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Tangential derivative of singular boundary integrals with respect to the position of collocation points¹

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Abstract

This paper investigates the evaluation of the sensitivity, with respect to tangential perturbations of the singular point, of boundary integrals having either weak or strong singularity. Both scalar potential and elastic problems are considered. A proper definition of the derivative of a strongly singular integral with respect to singular point perturbations should accommodate the concomitant perturbation of the vanishing exclusion neighbourhood involved in the limiting process used in the definition of the integral itself. This is done here by resorting to a shape sensitivity approach, considering a particular class of infinitesimal domain perturbations that “move” individual points, and especially the singular point, but leave the initial domain globally unchanged. This somewhat indirect strategy provides a proper mathematical setting for the analysis. Moreover, the resulting sensitivity expressions apply to arbitrary potential-type integrals with densities only subjected to some regularity requirements at the singular point, and thus are applicable to approximate as well as exact BEM solutions. Quite remarkable is the fact that the analysis is applicable when the singular point is located on an edge and simply continuous elements are used. The hypersingular BIE residual function is found to be equal to the derivative of the strongly singular BIE residual when the same values of the boundary variables are substituted in both SBIE and HBIE formulations, with interesting consequences for some error indicator computation strategies.

1 Introduction

Boundary integral equation (BIE) formulations lead to numerical techniques, namely boundary element methods (BEMs), that are now well established and widely applied. After a boundary value problem has been numerically solved using a standard boundary element method, it is sometimes necessary, or merely worthwhile, to be able to formulate and compute directional derivatives of field variables, or more generally of BIE residuals, at an observation point on the boundary and along a tangential direction. This of course leads to investigation of such derivatives for singular integrals of scalar or elastic potential theory. A relevant practical issue is the evaluation of in-plane strain, hoop stresses, etc. from a given (usually approximate) BEM solution. Another one concerns the evaluation of derivatives of BIE residuals under perturbations of the collocation points; a related idea is used to define local *a posteriori* error indicators in [8].

Concerning derivatives of the most singular integral operators encountered in standard BIE formulations (i.e. of the form of double-layer potentials), the Lyapunov-Tauber theorems of classical

potential theory give results for the limit on the boundary of the *normal* derivative of scalar double-layer potentials or of the traction operator applied to vector elastic potentials, see e.g. the books by Kellogg [11] and Kupradze et al. [12]. These results allow one to formulate Neumann problems using either single- or double-layer potentials. On the other hand, general results for tangent derivatives of strongly singular potential integrals are not given in the classical literature on potential theory.

More recently, many studies have been devoted to so-called hypersingular boundary integral equation (HBIE) formulations, which basically result from differentiation of strongly singular (SBIE) formulations with respect to components of the collocation point. Of course, both SBIE and HBIE give an identically zero residual (considered as a function of the collocation point) when the exact solution of a given problem is substituted into them. In practice, BIEs are discretized and collocated at a finite number of boundary points, and an approximate solution is obtained. For instance, the discrete SBIE is solved, and the SBIE residual may take nonzero values at boundary points that were not used for collocation. Then, if the previous approximate solution is substituted into the HBIE, is the HBIE residual function equal to the derivative of the SBIE function? This question is related to the study of e.g. local error estimation [8]. Its answer is not *a priori* obvious because both BIE formulations are defined in terms of a limiting process involving a vanishing exclusion neighbourhood of the singular point \mathbf{y} , so that in a proper definition of the derivative of a strongly singular integral with respect to \mathbf{y} the vanishing neighbourhood should “move” with \mathbf{y} .

