

Analytical solutions for the static analysis of laminated composite and sandwich plates based on a higher order refined theory

T. Kant^{*}, K. Swaminathan

Department of Civil Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Powai, Mumbai 400 076, India

Abstract

Analytical formulations and solutions to the static analysis of simply supported composite and sandwich plates hitherto not reported in the literature based on a higher order refined theory developed by the first author and already reported in the literature are presented. The theoretical model presented herein incorporates laminate deformations which account for the effects of transverse shear deformation, transverse normal strain/stress and a nonlinear variation of in-plane displacements with respect to the thickness coordinate – thus modelling the warping of transverse cross-sections more accurately and eliminating the need for shear correction coefficients. In addition, a few higher order theories and the first order theory developed by other investigators and already available in the literature are also considered for the evaluation. The equations of equilibrium are obtained using principle of minimum potential energy (PMPE). Solutions are obtained in closed form using Navier's technique by solving the boundary value problem. The comparison of the present results with the available elasticity solutions and the results computed independently using the first order and the other higher order theories available in the literature shows that this refined theory predicts the transverse displacement and the stresses more accurately than all other theories considered in this paper. After establishing the accuracy of present results for composite and sandwich plates, new results for the stretching–bending coupling behaviour of antisymmetric sandwich laminates using all the theories considered in this paper are presented which will serve as a benchmark for future investigations. © 2002 Elsevier Science Ltd. All rights reserved.

Keywords: Static analysis; Higher-order theory; Shear deformation; Sandwich plates; Analytical solutions

1. Introduction

Laminated composite plates are being increasingly used in the aeronautical and aerospace industry as well as in other fields of modern technology. To use them efficiently a good understanding of their structural and dynamical behaviour and also an accurate knowledge of the deformation characteristics, stress distribution, natural frequencies and buckling loads under various load conditions are needed. The classical laminate plate theory (CLPT) [1], which is an extension of classical plate theory (CPT) [2,3], neglects the effects of out-of-plane strains. The greater differences in elastic properties between fibre filaments and matrix materials lead to a high ratio of in-plane young's modulus to transverse shear modulus for most of the composite

laminates developed to date. Because of this reason the transverse shear deformations are much pronounced for laminated plates than for isotropic plates. Thus the CLPT which ignores the effect of transverse shear deformation becomes inadequate for the analysis of multilayer composites. In general the CLPT often underpredicts deflections and overpredicts natural frequencies and buckling loads. The first order theories (FSDTs) based on Reissner [4] and Mindlin [5] assume linear in-plane stresses and displacements, respectively through the laminate thickness. Since the FSDT accounts for layerwise constant states of transverse shear stress, shear correction coefficients are needed to rectify the unrealistic variation of the shear strain/stress through the thickness and which ultimately define the shear strain energy.

In order to overcome the limitations of FSDT, higher order shear deformation theories (HSDTs) that involve higher order terms in Taylor's expansions of the displacements in the thickness coordinate were developed. In these higher order theories with each additional power of the thickness coordinate an

^{*}Corresponding author. Tel.: +91-22-576-7310; fax: +91-22-576-7302.

E-mail addresses: tkant@civil.iitb.ac.in (T. Kant), swami@vas-net.co.in (K. Swaminathan).

additional dependent unknown is introduced into the theory. Hildebrand et al. [6] were the first to introduce this approach to derive improved theories of plates and shells. Nelson and Lorch [7], Librescu [8] presented higher order displacement based shear deformation theories for the analysis of laminated plates. Lo et al. [9,10] have presented a closed form solution for a laminated plate with higher order displacement model which also considers the effect of transverse normal deformation. Levinson [11] and Murthy [12] presented third order theories neglecting the extension/compression of transverse normal but used the equilibrium equations of the first order theory used by Whitney and Pagano [13] in the analysis which are variationally inconsistent. Kant [14] was the first to derive the complete set of variationally consistent governing equations for the flexure of a symmetrically laminated plate incorporating both distortion of transverse normals and effects of transverse normal stress/strain by utilizing the complete three-dimensional generalized Hooke's law and presented results for isotropic plate only. Reddy [15] derived a set of variationally consistent equilibrium equations for the kinematic models originally proposed by Levinson and Murthy. Using the theory of Reddy, Senthilnathan et al. [16] presented a simplified higher order theory by introducing a further reduction of the functional degrees of freedom by splitting up the transverse displacement into bending and shear contributions. Kant et al. [17] are the first to present a finite element formulation of a higher order flexure theory. This theory considers three-dimensional Hooke's law, incorporates the effect of transverse normal strain in addition to transverse shear deformations. Pandya and Kant [18–22], Kant and Manjunatha [23,24] and Manjunatha and Kant [25] have extended this theory and presented C^0 finite element formulations and solutions for the stress analysis of symmetric and unsymmetric laminated composite and sandwich plates. Rohwer [26] made a comparative study of various higher order theories for the bending analysis of multilayer composite plates. The advantages and disadvantages of the various theories were highlighted. Noor and Burton [27] presented a complete list of references of FSDTs and HSDTs for the static, free vibration and buckling analyses of laminated composites. Pagano [28] presented exact three dimensional elasticity solutions for the stress analysis of laminated composite and sandwich plates which serve as benchmark solutions for comparison by many researchers. The present paper deals with the analytical formulations and solutions hitherto not reported in the literature of the refined theory already proposed by the senior author as applied to static analysis of laminated composite and sandwich plate problems with simply supported edge conditions. Comparison of results with

the three-dimensional elasticity solutions available in the literature shows that this theory predicts the transverse displacements and the in plane stresses more accurately than all other theories considered in this paper. After establishing the accuracy of the present results for composite and sandwich plates, benchmark results for stretching–bending coupling behaviour of antisymmetric sandwich plates are presented.

2. Theoretical formulation

2.1. Displacement models

In order to approximate the three-dimensional elasticity problem to a two-dimensional plate problem, the displacement components $u(x, y, z)$, $v(x, y, z)$ and $w(x, y, z)$ at any point in the plate space are expanded in a Taylor's series in terms of the thickness coordinate. The elasticity solution indicates that the transverse shear stresses vary parabolically through the plate thickness. This requires the use of a displacement field in which the in-plane displacements are expanded as cubic functions of the thickness coordinate. In addition, the transverse normal strain may vary nonlinearly through the plate thickness. The displacement field which satisfies the above criteria may be assumed in the form [23]:

$$\begin{aligned} u(x, y, z) &= u_0(x, y) + z\theta_x(x, y) \\ &\quad + z^2 u_0^*(x, y) + z^3 \theta_x^*(x, y), \\ v(x, y, z) &= v_0(x, y) + z\theta_y(x, y) \\ &\quad + z^2 v_0^*(x, y) + z^3 \theta_y^*(x, y), \\ w(x, y, z) &= w_0(x, y) + z\theta_z(x, y) \\ &\quad + z^2 w_0^*(x, y) + z^3 \theta_z^*(x, y). \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

Further if the variation of transverse displacement 2component $w(x, y, z)$ in Eq. (1) is assumed constant through the plate thickness and thus setting $\varepsilon_z = 0$, then the displacement field may be expressed as [22]

$$\begin{aligned} u(x, y, z) &= u_0(x, y) + z\theta_x(x, y) \\ &\quad + z^2 u_0^*(x, y) + z^3 \theta_x^*(x, y), \\ v(x, y, z) &= v_0(x, y) + z\theta_y(x, y) \\ &\quad + z^2 v_0^*(x, y) + z^3 \theta_y^*(x, y), \\ w(x, y, z) &= w_0(x, y). \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

The parameters u_0, v_0 are the in-plane displacements and w_0 is the transverse displacement of a point (x, y) on the middle plane. The functions θ_x, θ_y are rotations of the normal to the middle plane about y and x axes, respectively. The parameters $u_0^*, v_0^*, w_0^*, \theta_x^*, \theta_y^*, \theta_z^*$ and θ_z are the higher-order terms in Taylor's series expansion

and they represent higher-order transverse cross-sectional deformation modes. Though the above two theories were already reported earlier in the literature and numerical results were presented using finite element formulations, analytical formulations and solutions are obtained for the first time in this investigation and so the results obtained using the above two theories are referred to as *present (Model-1 and Model-2)* in all the tables and figures. In addition to the above, the following higher order theories and the first order theory developed by other investigators and reported in the literature for the analysis of laminated composite and sandwich plates are also considered for the evaluation. Analytical formulations and numerical results of these are also being presented here with a view to have all the results on a common platform.

Model-3 [29]

$$\begin{aligned}
 u(x, y, z) &= u_0(x, y) \\
 &+ z \left[\theta_x(x, y) - \frac{4}{3} \left(\frac{z}{h} \right)^2 \left\{ \theta_x(x, y) + \frac{\partial w_0}{\partial x} \right\} \right], \\
 v(x, y, z) &= v_0(x, y) \\
 &+ z \left[\theta_y(x, y) - \frac{4}{3} \left(\frac{z}{h} \right)^2 \left\{ \theta_y(x, y) + \frac{\partial w_0}{\partial y} \right\} \right], \\
 w(x, y, z) &= w_0(x, y).
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{3}$$

Model-4 [16]

$$\begin{aligned}
 u(x, y, z) &= u_0(x, y) - z \frac{\partial w_0^b}{\partial x} - \frac{4z^3}{3h^2} \frac{\partial w_0^s}{\partial x}, \\
 v(x, y, z) &= v_0(x, y) - z \frac{\partial w_0^b}{\partial y} - \frac{4z^3}{3h^2} \frac{\partial w_0^s}{\partial y}, \\
 w(x, y, z) &= w_0^b(x, y) + w_0^s(x, y).
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{4}$$

Model-5 [13]

$$\begin{aligned}
 u(x, y, z) &= u_0(x, y) + z\theta_x(x, y), \\
 v(x, y, z) &= v_0(x, y) + z\theta_y(x, y), \\
 w(x, y, z) &= w_0(x, y).
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{5}$$

In this paper the analytical formulations and solution method followed using the higher order refined theory (Model-1) are only presented in detail and the same procedure is followed in obtaining the results using other models. The geometry of a two-dimensional laminated composite and sandwich plates with positive set of coordinate axes and the physical middle plane displacement terms are shown in Figs. 1 and 2, respectively. By substitution of the displacement relations given by Eq. (1) into the strain–displacement equations of the

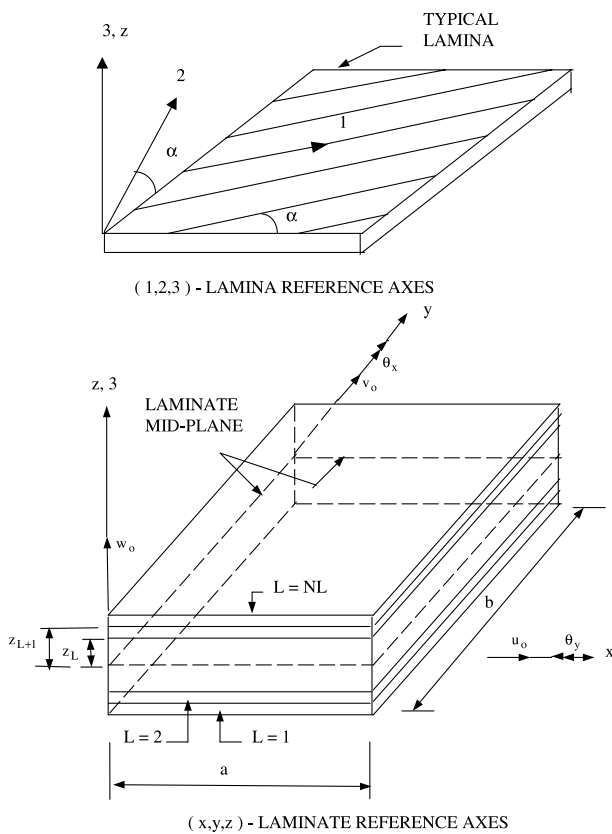


Fig. 1. Laminate geometry with positive set of lamina/lamina reference axes, displacement components and fibre orientation.

