

Selected Newton's methods in computational elasto-plasticity

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joint work with O. Axelsson, J. Karátson, M. Béréš, J. Haslinger et al.



Outline and aims of the talk

- 1 Abstract system of non-linear equations inspired by elasto-plasticity.
 - to explain selected features of elasto-plastic problems within algebraic level
 - specify assumptions for different type of elasto-plastic models
- 2 Semismooth Newton method, its modifications and convergence analysis.
 - survey of selected Newton-like methods used in elasto-plasticity
 - illustration of convergence results on numerical examples
- 3 Determination of the limit load in perfect plasticity.
 - important framework for solvability analysis and stability assessment of structures
 - advanced continuation method and related Newton-like solver
- 4 Brief notes to slope stability assessment.
 - overview of finite element methods on stability analysis
 - illustrative examples from geotechnical practice

1. Abstract system of non-linear equations inspired by elasto-plasticity

Elasto-plastic system of equations

Elasto-plastic problem in terms of displacement after time and space discretization:

$$\text{find } u_h^* \in V_h : \int_{\Omega} T(e(u_h^*)) : e(v_h) dx = b(v_h) \quad \forall v_h \in V_h,$$

$$V_h \subset \{v \in H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^3) \mid v = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma_D\}, \quad e(v) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\nabla v + (\nabla v)^T \right).$$

Investigated example of the stress-strain operator T – the von Mises model:

$$T(e) = \frac{1}{3}(3\lambda + 2\mu)(\text{tr } e)I + (1 - \alpha)2\mu e^D + \alpha j(2\mu|e^D|) \frac{e^D}{|e^D|}, \quad j(z) = \begin{cases} z, & z \leq \gamma \\ \gamma, & z \geq \gamma \end{cases}$$

j – continuous, piecewise linear scalar function, switch between elasticity and plasticity

$\alpha \in (0, 1)$ – hardening parameter, $\alpha = 0$ – linear elasticity, $\alpha = 1$ – elastic-perfectly plasticity

Nonlinear system of equations in \mathbb{R}^n :

$$\text{find } u^* \in \mathbb{R}^n : F(u^*) = b, \quad F: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n, \quad b \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

$$F(v)^T w := \int_{\Omega} T(e(v_h)) : e(w_h) dx \quad \forall v_h, w_h \in V_h,$$

- Properties of F depend on properties of T .

Basic properties of elasto-plastic functions

(\mathcal{A}_1) F is Lipschitz continuous in \mathbb{R}^n .

- F is almost everywhere differentiable in \mathbb{R}^n , there exists a generalized derivative of F .
- There exists $F^\circ: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ such that $F^\circ(u) = F'(u)$ for almost all $u \in \mathbb{R}^n$.
- $F^\circ(u) \in \partial F(u)$ – subdifferential in Clarke's sense

(\mathcal{A}_2) F is strongly semismooth in \mathbb{R}^n :

$$\forall u \in \mathbb{R}^n, \exists L_u, \epsilon_u > 0 : \quad \|F(v) - F(u) - F^\circ(v)(v - u)\| \leq L_u \|u - v\|^2 \quad \forall v \in B(u; \epsilon_u),$$

$$F(v) - F(u) = \int_0^1 F^\circ(u + \theta(v - u))(v - u) d\theta \quad \forall u, v \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

- Continuous piecewise linear functions are strongly semismooth with $L_u = 0$.
- Smooth functions with locally Lipschitz derivatives are strongly semismooth.
- Finite sums, products or compositions of semismooth functions are again semismooth.
- Implicit function theorem for semismooth functions (E-P operators may be implicit!).

Additional properties for associated plasticity

(\mathcal{A}_3) F has a convex potential in \mathbb{R}^n with linear growth at infinity, i.e.,

- $\exists \mathcal{I}: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ (convex) : $\mathcal{I}'(v) = F(v) \quad \forall v \in \mathbb{R}^n$,
- $\exists c_1, c_2 > 0$: $\mathcal{I}(v) \geq c_1 \|v\| - c_2 \quad \forall v \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

Consequences:

- F is monotone, i.e. $(F(u) - F(v), u - v) \geq 0$ for any $u, v \in \mathbb{R}^n$.
- $F^\circ(v)$ is symmetric and positive semidefinite for any $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$.
- Equivalent minimization problem to $F(u^*) = b$:

$$\mathcal{J}(u^*) \leq \mathcal{J}(v) \quad \forall v \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad \mathcal{J}(v) = \mathcal{I}(v) - b^\top v.$$

- Sufficient condition for the existence of u^* : $\|b\| < c_1$,

$$[\mathcal{J}(v) \geq (c_1 - \|b\|)\|v\| - c_2 \rightarrow +\infty \quad \text{as} \quad \|v\| \rightarrow +\infty \quad (\text{coercivity})]$$

- (\mathcal{A}_3) is convenient for E-P models with bounded hardening or perfect plasticity.
- Stronger assumptions are available for E-P models with unbounded hardening.

Additional property for plasticity with hardening

(\mathcal{A}_4) (uniform positive definiteness of F°)

$$\exists \beta_1, \beta_2 > 0 : \quad \beta_1 \|v\|^2 \leq (F^\circ(u)v, v) \leq \beta_2 \|v\|^2 \quad \forall u, v \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

Consequences:

- Inverses of $F^\circ(u)$ are also uniformly positive definite.
- F is strongly monotone, i.e. $(F(u) - F(v), u - v) \geq \beta_1 \|u - v\|^2$ for any $u, v \in \mathbb{R}^n$.
- \mathcal{J} is strictly convex and coercive in \mathbb{R}^n .
- There exists a unique solution u^* satisfying $F(u^*) = b$

Remarks:

- (\mathcal{A}_4) will be considered within convergence analysis in Section 2.
- (\mathcal{A}_4) will not be considered within convergence analysis in Section 3.