We address this particular difficulty in a somewhat indirect way, by resorting to a domain sensitivity approach. Specifically, the main idea used in this paper is the introduction of domain perturbations, depending on a time-like parameter p , that “move” individual points but leave the initial domain ($p = 0$) globally unchanged. This way, the concomitant change of singular point and exclusion neighbourhood is properly taken into account. The analysis then uses adequately chosen domain differentiation formulas. The sensitivity with respect to tangential perturbations of the singular point of boundary integrals having either weak or strong singularity, of the type used for both scalar and elastic BIE formulations, is formulated. From the results obtained, it is apparent that the HBIE residual function is indeed equal to the derivative of the SBIE residual function when the same values of the boundary variables are substituted in both SBIE and HBIE formulations. It is worth pointing out that this relationship between residuals issue is not raised in the formulation of hypersingular representations of potential gradients or stress tensors on the boundary, like in [6], although they allow one to evaluate tangential derivatives of the potential or displacement field. In particular the latter approach uses the fact that the density variables solve the relevant governing equations, whereas

the present analysis addresses arbitrary potential-type integrals with densities only subjected to some (fairly weak) regularity requirements at the singular point. An advantage of this viewpoint is that the resulting formulas apply to approximate as well as exact BEM solutions, which is convenient in devising strategies for error indicator computation.

2 Basic definitions and relations

In this section we summarize some basic results that will be used extensively throughout the paper. More details can be found in previous papers dealing with shape sensitivity of BIE formulations [2], [3], [14] and in Appendix A of the recent book [1].

Let us consider, in a three-dimensional Euclidean space equipped with a Cartesian orthonormal basis $(\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2, \mathbf{e}_3)$, a body Ω_p whose shape depends on a time-like parameter p . The body $\Omega = \Omega_0$ corresponding to $p = 0$ is traditionally assumed as the “initial” configuration. Points of Ω_p are denoted by \mathbf{x}^p and \mathbf{y}^p , whereas points of Ω are simply denoted by \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{y} .

Let the initial domain Ω be bounded by a Kellogg’s regular surface $\partial\Omega = \Gamma$ with outer unit normal \mathbf{n} [11]. On the boundary we can define some tangential differential operators. First, we define the *tangential gradient* $\nabla_S f$ of a scalar field f defined on Ω

$$\nabla_S f(\mathbf{x}) := \nabla f - \mathbf{n}(\nabla f \cdot \mathbf{n}) = \nabla f - \mathbf{n} \frac{\partial f}{\partial n} \quad (1)$$

which is the projection of the gradient ∇f onto the tangent plane at $\mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega$.

The r -th Cartesian component of $\nabla_S f$ can be denoted by $D_r f$ if we adopt the following definition for the *tangential partial derivative* D_r

$$D_r f := f_{,r} - n_r \frac{\partial f}{\partial n} = f_{,r} - n_r (f_{,m} n_m), \quad (2)$$

where the notation $f_{,m} = \partial f / \partial x_m$ has been introduced.

The *surface divergence* $\text{div}_S \mathbf{v}$ of a vector field \mathbf{v} can now be defined as

$$\text{div}_S \mathbf{v} := \nabla_S \cdot \mathbf{v} = D_m v_m. \quad (3)$$

It is convenient to define another tangential differential operator D_{rs}

$$D_{rs} f := n_r D_s f - n_s D_r f = n_r f_{,s} - n_s f_{,r}. \quad (4)$$

Among the many versions of Stokes’ theorem, we are mainly interested in the following ones

$$\int_S D_{rs} f dS = e_{jrs} \oint_{\partial S} f \tau_j ds, \quad (5)$$

$$\int_S D_r g dS = \oint_{\partial S} g \nu_r ds - \int_S g n_r 2\kappa dS \quad (6)$$

where ∂S is the contour of the (possibly) open surface S and

$$\kappa(\mathbf{x}) = -\frac{1}{2}\operatorname{div}_S \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{x}) = -\frac{1}{2}D_a n_a(\mathbf{x})$$

is the mean curvature of S at \mathbf{x} . The vector $\boldsymbol{\tau}$ is defined by

$$\boldsymbol{\tau} = \mathbf{n} \times \boldsymbol{\nu}, \quad (7)$$

where $\boldsymbol{\nu}$ is the unit vector normal to ∂S and tangent to S and pointing towards the outside of S . e_{jrs} denote the permutation symbols ($e_{123} = e_{231} = e_{312} = 1$, $e_{132} = e_{213} = e_{321} = -1$, and equal to zero otherwise). Formula (6) is obtained by putting $f = gn_s$ in (5).