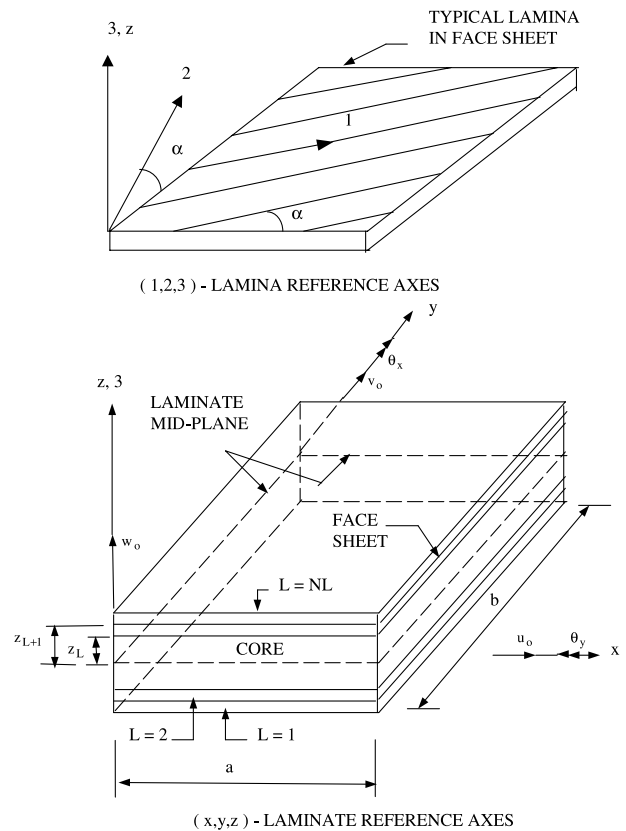


Fig. 2. Geometry of a sandwich plate with positive set of lamina/lamina reference axes, displacement components and fibre orientation.

classical theory of elasticity, the following relations are obtained:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \varepsilon_x &= \varepsilon_{x0} + z\kappa_x + z^2\varepsilon_{x0}^* + z^3\kappa_x^*, \\
 \varepsilon_y &= \varepsilon_{y0} + z\kappa_y + z^2\varepsilon_{y0}^* + z^3\kappa_y^*, \\
 \varepsilon_z &= \varepsilon_{z0} + z\kappa_z + z^2\varepsilon_{z0}^* + z^3\kappa_z^*, \\
 \gamma_{xy} &= \varepsilon_{xy0} + z\kappa_{xy} + z^2\varepsilon_{xy0}^* + z^3\kappa_{xy}^*, \\
 \gamma_{yz} &= \phi_y + z\kappa_{yz} + z^2\phi_y^* + z^3\kappa_{yz}^*, \\
 \gamma_{xz} &= \phi_x + z\kappa_{xz} + z^2\phi_x^* + z^3\kappa_{xz}^*,
 \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 (\varepsilon_{x0}, \varepsilon_{y0}, \varepsilon_{xy0}) &= \left(\frac{\partial u_0}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial v_0}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial u_0}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial v_0}{\partial x} \right), \\
 (\varepsilon_{x0}^*, \varepsilon_{y0}^*, \varepsilon_{xy0}^*) &= \left(\frac{\partial u_0^*}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial v_0^*}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial u_0^*}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial v_0^*}{\partial x} \right), \\
 (\varepsilon_{z0}, \varepsilon_{z0}^*) &= (\theta_z, 3\theta_z^*), \\
 (\kappa_x, \kappa_y, \kappa_z, \kappa_{xy}) &= \left(\frac{\partial \theta_x}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial \theta_y}{\partial y}, 2w_0^*, \frac{\partial \theta_x}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial \theta_y}{\partial x} \right), \\
 (\kappa_x^*, \kappa_y^*, \kappa_{xy}^*) &= \left(\frac{\partial \theta_x^*}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial \theta_y^*}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial \theta_x^*}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial \theta_y^*}{\partial x} \right), \\
 (\kappa_{xz}, \kappa_{yz}) &= \left(2u_0^* + \frac{\partial \theta_z}{\partial x}, 2v_0^* + \frac{\partial \theta_z}{\partial y} \right), \\
 (\kappa_{xz}^*, \kappa_{yz}^*) &= \left(\frac{\partial \theta_z^*}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial \theta_z^*}{\partial y} \right), \\
 (\phi_x, \phi_x^*, \phi_y, \phi_y^*) &= \left(\theta_x + \frac{\partial w_0}{\partial x}, 3\theta_x^* + \frac{\partial w_0^*}{\partial x}, \right. \\
 &\quad \left. \theta_y + \frac{\partial w_0}{\partial y}, 3\theta_y^* + \frac{\partial w_0^*}{\partial y} \right).
 \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

2.2. Constitutive equations

Each lamina in the laminate is assumed to be in a three-dimensional stress state so that the constitutive relation for a typical lamina L with reference to the fibre-matrix coordinate axes (1–2–3) can be written as

$$\begin{Bmatrix} \sigma_1 \\ \sigma_2 \\ \sigma_3 \\ \tau_{12} \\ \tau_{23} \\ \tau_{13} \end{Bmatrix}^L = \begin{bmatrix} C_{11} & C_{12} & C_{13} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ C_{12} & C_{22} & C_{23} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ C_{13} & C_{23} & C_{33} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & C_{44} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & C_{55} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & C_{66} \end{bmatrix}^L \begin{Bmatrix} \varepsilon_1 \\ \varepsilon_2 \\ \varepsilon_3 \\ \gamma_{12} \\ \gamma_{23} \\ \gamma_{13} \end{Bmatrix}^L, \tag{8}$$

where $(\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3, \tau_{12}, \tau_{23}, \tau_{13})$ are the stresses and $(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3, \gamma_{12}, \gamma_{23}, \gamma_{13})$ are the linear strain components referred to the lamina coordinates (1–2–3) and the C_{ij} 's are the elastic constants or the elements of stiffness matrix of the L th lamina with reference to the fibre axes (1–2–

3). In the laminate coordinates (x, y, z) the stress strain relations for the L th lamina can be written as

$$\begin{Bmatrix} \sigma_x \\ \sigma_y \\ \sigma_z \\ \tau_{xy} \\ \tau_{yz} \\ \tau_{xz} \end{Bmatrix}^L = \begin{bmatrix} Q_{11} & Q_{12} & Q_{13} & Q_{14} & 0 & 0 \\ & Q_{22} & Q_{23} & Q_{24} & 0 & 0 \\ & & Q_{33} & Q_{34} & 0 & 0 \\ & & & Q_{44} & 0 & 0 \\ & \text{symmetric} & & & Q_{55} & Q_{56} \\ & & & & & Q_{66} \end{bmatrix}^L \times \begin{Bmatrix} \varepsilon_x \\ \varepsilon_y \\ \varepsilon_z \\ \gamma_{xy} \\ \gamma_{yz} \\ \gamma_{xz} \end{Bmatrix}^L, \tag{9}$$

where $(\sigma_x, \sigma_y, \sigma_z, \tau_{xy}, \tau_{yz}, \tau_{xz})$ are the stresses and $(\varepsilon_x, \varepsilon_y, \varepsilon_z, \gamma_{xy}, \gamma_{yz}, \gamma_{xz})$ are the strains with respect to the laminate axes. Q_{ij} 's are the transformed elastic constants or stiffness matrix with respect to the laminate axes x, y, z . The elements of matrices $[C]$ and $[Q]$ are defined in Appendices A and B.

2.3. Governing equations of equilibrium

The equations of equilibrium for the stress analysis are obtained using the principle of minimum potential energy (PMPE). In analytical form it can be written as follows [29]:

$$\delta(U + V) = 0, \tag{10}$$

where U is the total strain energy due to deformations, V is the potential of the external loads, and $U + V = \Pi$ is the total potential energy and δ denotes the variational symbol. Substituting the appropriate energy expression in the above equation, the final expression can thus be written as

$$\left[\int_{-h/2}^{h/2} \int_A (\sigma_x \delta \varepsilon_x + \sigma_y \delta \varepsilon_y + \sigma_z \delta \varepsilon_z + \tau_{xy} \delta \gamma_{xy} + \tau_{yz} \delta \gamma_{yz} + \tau_{xz} \delta \gamma_{xz}) dA dz - \int_A p_z^+ \delta w^+ dA \right] = 0, \tag{11}$$

where $w^+ = w_0 + (h/2)\theta_z + (h^2/4)w_0^* + (h^3/8)\theta_z^*$ is the transverse displacement of any point on the top surface of the plate and p_z^+ is the transverse load applied at the top surface of the plate. Using Eqs. (1), (6) and (7) in Eq. (11) and integrating the resulting expression by parts, and collecting the coefficients of $\delta u_0, \delta v_0, \delta w_0, \delta \theta_x, \delta \theta_y, \delta \theta_z, \delta u_0^*, \delta v_0^*, \delta w_0^*, \delta \theta_x^*, \delta \theta_y^*, \delta \theta_z^*$ the following equations of equilibrium are obtained:

$$\delta u_0 : \frac{\partial N_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial N_{xy}}{\partial y} = 0,$$

$$\delta v_0 : \frac{\partial N_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial N_{xy}}{\partial x} = 0,$$

$$\delta w_0 : \frac{\partial Q_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial Q_y}{\partial y} + p_z^+ = 0,$$

$$\delta \theta_x : \frac{\partial M_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial M_{xy}}{\partial y} - Q_x = 0,$$

$$\delta \theta_y : \frac{\partial M_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial M_{xy}}{\partial x} - Q_y = 0,$$

$$\delta \theta_z : \frac{\partial S_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial S_y}{\partial y} - N_z + \frac{h}{2}(p_z^+) = 0,$$

$$\delta u_0^* : \frac{\partial N_x^*}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial N_{xy}^*}{\partial y} - 2S_x = 0,$$

$$\delta v_0^* : \frac{\partial N_y^*}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial N_{xy}^*}{\partial x} - 2S_y = 0,$$

$$\delta w_0^* : \frac{\partial Q_x^*}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial Q_y^*}{\partial y} - 2M_z^* + \frac{h^2}{4}(p_z^+) = 0,$$

$$\delta \theta_x^* : \frac{\partial M_x^*}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial M_{xy}^*}{\partial y} - 3Q_x^* = 0,$$

$$\delta \theta_y^* : \frac{\partial M_y^*}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial M_{xy}^*}{\partial x} - 3Q_y^* = 0,$$

$$\delta \theta_z^* : \frac{\partial S_x^*}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial S_y^*}{\partial y} - 3N_z^* + \frac{h^3}{8}(p_z^+) = 0$$

and the boundary conditions are of the form:

