ANALYSIS OF FLUID-STRUCTURE INTERACTIONS. A DIRECT SYMMETRIC COUPLED FORMULATION BASED ON THE FLUID VELOCITY POTENTIAL

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Abstract—We present a symmetric finite element method for solving fluid-structure interaction problems. The formulation uses velocity potentials and a hydrostatic pressure as unknowns in each fluid region, and displacements as unknowns in the solid. The hydrostatic pressure is an unknown variable at only one node per fluid region. A C matrix (multiplied by time derivatives of the nodal variables, but not a damping matrix) enforces the coupling between the variables. The resulting matrix equations are banded and symmetric, making them easy to incorporate in standard displacement-based finite element codes. Several test cases indicate that this approach works well for static, transient, and frequency analyses.

1. INTRODUCTION

Fluid-structure interactions significantly affect the response of nuclear reactor components, marine platforms, ships, turbines, dams, and piping systems. As a result, much effort has gone into the development of general finite element methods for fluid-structure systems. We restrict ourselves here to fluids modeled as inviscid and irrotational, with no gravity effects. These fluids are assumed to exist in bounded domains and undergo only small motions.

Previously[1], we attempted to solve four categories of fluid-structure interaction problems using displacements as variables in the fluid and the solid (see Fig. 1). We encountered fundamental difficulties modeling solids vibrating in nearly incompressible fluids with this formulation. (See Ref. [1] for a full discussion).

In this paper, we use velocity potentials (ϕ) as the nodal variables in the fluid, and introduce a hydrostatic pressure variable (P_0) measured at only one node in each fluid region. Displacements (U)remain the nodal variables in the solid. A C matrix (not damping) couples the fluid to the solid, and links the pressure to the velocity potential in a fluid region. We will show that this $\phi - U - P_0$ method works well for each class of fluid-structure interaction problems attempted in our first paper, including solids vibrating in nearly incompressible fluids. In addition, the ϕ -U- P_0 method offers symmetry, easy incorporation into displacement-based finite element programs, and reduced fluid degrees of freedom (compared with the displacement method).

Everstine introduced the ϕ -U portion of the formulation for transient wave propagation problems[2-5]. Static problems cannot be solved with the ϕ -U model alone.

Most finite element analysts use one of two approaches for these types of fluid-structure interaction problems. Zienkiewicz and Newton[6] use pressure as the unknown in the fluid and displacements in the solid, which yields unsymmetric matrices. Other researchers, including Daniel[7, 8], Petyt and Lim[9], Muller[10], and Craggs[11] use similar formulations. Many workers have used displacements as the nodal variable in both the solid and the fluid. Among these are Belytschko [e.g. Refs. 12-14], Wilson[15, 16], Bathe and Hahn[17], and Hamdi, Ousset, and Verchery[18]. In a different approach, Morand and Ohayon[19] have investigated mixed symmetric variational formulations. Zienkiewicz and Bettess[20] and Belytschko[21] survey work in this field.

2. FINITE ELEMENT FORMULATION

2.1 Virtual work statement of problem

Figure 2 shows the general system under consideration. The solid extends throughout the region S, and region F contains the fluid. Surface I defines the fluid-structure interface. On boundary B all displacements and velocities are zero.

In the solid, the variational indicator is[22]

$$\Pi = \int \left[\frac{1}{2} \int \mathbf{\epsilon}^T \mathbf{C}_s \mathbf{\epsilon} \, dS - \frac{1}{2} \int \rho \dot{\mathbf{u}}^T \dot{\mathbf{u}} \, dS - \int \mathbf{u}^{IT} \mathbf{f}^I \, dI \right] dt, \quad (1)$$

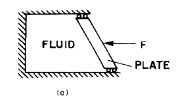
where ε = strain tensor, \mathbf{C}_s = material stress-strain matrix, ρ = density of solid, \mathbf{u} = displacement vector, \mathbf{f}' = surface (interface) force vector, and t = time. Setting variations on Π to zero gives the principle of virtual displacements

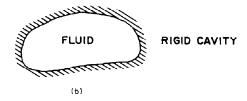
$$\int \overline{\mathbf{\epsilon}}^T \mathbf{C}_s \mathbf{\epsilon} \, dS + \int \rho \overline{\mathbf{u}}^T \, \ddot{\mathbf{u}} \, dS = \int \overline{\mathbf{u}}^{IT} \mathbf{f}^I \, dI, \quad (2)$$

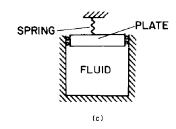
where the bar over a variable denotes "virtual".

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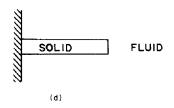


Fig. 1. Four categories of fluid-structure interaction problems. (a) Category 1: Static problems. (b) Category 2: Natural frequencies of fluid in rigid cavities. (c) Category 3: Fluid vibrating in flexible boundaries. (d) Category 4: Structures vibrating in fluids.

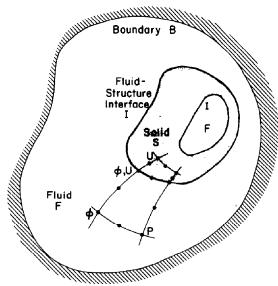


Fig. 2. Fluid-structure problem geometry.