2. Semismooth Newton method, its modifications and convergence analysis

Semismooth Newton method

Algorithm:

$$F^{\circ}(u^k)(u^{k+1} - u^k) = b - F(u^k), \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, \quad u^0 - \text{given},$$

Local quadratic convergence under the assumptions $(\mathcal{A}_1) - (\mathcal{A}_4)$:

$$\|u^* - u^{k+1}\| = O(\|u^* - u^k\|^2)$$

Sketch of the proof: if u^k is sufficiently close to u^* then

$$\begin{aligned} u^* - u^{k+1} &= u^* - u^k - F^{\circ}(u^k)^{-1}[b - F(u^k)] \\ &= F^{\circ}(u^k)^{-1}[F(u^k) - F(u^*) - F^{\circ}(u^k)(u^k - u^*)] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \|u^* - u^{k+1}\| &\leq \|F^{\circ}(u^k)^{-1}\| \|F(u^k) - F(u^*) - F^{\circ}(u^k)(u^k - u^*)\| \\ &\stackrel{(\mathcal{A}_2, \mathcal{A}_4)}{\leq} \frac{1}{\beta_1} L_{u^*} \|u^* - u^k\|^2. \end{aligned}$$

Remark: This result holds for more general assumptions than $(\mathcal{A}_1) - (\mathcal{A}_4)$, [Qi and Sun 1993]

Quasi-Newton method and its nonsmooth variant

Algorithm: [Faragó, Karátson 2002], [Karátson, Faragó 2003], [Borsos, Karátson 2022]

$$u^{k+1} := u^k + \frac{2}{M_k + m_k} B_k^{-1}(b - F(u^k)) \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, \quad u^0 - \text{ given,}$$

where $B_k \in \mathbb{R}_{sym}^{n \times n}$, $0 < m_{min} \leq m_k \leq M_k \leq M_{max}$ and

$$m_k(B_k v, v) \leq (F'(u^k)v, v) \leq M_k(B_k v, v) \quad \forall u, v \in \mathbb{R}^n, \forall k \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Original convergence results for smooth operators:

Let $(\mathcal{A}_1) - (\mathcal{A}_4)$ hold and F has a Lipschitz continuous derivative F' . Then

$$\limsup \frac{\|F(u^{k+1})\|_*}{\|F(u^k)\|_*} \leq \limsup \frac{M_k - m_k}{M_k + m_k} < 1, \quad \|v\|_* := (F'(u^*)^{-1}v, v)^{1/2}.$$

Remarks:

- only linear convergence, but faster assembling of B_k than $F'(u^k)$
- Examples when the quasi-Newton method is faster than the Newton method: [Borsos, Karátson 2022], in nonlinear elasticity: [Karátson, S., Béreš 2024]
- Recommendation: combination of the quasi-Newton method with **deflated CG method**

Quasi-Newton method and its nonsmooth variant

Local linear convergence for non-smooth operators I: Let $(\mathcal{A}_1) - (\mathcal{A}_4)$ hold. Then

$$\|u^* - u^{k+1}\| \leq \frac{\beta_2 M_k - m_k}{\beta_1 M_k + m_k} \|u^* - u^{k+1}\| + O(\|u^* - u^{k+1}\|^2).$$

critierion: $\frac{\beta_2 M_k - m_k}{\beta_1 M_k + m_k} \leq q < 1 \quad \forall k \in \mathbb{R}^n,$ however $\frac{\beta_2}{\beta_1} > 1$

Sketch of the proof: if u^k is sufficiently close to u^* then

$$\begin{aligned} u^* - u^{k+1} &= \left(I - \frac{2}{M_k + m_k} B_k^{-1} F^\circ(u_k) \right) (u^* - u^k) + \\ &\quad + \frac{2}{M_k + m_k} B_k^{-1} \left[F(u^k) - F(u^*) - F^\circ(u^k)(u^k - u^*) \right], \end{aligned}$$

$$\|u^* - u^{k+1}\| \stackrel{(\mathcal{A}_2, \mathcal{A}_4)}{\leq} \left\| I - \frac{2}{M_k + m_k} B_k^{-1} F^\circ(u_k) \right\| \|u^* - u^k\| + O(\|u^* - u^k\|^2),$$

$$\left\| I - \frac{2}{M_k + m_k} B_k^{-1} F^\circ(u_k) \right\| \leq \left\| F^\circ(u_k)^{-1} - \frac{2}{M_k + m_k} B_k^{-1} \right\| \|F^\circ(u_k)\| \stackrel{(\mathcal{A}_4)}{\leq} \frac{\beta_2 M_k - m_k}{\beta_1 M_k + m_k}.$$

Quasi-Newton method and its nonsmooth variant

Local linear convergence for non-smooth operators II: Let $(\mathcal{A}_1) - (\mathcal{A}_4)$ hold. Then

$$\|u^* - u^{k+1}\|_{u^*} \leq \sqrt{\frac{\gamma_{2,k} M_k - m_k}{\gamma_{1,k} M_k + m_k}} \|u^* - u^{k+1}\|_{u^*} + O(\|u^* - u^{k+1}\|_{u^*}^2),$$

where

$$\|v\|_{u^*} := \sqrt{(F^\circ(u^*)v, v)}, \quad \|v\|_{u^k} = \sqrt{(F^\circ(u^k)v, v)} \quad \forall u, v \in \mathbb{R}^n,$$

$$\gamma_{1,k} \|v\|_{u^*}^2 \leq \|v\|_{u^k}^2 \leq \gamma_{2,k} \|v\|_{u^*}^2 \quad \forall u, v \in \mathbb{R}^n, \forall k \in \mathbb{N}, \gamma_{1,k} \geq \gamma_{min} > 0$$

criterion: $\sqrt{\frac{\gamma_{2,k} M_k - m_k}{\gamma_{1,k} M_k + m_k}} \leq q < 1 \quad \forall k \in \mathbb{N},$
realistic assumption: $\sqrt{\frac{\gamma_{2,k}}{\gamma_{1,k}}} \approx 1$