On the edge $x = \text{constant}$

$$u_0 = \bar{u}_0 \text{ or } N_x = \bar{N}_x, \quad \theta_x = \bar{\theta}_x \text{ or } M_x = \bar{M}_x,$$

$$v_0 = \bar{v}_0 \text{ or } N_{xy} = \bar{N}_{xy}, \quad \theta_y = \bar{\theta}_y \text{ or } M_{xy} = \bar{M}_{xy},$$

$$w_0 = \bar{w}_0 \text{ or } Q_x = \bar{Q}_x, \quad \theta_z = \bar{\theta}_z \text{ or } S_x = \bar{S}_x,$$

$$u_0^* = \bar{u}_0^* \text{ or } N_x^* = \bar{N}_x^*, \quad \theta_x^* = \bar{\theta}_x^* \text{ or } M_x^* = \bar{M}_x^*,$$

$$v_0^* = \bar{v}_0^* \text{ or } N_{xy}^* = \bar{N}_{xy}^*, \quad \theta_y^* = \bar{\theta}_y^* \text{ or } M_{xy}^* = \bar{M}_{xy}^*,$$

$$w_0^* = \bar{w}_0^* \text{ or } Q_x^* = \bar{Q}_x^*, \quad \theta_z^* = \bar{\theta}_z^* \text{ or } S_x^* = \bar{S}_x^*.$$

On the edge $y = \text{constant}$

$$u_0 = \bar{u}_0 \text{ or } N_{xy} = \bar{N}_{xy}, \quad \theta_x = \bar{\theta}_x \text{ or } M_{xy} = \bar{M}_{xy},$$

$$v_0 = \bar{v}_0 \text{ or } N_y = \bar{N}_y, \quad \theta_y = \bar{\theta}_y \text{ or } M_y = \bar{M}_y,$$

$$w_0 = \bar{w}_0 \text{ or } Q_y = \bar{Q}_y, \quad \theta_z = \bar{\theta}_z \text{ or } S_y = \bar{S}_y,$$

$$u_0^* = \bar{u}_0^* \text{ or } N_{xy}^* = \bar{N}_{xy}^*, \quad \theta_x^* = \bar{\theta}_x^* \text{ or } M_{xy}^* = \bar{M}_{xy}^*,$$

$$v_0^* = \bar{v}_0^* \text{ or } N_y^* = \bar{N}_y^*, \quad \theta_y^* = \bar{\theta}_y^* \text{ or } M_y^* = \bar{M}_y^*,$$

$$w_0^* = \bar{w}_0^* \text{ or } Q_y^* = \bar{Q}_y^*, \quad \theta_z^* = \bar{\theta}_z^* \text{ or } S_y^* = \bar{S}_y^*,$$

where the stress resultants are defined by

$$\begin{bmatrix} M_x & M_x^* \\ M_y & M_y^* \\ M_z & 0 \\ M_{xy} & M_{xy}^* \end{bmatrix} = \sum_{L=1}^{NL} \int_{z_L}^{z_{L+1}} \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_x \\ \sigma_y \\ \sigma_z \\ \tau_{xy} \end{bmatrix} [z \quad z^3] dz, \quad (15)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} Q_x & Q_x^* \\ Q_y & Q_y^* \end{bmatrix} = \sum_{L=1}^{NL} \int_{z_L}^{z_{L+1}} \begin{bmatrix} \tau_{xz} \\ \tau_{yz} \end{bmatrix} [1 \quad z^2] dz, \quad (16)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} N_x & N_x^* \\ N_y & N_y^* \\ N_z & N_z^* \\ N_{xy} & N_{xy}^* \end{bmatrix} = \sum_{L=1}^{NL} \int_{z_L}^{z_{L+1}} \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_x \\ \sigma_y \\ \sigma_z \\ \tau_{xy} \end{bmatrix} [1 \quad z^2] dz, \quad (17)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} S_x & S_x^* \\ S_y & S_y^* \end{bmatrix} = \sum_{L=1}^{NL} \int_{z_L}^{z_{L+1}} \begin{bmatrix} \tau_{xz} \\ \tau_{yz} \end{bmatrix} [z \quad z^3] dz. \quad (18)$$

The resultants in Eqs. (15)–(18) can be related to the total strains in Eq. (6) by the following equations:

$$\begin{bmatrix} N_x \\ N_y \\ N_x^* \\ N_y^* \\ N_z \\ N_z^* \\ M_x \\ M_y \\ M_x^* \\ M_y^* \\ M_z \\ M_z^* \end{bmatrix} = [A] \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_{x0} \\ \epsilon_{y0} \\ \epsilon_{x0}^* \\ \epsilon_{y0}^* \\ \epsilon_{z0} \\ \epsilon_{z0}^* \\ \kappa_x \\ \kappa_y \\ \kappa_x^* \\ \kappa_y^* \\ \kappa_z \\ \kappa_z^* \end{bmatrix} + [A'] \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_{xy0} \\ \epsilon_{xy0}^* \\ \kappa_{xy} \\ \kappa_{xy}^* \end{bmatrix}, \quad (19)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} N_{xy} \\ N_{xy}^* \\ M_{xy} \\ M_{xy}^* \end{bmatrix} = [B'] \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_{x0} \\ \epsilon_{y0} \\ \epsilon_{x0}^* \\ \epsilon_{y0}^* \\ \epsilon_{z0} \\ \epsilon_{z0}^* \\ \kappa_x \\ \kappa_y \\ \kappa_x^* \\ \kappa_y^* \\ \kappa_z \\ \kappa_z^* \end{bmatrix} + [B] \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_{xy0} \\ \epsilon_{xy0}^* \\ \kappa_{xy} \\ \kappa_{xy}^* \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} Q_x \\ Q_x^* \\ S_x \\ S_x^* \end{bmatrix} = [D] \begin{bmatrix} \phi_x \\ \phi_x^* \\ \kappa_{xz} \\ \kappa_{xz}^* \end{bmatrix} + [D'] \begin{bmatrix} \phi_y \\ \phi_y^* \\ \kappa_{yz} \\ \kappa_{yz}^* \end{bmatrix}, \quad (20)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} Q_y \\ Q_y^* \\ S_y \\ S_y^* \end{bmatrix} = [E'] \begin{bmatrix} \phi_x \\ \phi_x^* \\ \kappa_{xz} \\ \kappa_{xz}^* \end{bmatrix} + [E] \begin{bmatrix} \phi_y \\ \phi_y^* \\ \kappa_{yz} \\ \kappa_{yz}^* \end{bmatrix},$$

where the matrices $[A]$, $[A']$, $[B]$, $[B']$, $[D]$, $[D']$, $[E]$, $[E']$ are the matrices of plate stiffnesses whose elements are defined in Appendix C.

3. Analytical solutions

Here the exact solutions of Eqs. (12)–(20) for cross-ply rectangular plates are considered. Assuming that the plate is simply supported in such a manner that normal displacement is admissible, but the tangential

displacement is not, the following boundary conditions are appropriate:

At edges $x = 0$ and $x = a$:

$$\begin{aligned} v_0 = 0, \quad w_0 = 0, \quad \theta_y = 0, \quad \theta_z = 0, \quad M_x = 0, \\ v_0^* = 0, \quad w_0^* = 0, \quad \theta_y^* = 0, \quad \theta_z^* = 0, \quad M_x^* = 0, \quad (21) \\ N_x = 0, \quad N_x^* = 0. \end{aligned}$$

At edges $y = 0$ and $y = b$:

$$\begin{aligned} u_0 = 0, \quad w_0 = 0, \quad \theta_x = 0, \quad \theta_z = 0, \quad M_y = 0, \\ u_0^* = 0, \quad w_0^* = 0, \quad \theta_x^* = 0, \quad \theta_z^* = 0, \quad M_y^* = 0, \quad (22) \\ N_y = 0, \quad N_y^* = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Following Navier’s solution procedure [2,3,30], the solution to the displacement variables satisfying the above boundary conditions can be expressed in the following forms:

$$\begin{aligned} u_0 &= \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} u_{0mn} \cos \alpha x \sin \beta y, \\ v_0 &= \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} v_{0mn} \sin \alpha x \cos \beta y, \\ w_0 &= \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} w_{0mn} \sin \alpha x \sin \beta y, \\ \theta_x &= \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \theta_{xmn} \cos \alpha x \sin \beta y, \\ \theta_y &= \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \theta_{ymn} \sin \alpha x \cos \beta y, \\ \theta_z &= \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \theta_{zmn} \sin \alpha x \sin \beta y, \\ u_0^* &= \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} u_{0mn}^* \cos \alpha x \sin \beta y, \\ v_0^* &= \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} v_{0mn}^* \sin \alpha x \cos \beta y, \\ w_0^* &= \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} w_{0mn}^* \sin \alpha x \sin \beta y, \\ \theta_x^* &= \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \theta_{xmn}^* \cos \alpha x \sin \beta y, \end{aligned}$$

$$\theta_y^* = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \theta_{ymn}^* \sin \alpha x \cos \beta y,$$

$$\theta_z^* = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \theta_{zmn}^* \sin \alpha x \sin \beta y,$$

and the loading term is expanded as

$$p_z^+ = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} p_{zmn}^+ \sin \alpha x \sin \beta y, \quad (23)$$

where $\alpha = m\pi/a$, $\beta = n\pi/b$.

Substituting Eqs. (21)–(23) into Eq. (12) and collecting the coefficients one obtains

$$[X]_{12 \times 12} \begin{Bmatrix} u_0 \\ v_0 \\ w_0 \\ \theta_x \\ \theta_y \\ \theta_z \\ u_0^* \\ v_0^* \\ w_0^* \\ \theta_x^* \\ \theta_y^* \\ \theta_z^* \end{Bmatrix}_{12 \times 1} = \begin{Bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ p_z^+ \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ (h/2)(p_z^+) \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ (h^2/4)(p_z^+) \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ (h^3/8)(p_z^+) \end{Bmatrix}_{12 \times 1} \quad (24)$$

for any fixed values of m and n . The elements of coefficient matrix $[X]$ are given in Appendix D.

4. Numerical results and discussion

In this section, various numerical examples solved are described and discussed for establishing the accuracy of the various theories for the stress analysis of laminated composite and sandwich plates. The description of the various displacement models compared is given in Table 1. A shear correction factor of 5/6 is used in computing results using Whitney–Pagano’s theory. For all the problems a simply supported (diaphragm supported) plate is considered for the analysis. The transverse loading considered is sinusoidal. Results are obtained in closed form using Navier’s solution technique for the above geometry and loading and the accuracy of the solution is established by comparing the

Table 1
Displacement models (shear deformation theories) compared

Source	Theory	Year (Ref.)	Degrees of freedom	Transverse normal deformation
Present (Model-1)	HSDT	1988 ([23])	12	Considered
Present (Model-2)	HSDT	1988 ([22])	9	Not considered
Reddy (Model-3)	HSDT	1984 ([15])	5	Not considered
Senthilnathan et al. (Model-4)	HSDT	1987 ([16])	4	Not considered
Whitney–Pagano (Model-5)	FSDT	1970 ([13])	5	Not considered

results with the exact elasticity solution wherever available in the literature.

The following sets of data are used in obtaining numerical results.