A *geometrical transformation* from Ω onto Ω_p is given by a mapping

$$\mathbf{x} \in \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{x}^p = \boldsymbol{\Phi}(\mathbf{x}; p) \in \Omega_p, \quad (8)$$

where $\forall \mathbf{x} \in \Omega$, $\boldsymbol{\Phi}(\mathbf{x}; 0) = \mathbf{x}$, as already stated. Similarly to continuum mechanics, it is assumed that any such mapping is a diffeomorphism between Ω and Ω_p .

The corresponding *initial transformation velocity* $\boldsymbol{\theta}(\mathbf{x})$ is a vector field on Ω defined by

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) := \left. \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\Phi}}{\partial p} \right|_{p=0}. \quad (9)$$

In other words, the geometrical transformation (8) can be expanded in the following form

$$\mathbf{x}^p = \mathbf{x} + \boldsymbol{\theta}(\mathbf{x})p + \mathbf{o}(p).$$

Now, let us consider a generic scalar field $f(p, \mathbf{x}^p)$ defined on the changing domain Ω_p and also depending explicitly on p . Its *total derivative* $\overset{*}{f}$ with respect to p , evaluated at $p = 0$, is given by the following well-known expression

$$\begin{aligned} \overset{*}{f}(\mathbf{x}) &:= \left. \frac{df}{dp} \right|_{p=0} = \left. \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial p} + f_{,m} \theta_m(\mathbf{x}) \right) \right|_{p=0} \\ &= \left. \left(\dot{f} + \nabla f \cdot \boldsymbol{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) \right) \right|_{p=0}, \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

where $\dot{f} = \partial f / \partial p$. Depending on the context, the total derivative $\overset{*}{f}$ can also be termed *material* or *Lagrangian derivative*. The function \dot{f} can be consistently called *Eulerian derivative*.

The kernel functions that appear in boundary integral equations are two-point functions like $K(\mathbf{x}^p - \mathbf{y}^p)$ which do not depend explicitly on p . Adopting the notation just defined, and assuming that both

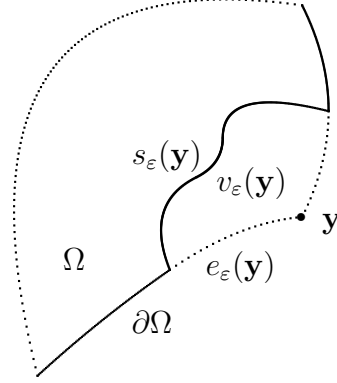


Figure 1: Exclusion of the singular point \mathbf{y} by a vanishing neighbourhood $v_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y})$.

points follow the geometrical transformation (8), we have from (10) the following expression for the total derivative of K with respect to p

$${}^*K(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x}) := \left. \frac{dK}{dp} \right|_{p=0} = K_{,m}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y})[\theta_m(\mathbf{x}) - \theta_m(\mathbf{y})], \quad (11)$$

where $K_{,m} = \partial K / \partial x_m = -\partial K / \partial y_m$.

The total derivative of the integral of a nonsingular function $f(p, \mathbf{x}^p)$ over a changing (possibly open) surface S_p is given, from e.g. [13], by either of the formulas

$$\left. \frac{d}{dp} \left(\int_{S_p} f(p, \mathbf{x}^p) dS \right) \right|_{p=0} = \int_S \left[f^* + f \operatorname{div}_S \boldsymbol{\theta} \right] dS \quad (12)$$

$$= \int_S \left[\dot{f} + \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial n} - 2\kappa f \right) (\boldsymbol{\theta} \cdot \mathbf{n}) \right] dS + \oint_{\partial S} (\boldsymbol{\theta} \cdot \boldsymbol{\nu}) f ds, \quad (13)$$

where $S = S_0$. Formulas (12) and (13) are equivalent; they relate the derivative of the integral to Lagrangian or Eulerian derivatives of the function f , respectively.