Sketch of the proof: if u^k is sufficiently close to u^* then

$$\|u^* - u^{k+1}\|_{u^k} \stackrel{(\mathcal{A}_2, \mathcal{A}_4)}{\leq} \left\| I - \frac{2}{M_k + m_k} B_k^{-1} F^\circ(u_k) \right\|_{u^k} \|u^* - u^k\|_{u^k} + O(\|u^* - u^k\|_{u^k}^2),$$

$$\left\| I - \frac{2}{M_k + m_k} B_k^{-1} F^\circ(u_k) \right\|_{u^k} \leq \frac{M_k - m_k}{M_k + m_k}, \quad \frac{\|u^* - u^{k+1}\|_{u^k}}{\|u^* - u^{k+1}\|_{u^*}} \geq \sqrt{\gamma_{1,k}}, \quad \frac{\|u^* - u^k\|_{u^k}}{\|u^* - u^k\|_{u^*}} \leq \sqrt{\gamma_{2,k}}$$

Examples of the preconditioners B_k

Quasi-Newton 1: $B_k = K_{elast}$

- elastic stiffness matrix with fixed material parameters
- advantage: a constant matrix with a simple assembling
- disadvantage: poor approximation of $F^o(u^k)$

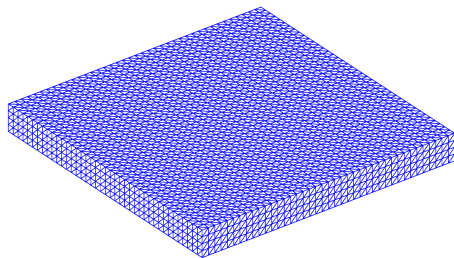
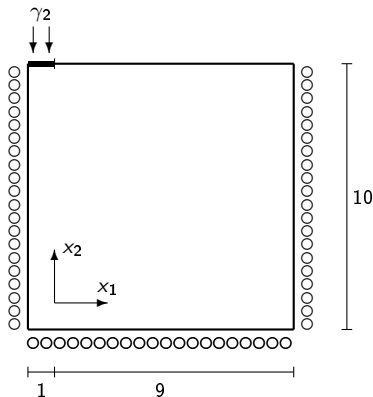
Quasi-Newton 2: $B_k = K_{elast,k}$

- elastic stiffness matrix with variable material parameters
- advantage: better approximation of $F^o(u^k)$
- disadvantage: assembling in each iteration

Smoothing Newton method: [Qi, Sun 2002] $B_k = F'_\epsilon(u^k)$

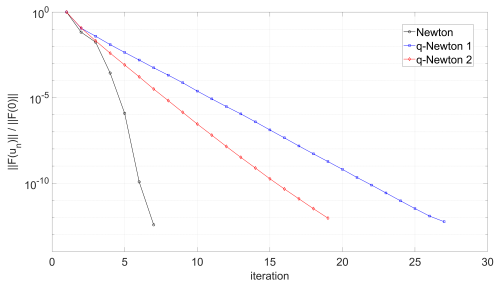
- F_ϵ is a smooth approximation of F
- advantage: M_k and m_k are close to one as $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$
- disadvantage: assembling of $F'_\epsilon(u^k)$ is not faster than assembling of $F^o(u^k)$
- The operator F'_ϵ will be used later, within the continuation Newton method.

Numerical example in 3D – strip footing

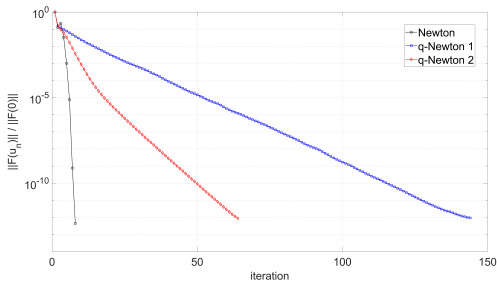


- 2 investigated values of the hardening: $\alpha = 0.5$ and $\alpha = 0.9$ (stronger nonlinearity)
- 3 investigated meshes with 38 400, 307 200 and 1 036 800 elements
- comparison of the Newton, Quasi-Newton 1 and Quasi-Newton 2 methods
- similar results for smooth version of the E-P problem, see [\[Karátson, S., Béréš 2024\]](#)

Comparison of iteration numbers

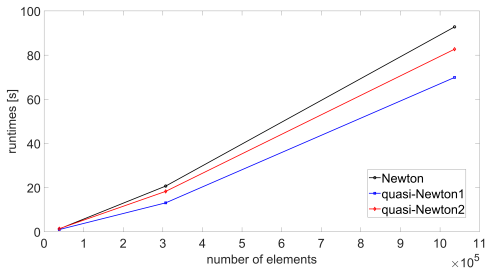


- $\alpha = 0.5$
- finest mesh, DCG
- Newton: 7 iterations
- q-Newton1: 27 it.
- q-Newton2: 19 it.

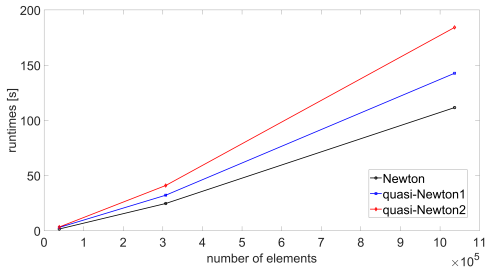


- $\alpha = 0.9$
- finest mesh, DCG
- Newton: 8 iterations
- q-Newton1: 144 it.
- q-Newton2: 64 it.