We can separate surface forces into fluid-caused (\mathbf{f}^{E}) and additionally applied forces (\mathbf{f}^{E}) to give

$$\int \overline{\mathbf{\epsilon}}^{T} \mathbf{C}_{s} \mathbf{\epsilon} dS + \int \rho \overline{\mathbf{u}}^{T} \ddot{\mathbf{u}} dS$$

$$= \int \overline{\mathbf{u}}^{II} \mathbf{f}^{L} dI + \int \overline{\mathbf{u}}^{II} \mathbf{f}^{F} dI. \quad (3)$$

For the compressible, inviscid fluid which experiences only small displacements[23], the variational indicator is

$$\Pi = \int \left[\frac{1}{2} \int \frac{1}{\beta} (P_0 - \rho_F \dot{\Phi})^2 dF \right]$$

$$- \frac{1}{2} \int \rho_F \nabla \Phi \cdot \nabla \Phi dF$$

$$\Pi$$

$$- \int (P_0 - \rho_F \dot{\Phi}^I) u_N dI dt, \qquad (4)$$

where ρ_F = fluid density, ϕ = velocity potential in the fluid, β = bulk modulus of fluid, P_0 = hydrostatic pressure in the fluid, and u_N = externally imposed displacement, normal to the fluid boundary and positive acting into the fluid. Notice that the pressure at any point in the fluid is the sum of the hydrostatic pressure and the pressure due to velocity potentials ($-\rho_F\dot{\phi}$). As a result, term I represents the compression energy in the fluid volume. Term II is the kinetic energy due to fluid motion. Term III contains the "potential of the external loads", in this case the integral over area of pressure times displacement.

Invoking the stationarity of II with respect to ϕ and P_0 (not u_N) gives the "principle of virtual potentials" for the fluid

$$\int \frac{1}{\beta} \overline{P}_0 P_0 \, dF - \int \frac{\rho_F}{\beta} \overline{P}_0 \dot{\Phi} \, dF + \int \frac{\rho_F}{\beta} \overline{\Phi} \dot{P}_0 \, dF
- \int \frac{\rho_F^2}{\beta} \overline{\Phi} \ddot{\Phi} \, dF - \int \rho_F \nabla \overline{\Phi} \cdot \nabla \Phi \, dF = \int \overline{P}_0 u_N \, dI
+ \int \rho_F \overline{\Phi}' \dot{u}_N \, dI.$$
(5)

We couple the two virtual work expressions at the common interface I. An inviscid fluid exerts only pressure forces on the solid

$$\mathbf{f}^F = -\mathbf{n}(P_0 - \rho_F \dot{\Phi}^I),$$
 where

$$\mathbf{n}^T = [n_x \ n_y \ n_z]$$

= unit outward normal from solid.

Equation (3) becomes

$$\int \overline{\mathbf{\epsilon}}^{T} \mathbf{C}_{s} \, \mathbf{\epsilon} \, dS + \int \rho \overline{\mathbf{u}}^{T} \, \ddot{\mathbf{u}} \, dS = \int \overline{\mathbf{u}}^{IT} \, \mathbf{f}^{E} \, dI$$
$$- \int \overline{\mathbf{u}}^{IT} \, \mathbf{n} P_{0} \, dI + \int \rho_{F} \overline{\mathbf{u}}^{IT} \, \mathbf{n} \, \dot{\phi}^{I} \, dI. \quad (7)$$

The displacement in the fluid must match the displacement in the solid, hence

$$u_N = \mathbf{n}^T \mathbf{u}^I, \tag{8}$$

which means

$$\int \frac{1}{\beta} \overline{P}_0 P_0 \, dF - \int \frac{\rho_F}{\beta} \overline{P}_0 \dot{\phi} \, dF + \int \frac{\rho_F}{\beta} \overline{\phi} \dot{P}_0 \, dF
- \int \frac{\rho_F^2}{\beta} \overline{\phi} \, \ddot{\phi} \, dF - \int \rho_F \nabla \overline{\phi} \cdot \nabla \phi \, dF = \int \overline{P}_0 \mathbf{n}^T \mathbf{u}^I \, dI
+ \int \rho_F \overline{\phi}^I \mathbf{n}^T \dot{\mathbf{u}}^I \, dI.$$
(9)

Equations (7) and (9) form a complete virtual work statement of the fluid-structure interaction problem.

2.2 Finite element discretization

We discretize the virtual work expressions using standard isoparametric interpolation functions[22]. Take

$$x = \mathbf{h} \mathbf{x},$$
 (10)
 $\mathbf{h} = [h_1 \ h_2 \ h_3 \dots h_N],$
 $\mathbf{x}^T = [x_1 \ x_2 \ x_3 \dots x_N],$

where x = x coordinate of a point within an element, h_i = interpolation function for node i, $x_i = x$ coordinate of node i, and N = number of nodes per finite element. Similarly,

$$y = \mathbf{h} \, \mathbf{y},\tag{11}$$

$$z = \mathbf{h} \ \mathbf{z}. \tag{12}$$

For each solid element,

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{H} \, \mathbf{U}, \tag{13}$$

$$\mathbf{H} = \begin{bmatrix} h_1 & 0 & 0 & h_2 & 0 & 0 & h_3 & 0 & 0 & \dots & h_N & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & h_1 & 0 & 0 & h_2 & 0 & 0 & h_3 & 0 & \dots & 0 & h_N & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & h_1 & 0 & 0 & h_2 & 0 & 0 & h_3 & \dots & 0 & 0 & h_N \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\mathbf{U}^T = [u_1 \ v_1 \ w_1 \ u_2 \ v_2 \ w_2 \ u_3 \ v_3 \ w_3 \dots u_N \ v_N \ w_N].$$

where $u_i = x$ -direction displacement of node i, $v_i = y$ -direction displacement of node i, and $w_i = z$ -direction displacement of node i. For fluid elements.

$$\phi = \mathbf{h} \, \phi, \tag{14}$$

$$\phi^T = [\phi_1 \, \phi_2 \, \phi_3 \dots \phi_N],$$

or

where ϕ_i = velocity potential at node *i*.