According to Petryk and Mroz [13], we can express the total (material) derivative of each Cartesian component of the unit normal $\mathbf{n}(\mathbf{x}^p)$ as

$${}^*n_i(\mathbf{x}) := \left. \frac{dn_i}{dp} \right|_{p=0} = -n_m(D_i \theta_m). \quad (14)$$

3 Singular boundary integrals

Singular boundary integrals arise naturally in the boundary element method (BEM) whenever the source (collocation) point \mathbf{y} is taken to the boundary. Due to the singularity of the kernel functions K involved, a limiting process is necessary for the definition of these integrals.

Let \mathbf{y} be a fixed point on the boundary $\partial\Omega$ of a three-dimensional domain Ω . We consider an exclusion neighbourhood $v_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y})$ of \mathbf{y} , of radius $\leq \varepsilon$ (Figure 1). For any $\varepsilon > 0$, \mathbf{y} is always an external

point for the domain $\Omega_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y}) = \Omega - v_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y})$ whose boundary $\partial\Omega_\varepsilon$ is given by

$$\partial\Omega_\varepsilon = (\partial\Omega - e_\varepsilon) + s_\varepsilon = \Gamma_\varepsilon + s_\varepsilon,$$

where $s_\varepsilon = \Omega \cap \partial v_\varepsilon$, $e_\varepsilon = \partial\Omega \cap \bar{v}_\varepsilon$, and $\Gamma_\varepsilon = \partial\Omega - e_\varepsilon$.

The typical singular boundary integral can be defined by means of a limiting process

$$\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{y}) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y}) + s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y})} K(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y})v(\mathbf{x}) dS_x, \quad (15)$$

where the density $v(\mathbf{x})$ is a sufficiently regular function.

There are instances (e.g., [8]) in which we may assume that the position of the source point \mathbf{y} on $\partial\Omega$ depends on a time-like parameter p . Since the vanishing neighbourhood $v_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y})$ is attached to \mathbf{y} , the parameter p also affects the surface of integration in (15) (although p does not affect $\partial\Omega$). Somewhat similar considerations occur for the correct evaluation of the Cartesian derivatives of the integral representation for displacement at interior points \mathbf{y} in the presence of initial strain [4]. Obviously, a necessary condition for the function $\mathbf{y}^p = \mathbf{y}(p)$ to be a diffeomorphism is that the point \mathbf{y} lies either on a smooth part of $\partial\Omega$ or, at most, on an *edge* (two tangent planes). In the last case, the point \mathbf{y}^p has to move along the edge itself.

Still following ref. [8] and for greater generality, the density function v can be taken to explicitly depend on p (this is the case, e.g., of approximate numerical solutions that clearly depend on the specific set of collocation points).

Hence, we can define the function $I(p)$

$$I(p) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y}^p) + s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y}^p)} K(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}^p)v(p, \mathbf{x}) dS_x, \quad (16)$$

which can be seen as $\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{y}^p)$ with a p -dependent density function.

In this paper we address the problem of the evaluation of the derivative

$$\left. \frac{dI}{dp} \right|_{p=0}. \quad (17)$$

Derivatives of this type are basically what are required for the evaluation of the sensitivity of an approximate BEM solution with respect to the position of the collocation points [8].

4 Tangential derivatives of singular boundary integrals

To evaluate the derivative dI/dp we rely on a domain sensitivity approach. Although in the present context neither the shape of the body nor the discretization are affected by the parameter p , the

sensitivity viewpoint provides a convenient mathematical means to describe exclusion neighbourhoods $v_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y})$ moving according to perturbations of the singular point \mathbf{y} .