Comparison of computational times

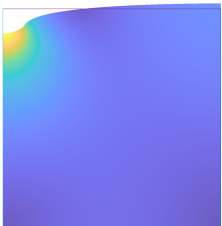
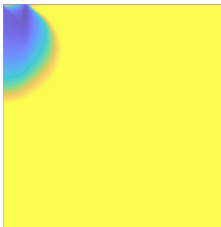
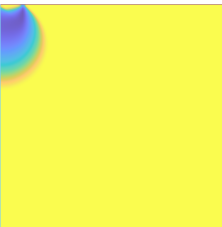
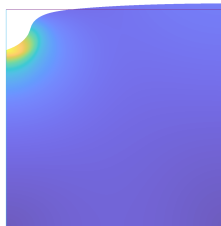


- $\alpha = 0.5$
- 3 meshes
- Newton - slowest
- q-N1 - fastest



- $\alpha = 0.9$
- 3 meshes
- Newton - fastest
- q-N2 -slowest

Comparison of physical arrays

 $\alpha = 0.5$  $\alpha = 0.9$ 

Semismooth Newton method with damping

Algorithm: (used in elasto-plasticity in [S. 2012])

$$\begin{aligned}
 u^{k+1} &:= u^k + \alpha_k s^k \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, \quad u^0 - \text{given}, \\
 F^o(u^k)s^k &= b - F(u^k) \\
 \alpha_k &= \arg \min_{\omega \in [0,1]} \mathcal{J}(u^k + \omega s^k), \quad \mathcal{J}'(v) = F(v) - b^\top v
 \end{aligned}$$

Remarks:

- Newton' methods without damping sometimes do not converge in elasto-plasticity
- damping enables to investigate **global convergence**
- optimization framework simplifies convergence analysis
- alternative line-search based on the Armijo rule: *choose α_k satisfying*

$$\mathcal{J}(u^k + \alpha_k s^k) - \mathcal{J}(u^k) \leq -\varrho \alpha_k (F^o(u^k)s^k, s^k), \quad \varrho \in (0, 1)$$

- similar convergence analysis for the Armijo line search

Global convergence of the damped method

Algorithm: $u^{k+1} := u^k + \alpha_k s^k$, $F^\circ(u^k)s^k = b - F(u^k)$, $\alpha_k = \arg \min_{\beta \in [0,1]} \mathcal{J}(u^k + \beta s^k)$

Key estimates derived under the assumptions (A_1) , (A_3) and (A_4) :

$$(\mathcal{J}'(u^k), s^k) \leq -\beta_1 \|s^k\|^2,$$

$$\alpha_k \geq \frac{\beta_1}{\beta_2} > 0, \quad \text{if } s^k \neq 0,$$

$$\mathcal{J}(u^{k+1}) - \mathcal{J}(u^k) \leq -\frac{1}{2} \beta_1 \alpha_k^2 \|s^k\|^2 \leq -\frac{\beta_1^3}{2\beta_2^2} \|s^k\|^2,$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^{+\infty} \|s^k\|^2 \leq \frac{2\beta_2^2(\mathcal{J}(u^0) - \mathcal{J}(u^*))}{\beta_1^3} \implies s^k \rightarrow 0,$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^{+\infty} \|u^* - u^k\|^2 \leq \frac{2\beta_2^4(\mathcal{J}(u^0) - \mathcal{J}(u^*))}{\beta_1^5} \implies u^k \rightarrow u^*.$$

Remarks:

- The global convergence result can be extended to infinite dimensional Hilbert spaces.
- Semismoothness of F is not necessary for the global convergence.

Superlinear convergence of the damped method

Algorithm: $u^{k+1} := u^k + \alpha_k s^k$, $F^\circ(u^k)s^k = b - F(u^k)$, $\alpha_k = \arg \min_{\beta \in [0,1]} \mathcal{J}(u^k + \beta s^k)$

Key results under the assumptions (\mathcal{A}_1) – (\mathcal{A}_4) :

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \alpha_k = 1$$

$$\|u^* - u^{k+1}\| = (1 - \alpha_k)\|u^* - u^k\| + O(\|u^* - u^k\|^2) = o(\|u^* - u^k\|)$$

Remark:

- Semismoothness of F is crucial for local superlinear convergence of the damped method.
- Superlinear convergence of the damped Newton was illustrated on numerical examples.
- Numbers of iteration only slightly depend on mesh density, see [S. 2012].

Continuation Newton method [Axelsson, S. 2015]

Severely nonlinear system of equations with a nonsmooth function:

$$\text{find } u^* \in \mathbb{R}^n : F(u^*) = b \quad F: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n, b \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

Load-based continuation method:

$$F(0) = 0, \quad F(\hat{u}(t)) = tb, \quad 0 \leq t \leq 1, \quad \hat{u}(1) = u^*.$$

Smooth approximation of F :

$$\{F_\epsilon\}_{\epsilon \in (0, \epsilon_0)} - \text{smooth} : \quad \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} F_\epsilon(v) = F(v), \quad \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} F'_\epsilon(v) = F^o(v) \quad \forall v \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

One-step smoothing Newton method: $0 = t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_N = 1$, $\tau_k := t_{k+1} - t_k$

$$F'_\epsilon(u^k)(u^{k+1} - u^k) = t_{k+1}b - F(u^k), \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, N-1, \quad u^0 = 0,$$

Aim: find assumptions guaranteeing that u^k is close to $\hat{u}(t_k)$ for any $k = 1, \dots, N$

Assumptions and their consequences

$$(\mathcal{A}_5) \quad \exists M > 0: \quad \|F_\epsilon(u) - F(u) - (F_\epsilon(v) - F(v))\| \leq M\epsilon\|u - v\| \quad \forall u, v \in \mathbb{R}^n, \forall \epsilon \in (0, \epsilon_0).$$

$$(\mathcal{A}_6) \quad \exists L > 0: \quad \|F_\epsilon(v) - F_\epsilon(u) - F'_\epsilon(v)(v - u)\| \leq \frac{L}{2\epsilon}\|u - v\|^2 \quad \forall u, v \in \mathbb{R}^n, \forall \epsilon \in (0, \epsilon_0).$$

$$(\mathcal{A}_7) \quad \exists q > 0: \quad \begin{cases} [F(u) - F(v)]^T(u - v) \geq q\|u - v\|^2 & \forall u, v \in \mathbb{R}^n, \\ [F_\epsilon(u) - F_\epsilon(v)]^T(u - v) \geq q\|u - v\|^2 & \forall u, v \in \mathbb{R}^n, \forall \epsilon \in (0, \epsilon_0). \end{cases}$$

- Hence: $\|\hat{u}(t_{k+1}) - \hat{u}(t_k)\| \leq \frac{1}{q}\|F(\hat{u}(t_{k+1})) - F(\hat{u}(t_k))\| = \frac{\|b\|}{q}\tau_k \quad \forall k = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$
- Hence: $\|[F'_\epsilon(u^k)]^{-1}\| \leq \frac{1}{q} \quad \forall k = 1, 2, \dots, N$
- If (\mathcal{A}_4) hold then $q = \beta_1$.