Now we define matrices for each finite element. The mass and stiffness matrices for the solid K_{SS} and M_{SS} take their usual form. The fluid matrices become (as in heat transfer analysis[22])

$$\mathbf{M}_{FF} = \int \frac{\mathbf{\rho}_F^2}{\mathbf{\beta}} \, \mathbf{h}^T \mathbf{h} \, \mathrm{d}f, \qquad (15)$$

$$\mathbf{K}_{FF} = \int \rho_F \mathbf{D}^T \mathbf{D} \, \mathrm{d}f, \qquad (16)$$

where df denotes integration over the fluid element domain (we now use lower case letters to denote element integrations) and where

$$\mathbf{D} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial h_1}{\partial x} \frac{\partial h_2}{\partial x} \frac{\partial h_3}{\partial x} & \cdots & \frac{\partial h_N}{\partial x} \\ \frac{\partial h_1}{\partial y} \frac{\partial h_2}{\partial y} \frac{\partial h_3}{\partial y} & \cdots & \frac{\partial h_N}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial h_1}{\partial z} \frac{\partial h_2}{\partial z} \frac{\partial h_3}{\partial z} & \cdots & \frac{\partial h_N}{\partial z} \end{bmatrix}$$

The fluid-structure coupling matrix for the fluid is

$$\mathbf{C}_{FS} = -\int \rho_F \mathbf{a}^T \mathbf{b} \, \mathrm{d}i, \qquad (17)$$

where $\mathbf{a} = [h_1 \ h_2 \dots h_M]$, $\mathbf{b} = [h_1 n_x h_1 n_y h_1 n_z h_2 n_x h_2 n_y h_2 n_z \dots h_M n_x h_M n_y h_M n_z]$, and M = number of nodes per fluid-structure interface element. The fluid-structure coupling matrix for the solid is \mathbf{C}_{FS}^T . We also have matrices corresponding to P_0 (one node per fluid region). They are

$$\mathbf{K}_{PP} = -\int \frac{1}{\beta} \, \mathrm{d}f, \qquad (18)$$

$$\mathbf{K}_{PS} = \int \mathbf{b} \, \mathrm{d}i, \tag{19}$$

$$\mathbf{C}_{PF} = \int \frac{\rho_F}{\beta} \, \mathbf{h} \, \, \mathrm{d}f. \tag{20}$$

We evaluate \mathbf{K}_{SS} and \mathbf{M}_{SS} for solid elements. \mathbf{M}_{FF} , \mathbf{K}_{FF} , \mathbf{K}_{PP} , and \mathbf{C}_{PF} are calculated for fluid elements. "Fluid-structure interface elements" enforce the coupling between the fluid and solid regions through the \mathbf{C}_{FS} and \mathbf{K}_{PS} matrices. (If we omit the fluid-structure interface elements, the solid will behave as if there is no fluid and the fluid will act as though the solid is rigid.)

We sum over all element matrices to form global matrices. Changing the sign on the P_0 equations gives

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{M}_{SS} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & -\mathbf{M}_{FF} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \ddot{\mathbf{U}} \\ \dot{\mathbf{\phi}} \\ \ddot{\mathbf{P}}_{0} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{C}_{FS}^{T} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{C}_{FS} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{C}_{PF}^{T} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{C}_{PF} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{U}} \\ \dot{\mathbf{\phi}} \\ \dot{\mathbf{P}}_{0} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{K}_{SS} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{K}_{PS}^{T} \\ \mathbf{0} & -\mathbf{K}_{FF} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{K}_{PS} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{K}_{PP} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{U} \\ \mathbf{\phi} \\ \mathbf{P}_{0} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{R}_{S} \\ \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}$$
(21)

 $\mathbf{M} \ddot{\mathbf{X}} + \mathbf{C}\dot{\mathbf{X}} + \mathbf{K}\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{R}, \tag{22}$

where \mathbf{R}_{S} represents external loads on the solid computed as usual.

Several features make the implementation of this method relatively direct. Figure 2 shows a schematic mesh discretization. The eight-node solid elements give \mathbf{K}_{SS} and \mathbf{M}_{SS} , the eight-node fluid elements give \mathbf{K}_{FF} , \mathbf{M}_{FF} , \mathbf{K}_{PP} , and \mathbf{C}_{PF} , and finally \mathbf{K}_{PS} and \mathbf{C}_{FS} correspond only to the three-node fluid-structure interface elements. Assigning degrees of freedom for ϕ and U in sequence at an interface node produces a tightly banded C matrix.

We have implemented the formulation given above in ADINA for lumped or consistent mass discretization. In the example solutions considered later we have always used a consistent mass matrix.

2.3 Transient analysis

The transient solution of a fluid-structure problem is obtained by numerically integrating eqn (21). We have implemented the fluid-structure analysis capability in ADINA for use with the implicit Newmark or Wilson- θ time integration schemes.

Our experience is that the time step Δt can largely be selected as usual when employing the implicit integration methods[22]. However, a detailed accuracy analysis of various time integration methods applied to eqn (21) would be valuable. This study should also include the effect of the differences in magnitude of the matrix elements in the coefficient matrices as regards round-off errors in the solution of the equations without pivoting. Our experiences are that in practice these errors are usually small but there can be situations when specific care must be taken to number the equations in an appropriate order or an equation solver with a pivoting strategy must be employed.

2.4 Frequency analysis

We expect all of the eigenvalues of the fluidstructure system to be real, since physically there is no dissipation in the system. By definition $\dot{\mathbf{U}} = \nabla \phi$, so we assume that $\mathbf{U} = \tilde{\mathbf{U}} \sin(\omega t)$ and $\phi = \tilde{\boldsymbol{\Phi}} \cos(\omega t)$. Since pressure is $P_0 - \rho_F \dot{\phi}$ we take $\mathbf{P}_0 = \tilde{\mathbf{P}} \sin(\omega t)$ to give

$$\mathbf{K}_{SS}\tilde{\mathbf{U}}\sin(\omega t) + \mathbf{K}_{PS}^{T}\tilde{\mathbf{P}}\sin(\omega t) - \omega \mathbf{C}_{FS}^{T}\tilde{\mathbf{\Phi}}\sin(\omega t) - \omega^{2}\mathbf{M}_{SS}\tilde{\mathbf{U}}\sin(\omega t) = \mathbf{0}. \quad (23)$$