Material 1 [28]

$$E_1/E_2 = 25, \quad E_2 = E_3 = 10^6 \text{ psi (7 GPa)},$$

$$G_{12} = G_{13} = 0.5E_2, \quad G_{23} = 0.2E_2,$$

$$\nu_{12} = \nu_{23} = \nu_{13} = 0.25.$$

Material 2 [28]

Face sheets

$$E_1/E_2 = 25, \quad E_2 = E_3 = 10^6,$$

$$G_{12} = G_{13} = 0.5E_2, \quad G_{23} = 0.2E_2,$$

$$\nu_{12} = \nu_{23} = \nu_{13} = 0.25.$$

Core

$$E_1/E_3 = 0.08, \quad E_2/E_3 = 0.08, \quad E_3 = 0.5 \times 10^6,$$

$$G_{13}/E_3 = G_{23}/E_3 = 0.12, \quad \nu_{12} = 0.25,$$

$$\nu_{23} = \nu_{13} = 0.02.$$

Material 3 [30]

Face sheets (graphite epoxy T300/934)

$$E_1 = 19 \times 10^6 \text{ psi (131 GPa)},$$

$$E_2 = 1.5 \times 10^6 \text{ psi (10.34 GPa)},$$

$$E_2 = E_3,$$

$$G_{12} = 1 \times 10^6 \text{ psi (6.895 GPa)},$$

$$G_{13} = 0.90 \times 10^6 \text{ psi (6.205 GPa)},$$

$$G_{23} = 1 \times 10^6 \text{ psi (6.895 GPa)},$$

$$\nu_{12} = 0.22, \quad \nu_{13} = 0.22, \quad \nu_{23} = 0.49.$$

Table 2
Nondimensionalized deflections and stresses in a three-layer (0°/90°/0°) simply supported square laminate under sinusoidal transverse load

a/h	Theory	\bar{w}	$\bar{\sigma}_x$	$\bar{\sigma}_y^a$	$\bar{\tau}_{xy}$
2	Elasticity ^b	–	0.938	0.669	0.0859
	Present (Model-1)	4.9147	1.1355	0.5356	0.0754
	Present (Model-2)	5.2158	1.0912	0.6334	0.0803
	Model-3	5.1286	1.3112	0.5876	0.0889
	Model-4	4.3088	1.3460	0.1493	0.0532
	Model-5	5.2293	0.3597	0.7039	0.0488
4	Elasticity ^b	–	0.755	0.556	0.0505
	Present (Model-1)	1.8948	0.7648	0.4939	0.0487
	Present (Model-2)	1.9261	0.7670	0.5079	0.0500
	Model-3	1.9218	0.7344	0.5028	0.0497
	Model-4	1.4852	0.7581	0.0902	0.0300
	Model-5	1.7758	0.4370	0.4774	0.0370
10	Elasticity ^b	–	0.590	0.285	0.0289
	Present (Model-1)	0.7151	0.5836	0.2705	0.0279
	Present (Model-2)	0.7176	0.5847	0.2712	0.0281
	Model-3	0.7125	0.5684	0.2690	0.0277
	Model-4	0.6041	0.5747	0.1649	0.0227
	Model-5	0.6693	0.5134	0.2536	0.0252
20	Elasticity ^b	–	0.552	0.210	0.0289
	Present (Model-1)	0.5053	0.5504	0.2049	0.0231
	Present (Model-2)	0.5058	0.5507	0.2050	0.0231
	Model-3	0.5041	0.5460	0.2043	0.0230
	Model-4	0.4746	0.5477	0.1759	0.0216
	Model-5	0.4921	0.5318	0.1997	0.0223
50	Elasticity ^b	–	0.541	0.185	0.0216
	Present (Model-1)	0.4432	0.5406	0.1838	0.0216
	Present (Model-2)	0.4433	0.5406	0.1838	0.0216
	Model-3	0.4430	0.5399	0.1836	0.0216
	Model-4	0.4382	0.5401	0.1790	0.0213
	Model-5	0.4411	0.4480	0.1829	0.0215
100	Elasticity ^b	–	0.539	0.181	0.0213
	Present (Model-1)	0.4343	0.5392	0.1807	0.0214
	Present (Model-2)	0.4343	0.5392	0.1807	0.0214
	Model-3	0.4342	0.5390	0.1806	0.0214
	Model-4	0.4330	0.5391	0.1795	0.0213
	Model-5	0.4337	0.5384	0.1804	0.0213

^a Max value occurs at $z = \pm h/6$.

^b See [28].

Core (isotropic)

$$E_1 = E_2 = E_3 = 2G = 1000 \text{ psi } (6.90 \times 10^{-3} \text{ GPa}),$$

$$G_{12} = G_{13} = G_{23} = 500 \text{ psi } (3.45 \times 10^{-3} \text{ GPa}),$$

$$\nu_{12} = \nu_{13} = \nu_{23} = 0.$$

Results reported in tables and plots are using the following nondimensional form:

$$\bar{u} = u \left(\frac{100h^3 E_2}{P_0 a^4} \right), \quad \bar{v} = v \left(\frac{100h^3 E_2}{P_0 a^4} \right),$$

$$\bar{w} = w \left(\frac{100h^3 E_2}{P_0 a^4} \right), \quad \bar{\sigma}_x = \sigma_x \left(\frac{h^2}{P_0 a^2} \right),$$

$$\bar{\sigma}_y = \sigma_y \left(\frac{h^2}{P_0 a^2} \right), \quad \bar{\tau}_{xy} = \tau_{xy} \left(\frac{h^2}{P_0 a^2} \right).$$

Unless otherwise specified within the table(s) the locations (i.e. x -, y -, and z -coordinates) for maximum values of displacements, stresses and stress resultants for the present evaluations are as follows:

In-plane displacement (u): $(0, b/2, \pm h/2)$.

In-plane displacement (v): $(a/2, 0, \pm h/2)$.

Transverse displacement (w): $(a/2, b/2, 0)$.

In-plane normal stress (σ_x): $(a/2, b/2, \pm h/2)$.

In-plane normal stress (σ_y): $(a/2, b/2, \pm h/2)$.

In-plane shear stress (τ_{xy}): $(0, 0, \pm h/2)$.

Example 1. A simply supported three-layered symmetric cross-ply ($0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ$) square plate under sinusoidal transverse load is considered. The layers have equal thickness. Material set 1 is used. The numerical results of transverse displacement and in-plane stresses are given in Table 2. The numerical results of maximum in-plane stresses are compared with the exact elasticity solution given by [28]. The results clearly show that the values obtained using Model-2 and Model-3 are in close agreement for all a/h ratios. For a/h ratio equal to 2, Model-1 underpredicts deflection by 5.77%, Model-4 by 17.39% compared to the results of Model-2. Fig. 3 shows the through the thickness variation of in-plane displacement \bar{u} . It shows that the results obtained using Model-1, Model-2 and Model-3 are in good agreement whereas the values predicted by Model-4 and Model-5 differ from others considerably. Table 3 shows the percentage of error with respect to exact elasticity solution in computing the in-plane stresses. The results show that even at slenderness ratio as low as 2, Model-2 gives better accuracy compared to other displacement models. The accuracy of all models in predicting the in-plane stresses increases with increasing slenderness ratio. Figs. 4–6 shows the through the thickness variation of nondimensionalized in-plane stresses $\bar{\sigma}_x$, $\bar{\sigma}_y$ and $\bar{\tau}_{xy}$ for a/h ratio equal to 10. It shows that the stress values obtained using Model-1 and Model-2 are in excellent agreement.

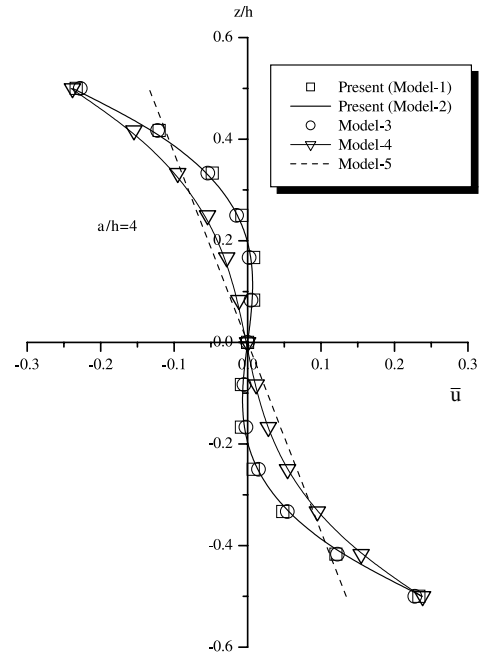


Fig. 3. Variation of nondimensionalized in-plane displacement (\bar{u}) through the thickness (z/h) of a three-layer ($0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ$) simply supported square plate under sinusoidal transverse load.

Table 3
Error (%) in a three-layer symmetric cross-ply ($0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ$) laminate

a/h	Theory	$\bar{\sigma}_x$	$\bar{\sigma}_y$	$\bar{\tau}_{xy}$
2	Present (Model-1)	21.05	-19.94	-12.22
	Present (Model-2)	16.33	-5.32	-6.52
	Model-3	39.78	-12.17	3.49
	Model-4	43.49	-77.68	-38.07
	Model-5	-61.65	5.22	-43.19
4	Present (Model-1)	1.30	-11.17	-3.56
	Present (Model-2)	1.59	-8.65	-0.99
	Model-3	-2.06	-9.57	-1.58
	Model-4	0.41	-83.78	-40.59
	Model-5	-42.12	-14.14	-26.73
10	Present (Model-1)	-1.08	-5.09	-3.46
	Present (Model-2)	-0.90	-4.84	-2.77
	Model-3	-3.66	-5.61	-4.15
	Model-4	-2.59	-42.14	-21.45
	Model-5	-12.98	-11.02	-12.80

Example 2. A simply supported three-layered symmetric ($0^\circ/\text{core}/0^\circ$) square sandwich plate with the thickness of each face sheet equal to $h/10$ is considered. Material set 2 is used. The numerical results of transverse displacement and in-plane stresses for various aspect ratios (a/h) are shown in Table 4. The numerical results of maximum in-plane stresses are compared with exact elasticity solution given by [28]. Table 5 shows the percentage of error with respect to exact elasticity solution in computing the in-plane stresses for various a/h ratios. The results show that the percentage

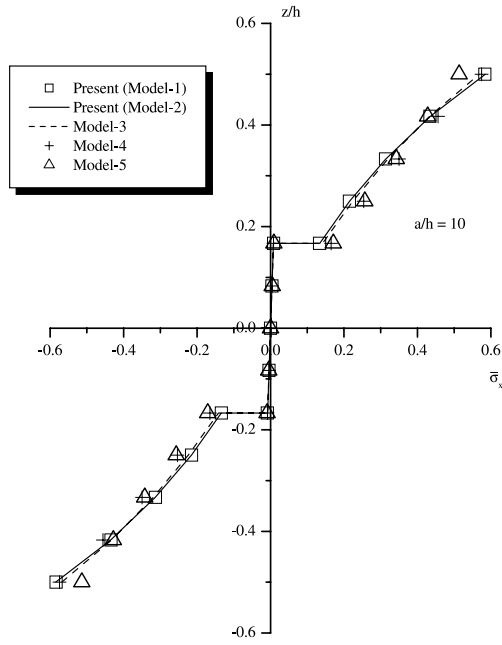


Fig. 4. Variation of nondimensionalized in-plane normal stress ($\bar{\sigma}_x$) through the thickness (z/h) of a three-layer ($0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ$) simply supported square plate under sinusoidal transverse load.