Convergence of the algorithm

Let the assumptions (\mathcal{A}_5) , (\mathcal{A}_6) , (\mathcal{A}_7) hold with the constants M , L and q . Let

$$\epsilon \leq \frac{q}{4M}, \quad \tau_k \leq \frac{q^2 \epsilon}{4L \|b\|} \quad \forall k = 0, 1, \dots, N-1.$$

Then

$$\|\hat{u}(t_k) - u^k\| \leq \frac{\|b\|}{q} \max_{0 \leq l \leq k-1} \tau_l, \quad k = 0, 1, \dots$$

Sketch of the proof:

The result can be shown by mathematical induction

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{u}(t_{k+1}) - u^{k+1} &= -(F'_\epsilon(u^k))^{-1} \left[F(\hat{u}(t_{k+1})) - F_\epsilon(\hat{u}(t_{k+1})) - (F(u^k) - F_\epsilon(u^k)) \right] \\ &\quad + (F'_\epsilon(u^k))^{-1} \left[F_\epsilon(u^k) - F_\epsilon(\hat{u}(t_{k+1})) - F'_\epsilon(u^k)(u^k - \hat{u}(t_{k+1})) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Hence:

$$\begin{aligned} \|\hat{u}(t_{k+1}) - u^{k+1}\| &\leq \frac{1}{q} \left[M\epsilon \|\hat{u}(t_{k+1}) - u^k\| + \frac{L}{2\epsilon} \|\hat{u}(t_{k+1}) - u^k\|^2 \right], \\ \|\hat{u}(t_{k+1}) - u^{k+1}\| &\leq \frac{\|b\|}{2q} \tau_k + \left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{L}{q\epsilon} \|\hat{u}(t_k) - u^k\| \right) \|\hat{u}(t_k) - u^k\|. \end{aligned}$$

Regularization of the stress-strain operator

Algebraic notation (recalling):

$$F(v)^T w := \int_{\Omega} T(e(v_h)) : e(w_h) \, dx \quad \forall v_h, w_h \in V_h,$$

$$F_{\epsilon}(v)^T w := \int_{\Omega} T_{\epsilon}(e(v_h)) : e(w_h) \, dx \quad \forall v_h, w_h \in V_h.$$

Stress-strain operator and its smooth approximation:

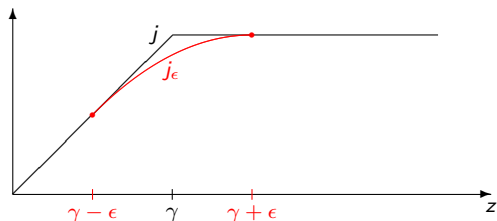
$$T(e) = \frac{1}{3}(3\lambda + 2\mu)(\text{tr } e)I + (1 - \alpha)2\mu e^D + \alpha j(2\mu|e^D|) \frac{e^D}{|e^D|},$$

$$T_{\epsilon}(e) = \frac{1}{3}(3\lambda + 2\mu)(\text{tr } e)I + (1 - \alpha)2\mu e^D + \alpha j_{\epsilon}(2\mu|e^D|) \frac{e^D}{|e^D|},$$

j, j_{ϵ} – nonlinear scalar function and its smooth approximation

The function j and its smooth approximation j_ϵ

$$j(z) = \begin{cases} z, & z \leq \gamma \\ \gamma, & z \geq \gamma \end{cases}, \quad j_\epsilon(z) := \begin{cases} z, & z \leq \gamma - \epsilon \\ \gamma - \frac{1}{4\epsilon}(z - \gamma - \epsilon)^2, & z \in [\gamma - \epsilon, \gamma + \epsilon] \\ \gamma, & z \geq \gamma + \epsilon \end{cases}$$



Relationships between j and j_ϵ implying the assumptions (\mathcal{A}_5) – (\mathcal{A}_7) :

$$|j(z) - j_\epsilon(z)| \leq \frac{\epsilon}{4} \quad \forall z \in \mathbb{R}, \forall \epsilon \in (0, \gamma),$$

$$|j(z_1) - j(z_2) - j_\epsilon(z_1) + j_\epsilon(z_2)| \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} |z_1 - z_2| \quad \forall z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{R}, \forall \epsilon > 0,$$

$$|j_\epsilon(z_2) - j_\epsilon(z_1) - j'_\epsilon(z_2)(z_2 - z_1)| \leq \frac{1}{4\epsilon} (z_1 - z_2)^2 \quad \forall z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{R}, \forall \epsilon > 0$$

Assumptions (\mathcal{A}_5) – (\mathcal{A}_7) for the E-P operators

$$(1 - \alpha)\|v\|_e^2 \leq v^T K'_\epsilon(w)v \leq \|v\|_e^2 \quad \forall v, w \in \mathbb{R}^n, \forall \epsilon \in (0, \epsilon_0),$$

$$v^T (F(w + v) - F(w)) \geq (1 - \alpha)\|v\|_e^2 \quad \forall v, w \in \mathbb{R}^n,$$

$$\|F(v) - F(w) - K_\epsilon(v) + K_\epsilon(w)\|_* \leq M\epsilon\|v - w\|_e \quad \forall v, w \in \mathbb{R}^n, \forall \epsilon \in (0, \epsilon_0),$$

$$\|K_\epsilon(v) - K_\epsilon(u) - K'_\epsilon(v)(v - u)\|_* \leq \frac{L}{2\epsilon}\|v - w\|_{e,L^4}^2 \quad \forall u, w \in S, \forall \epsilon \in (0, \epsilon_0),$$