$$-\mathbf{K}_{FF}\tilde{\mathbf{\Phi}}\cos(\omega t) + \omega \mathbf{C}_{FS}\tilde{\mathbf{U}}\cos(\omega t) + \omega \mathbf{C}_{PF}^{T}\tilde{\mathbf{P}}$$

$$\times \cos(\omega t) + \omega^{2}\mathbf{M}_{FF}\tilde{\mathbf{\Phi}}\cos(\omega t) = \mathbf{0}. \quad (24)$$

$$\mathbf{K}_{PS}\tilde{\mathbf{U}}\sin(\omega t) + \mathbf{K}_{PP}\tilde{\mathbf{P}}\sin(\omega t)$$

$$-\omega C_{PF} \tilde{\Phi} \sin \omega t = 0. \quad (25)$$

Changing the sign on the fluid equation (24) gives

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{K}_{SS} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{K}_{PS}^{T} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{K}_{FF} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{K}_{PS} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{K}_{PP} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{\mathbf{U}} \\ \tilde{\mathbf{\Phi}} \\ \tilde{\mathbf{P}} \end{bmatrix} - \omega \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{C}_{FS}^{T} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{C}_{FS} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{C}_{PF}^{T} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{C}_{PF} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{\mathbf{U}} \\ \tilde{\mathbf{\Phi}} \\ \tilde{\mathbf{P}} \end{bmatrix} - \omega^{2} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{M}_{SS} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{M}_{FF} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{\mathbf{U}} \\ \tilde{\mathbf{\Phi}} \\ \tilde{\mathbf{P}} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{0}. \quad (26)$$

We now have a real symmetric eigenproblem of the form

$$\mathbf{K}' \ \tilde{\mathbf{X}} - \omega \ \mathbf{C}' \ \tilde{\mathbf{X}} - \omega^2 \ \mathbf{M}' \ \tilde{\mathbf{X}} = \mathbf{0}. \tag{27}$$

To solve this eigenproblem, we could have researched a modification of the subspace iteration method or the determinant search method[22].

We established three properties (see Appendix A) for this eigenproblem which enabled us to modify the standard determinant search method in ADINA[22]. First, all of the eigenvalues ω^2 are real and greater than or equal to zero. Second, if we factorize

$$K^* = L D L' = K' - \mu C' - \mu^2 M',$$
 (28)

where L is a lower triangular matrix with ones on its diagonal and D is a diagonal matrix, then the number of negative elements in D is equal to the number of eigenvalues below μ^2 plus the number of variables in \tilde{P} . (Note that the number of \tilde{P} variables is equal to the number of negative diagonal elements in K'.) Third, the eigenvectors \tilde{X}_i satisfy the orthogonality relation

$$0 = \tilde{\mathbf{X}}_{i}^{T} \mathbf{C}' \tilde{\mathbf{X}}_{i} + (\omega_{i} + \omega_{i}) \tilde{\mathbf{X}}_{i}^{T} \mathbf{M}' \tilde{\mathbf{X}}_{i}; \qquad i \neq j. \quad (29)$$

Hence, the procedure for the determinant search solution contains the following steps:

- (1) Perform secant iteration on p(λ) = det[K' √λC' λM'] until we are near a root λ_i (= ω_i²). (i) Estimate λ_i using the secant formula.
 (ii) Form K* = L D L^T at that estimate. (iii) Count the negative elements in D to find the number of eigenvalues below the estimate for λ_i.
- (2) Perform an inverse iteration on $\mathbf{K}^*\tilde{\mathbf{X}} = (\omega^2 \lambda) (f_{\epsilon}\mathbf{C}'\tilde{\mathbf{X}} + \mathbf{M}'\tilde{\mathbf{X}})$, where λ is the estimate for λ_i and $f_{\epsilon} = (\omega \sqrt{\lambda})/(\omega^2 \lambda)$, to simultaneously identify a solution for ω and $\tilde{\mathbf{X}}$. (i) Update f_{ϵ} in each iteration.
- (3) Orthogonalize (approximately) the current eigenvector guess to previously calculated eigenvectors. (i) Use the orthogonality relation (29), with the current guess for ω_i , with one eigenvector at a time. (ii) Orthogonalize to (up to) last seven eigenvectors. (iii) Operate on most recently found eigenvector last.

This iteration procedure is not substantially different from the determinant search procedure without a C matrix[22]. All operations are in real arithmetic.

3. OLD EXAMPLE PROBLEMS

In our previous paper[1] we defined four categories of fluid-structure interaction problems (review Fig. 1). As mentioned previously, we were able to solve problems from categories 1, 2, and 3, but we were unable to solve category 4 problems (solids vibrating in incompressible fluids). In this

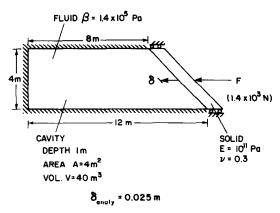


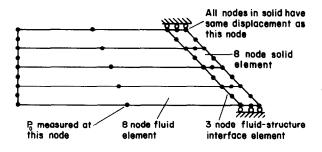
Fig. 3. Tilted piston-container test case.

section we attempt to solve problems from each category with the ϕ -U- P_0 formulation.

Figure 3 shows the tilted piston-container test case from category 1 (static analyses). Figure 4 shows the mesh and results. The ϕ -U- P_0 formulation solution is as accurate as the displacement-based formulation without the rotation penalty. Displacement-based elements including the rotation penalty require many more elements for an accurate solution. Since the formulation is derived from a velocity potential, the ϕ -U- P_0 solution is inherently irrotational.

Figures 5 and 6 show a test case from category 2, the tall water column problem. Since the walls are rigid and the pressure at the free surface is zero, the ϕ -U- P_0 formulation reduces to an ordinary acoustic fluid formulation (ϕ only). Table 1 shows the excellent results obtained. (We used this mesh in our earlier paper[1]. We could have chosen a coarser mesh.)

Category 3 involved fluids in flexible boundaries, and Fig. 7 shows the piston-container test problem. Figure 8 shows the finite element model.