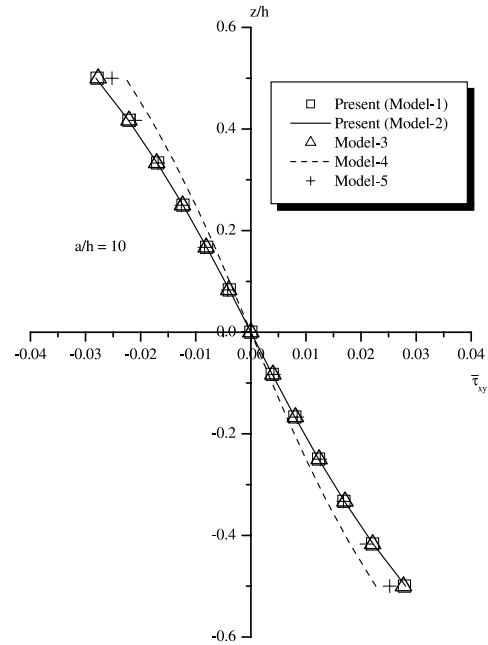


Fig. 6. Variation of nondimensionalized in-plane shear stress ($\bar{\tau}_{xy}$) through the thickness (z/h) of a three-layer ($0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ$) simply supported square plate under sinusoidal transverse load.

of error got using the Model-4 and Model-5 is very large compared to other models and the percentage of error goes on reducing as the plate becomes thinner. For a/h equal to 4, 10 and 20, Model-1 gives better estimate of in-plane stresses $\bar{\sigma}_x$ and $\bar{\sigma}_y$ whereas Model-2

predicts the in-plane shear stress more accurately than the other models for the above aspect ratios. For very thin laminate ($a/h = 50$ and above) Model-2 gives better accurate results of all in-plane stresses as compared to other models. The percentage error in predicting the in-plane stresses $\bar{\sigma}_x$ and $\bar{\sigma}_y$ using Model-1 increases as the sandwich plate becomes thinner. The through the thickness variation of in-plane displacements \bar{u} and \bar{v} for a/h ratio equal to 4 is shown in Figs. 7 and 8. From the figures it can be seen that the values of in-plane displacements predicted by both Model-1 and Model-2 are same, there is a considerable difference in values of the above displacements predicted by other models.

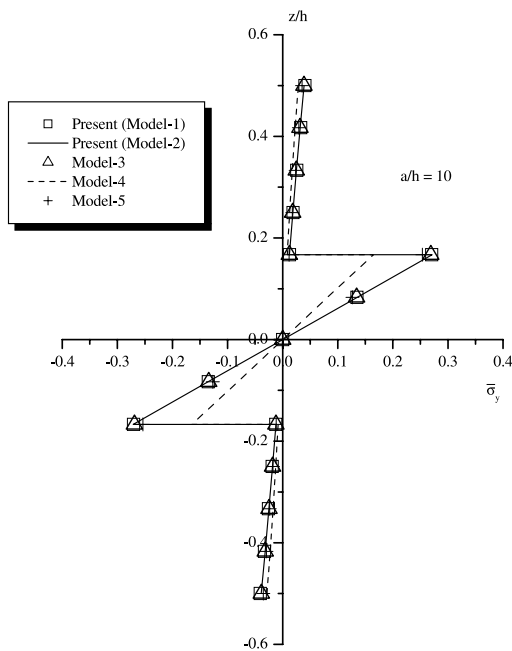


Fig. 5. Variation of nondimensionalized in-plane normal stress ($\bar{\sigma}_y$) through the thickness (z/h) of a three-layer ($0^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ$) simply supported square plate under sinusoidal transverse load.

Example 3. A simply supported two-layer ($0^\circ/90^\circ$) antisymmetric square laminate under sinusoidal transverse load is considered. The layers have equal thickness. Material set 1 is used. Numerical values of nondimensionalized transverse displacement and in-plane stresses are shown in Table 6. Three-dimensional elasticity results are obtained using the method given by [28]. The percentage error with respect to three-dimensional elasticity solution is given in Table 7. The results clearly indicate that the percentage error with respect to three-dimensional elasticity solution in predicting the transverse displacement and in-plane stresses is very much lesser in the case of Model-2 and the prediction of in-plane normal stresses $\bar{\sigma}_x$, $\bar{\sigma}_y$ by Model-4 is very poor.

Table 4

Nondimensionalized deflections and stresses in a three-layer simply supported square sandwich plate ($0^\circ/\text{core}/0^\circ$) under sinusoidal transverse load

a/h	Theory	\bar{w}	$\bar{\sigma}_x$	$\bar{\sigma}_y$	$\bar{\tau}_{xy}$
4	Elasticity ^a	–	1.512	0.2533	0.1437
	Present (Model-1)	7.0551	1.5137	0.2648	0.1379
	Present (Model-2)	7.1539	1.5030	0.2391	0.1409
	Model-3	7.0873	1.4182	0.2365	0.1383
	Model-4	5.6205	1.5765	0.0780	0.0623
	Model-5	4.7666	0.8918	0.1562	0.0907
10	Elasticity ^a	–	1.152	0.1099	0.0707
	Present (Model-1)	2.0798	1.1523	0.1100	0.0685
	Present (Model-2)	2.0848	1.1495	0.1042	0.0688
	Model-3	2.0629	1.1300	0.1030	0.0679
	Model-4	1.6458	1.1746	0.0581	0.0464
	Model-5	1.5604	1.0457	0.0798	0.0552
20	Elasticity ^a	–	1.110	0.0700	0.0511
	Present (Model-1)	1.1933	1.1110	0.0705	0.0504
	Present (Model-2)	1.1939	1.1091	0.0682	0.0504
	Model-3	1.1876	1.1039	0.0679	0.0502
	Model-4	1.0704	1.1164	0.0552	0.0441
	Model-5	1.0524	1.0830	0.0612	0.0466
50	Elasticity ^a	–	1.099	0.0569	0.0446
	Present (Model-1)	0.9296	1.1005	0.0578	0.0445
	Present (Model-2)	0.9294	1.0989	0.0566	0.0445
	Model-3	0.9284	1.0980	0.0565	0.0445
	Model-4	0.9090	1.1001	0.0545	0.0435
	Model-5	0.9063	1.0947	0.0554	0.0439
100	Elasticity ^a	–	1.098	0.0550	0.0437
	Present (Model-1)	0.8913	1.0990	0.0560	0.0436
	Present (Model-2)	0.8910	1.0975	0.0549	0.0436
	Model-3	0.8908	1.0973	0.0549	0.0436
	Model-4	0.8859	1.0978	0.0543	0.0434
	Model-5	0.8852	1.0964	0.0546	0.0435

^a See [28].

Example 4. In order to study the stretching–bending coupling effect, the analysis of a five-layer square sandwich plate ($0^\circ/90^\circ/\text{core}/0^\circ/90^\circ$) with isotropic core and unbalanced cross-ply plates is presented. Material set 3 is used. The ratio of the thickness of the core t_c to thickness of the face sheet t_f considered is equal to 4. Results are compared with the corresponding sandwich plate results with orthotropic faces. The numerical results of nondimensionalized transverse deflection, in-plane stresses of a five-layer sandwich plate with unbalanced cross-ply faces and a sandwich plate with orthotropic face sheets are given in Tables 8 and 9, respectively. The variation of nondimensionalized deflection ratio \bar{w}_c/\bar{w}_0 (where \bar{w}_c is the nondimensionalized transverse deflection of sandwich plate with unbalanced cross-ply faces and \bar{w}_0 is the nondimensionalized transverse deflection of sandwich plate with orthotropic face sheets) with plate side-to-thickness ratio (a/h) of an antisymmetric square sandwich plate under sinusoidal load is given in Fig. 9. From the figure it can be concluded that in the case of multilayer sandwich plate, the stretching–bending coupling effect is considerable in the

case of thick plate and decreases the stiffness of the plate when higher order models are used. Irrespective of the thickness of the plate, the effect of coupling is always to increase the stiffness in the case of Model-5 and to reduce the stiffness of the plate in the case of Model-4. The higher order models, i.e., Model-1, Model-2 and Model-3, show that there is an increase in the stiffness when the plate thickness changes from thick to relatively thin, that is a/h value changes from 2 to 50. When the sandwich plate becomes very thin ($a/h = 100$), all the models show negligible coupling effect.

5. Conclusion

Analytical formulations and solutions to the static analysis of simply supported composite and sandwich plates hitherto not reported in the literature based on a higher order refined theory developed by the first author and already reported in the literature are presented. The displacement field of this theory takes into account both the transverse shear and normal deformations thus

Table 5
Error (%) in a three-layered symmetric sandwich (0°/core/0°) plate

a/h	Theory	$\bar{\sigma}_x$	$\bar{\sigma}_y$	$\bar{\tau}_{xy}$
4	Present (Model-1)	0.112	4.54	-4.04
	Present (Model-2)	-0.60	-5.60	-1.95
	Model-3	-6.20	-6.63	-3.76
	Model-4	4.26	-69.20	-56.65
	Model-5	-41.02	-38.33	-36.88
10	Present (Model-1)	0.026	0.091	-3.11
	Present (Model-2)	-0.22	-5.19	-2.69
	Model-3	-1.91	-6.28	-3.96
	Model-4	1.96	-47.13	-34.37
	Model-5	-9.23	-27.39	-21.92
20	Present (Model-1)	0.09	0.71	-1.37
	Present (Model-2)	-0.08	-2.57	-1.37
	Model-3	-0.55	-3.0	-1.76
	Model-4	0.58	-21.14	-13.70
	Model-5	-2.43	-12.57	-8.81
50	Present (Model-1)	0.136	1.58	-0.224
	Present (Model-2)	-0.091	-0.527	-0.224
	Model-3	-0.091	-0.703	-0.224
	Model-4	0.1	-4.22	-2.47
	Model-5	-0.391	-2.64	-1.57
100	Present (Model-1)	0.091	1.82	-0.229
	Present (Model-2)	-0.046	-0.182	-0.229
	Model-3	-0.064	-0.182	-0.229
	Model-4	-0.018	-1.27	-0.686
	Model-5	-0.146	-0.727	-0.458

making it more accurate than the first order and other higher order theories considered. For laminated composite plates the solutions of the higher order refined

theories (Model-1 and Model-2) are found to be in excellent agreement with the three-dimensional elasticity solutions and the percentage error with respect to 3D

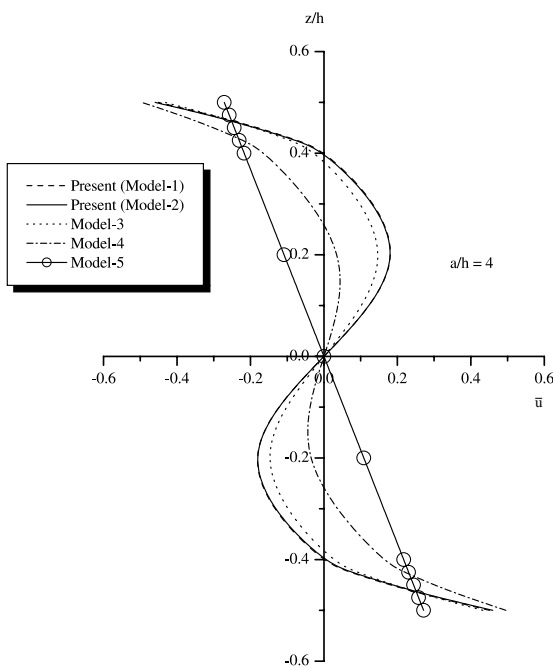


Fig. 7. Variation of nondimensionalized in-plane displacement (\bar{u}) through the thickness (z/h) of a three-layer (0°/core/0°) simply supported square plate under sinusoidal transverse load.