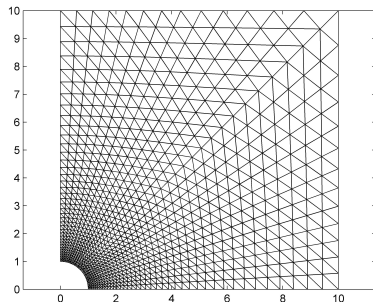
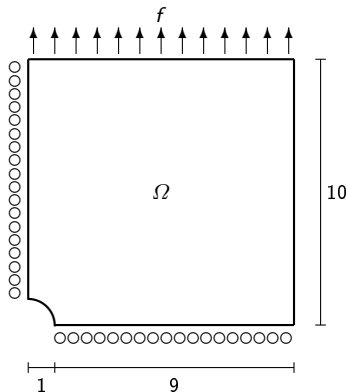
where

$$\|v\|_e, \|v\|_{e,L^4} - \text{energy norms}, \quad \|v\|_* := \sup_{w \in \mathbb{R}^n, \|w\|_e=1} |v^T w| \quad \forall v \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

Remarks:

- The estimates are dependent on the hardening parameter α .
- The estimates are independent of the discretization parameter.
- The convergence result could be extended to the functional setting, unlike $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$.

Numerical example



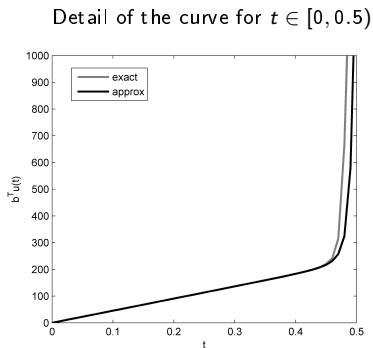
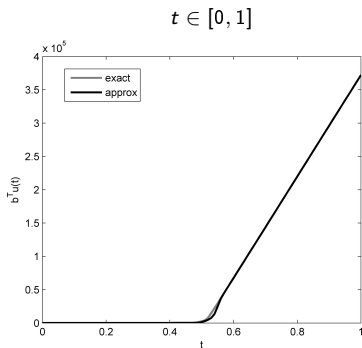
$f = (0, 1000)$, $E = 206900$ (Young's modulus), $\nu = 0.29$ (Poisson's ratio),
 $1 - \alpha = 4.2 * 10^{-4} \ll 1$, $\gamma = 450\sqrt{2/3}$ (yield stress), $\epsilon = 1 \ll \gamma$ (regularization),

Numerical results – comparison of solution paths

$$F(\hat{u}(t_k)) = t_k b, \quad u^k = u^{k-1} + (F'_\epsilon(u^{k-1}))^{-1}[t_k b - F(u^{k-1})]$$

Comparison of exact solution path $\{\hat{u}(t)\}_{t \in [0,1]}$ with its approximation $\{u^k\}_{k=0}^N$:

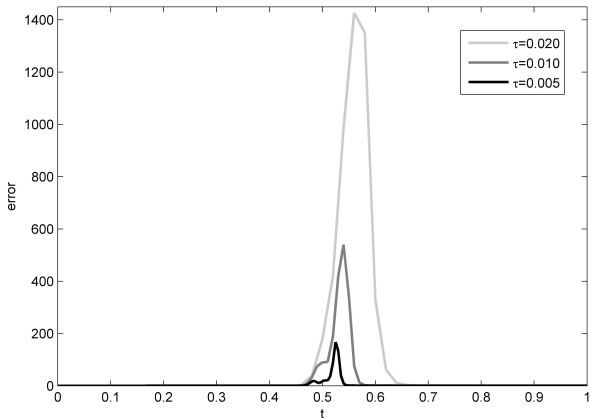
- the quantity $b^\top \hat{u}(t)$ is used for the visualization, where b is r.h.s
- the curves almost coincide with the exception of $t \in (0.45, 0.55)$
- linear elastic branch for $t \leq 0.45$, hardening branch of the curve for $t \in (0.55, 1)$



Numerical results – convergence of the algorithm

Dependence of $\|\hat{u}(t_k) - u^k\|_e$ on $\tau = t_k - t_{k-1} = \text{const.}$:

- error measure is minimal for $t \in [0, 0.45]$ and $t \in [0.55, 1]$
- error measure tends to zero as $\tau \rightarrow 0$



3. Determination of the limit load in perfect plasticity by Newton-like methods

Elastic-perfectly plastic problem and limit load

About the elastic-perfectly plastic problem:

- $T(e) = \frac{1}{3}(3\lambda + 2\mu)(\text{tr } e)I + (1 - \alpha)2\mu e^D + \alpha j(2\mu|e^D|) \frac{e^D}{|e^D|}$, $\alpha = 1$.
- Assumptions $(\mathcal{A}_1) - (\mathcal{A}_3)$ hold (F is semismooth and has a potential with linear growth).
- Assumption (\mathcal{A}_4) does not hold (F is not strongly monotone).
- Problem $F(u^*) = b$ has the solution u^* only for sufficiently small b .

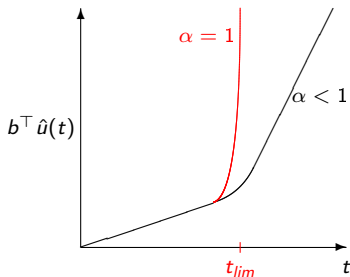
Problem parametrization and the limit load:

- $F(\hat{u}(t)) = tb$, $t \geq 0$, t is a scalar load factor
- t_{lim} – limit load factor = supremum of t for which $\hat{u}(t)$ exists.
- t_{lim} – important for safety assessment of structures.
- Solution exists for any $t \in [0, t_{lim})$, but is unbounded in vicinity of t_{lim} .
- Continuation over t is not too numerically stable.

