

Non-Euclidean elasticity

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Topics in Calculus of Variations

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“Euclidean” Elasticity

- **The (simplest?) elastostatic problem:**
minimize, over all valid configurations $f:\Omega\rightarrow\mathbf{R}^n$,
the energy

$$E_{\Omega}(f) = \int_{\Omega} W(x, df_x) dx$$

- Energy density $W(x, df_x) \geq 0$ measures how much df_x is far from an isometry:
- $W(A) = 0$ iff $A \in \text{SO}(n)$
- Typically, $W(x, A) \geq C \text{dist}^2(A, \text{SO}(n))$

“Euclidean” Elasticity

- The inclusion map $f_0: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$, $f_0(x) = x$, satisfies $E_\Omega(f_0) = 0$.
- **Reference configuration** of the body (=stress-free)
- The existence of a reference configuration is an underlying assumption in most elastic models.
- However, many elastic bodies *do not* have a reference configuration!

Pre-stressed bodies

- **Pre-stressed bodies** – Elastic bodies w/o a reference configuration.
- Exhibit stress (positive elastic energy) even in the absence of boundary conditions / external forces.
- **Incompatible/Non-Euclidean elasticity** – elastic theory for pre-stressed bodies.

A stressed (non-Euclidean) carrot



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Ambient space: Riemannian manifold (N^n, h)
- **Configuration:** $f: M^n \rightarrow N^n$
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- Prototypical elastic energy:

$$E_{M,N}(f) := \int_M \text{dist}^2(df_x, \text{SO}(g_x, h_{f(x)})) d\text{Vol}_g$$

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- Are they equivalent?

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Slightly stronger formulation:

Theorem (Kupferman-M.-Shachar ≥ 2018):

If $f_k: M^n \rightarrow N^n$ satisfy $\text{dist}(df_k, \text{SO}(g, h)) \rightarrow 0$ in L_p ,
then $f_k \rightarrow f$ in $W^{1,p}$, and f is a smooth iso. immersion.

Rigidity

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If $f_k: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$ satisfy $\text{dist}(df_k, \text{SO}(n)) \rightarrow 0$ in L_p ,
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Note that we do not assume a-priori that $M^n \hookrightarrow N^n$ iso.

Technical difference: $W^{1,p}(M; N)$ is more complicated than $W^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbf{R}^n)$.

Sketch of proof

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- $df \in \text{SO}(g, h)$ a.e.
 $\Rightarrow f$ weakly-harmonic and continuous
 $\Rightarrow f$ is smooth $\Rightarrow f$ is an isometric immersion.

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- If $\operatorname{cof}_{g,h}(df)=df$ a.e. this equation implies that f is weakly harmonic, and continuous, hence smooth.

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Happy Victoria Day!