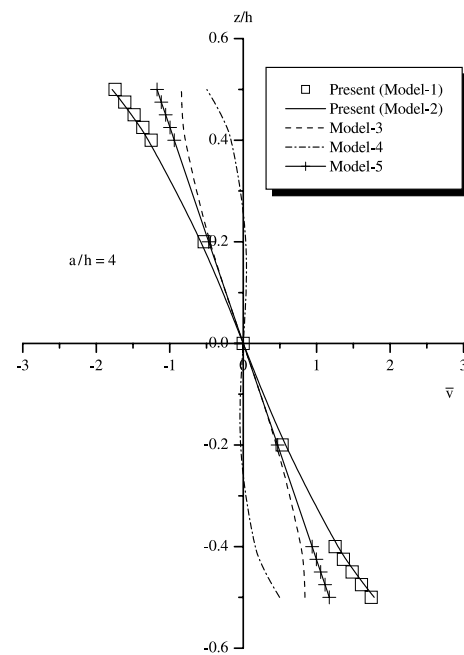


Fig. 8. Variation of nondimensionalized in-plane displacement (\bar{v}) through the thickness (z/h) of a three-layer (0°/core/0°) simply supported square plate under sinusoidal transverse load.

Table 6
Nondimensionalized deflections and stresses in two-layer (0°/90°) simply supported square laminated plate under sinusoidal transverse load

a/h	Theory	\bar{w}	$\bar{\sigma}_x$	$\bar{\sigma}_y$	$\bar{\tau}_{xy}$
2	Elasticity ^a	4.9362	-0.9070	1.4480	-0.0964
	Present (Model-1)	4.6558	-0.8268	1.1946	-0.0729
	Present (Model-2)	4.9691	-0.9535	0.9535	-0.0758
	Model-3	4.5619	-1.4277	1.4277	-0.0719
	Model-4	4.5619	-1.8199	1.8199	-0.0719
5	Elasticity ^a	1.7287	-0.7723	0.8036	-0.0586
	Present (Model-1)	1.6800	-0.7510	0.7720	-0.0557
	Present (Model-2)	1.7037	-0.7662	0.7662	-0.0572
	Model-3	1.6670	-0.8385	0.8385	-0.0558
	Model-4	1.6670	-1.4133	1.4133	-0.0558
10	Elasticity ^a	1.2318	-0.7317	0.7353	-0.0540
	Present (Model-1)	1.2192	-0.7269	0.7273	-0.0533
	Present (Model-2)	1.2274	-0.7286	0.7286	-0.0539
	Model-3	1.2161	-0.7468	0.7468	-0.0533
	Model-4	1.2161	-1.3500	1.3500	-0.0533
20	Elasticity ^a	1.1060	-0.7200	0.7206	-0.0529
	Present (Model-1)	1.1025	-0.7189	0.7186	-0.0527
	Present (Model-2)	1.1078	-0.7185	0.7185	-0.0530
	Model-3	1.1018	-0.7235	0.7235	-0.0527
	Model-4	1.1018	-1.3340	1.3340	-0.0527
100	Elasticity ^a	1.0742	-0.7219	0.7219	-0.0529
	Present (Model-1)	1.0651	-0.7161	0.7161	-0.0525
	Present (Model-2)	1.0695	-0.7152	0.7152	-0.0527
	Model-3	1.0651	-0.7161	0.7161	-0.0525
	Model-4	1.0651	-1.3288	1.3288	-0.0525
	Model-5	1.0651	-0.7151	0.7151	-0.0527

^a See [28].

Table 7
Percentage error in a two-layer (0°/90°) cross-ply laminate

a/h	Theory	\bar{w}	$\bar{\sigma}_x$	$\bar{\sigma}_y$	$\bar{\tau}_{xy}$
5	Present (Model-1)	-2.82	-1.98	-3.93	4.95
	Present (Model-2)	-1.45	-0.79	-4.65	-2.39
	Model-3	-3.57	8.57	4.34	-4.78
	Model-4	-3.57	83.00	75.87	-4.78
	Model-5	1.97	-7.41	-11.01	-10.07
10	Present (Model-1)	-1.02	-0.66	-1.09	-1.30
	Present (Model-2)	-0.36	-0.42	-0.91	-0.19
	Model-3	-1.27	2.06	1.56	-1.30
	Model-4	-1.27	84.50	83.60	-1.30
	Model-5	0.80	-2.27	-2.02	-2.41
100	Present (Model-1)	-0.85	-0.80	-0.80	-0.76
	Present (Model-2)	-0.44	-0.93	-0.93	-0.38
	Model-3	-0.85	-0.80	-0.80	-0.76
	Model-4	-0.85	84.07	84.07	-0.76
	Model-5	-0.85	-0.94	-0.94	-0.38

elasticity solutions is very much less compared to other shear deformation theories used for comparison in this study. For sandwich plates the results of Kant–Manju-

natha and Pandya–Kant theories are in good agreement whereas the error is quite considerable when the first order theory and the theories of Reddy and Senthilna-

Table 8
Nondimensionalized deflections and stresses in a five-layer (0°/90°/core/0°/90°) simply supported square sandwich plate under sinusoidal transverse load

a/h	Theory	\bar{w}_c	$\bar{\sigma}_x$	$\bar{\sigma}_y$	$\bar{\tau}_{xy}$
2	Present (Model-1)	43.2468	2.6494	4.5305	-0.7688
	Present (Model-2)	44.9032	-3.5349	3.5349	0.5515
	Model-3	30.2539	-2.0269	2.0269	0.2959
	Model-4	30.2539	-2.8710	2.8709	0.2959
	Model-5	8.6438	-0.6199	0.6199	0.0693
4	Present (Model-1)	14.1627	-1.6445	1.4931	0.2031
	Present (Model-2)	14.3440	-1.5328	1.5328	0.2196
	Model-3	8.7941	-0.9937	0.9937	0.1291
	Model-4	8.7941	-1.2525	1.2524	0.1291
	Model-5	2.9509	-0.6199	0.6199	0.0693
10	Present (Model-1)	3.3032	-0.8104	0.7606	0.0946
	Present (Model-2)	3.3197	-0.7771	0.7771	0.0951
	Model-3	2.3075	-0.6815	0.6815	0.0787
	Model-4	2.3075	-0.7634	0.7631	0.0787
	Model-5	1.3570	-0.6200	0.6200	0.0693
100	Present (Model-1)	1.0697	-0.6231	0.6226	0.0691
	Present (Model-2)	1.0763	-0.6216	0.6216	0.0696
	Model-3	1.0595	-0.6214	0.6214	0.0690
	Model-4	1.0595	-0.6692	0.6691	0.0690
	Model-5	1.0564	-0.6200	0.6200	0.0693

than et al. are used. The main aim of this entire investigation is to bring out clearly the accuracy of the various shear deformation theories in predicting the stresses so that the claims made by various investigators regarding the supremacy of their models are put to rest.

Appendix A. Coefficients of [C] matrix

$$C_{11} = \frac{E_1(1 - \nu_{23}\nu_{32})}{\Delta}, \quad C_{12} = \frac{E_1(\nu_{21} + \nu_{31}\nu_{23})}{\Delta},$$

Table 9
Nondimensionalized deflections and stresses in a simply supported square sandwich plate with orthotropic face sheets under sinusoidal transverse loads

a/h	Theory	\bar{w}_0	$\bar{\sigma}_x$	$\bar{\sigma}_y$	$\bar{\tau}_{xy}$
2	Present (Model-1)	37.8550	-2.3560	0.3752	0.3172
	Present (Model-2)	39.0218	-4.0665	0.5310	0.5184
	Model-3	29.4799	-2.4689	0.3922	0.3583
	Model-4	28.3619	-2.6684	0.2526	0.2750
	Model-5	9.7795	-0.3814	0.1943	0.1440
4	Present (Model-1)	14.3218	-1.7931	0.2128	0.2702
	Present (Model-2)	14.4949	-1.8204	0.3077	0.2783
	Model-3	9.6703	-1.0558	0.2358	0.1978
	Model-4	8.6085	-1.2193	0.1154	0.1257
	Model-5	3.5348	-0.5176	0.1308	0.1077
10	Present (Model-1)	3.8714	-0.8536	0.1372	0.1363
	Present (Model-2)	3.8899	-0.8344	0.1527	0.1352
	Model-3	2.7265	-0.6913	0.1198	0.1069
	Model-4	2.2887	-0.7558	0.0715	0.0779
	Model-5	1.4854	-0.6301	0.0784	0.0777
100	Present (Model-1)	1.0740	-0.6657	0.0641	0.0694
	Present (Model-2)	1.0806	-0.6647	0.0642	0.0699
	Model-3	1.0591	-0.6642	0.0636	0.0689
	Model-4	1.0531	-0.6651	0.0630	0.0686
	Model-5	1.0515	-0.6629	0.0630	0.0690

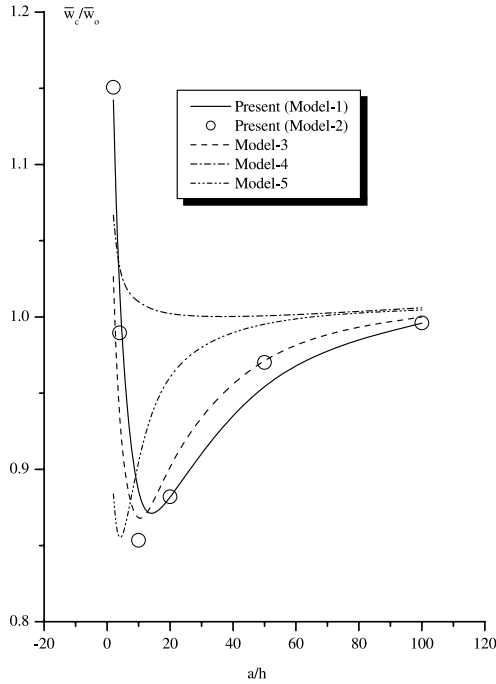


Fig. 9. Nondimensionalized deflection ratio (\bar{w}_c/\bar{w}_0) as a function of plate side-to-thickness ratio (a/h) of a five-layer ($0^\circ/90^\circ/\text{core}/0^\circ/90^\circ$) simply supported square sandwich plate under sinusoidal transverse load.

$$C_{13} = \frac{E_1(v_{31} + v_{21}v_{32})}{\Delta}, \quad C_{22} = \frac{E_2(1 - v_{13}v_{31})}{\Delta},$$

$$C_{23} = \frac{E_2(v_{32} + v_{12}v_{31})}{\Delta}, \quad C_{33} = \frac{E_3(1 - v_{12}v_{21})}{\Delta},$$

$$C_{44} = G_{12}, \quad C_{55} = G_{23}, \quad C_{66} = G_{13},$$

where

$$\Delta = (1 - v_{12}v_{21} - v_{23}v_{32} - v_{31}v_{13} - 2v_{12}v_{23}v_{31})$$

and

$$\varepsilon_1 = \frac{\sigma_1}{E_1} - v_{21} \frac{\sigma_2}{E_2} - v_{31} \frac{\sigma_3}{E_3},$$

$$\varepsilon_2 = \frac{\sigma_2}{E_2} - v_{32} \frac{\sigma_3}{E_3} - v_{12} \frac{\sigma_1}{E_1},$$

$$\varepsilon_3 = \frac{\sigma_3}{E_3} - v_{13} \frac{\sigma_1}{E_1} - v_{23} \frac{\sigma_2}{E_2},$$

$$\gamma_{12} = \frac{\tau_{12}}{G_{12}}, \quad \gamma_{23} = \frac{\tau_{23}}{G_{23}}, \quad \gamma_{13} = \frac{\tau_{13}}{G_{13}},$$

$$\frac{v_{12}}{E_1} = \frac{v_{21}}{E_2}, \quad \frac{v_{31}}{E_3} = \frac{v_{13}}{E_1}, \quad \frac{v_{32}}{E_3} = \frac{v_{23}}{E_2}.$$