Method	8
φ-U-P _o (shown above)	0.025
Displacements without rotation penalty	0.025
Displacements with rotation penalty	0.016

Fig. 4. Tilted piston-container mesh and results.

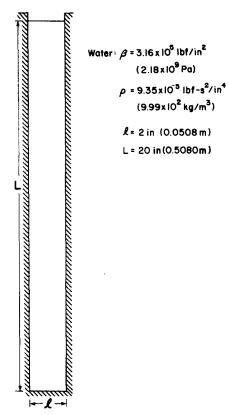


Fig. 5. Tall water column problem.

Table 2 summarizes the results, which are again excellent.

The category 4 problem is the most significant, since we could not solve it adequately using displacement-based elements. Figures 9 and 10 show the physical problem (the ellipse-on-spring problem) and the finite element discretization. The analytical first frequency of the system is 28.2 rad/sec. Using 60 displacement-based fluid elements with full integration, we found a predicted frequency of over 3000 rad/sec. With the ϕ -U- P_0 formulation and full integration, we calculated a frequency of 27.8 rad/sec. We suspect that the finite element frequency is lower than the analytical value because the ellipse shape is not modeled exactly. Figure 11 shows calculated frequencies for several small adjustments to the ellipse shape, which seem to indicate that the ellipse shape influences the predicted frequency enough to explain the 2% underestimate.

Table 1. Analytical and finite element solutions to natural frequencies of tall water column

Mode number	Analytical solution (rad/sec)	Finite element solution (rad/sec)
1	4 566	4 567
2	13 698	13 730
3	22 830	22 980

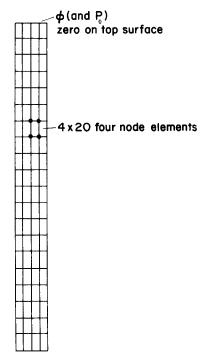


Fig. 6. Finite element mesh used for tall water column.

4. NEW EXAMPLE PROBLEMS

4.1 Transient analysis

First we solved a simple one-dimensional problem using the displacement formulation and the ϕ -U- P_0 formulation. Figure 12 shows the test case, in which a piston slowly compresses a column of fluid, and also shows the 10-element models. As shown in Fig. 13, the results compare favorably. (All results were obtained using Newmark's method with $\delta = 0.5$ and $\alpha = 0.25$, the trapezoidal rule[22].)

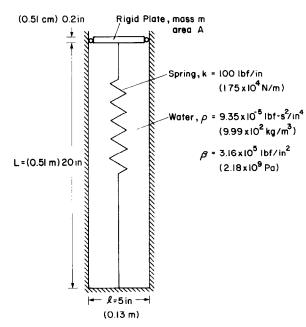


Fig. 7. Piston-container problem.

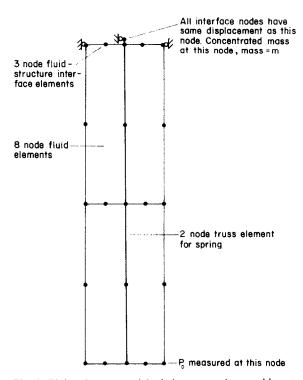


Fig. 8. Finite element model of piston-container problem.

The plate-on-spring in box (Fig. 14) is similar to the piston-container problem solved previously. To start the analysis, we impose a uniform initial displacement on the solid and a corresponding pressure change in P_0 . These initial conditions cause

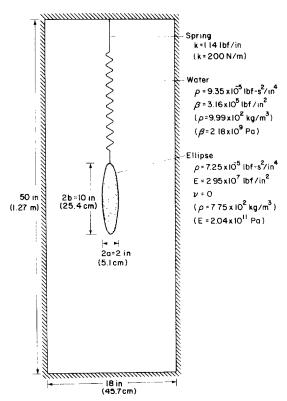


Fig. 9. Ellipse-on-spring problem.

Piston mass	Frequency in vacuum (rad/sec)	Analytical frequency in water (rad/sec)	Finite element frequency in water (rad/sec)
1.0	10	281	281
0.1	31.6	876	876
0.01	100	2441	2441
0.001	316	4130	4131

Table 2. Analytical and finite element solutions to piston-container problem

the system to vibrate at a frequency near the fundamental frequency of the system. Figure 14 shows the system and finite element model, while Fig. 15 shows the finite element solution.

In the circle-on-spring in box problem (Fig. 16) the fluid behaves nearly incompressibly. If we impose an initial displacement on the circle, the system will vibrate at approximately its fundamental natural frequency. We could not adequately solve this type of transient problem using displacement-based fluid finite elements. Figure 17 shows the transient solution for this problem using the ϕ -U- P_0 formulation.

4.2 Frequency analysis

4.2.1 Convergence. Our finite element frequency results for the ϕ -U- P_0 formulation generally converge from above. Table 3 shows results for various meshes for the plate-on-spring in box problem. Table 4 shows results for the circle-on-spring

3 node fluid-structure interface elements

2 onde truss for spring rigid solid, mass concentrated here

Fig. 10. Mesh used to model ellipse-on-spring.

in box problem. In each case convergence is quite

4.2.2 Plate in water. Sundqvist[24] modeled a 3D plate in water using displacement-based fluid finite elements, and compared finite element frequencies with experimental data. Figure 18 shows the physical problem. Table 5 gives experimental results for natural frequencies of the plate in air and water (from Sundqvist).

Following Sundqvist, we modeled one quarter of the physical domain with three-dimensional finite elements. We used 20-node continuum elements in both the fluid and the solid. Full integration was used throughout. Figures 19 and 20 show the plate in vacuum and plate in water meshes.