Advanced continuation technique for finding t_{lim}

Energy-based control the loading path:

- Idea: use the dependence between t and $b^T \hat{u}(t)$ and its inverse
- [S., Haslinger, Hlaváček, Čermák 2015], [S., Haslinger, Reddy, Repin 2021]



Advanced continuation method and limit analysis

Nonlinear system with additional equation:

$$\text{find } \bar{u}(\omega) \in \mathbb{R}^n, t(\omega) \geq 0 : \quad F(\bar{u}(\omega)) = t(\omega)b, \quad b^T \bar{u}(\omega) = \omega.$$

- ω is a given parameter, t is additional unknown
- $\bar{u}(\omega) = \hat{u}(t(\omega)), \quad \omega \rightarrow +\infty \Rightarrow t(\omega) \rightarrow t_{lim}, \|\bar{u}(\omega)\| \rightarrow \infty, \|\bar{u}(\omega)/\omega\| \rightarrow c < \infty$

Transformed problem and its optimization form: $v(\omega) = \bar{u}(\omega)/\omega$

$$\text{find } v(\omega) \in \mathbb{R}^n, t(\omega) \geq 0 : \quad F(\omega v(\omega)) = t(\omega)b, \quad b^T v(\omega) = 1.$$

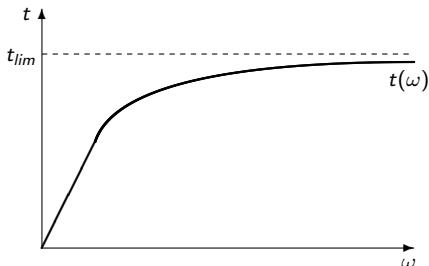
$$\mathcal{I}_\omega(v(\omega)) = \min_{\substack{v \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ b^T v = 1}} \mathcal{I}_\omega(v), \quad \mathcal{I}_\omega(v) = \frac{1}{\omega} \mathcal{I}(\omega v), \quad \mathcal{I}'(v) = F(v)$$

Limit analysis problem: $\omega \rightarrow +\infty$

$$t_{lim} = \inf_{\substack{v \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ b^T v = 1}} \mathcal{I}_\infty(v), \quad \mathcal{I}_\infty = \lim_{\omega \rightarrow +\infty} \mathcal{I}_\omega$$

- \mathcal{I}_∞ is convex, 1-positively homogeneous, not finite-valued everywhere
- On a functional level, problem is defined on BD spaces, hidden constraint: $\text{div } v = 0$

Continuation strategy for determining t_{lim}



- 1 Generate (adaptively) a sequence $0 < \omega_1 < \omega_2 < \dots < \omega_N$
- 2 For any ω belonging to the sequence, find $v(\omega) \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $t(\omega) \geq 0$:

$$F(\omega v(\omega)) = t(\omega)b, \quad b^T v(\omega) = 1.$$

- 3 $t_{lim} \approx t(\omega_N)$

Remarks:

- The increment of ω is increased if the increment of t is too small.
- The solver for fixed ω is initiated using solutions from previous 2 steps.

Newton-like method for constraint optimization

The problem for given $\omega > 0$:

$$F_\omega(v^*) = t^* b, \quad b^\top v^* = 1 \quad \text{or} \quad \mathcal{I}_\omega(v^*) = \min_{\substack{v \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ b^\top v = 1}} \mathcal{I}_\omega(v), \quad F_\omega(v) = F(\omega v)$$

Semismooth Newton method as sequential quadratic programming:

$$u^{k+1} := u^k + s^k \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, \quad u^0 - \text{given}, \quad b^\top u^0 = 1$$

$$s^k = \arg \min_{\substack{s \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ b^\top s = 0}} \left[\frac{1}{2} (F_\omega^\circ(u^k)s, s) + (F_\omega(u^k), s) \right]$$

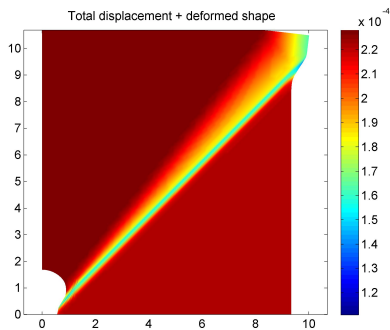
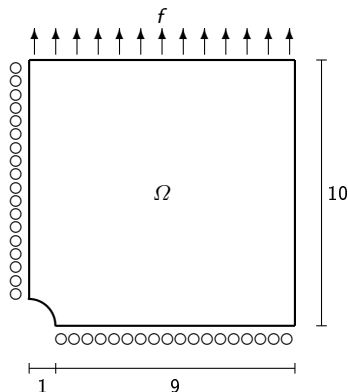
$$\text{or } s^k = h^k + \delta_k g^k, \quad F_\omega^\circ(u^k)g^k = b, \quad F_\omega^\circ(u^k)h^k = -F_\omega(u^k), \quad \delta_k = -\frac{b^\top h^k}{b^\top g^k}$$

Crucial estimates implying local quadratic convergence:

$$(F_\omega^\circ(u^k)(u^{k+1} - u^*), u^{k+1} - u^*) \leq (F_\omega(u^k) - F_\omega(u^*) - F_\omega^\circ(u^k)(u^k - u^*), u^* - u^{k+1})$$

- The algorithm can also be used for contact problems of E-P bodies.
- We have also used damped and regularized versions of this algorithm.

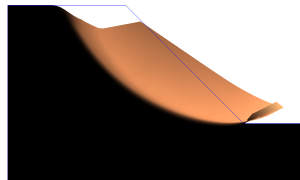
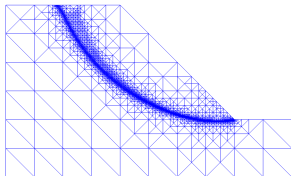
Solution corresponding to limit load factor t_{lim}



- solution for t_{lim} represents plastic collapse
- failure zone – zone with discontinuity
- P1 elements lead to locking phenomena [Repin, S., Haslinger 2018]

Mesh adaptive solution concept

- Apply the continuation over ω only on the coarsest mesh.
- Fix sufficiently large ω and use it for all finer meshes.
- Refine elements where higher strains appear.
- interpolate solution from the coarser mesh and use it for the initialization on a finer mesh.
- Use damped semismooth Newton method for finer meshes and the fixed ω .



4. Brief notes to slope stability assessment.

Limit vs. shear strength reduction analysis

Limit analysis:

- Factor of safety represents the limit load factor.
- Robust method supported by mathematical theory.
- Not so conventional in slope stability.