Appendix B. Coefficients of $[Q]$ matrix

$$Q_{11} = C_{11}c^4 + 2(C_{12} + 2C_{44})s^2c^2 + C_{22}s^4,$$

$$Q_{12} = C_{12}(c^4 + s^4) + (C_{11} + C_{22} - 4C_{44})s^2c^2,$$

$$Q_{13} = C_{13}c^2 + C_{23}s^2,$$

$$Q_{14} = (C_{11} - C_{12} - 2C_{44})sc^3 + (C_{12} - C_{22} + 2C_{44})cs^3,$$

$$Q_{22} = C_{11}s^4 + C_{22}c^4 + (2C_{12} + 4C_{44})s^2c^2,$$

$$Q_{23} = C_{13}s^2 + C_{23}c^2,$$

$$Q_{24} = (C_{11} - C_{12} - 2C_{44})s^3c + (C_{12} - C_{22} + 2C_{44})c^3s,$$

$$Q_{33} = C_{33},$$

$$Q_{34} = (C_{31} - C_{32})sc,$$

$$Q_{44} = (C_{11} - 2C_{12} + C_{22} - 2C_{44})c^2s^2 + C_{44}(c^4 + s^4),$$

$$Q_{55} = C_{55}c^2 + C_{66}s^2,$$

$$Q_{56} = (C_{66} - C_{55})cs,$$

$$Q_{66} = C_{55}s^2 + C_{66}c^2$$

and

$$Q_{ij} = Q_{ji}, \quad i, j = 1 \text{ to } 6,$$

where

$$c = \cos \alpha \quad \text{and} \quad s = \sin \alpha.$$

Appendix C. Elements of $[A]$, $[A']$, $[B]$, $[B']$, $[D]$, $[D']$, $[E]$, $[E']$ matrices

$$[A] = \sum_{L=1}^{NL} \begin{bmatrix} Q_{11}H_1 & Q_{12}H_1 & Q_{11}H_3 & Q_{12}H_3 & Q_{13}H_1 & 3Q_{13}H_3 & Q_{11}H_2 & Q_{12}H_2 & Q_{11}H_4 & Q_{12}H_4 & 2Q_{13}H_3 \\ Q_{12}H_1 & Q_{22}H_1 & Q_{12}H_3 & Q_{22}H_3 & Q_{23}H_1 & 3Q_{23}H_3 & Q_{12}H_2 & Q_{22}H_2 & Q_{12}H_4 & Q_{22}H_4 & 2Q_{23}H_2 \\ Q_{11}H_3 & Q_{12}H_3 & Q_{11}H_5 & Q_{12}H_5 & Q_{13}H_3 & 3Q_{13}H_5 & Q_{11}H_4 & Q_{12}H_4 & Q_{11}H_6 & Q_{12}H_6 & 2Q_{13}H_4 \\ Q_{12}H_3 & Q_{22}H_3 & Q_{12}H_5 & Q_{22}H_5 & Q_{23}H_3 & 3Q_{23}H_5 & Q_{12}H_4 & Q_{22}H_4 & Q_{12}H_6 & Q_{22}H_6 & 2Q_{23}H_4 \\ Q_{13}H_1 & Q_{23}H_1 & Q_{13}H_3 & Q_{23}H_3 & Q_{33}H_1 & 3Q_{33}H_3 & Q_{13}H_2 & Q_{23}H_2 & Q_{13}H_4 & Q_{23}H_4 & 2Q_{33}H_2 \\ Q_{13}H_3 & Q_{23}H_3 & Q_{13}H_5 & Q_{23}H_5 & Q_{33}H_3 & 3Q_{33}H_5 & Q_{13}H_4 & Q_{23}H_4 & Q_{13}H_6 & Q_{23}H_6 & 2Q_{33}H_4 \\ Q_{11}H_2 & Q_{12}H_2 & Q_{11}H_4 & Q_{12}H_4 & Q_{13}H_2 & 3Q_{13}H_4 & Q_{11}H_3 & Q_{12}H_3 & Q_{11}H_5 & Q_{12}H_5 & 2Q_{13}H_3 \\ Q_{12}H_2 & Q_{22}H_2 & Q_{12}H_4 & Q_{22}H_4 & Q_{23}H_2 & 3Q_{23}H_4 & Q_{12}H_3 & Q_{22}H_3 & Q_{12}H_5 & Q_{22}H_5 & 2Q_{23}H_3 \\ Q_{11}H_4 & Q_{12}H_4 & Q_{11}H_6 & Q_{12}H_6 & Q_{13}H_4 & 3Q_{13}H_6 & Q_{11}H_5 & Q_{12}H_5 & Q_{11}H_7 & Q_{12}H_7 & 2Q_{13}H_5 \\ Q_{12}H_4 & Q_{22}H_4 & Q_{12}H_6 & Q_{22}H_6 & Q_{23}H_4 & 3Q_{23}H_6 & Q_{12}H_5 & Q_{22}H_5 & Q_{12}H_7 & Q_{22}H_7 & 2Q_{23}H_5 \\ Q_{13}H_2 & Q_{23}H_2 & Q_{13}H_4 & Q_{23}H_4 & Q_{33}H_2 & 3Q_{33}H_4 & Q_{13}H_3 & Q_{23}H_3 & Q_{13}H_5 & Q_{23}H_5 & 2Q_{33}H_3 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$[B] = \sum_{L=1}^{NL} \begin{bmatrix} Q_{44}H_1 & Q_{44}H_3 & Q_{44}H_2 & Q_{44}H_4 \\ Q_{44}H_3 & Q_{44}H_5 & Q_{44}H_4 & Q_{44}H_6 \\ Q_{44}H_2 & Q_{44}H_4 & Q_{44}H_3 & Q_{44}H_5 \\ Q_{44}H_4 & Q_{44}H_6 & Q_{44}H_5 & Q_{44}H_7 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$[A'] = \sum_{L=1}^{NL} \begin{bmatrix} Q_{14}H_1 & Q_{14}H_3 & Q_{14}H_2 & Q_{14}H_4 \\ Q_{24}H_1 & Q_{24}H_3 & Q_{24}H_2 & Q_{24}H_4 \\ Q_{14}H_3 & Q_{14}H_5 & Q_{14}H_4 & Q_{14}H_6 \\ Q_{24}H_3 & Q_{24}H_5 & Q_{24}H_4 & Q_{24}H_6 \\ Q_{34}H_1 & Q_{34}H_3 & Q_{34}H_2 & Q_{34}H_4 \\ Q_{34}H_3 & Q_{34}H_5 & Q_{34}H_4 & Q_{34}H_6 \\ Q_{14}H_2 & Q_{14}H_4 & Q_{14}H_3 & Q_{14}H_5 \\ Q_{24}H_2 & Q_{24}H_4 & Q_{24}H_3 & Q_{24}H_5 \\ Q_{14}H_4 & Q_{14}H_6 & Q_{14}H_5 & Q_{14}H_7 \\ Q_{24}H_4 & Q_{24}H_6 & Q_{24}H_5 & Q_{24}H_7 \\ Q_{34}H_2 & Q_{34}H_4 & Q_{34}H_3 & Q_{34}H_5 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$X_{2,2} = A_{2,2}\beta^2 + B_{1,2}\alpha^2, \quad X_{2,3} = 0,$$

$$X_{2,4} = A_{2,7}\alpha\beta + B_{1,5}\alpha\beta,$$

$$X_{2,5} = A_{2,8}\beta^2 + B_{1,6}\alpha^2, \quad X_{2,6} = -A_{2,5}\beta,$$

$$X_{2,7} = A_{2,3}\alpha\beta + B_{1,3}\alpha\beta, \quad X_{2,8} = A_{2,4}\beta^2 + B_{1,4}\alpha^2,$$

$$X_{2,9} = -A_{2,11}\beta, \quad X_{2,10} = A_{2,9}\alpha\beta + B_{1,7}\alpha\beta,$$

$$X_{2,11} = A_{2,10}\beta^2 + B_{1,8}\alpha^2, \quad X_{2,12} = -A_{2,6}\beta,$$

$$X_{3,3} = D_{1,2}\alpha^2 + E_{1,2}\beta^2, \quad X_{3,4} = D_{1,1}\alpha,$$

$$X_{3,5} = E_{1,1}\beta, \quad X_{3,6} = D_{1,6}\alpha^2 + E_{1,6}\beta^2,$$

$$X_{3,7} = D_{1,5}\alpha, \quad X_{3,8} = E_{1,5}\beta,$$

$$X_{3,9} = D_{1,4}\alpha^2 + E_{1,4}\beta^2, \quad X_{3,10} = D_{1,3}\alpha,$$

$$X_{3,11} = E_{1,3}\beta, \quad X_{3,12} = D_{1,7}\alpha^2 + E_{1,7}\beta^2,$$

$$X_{4,4} = A_{7,7}\alpha^2 + B_{3,5}\beta^2 + D_{1,1}, \quad X_{4,5} = A_{7,8}\alpha\beta + B_{3,6}\alpha\beta,$$

$$[B'] = \sum_{L=1}^{NL} \begin{bmatrix} Q_{14}H_1 & Q_{24}H_1 & Q_{14}H_3 & Q_{24}H_3 & Q_{34}H_1 & 3Q_{34}H_3 & Q_{14}H_2 & Q_{24}H_2 & Q_{14}H_4 & Q_{24}H_4 & 2Q_{34}H_2 \\ Q_{14}H_3 & Q_{24}H_3 & Q_{14}H_5 & Q_{24}H_5 & Q_{34}H_3 & 3Q_{34}H_5 & Q_{14}H_4 & Q_{24}H_4 & Q_{14}H_6 & Q_{24}H_6 & 2Q_{34}H_4 \\ Q_{14}H_2 & Q_{24}H_2 & Q_{14}H_4 & Q_{24}H_4 & Q_{34}H_2 & 3Q_{34}H_4 & Q_{14}H_3 & Q_{24}H_3 & Q_{14}H_5 & Q_{24}H_5 & 2Q_{34}H_3 \\ Q_{14}H_4 & Q_{24}H_4 & Q_{14}H_6 & Q_{24}H_6 & Q_{34}H_4 & 3Q_{34}H_6 & Q_{14}H_5 & Q_{24}H_5 & Q_{14}H_7 & Q_{24}H_7 & 2Q_{34}H_5 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$[D] = \sum_{L=1}^{NL} \begin{bmatrix} Q_{66}H_1 & Q_{66}H_3 & Q_{66}H_2 & Q_{66}H_4 \\ Q_{66}H_3 & Q_{66}H_5 & Q_{66}H_4 & Q_{66}H_6 \\ Q_{66}H_2 & Q_{66}H_4 & Q_{66}H_3 & Q_{66}H_5 \\ Q_{66}H_4 & Q_{66}H_6 & Q_{66}H_5 & Q_{66}H_7 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$[D'] = \sum_{L=1}^{NL} \begin{bmatrix} Q_{56}H_1 & Q_{56}H_3 & Q_{56}H_2 & Q_{56}H_4 \\ Q_{56}H_3 & Q_{56}H_5 & Q_{56}H_4 & Q_{56}H_6 \\ Q_{56}H_2 & Q_{56}H_4 & Q_{56}H_3 & Q_{56}H_5 \\ Q_{56}H_4 & Q_{56}H_6 & Q_{56}H_5 & Q_{56}H_7 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$[E] = \sum_{L=1}^{NL} \begin{bmatrix} Q_{55}H_1 & Q_{55}H_3 & Q_{55}H_2 & Q_{55}H_4 \\ Q_{55}H_3 & Q_{55}H_5 & Q_{55}H_4 & Q_{55}H_6 \\ Q_{55}H_2 & Q_{55}H_4 & Q_{55}H_3 & Q_{55}H_5 \\ Q_{55}H_4 & Q_{55}H_6 & Q_{55}H_5 & Q_{55}H_7 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$[E'] = \sum_{L=1}^{NL} \begin{bmatrix} Q_{56}H_1 & Q_{56}H_3 & Q_{56}H_2 & Q_{56}H_4 \\ Q_{56}H_3 & Q_{56}H_5 & Q_{56}H_4 & Q_{56}H_6 \\ Q_{56}H_2 & Q_{56}H_4 & Q_{56}H_3 & Q_{56}H_5 \\ Q_{56}H_4 & Q_{56}H_6 & Q_{56}H_5 & Q_{56}H_7 \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$X_{4,6} = -A_{7,5}\alpha + D_{1,6}\alpha, \quad X_{4,7} = A_{7,3}\alpha^2 + B_{3,3}\beta^2 + D_{1,5},$$

