x)\frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^4} + p\frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} - \rho A\frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial t^2} = 0. \quad \text{for } L_s < x < L$$
(7)

The transverse displacement w is assumed to be

$$w(x,t) = W(x)e^{i\omega t}$$
(8)

Substituting expression (8) into equations (6-7) and normalizing the equation yields

$$\frac{EI(x)}{L^4}\frac{d^4W}{dX^4} + \frac{p}{L^2}\frac{d^2W}{dX^2} + kW - \rho A\omega^2 W = 0,$$
(9)

$$\frac{EI(x)}{L^4}\frac{d^4W}{dX^4} + \frac{p}{L^2}\frac{d^2W}{dX^2} - \rho A\omega^2 W = 0. \qquad \gamma < X < 1$$
(10)

in which *EI* is the flexural rigidity of beam-column, w is the transverse deflection, p is the applied axial load, k is the Winkler parameter,  $\rho$  is the mass density, A is the cross-sectional area, I the second moment of area of cross-section, E the Young's modulus, and  $\omega$  is the circular frequency.

Non-dimensional variables are given below:

$$X=x/L$$
,  $W=w/L$  and  $\gamma=L_s/L$ 

By using these non-dimensional quantities, Eqs. (9-10) can be written as

$$\frac{d^4W}{dX^4} + P\frac{d^2W}{dX^2} + KW - \Omega^2 W = 0,$$
(11a)

$$\frac{d^4W}{dX^4} + P\frac{d^2W}{dX^2} - \Omega^2 W = 0.$$
 (11b)

where

$$P = pL^{2} / EI_{0}; K = kL^{4} / EI_{0}; \Omega^{2} = \omega L^{2} \sqrt{\rho A_{0} / EI_{0}}$$
(12)



Figure 1: Tapered piles and cross-section embedded in elastic foundation

The taper ratios are given as

$$\alpha = h_1 / h_0 \text{ and } \beta = b_1 / b_0 \tag{13}$$

Using DSC discretization the Eq. (8) takes the form

$$\sum_{j=1}^{N} \delta_{\pi/\Delta,\sigma}^{(4)}(\Delta x) W(x_i) + P \sum_{j=1}^{N} \delta_{\pi/\Delta,\sigma}^{(2)}(\Delta x) W(x_i) + K W(x_j) = \Omega^2 W_i, \qquad (14a)$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^{N} \delta_{\pi/\Delta,\sigma}^{(4)}(\Delta x) W(x_i) + P \sum_{j=1}^{N} \delta_{\pi/\Delta,\sigma}^{(2)}(\Delta x) W(x_i) = \Omega^2 W_i$$
(14b)

Pinned boundary conditions are considered for both edges. Related equations are given as

$$W = 0$$
 and  $EI_0 \frac{\partial^2 W}{\partial x^2} = 0$  (15)

After implementation of the given boundary conditions in Eqs. (14a) and (14b) can be expressed by

$$[\mathbf{R}]\{\mathbf{U}\} = \omega^2 \{\mathbf{U}\},\tag{16}$$

where  $\mathbf{U}$  is the displacements vector,  $\mathbf{R}$  is the stiffness matrix.

## 4. Numerical Examples

Some results for mode shapes are provided in Figs. 2-5 and Table 1. In these results the value  $P_{cr}$  is the critical buckling load. In order to comparison with the results calculated by SAP

2000 structural analysis program, the results provided in dimensional form in this last example. The dimensions of the beam-column embedded in Winkler foundation studied in this example are: the length is L=4 m; the mass density is  $\rho = 7849 \text{ kg/m}^3$ ; the elasticity modulus is  $E=2 \times 10^8 \text{ kN/m}^2$ . 41-Node frame elements are used for modeling of beam-column via SAP 2000 [28].

k	SAP-2000 (41 nodes) Frame element	Present DSC N=9	Present DSC N=11	Present DSC N=15
	Mode 1 ( $\omega_1$ )			
1	89.81	89.826	89.818	89.818
10	90.45	90.472	90.459	90.459
100	96.04	96.069	96.042	96.042
1000	140.02	140.102	140.023	140.023
	Mode 2 ( $\omega_2$ )			
1	358.40	358.429	358.421	358.421
10	358.53	358.568	358.56	358.56
100	359.73	359.749	359.746	359.746
1000	371.49	371.501	371.495	371.495
	Mode 3 ( $\omega_3$ )			
1	803.18	803.189	803.182	803.182
10	803.23	803.240	803.232	803.231
100	803.73	803.744	803.735	803.734
1000	808.71	808.733	808.728	808.726

Table 1. Comparison study of circular frequency parameters (rad/sec) of Euler-Bernoulli beam column embedded in Winkler foundation ( $\gamma$ =0.75; P=P<sub>cr</sub>;  $\alpha$ = $\beta$ =1.0)



**Figure 2:** Variation of modal displacements with the length of beam-column  $(\alpha=\beta=1; \gamma=0.75; k=10000)$ 



**Figure 3:** Variation of modal displacements with the length of beam-column for different Winkler parameters ( $\alpha=\beta=1$ ;  $\gamma=0.75$ ; Mode 1)



**Figure 4:** Variation of modal displacements with the length of beam-column for different Winkler parameters ( $\alpha=\beta=1$ ;  $\gamma=0.75$ ; Mode 2)



Figure 5: Variation of modal displacements with the length of beam-column for different

Winkler parameters ( $\alpha=\beta=1$ ;  $\gamma=0.75$ ; Mode 3)



**Figure 6:** Variation of modal displacements with the length of beam-column for different ratio of supported length to total length of beam-column (k =10000;  $\alpha$ = $\beta$ =1; Mode 1)



**Figure 7:** Variation of modal displacements with the length of beam-column for different ratio of supported length to total length of beam-column (k =10000; $\alpha$ = $\beta$ =1; Mode 2)



**Figure 8:** Variation of modal displacements with the length of beam-column for different ratio of supported length to total length of beam-column (k =10000;  $\alpha$ = $\beta$ =1; Mode 3)



Figure 9: The variation of errors with grid numbers

It is concluded from these figures that, the effect of k is significant for first three mode shapes. It is clearly shown in Table 1 that, the DSC results are very good. The reasonable accurate results can be obtained for N=11 in DSC analysis. It is also shown from these figures (Figs. 2-8), the mode shapes have a less effect for small Winkler parameter ( $k \le 1000$ ) and then rapidly changes with increasing value of k. The effect of  $\gamma$  on mode shapes has also been investigated and results presented in Figs. 6-8. It is concluded that, with the increase of mode numbers the effect of the  $\gamma$  on the mode shapes is insignificant. The effect of supported length to total length  $\gamma$  is more effective for the first two modes. Fig. 9 depicted the variation of errors with grid numbers for first three modes. In general, the errors are decreased with increasing value of N. The accurate results are obtained for N=9 for first second mode. For higher modes however, the accurate results are obtained for N=11.

#### 5. Concluding remarks

Modal analysis of tapered piles embedded in Winkler foundation is the investigated. The efficiency and accuracy of the present method have been demonstrated on the basis of presented numerical examples.

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