For the plate in vacuum, we calculated the frequencies shown in Table 6. All of the finite element

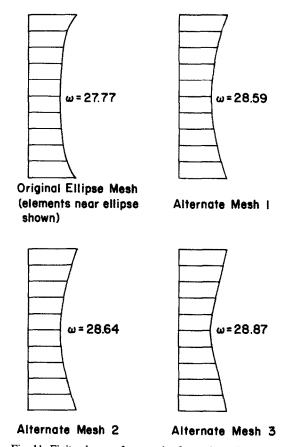


Fig. 11. Finite element frequencies for various ellipse-like boundaries (analytical frequency 28.2).

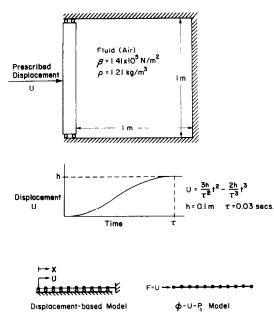


Fig. 12. Transient column compression test case.

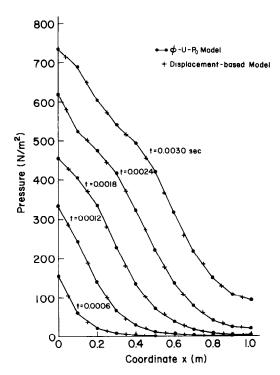
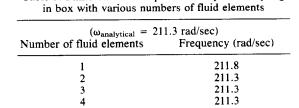
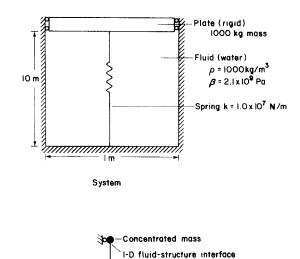
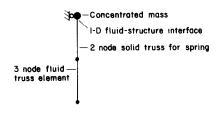


Fig. 13. Results for transient column compression test case.

Table 3. Finite element frequencies for plate-on-spring







Finite Element Model

Fig. 14. System and finite element model for plate-onspring in box.

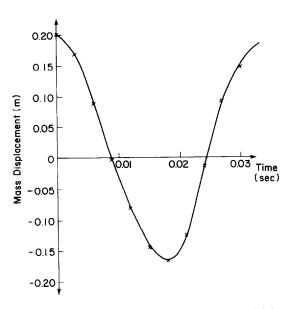
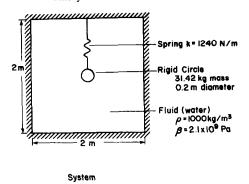


Fig. 15. Transient response of finite element model for plate-on-spring in box (analytical period 0.030 sec).

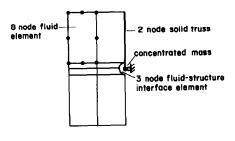
Table 4. Finite element frequencies for circle-on-spring in box with various numbers of fluid elements

$(\omega_{analytical} = 4 \label{eq:omega}$ Number of fluid elements	4.44 rad/sec) Frequency (rad/sec)	
8	4.89	
32	4.57	
128	4.45	



20 node solid element

Fig. 19. Finite element mesh for 3D plate in vacuum.



Finite Element Model

Fig. 16. System and finite element model for circle-onspring in box.

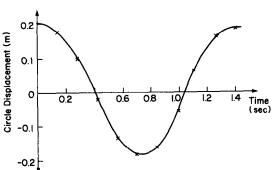
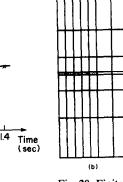
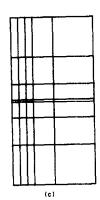


Fig. 17. Transient response of finite element model for circle-on-spring in box (analytical period 1.42 sec).





20 node solid element

20 node fluid element

Fig. 20. Finite element mesh for 3D plate in water. (a) Top view; (b) front view; (c) side view.

Solid

E = $2.068 \times 10^{11} \text{ Pa}$ $\rho = 7.797 \times 10^3 \text{ kg/m}^3$ $\nu = 0.3$ Fluid (water) $\beta = 2.038 \times 10^9 \text{ Pa}$ $\rho = 0.997 \times 10^3 \text{ kg/m}^3$ 0.270 m

Fig. 18. Sundqvist's plate.

results are between 2.1% and 2.8% higher than the experimental results.

Ideally, the box around the fluid should be two or three characteristic lengths away from the solid, while at the same time the lowest natural frequency of the fluid alone in the box should be two or three times the important fluid-structure frequencies. We

Table 5. Experimental data for frequencies of free plate in air and water [Ref. 24]

Frequencies in air (Hz)	Frequencies in water (Hz)
641	497
712	575
1577	1293
1766	1408
2139	17 5 8

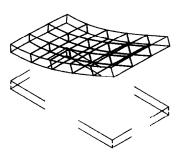
Table 6. Finite element and experimental data for plate in vacuum

Finite element frequency (Hz)	Experimental frequency (Hz)	Difference (percent)
656	641	2.3
727	712	2.1
1618	1577	2.6
1815	1766	2.8
2192	2139	2.5

cannot meet both these criteria simultaneously for this problem. Instead we chose a $0.570 \times 0.570 \times 0.570$ meter box which is one characteristic length away from the solid and has a lowest fluid frequency of 1255 Hz. We expect to find purely fluid frequencies along with the fluid-structure interaction frequencies.

Using symmetric-symmetric boundary conditions we found the finite element frequencies listed in Fig. 21. Figure 21 also shows the first mode shape of the submerged plate. The two plate frequencies are 3.9% and 4.9% high showing good agreement with the experimental data. The first symmetric-symmetric fluid frequency lies within 1% of the analytical value for the fluid with no plate.

Some important differences exist between our model and Sundqvist's model. We used continuum elements to model the plate, while Sundqvist used nine-node plate/shell elements. The ϕ -U- P_0 model contains no unphysical solutions, whereas Sundqvist encountered hundreds of zero modes and some additional spurious modes in the range of in-



MODE SHAPE CORRESPONDING TO 516.3 HZ

SYMMETRIC-SYMMETRIC PLATE IN WATER

F.E. FREQ. (Hz)	EXP. FREQ. (Hz)	DIFF. (%)
٥	(plate rigid body mode)	
516.3	497	3.9
1243	fluid mode, 1255	-1.0
1844	1758	4.9

Fig. 21. Finite element results for 3D plate in water.