$$X_{4,8} = A_{7,4}\alpha\beta + B_{3,4}\alpha\beta, \quad X_{4,9} = -A_{7,11}\alpha + D_{1,4}\alpha,$$

$$X_{4,10} = A_{7,9}\alpha^2 + B_{3,7}\beta^2 + D_{1,3}, \quad X_{4,11} = A_{7,10}\alpha\beta + B_{3,8}\alpha\beta,$$

$$X_{4,12} = -A_{7,6}\alpha + D_{1,7}\alpha,$$

$$X_{5,5} = A_{8,8}\beta^2 + B_{3,6}\alpha^2 + E_{1,1}, \quad X_{5,6} = -A_{8,5}\beta + E_{1,6}\beta,$$

$$X_{5,7} = A_{8,3}\alpha\beta + B_{3,3}\alpha\beta, \quad X_{5,8} = A_{8,4}\beta^2 + B_{3,4}\alpha^2 + E_{1,5},$$

$$X_{5,9} = -A_{8,11}\beta + E_{1,4}\beta, \quad X_{5,10} = A_{8,9}\alpha\beta + B_{3,7}\alpha\beta,$$

$$X_{5,11} = A_{8,10}\beta^2 + B_{3,8}\alpha^2 + E_{1,3}, \quad X_{5,12} = -A_{8,6}\beta + E_{1,7}\beta,$$

$$X_{6,6} = D_{3,6}\alpha^2 + E_{3,6}\beta^2 + A_{5,5}, \quad X_{6,7} = D_{3,5}\alpha - A_{5,3}\alpha,$$

$$X_{6,8} = E_{3,5}\beta - A_{5,4}\beta, \quad X_{6,9} = D_{3,4}\alpha^2 + E_{3,4}\beta^2 + A_{5,11},$$

$$X_{6,10} = D_{3,3}\alpha - A_{5,9}\alpha, \quad X_{6,11} = E_{3,3}\beta - A_{5,10}\beta,$$

$$X_{6,12} = D_{3,7}\alpha^2 + E_{3,7}\beta^2 + A_{5,6},$$

$$X_{7,7} = A_{3,3}\alpha^2 + B_{2,3}\beta^2 + 2D_{3,5}, \quad X_{7,8} = A_{3,4}\alpha\beta + B_{2,4}\alpha\beta,$$

$$X_{7,9} = -A_{3,11}\alpha + 2D_{3,4}\alpha, \quad X_{7,10} = A_{3,9}\alpha^2 + B_{2,7}\beta^2 + 2D_{3,3},$$

$$X_{7,11} = A_{3,10}\alpha\beta + B_{2,8}\alpha\beta, \quad X_{7,12} = -A_{3,6}\alpha + 2D_{3,7}\alpha,$$

$$X_{8,8} = A_{4,4}\beta^2 + B_{2,4}\alpha^2 + 2E_{3,5}, \quad X_{8,9} = -A_{4,11}\beta + 2E_{3,4}\beta,$$

$$X_{8,10} = A_{4,9}\alpha\beta + B_{2,7}\alpha\beta, \quad X_{8,11} = A_{4,10}\beta^2 + B_{2,8}\alpha^2 + 2E_{3,3},$$

$$X_{8,12} = -A_{4,6}\beta + 2E_{3,7}\beta,$$

$$X_{9,9} = D_{2,4}\alpha^2 + E_{2,4}\beta^2 + 2A_{11,11}, \quad X_{9,10} = D_{2,3}\alpha - 2A_{11,9}\alpha,$$

$$X_{9,11} = E_{2,3}\beta - 2A_{11,10}\beta,$$

$$X_{9,12} = D_{2,7}\alpha^2 + E_{2,7}\beta^2 + 2A_{11,6},$$

$$X_{10,10} = A_{9,9}\alpha^2 + B_{4,7}\beta^2 + 3D_{2,3},$$

$$X_{10,11} = A_{9,10}\alpha\beta + B_{4,8}\alpha\beta,$$

Appendix D. Coefficients of matrix [X]

$$X_{1,1} = A_{1,1}\alpha^2 + B_{1,1}\beta^2, \quad X_{1,2} = A_{1,2}\alpha\beta + B_{1,2}\alpha\beta,$$

$$X_{1,3} = 0, \quad X_{1,4} = A_{1,7}\alpha^2 + B_{1,5}\beta^2,$$

$$X_{1,5} = A_{1,8}\alpha\beta + B_{1,6}\alpha\beta,$$

$$X_{1,6} = -A_{1,5}\alpha, \quad X_{1,7} = A_{1,3}\alpha^2 + B_{1,3}\beta^2,$$

$$X_{1,8} = A_{1,4}\alpha\beta + B_{1,4}\alpha\beta, \quad X_{1,9} = -A_{1,11}\alpha,$$

$$X_{1,10} = A_{1,9}\alpha^2 + B_{1,7}\beta^2, \quad X_{1,11} = A_{1,10}\alpha\beta + B_{1,8}\alpha\beta,$$

$$X_{1,12} = -A_{1,6}\alpha,$$

$$X_{10,12} = -A_{9,6}\alpha + 3D_{2,7}\alpha,$$

$$X_{11,11} = A_{10,10}\beta^2 + B_{4,8}\alpha^2 + 3E_{2,3},$$

$$X_{11,12} = -A_{10,6}\beta + 3E_{2,7}\beta,$$

$$X_{12,12} = D_{2,4}\alpha^2 + E_{4,7}\beta^2 + 3A_{6,6}$$

$$\text{and } X_{i,j} = X_{j,i} \quad (i, j = 1, 12).$$

References

- [1] Reissner E, Stavsky Y. Bending and stretching of certain types of heterogeneous anisotropic elastic plates. *ASME J Appl Mech* 1961;28:402–28.
- [2] Timoshenko SP, Woinowsky-Krieger S. *Theory of plates and shells*. New York: Mc-Graw Hill; 1959.
- [3] Szilard R. *Theory and analysis of plates (classical and numerical methods)*. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall; 1974.
- [4] Reissner E. The effect of transverse shear deformation on the bending of elastic plates. *ASME J Appl Mech* 1945;12(2): 69–77.
- [5] Mindlin RD. Influence of rotary inertia and shear on flexural motions of isotropic, elastic plates. *ASME J Appl Mech* 1951; 18:31–8.
- [6] Hildebrand FB, Reissner E, Thomas GB. Note on the foundations of the theory of small displacements of orthotropic shells. *NACA TN-1833*, 1949.
- [7] Nelson RB, Lorch DR. A refined theory for laminated orthotropic plates. *ASME J Appl Mech* 1974;41:177–83.
- [8] Librescu L. *Elastostatics and kinematics of anisotropic and heterogeneous shell type structures*. The Netherlands: Noordhoff; 1975.
- [9] Lo KH, Christensen RM, Wu EM. A higher order theory of plate deformation, Part 1: Homogeneous plates. *ASME J Appl Mech* 1977a;44(4):663–8.
- [10] Lo KH, Christensen RM, Wu EM. A higher order theory of plate deformation, Part 2: Laminated plates. *ASME J Appl Mech* 1977b;44(4):669–76.
- [11] Levinson M. An accurate simple theory of the statics and dynamics of elastic plates. *Mech Res Commun* 1980;7:343.
- [12] Murthy MVV. An improved transverse shear deformation theory for laminated anisotropic plates. *NASA Technical Paper-1903*, 1981.
- [13] Whitney JM, Pagano NJ. Shear deformation in heterogeneous anisotropic plates. *ASME J Appl Mech* 1970;37(4):1031–6.
- [14] Kant T. Numerical analysis of thick plates. *Comput Meth Appl Mech Eng* 1982;31:1–18.
- [15] Reddy JN. A simple higher order theory for laminated composite plates. *ASME J Appl Mech* 1984;51:745–52.
- [16] Senthilnathan NR, Lim KH, Lee KH, Chow ST. Buckling of shear deformable plates. *AIAA J* 1987;25(9):1268–71.
- [17] Kant T, Owen DRJ, Zienkiewicz OC. A refined higher order C^0 plate bending element. *Comput Struct* 1982;15:177–83.
- [18] Pandya BN, Kant T. A consistent refined theory for flexure of a symmetric laminate. *Mech Res Commun* 1987;14:107–13.
- [19] Pandya BN, Kant T. Higher order shear deformable theories for flexure of sandwich plates – finite element evaluations. *Int J Solids Struct* 1988a;24(12):1267–86.
- [20] Pandya BN, Kant T. Flexure analysis of laminated composites using refined higher order C^0 plate bending elements. *Comput Meth Appl Mech Eng* 1988b;66:173–98.
- [21] Pandya BN, Kant T. A refined higher order generally orthotropic C^0 plate bending element. *Comput Struct* 1988c;28:119–33.
- [22] Pandya BN, Kant T. Finite element stress analysis of laminated composite plates using higher order displacement model. *Compos Sci Technol* 1988d;32:137–55.
- [23] Kant T, Manjunatha BS. An unsymmetric FRC laminate C^0 finite element model with 12 degrees of freedom per node. *Eng Comput* 1988;5(3):300–8.
- [24] Kant T, Manjunatha BS. On accurate estimation of transverse stresses in multilayer laminates. *Comput Struct* 1994;50(3): 351–65.
- [25] Manjunatha BS, Kant T. A comparison of 9 and 16 node quadrilateral elements based on higher order laminate theories for estimation of transverse stresses. *J Reinforced Plastics Compos* 1992;11(9):968–1002.
- [26] Rohwer K. Application of higher order theories to the bending analysis of layered composite plates. *Int J Solids Struct* 1992; 29(1):105–19.
- [27] Noor AK, Burton WS. Assessment of shear deformation theories for multilayered composite plates. *Appl Mech Rev* 1989;42(1): 1–13.
- [28] Pagano NJ. Exact solutions for rectangular bidirectional composites and sandwich plates. *J Compos Mater* 1970; 4(1):20–34.
- [29] Reddy JN. *Energy and variational methods in applied mechanics*. New York: Wiley; 1984.
- [30] Reddy JN. *Mechanics of laminated composite plates, theory and analysis*. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press; 1996.