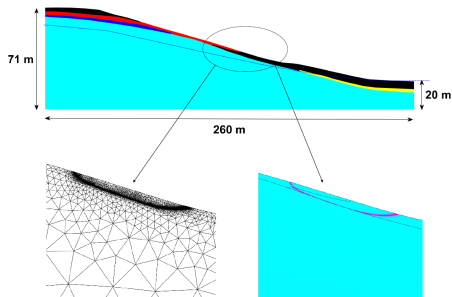
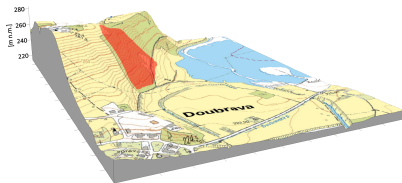
Shear strength reduction method:

- Conventional method in slope stability, implemented in many commercial codes.
- Strength parameters are reduced by a scalar factor up to the critical state. The safety factor represents the critical value.
- Iterative limit load methods can be applied [[Tschuchnigg, Schweiger, Sloan 2015](#)]
- Relationship between these two methods [[S., Hrubešová, Michalec, Tschuchnigg 2021](#)]

Basic elasto-plastic models used in geotechnics:

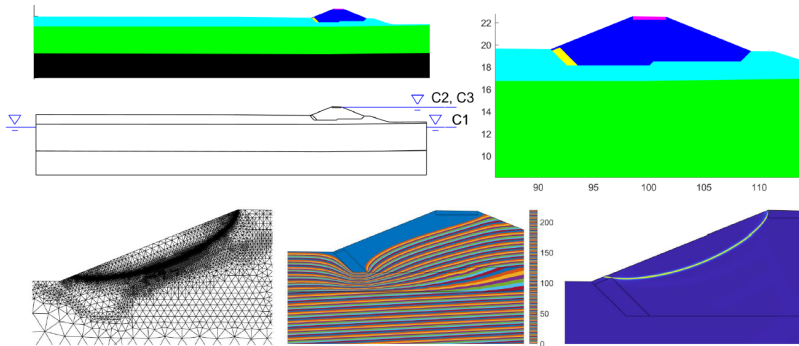
- Mohr-Coulomb or Drucker-Prager yield criteria.
- They distinguish different behavior in tension and compression.
- Limit analysis for geotechnical models leads to conic optimization.

Application I – slope stability



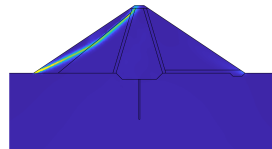
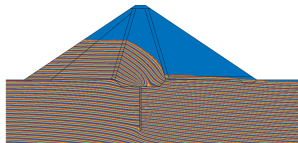
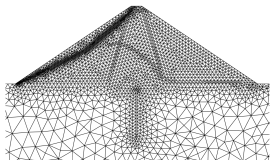
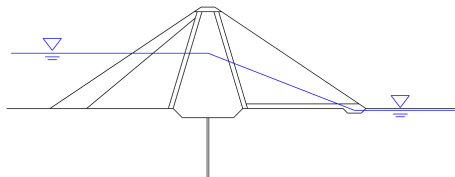
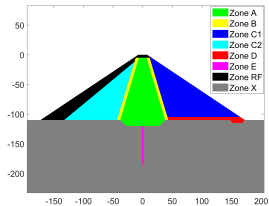
- case study of a real slope in locality Doubrava (north-east part of Czechia)
- unstable slope with observed landslides, and various soil layers
- numerical results confirmed that $FoS \approx 1$, mesh adaptivity was used
- [S., Hrubešová, Michalec, Tschuchnigg 2021]

Application II – river embankment



- case studies of a real river embankment in Lužec (near Prague)
- influence of pore pressure – unconfined seepage problem, phreatic surface
- mesh adaptive solution for porous flow and mechanical problems
- [S., Tschuchnigg, Hrubešová, Michalec 2023]

Application III – embankment dam



- benchmark problem with high embankment dam (more than 100 meters)
- sizes of the computational domain: 1200 x 500 meters
- one-sided coupling of porous flow and mechanical models
- [S., Tschuchnigg, Hrubešová, Michalec 2023]

Conclusion

Summary:

- Selected Newton-like methods used in computational plasticity.
- Semismooth variants of the methods.
- Convergence analysis and numerical examples.
- Limit load and stability assessment.

Other related topics:

- Verification of the semismoothness for various E-P operators:
[S. 2014], [S., Cermak, Kruis et al. 2016], [S., Cermak, Ligursky 2017]
- Development of in house codes in Matlab:
[S., Cermak, Ligursky 2017], [Cermak, S., Valdman 2019], [Karátson, S., Béréš 2024]
- Duality and a posteriori error analysis for limit loads:
[Repin, S., Haslinger 2018], [Haslinger, Repin, S. 2019], [S., Haslinger, Reddy, Repin 2021]
- Contact of E-P bodies and strain-gradient plasticity:
[S., Haslinger, Hlaváček, Cermak 2015], [Reddy, S. 2020], [Reddy, S. 2024]

References on semismooth Newton methods

Semismooth and smoothing Newton methods (in general):

- L. Qi, J. Sun, [A nonsmooth version of Newton's method](#), Mathematical Programming 58 (1993) 353-367.
- L. Qi, D. Sun. [Smoothing functions and smoothing Newton method for complementarity and variational inequality problems](#). Journal of Optimization Theory and Applications, **113**(1), 121–147 (2002).
- M. Hintermüller, K. Ito, K. Kunisch, [The primal-dual active set strategy as a semismooth Newton method](#), SIAM J. Optim. 13 (2003) 865-888.

Semismooth Newton method in elasto-plasticity:

- R. Blaheta, [Numerical methods in elasto-plasticity](#), Documenta Geonica 1998, PERES Publishers, Prague, 1999.
- P. G. Gruber, J. Valdman: [Solution of One-Time Step Problems in Elastoplasticity by a Slant Newton Method](#), SIAM J. Sci. Comput. **31** (2009), 1558–1580.
- S. Sysala: [Application of a modified semismooth Newton method to some elasto-plastic problems](#). Math. Comp. Sim., **82** (2012), 2004–2021.

Thank you for your attention!