Table 7. Comparison of data for ϕ -U- P_0 model and Sundqvist displacement-based model

	Sundqvist	ρ - U - P_0
Number of equations	3 947	1 759
Number of matrix elements	1 034 494	366 270
Maximum half-bandwidth	2 660	1 759
Mean half-bandwidth	263	209

terest. Also, Sundqvist had to very judiciously select sliding interfaces in the fluid, while we could model the system directly using our ϕ -U- P_0 formulation.

Table 7 compares the number of degrees of freedom, bandwidth, etc. in the ϕ -U- P_0 formulation model with the displacement-based model of Sundqvist. (Since Sundqvist used eight-node elements in the fluid, his bandwidth is comparable to ours even though he used more than twice as many equations.) Clearly we can obtain good results with much less computational effort using the ϕ -U- P_0 formulation.

5. CONCLUDING REMARKS

The ϕ -U- P_0 formulation provides an excellent alternative to displacement-based fluid finite elements. The approach is easy to implement in displacement-based finite element programs, and requires fewer degrees of freedom in the fluid. Static cases give good results with coarse meshes. Transient analyses involve relatively simple extensions of known techniques. Frequency solutions require more modifications, but using the real symmetric properties of the formulation (and the limited fluid degrees of freedom) reduces computing costs considerably.

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APPENDIX A

Three properties of our particular eigenproblem were summarized in Sec. 2.4 of this paper. Here we discuss each property in more detail.

A.1. The eigenvalues are real and greater than or equal to zero

Suppose we have a solution $\hat{\mathbf{X}}$ to the eigenproblem

$$\mathbf{K}'\tilde{\mathbf{X}} - \omega \mathbf{C}'\tilde{\mathbf{X}} - \omega^2 \mathbf{M}'\tilde{\mathbf{X}} = \mathbf{0}, \tag{27}$$

then it must be true that

$$\tilde{\mathbf{X}}^T \mathbf{K}' \tilde{\mathbf{X}} - \boldsymbol{\omega} \, \tilde{\mathbf{X}}^T \mathbf{C}' \tilde{\mathbf{X}} - \boldsymbol{\omega}^2 \tilde{\mathbf{X}}^T \mathbf{M}' \tilde{\mathbf{X}} = 0. \tag{30}$$

Solving for ω gives

$$\omega = \frac{b \pm \sqrt{b^2 + 4ac}}{-2c},\tag{31}$$

where

$$a = \tilde{\mathbf{X}}^T \mathbf{K}' \tilde{\mathbf{X}},$$

$$b = \tilde{\mathbf{X}}^T \mathbf{C}' \tilde{\mathbf{X}},$$

$$c = \tilde{\mathbf{X}}^T \mathbf{M}' \tilde{\mathbf{X}}.$$

The value of ω is real if 4ac >= 0, and then ω^2 will be real and greater than or equal to zero.

Without changing the eigenvalues, we can change the sign of the P_0 equations, giving

$$\mathbf{K}' = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{K}_{SS} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{K}_{PS}^{T} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{K}_{FF} & \mathbf{0} \\ -\mathbf{K}_{PS} & \mathbf{0} & -\mathbf{K}_{PP} \end{bmatrix}, \qquad \mathbf{M}' = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{M}_{SS} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{M}_{FF} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}.$$
(32)

Now

$$a = \tilde{\mathbf{X}}^T \mathbf{K}' \tilde{\mathbf{X}} = \tilde{\mathbf{U}}^T \mathbf{K}_{SS} \tilde{\mathbf{U}} + \hat{\mathbf{U}}^T \mathbf{K}_{PS}^T \tilde{\mathbf{P}}$$

+ $\hat{\mathbf{\Phi}}^T \mathbf{K}_{FF} \hat{\mathbf{\Phi}} - \tilde{\mathbf{P}}^T \mathbf{K}_{PS} \tilde{\mathbf{U}} - \tilde{\mathbf{P}}^T \mathbf{K}_{PP} \tilde{\mathbf{P}}.$ (33)

Recalling that \mathbf{K}_{PP} is a diagonal matrix with all negative elements, we see that a>=0. Also,

$$c = \tilde{\mathbf{X}}^T \mathbf{M}' \tilde{\mathbf{X}} = \tilde{\mathbf{U}}^T \mathbf{M}_{SS} \tilde{\mathbf{U}} + \tilde{\mathbf{\Phi}}^T \mathbf{M}_{FF} \tilde{\mathbf{\Phi}}$$
 (34)

and clearly c > 0.

This shows that 4ac > = 0 so that ω^2 is real and greater than or equal to zero.

A.2. Number of sign changes in factorization

Here we give the reason for the statement that for

$$\mathbf{K}^* = \mathbf{L} \, \mathbf{D} \, \mathbf{L}^T = \mathbf{K}' - \mu \mathbf{C}' - \mu^2 \mathbf{M}',$$
 (28)

the number of eigenvalues below μ^2 is equal to the number of negative elements in **D** minus the number of P_0 variables. We explore this for a single P_0 variable in three steps (extension to multiple P_0 variables is straightforward).

(1) First we introduce the ϕ -U formulation, which has the Sturm sequence property. We replace the P_0 degree of freedom by a ϕ degree of freedom to obtain

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{K}_{SS} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{K}_{FF} & \mathbf{K}_{AF}^T \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{K}_{AF} & \mathbf{K}_{AA} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{U}} \\ \hat{\boldsymbol{\varphi}} \\ \hat{\boldsymbol{\varphi}}_A \end{bmatrix} - \omega \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{C}_{FS}^T & \mathbf{C}_{AS}^T \\ \mathbf{C}_{FS} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{C}_{AS} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{U}} \\ \hat{\boldsymbol{\varphi}} \\ \hat{\boldsymbol{\varphi}}_A \end{bmatrix}$$

$$-\omega^{2} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{M}_{SS} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{M}_{FF} & \mathbf{M}_{AF}^{T} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{M}_{AF} & \mathbf{M}_{AA} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{U}} \\ \hat{\mathbf{\varphi}} \\ \hat{\mathbf{\varphi}}_{A} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (35)$$

The system (35) has a single rigid body mode due to the fluid. By transforming to a standard eigenproblem, it can be shown that this system possesses the Sturm sequence property.

As a consequence of the Sturm sequence property, the number of eigenvalues ω^2 below μ^2 in

$$\mathbf{K}^{n*} = \mathbf{K}^{n} - \mu \mathbf{C}^{n} - \mu^{2} \mathbf{M}^{n} = \mathbf{L}^{n} \mathbf{D}^{n} \mathbf{L}^{nT}$$
 (36)

is equal to the number of negative elements in D".

(2) In order to show that the ϕ -U formulation eigenvalues are the same as the ϕ -U- P_0 eigenvalues (except for the zero eigenvalue), we will transform the system in eqn (35) to the ϕ -U- P_0 formulation.

We know that the system (35) has a zero eigenvalue with eigenvector $\mathbf{X}^{nT} = [\mathbf{0} \ d\mathbf{i}^T \ d]$, with $\mathbf{i}^T = [\mathbf{1} \ \mathbf{1} \ \mathbf{1} \ \ldots \ \mathbf{1}]$ and d is a constant. This means that

$$\mathbf{K}_{FF}\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{K}_{AF}^{T} = \mathbf{0}, \tag{37}$$

$$\mathbf{K}_{AF}\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{K}_{AA} = \mathbf{0}. \tag{38}$$

We can write the eigenvector with eigenvalue ω^2 as

$$\begin{bmatrix} \tilde{\mathbf{U}} \\ \hat{\boldsymbol{\dot{\phi}}} \\ \hat{\boldsymbol{\dot{\phi}}}_{\Delta} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{\mathbf{U}} \\ \tilde{\boldsymbol{\dot{\phi}}} + \alpha \mathbf{i} \\ \alpha \end{bmatrix}, \tag{39}$$

where α is a constant (which may be different from d). Substituting from eqn (39) into eqn (35), using eqn (37) and (38), and making the substitution $\tilde{P} = \rho_F \omega \alpha$, gives

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{K}_{SS} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{A}^T \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{K}_{FF} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{D} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{\mathbf{U}} \\ \tilde{\mathbf{\Phi}} \\ \tilde{\mathbf{P}} \end{bmatrix} - \omega \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{C}_{FS}^T & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{C}_{FS} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{B}^T \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{B} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{\mathbf{U}} \\ \tilde{\mathbf{\Phi}} \\ \tilde{\mathbf{P}} \end{bmatrix} - \omega^2 \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{M}_{SS} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{M}_{FF} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{\mathbf{U}} \\ \tilde{\mathbf{\Phi}} \\ \tilde{\mathbf{P}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}, \quad (40)$$

where

$$\mathbf{A} = -(\mathbf{i}^T \mathbf{C}_{FS} + \mathbf{C}_{AS})/\rho_F,$$

$$\mathbf{B} = (\mathbf{i}^T \mathbf{M}_{FF} + \mathbf{M}_{AF})/\rho_F,$$

$$\mathbf{D} = -(\mathbf{i}^T \mathbf{M}_{FF} \mathbf{i} + \mathbf{i}^T \mathbf{M}_{AF}^T + \mathbf{M}_{AF} \mathbf{i} + \mathbf{M}_{AA})/\rho_F^2.$$

Evaluating the integrals for A, B, and D on an elemental basis shows that, with exact integration, $A = K_{PS}$, $D = K_{PP}$, and $B = C_{PF}$ (so that we have recovered the $\phi - U - P_0$ formulation.) Therefore, every eigenvalue for $\phi - U$ (except the zero eigenvalue) is also an eigenvalue for $\phi - U - P_0$.

(3) Since the matrices for the $\phi - U$ formulation and the $\phi - U - P_0$ formulation are the same except for the last row and column, the first and higher associated constraint problems are the same (and form a Sturm sequence). This, with the fact that $\phi - U$ and $\phi - U - P_0$ have the same eigenvalues (except at zero), means that **D** always has the same number of sign changes as \mathbf{D}^n . However, the $\phi - U - P_0$ formulation has no zero eigenvalue, so we have that the number of sign changes in **D** is the number of eigenvalues below μ^2 minus one.

A.3. Orthogonality relation

Our original eigenproblem is of the form

$$\mathbf{K}'\tilde{\mathbf{X}} - \omega \mathbf{C}'\tilde{\mathbf{X}} - \omega^2 \mathbf{M}'\tilde{\mathbf{X}} = \mathbf{0}. \tag{27}$$

By rewriting this eigenproblem in the standard form

$$\mathbf{A} \mathbf{Y} = \boldsymbol{\omega} \mathbf{B} \mathbf{Y}, \tag{41}$$

where

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{K}' \ \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{M}' \end{bmatrix} \ , \qquad \mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{C}' & \mathbf{M}' \\ \mathbf{M}' \ \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \ , \qquad \mathbf{Y} = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{X}} \\ \omega \hat{\mathbf{X}} \end{bmatrix} \ ,$$

we can use the orthogonality relation for the standard eigenproblem to derive an orthogonality relationship for our problem. Therefore,

$$\mathbf{Y}_{i}^{T}\mathbf{B}\mathbf{Y}_{i}=0; \qquad i\neq j \tag{42}$$

or, multiplying out

$$\tilde{\mathbf{X}}_{i}^{T}\mathbf{C}'\tilde{\mathbf{X}}_{i} + (\omega_{i} + \omega_{i})\tilde{\mathbf{X}}_{i}^{T}\mathbf{M}'\tilde{\mathbf{X}}_{i} = 0; \qquad i \neq j. \tag{29}$$

which is the orthogonality relation we use.