To this end, let us consider a geometrical transformation $\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \Phi(\mathbf{x}, p)$ as in (8) but with initial transformation velocity $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ (defined in (9)) such that

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) \cdot \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{x}) = 0 \quad (\forall \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega), \quad \text{and} \quad \boldsymbol{\theta}(\mathbf{y}) \neq 0 \quad (18)$$

In other words, the transformation velocity is almost everywhere orthogonal to the boundary normal of the body. Under any such transformation, Ω is *globally invariant* (up to order $O(p)$), while

$$\mathbf{y} \rightarrow \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{a}p + \mathbf{o}(p),$$

where

$$\mathbf{a} = \boldsymbol{\theta}(\mathbf{y}) \quad (19)$$

is the transformation velocity of the source point. Therefore, the initial (i.e. of first-order with respect to p about $p = 0$) effect of the perturbation of the position of the singular point \mathbf{y} on $I(p)$ is adequately taken into account. At the same time, $v_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y})$ is “moved” (and possibly distorted, but this is irrelevant) along with the singular point, so that the singular integral (16) is properly defined for small $p \geq 0$.

Notice that if $\partial\Omega$ has more than two tangent planes at \mathbf{y} , then there are no transformation velocity fields such that $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{y}) = 0$.

Essentially, with a transformation satisfying (18) we can use all the results already available from sensitivity analysis, yet we are only considering the effect of the perturbation of the singular point \mathbf{y} and of the attached neighbourhood v_ε . Formulas for the derivative of an integral over a changing surface were given in (12) and (13). The derivative of (16) can be conveniently evaluated applying formula (12) to the integral on s_ε and formula (13) to the integral on Γ_ε (all derivatives are understood at $p = 0$)

$$\frac{dI}{dp} = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \left\{ \int_{s_\varepsilon} [(Kv)^* + Kv D_m \theta_m] dS + \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} (Kv)^\bullet dS + \oint_{\partial\Gamma_\varepsilon} (\theta_m \nu_m) Kv ds \right\}. \quad (20)$$

In this way, full advantage is taken from the orthogonality condition (18).

Although quite obvious, we may also observe that

$$(Kv)^* = \overset{*}{K}v + K\overset{*}{v} = K_{,m} [\theta_m(\mathbf{x}) - a_m]v + K\overset{*}{v}, \quad (21)$$

and

$$(Kv)^\bullet = \overset{\bullet}{K}v + K\overset{\bullet}{v} = \frac{\partial K}{\partial y_m} a_m v + K\overset{\bullet}{v} = -K_{,m} a_m v + K\overset{\bullet}{v}. \quad (22)$$

In this paper we consider the tangential derivative of singular integrals with respect to the source point \mathbf{y} for three-dimensional potential and elastic problems. It is worth recalling that the analysis is not restricted to smooth boundaries, but also covers the case of \mathbf{y} on an edge. In Appendix A it is shown that the final results are not affected by the shape of v_ε . Therefore, it is always assumed to employ a symmetric neighbourhood $v_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y})$ of uniform radius ε .

5 Weakly singular kernels

The formulation of cartesian derivatives of single-layer scalar or elastic potentials has been studied in classical potential theory. The results of this section are in effect nothing more than extensions to p -dependent density functions of classical results on cartesian derivatives of single-layer scalar or elastic potentials, see e.g. [11] for scalar potentials and [12] for elasticity. However, it is interesting to see the present sensitivity approach at work in this context before dealing with the more difficult case of double-layer potentials.

5.1 Potential problems

Let us consider the following boundary integral with weakly singular kernel

$$I(p) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y}^p) + s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y}^p)} G(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}^p) q(p, \mathbf{x}) dS_x, \quad (23)$$

where the kernel $K = G = 1/(4\pi r)$, with $r = |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}|$, is the fundamental solution for 3D potential problems, and the density function q is a sufficiently regular function (usually an approximation to the normal derivative of the potential).

A first expression for dI/dp is given by (20), where $(Gq)^\bullet$ can be expanded according to (22)

$$\frac{dI}{dp} = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \left\{ \int_{s_\varepsilon} [(Gq)^* + Gq D_m \theta_m] dS + \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} \left[G\dot{q} + a_m \frac{\partial G}{\partial y_m} q \right] dS + \oint_{\partial\Gamma_\varepsilon} (\theta_m \nu_m) Gq ds \right\}. \quad (24)$$

For 3D problems we have on s_ε that $G = O(\varepsilon^{-1})$, $G_{,m} = O(\varepsilon^{-2})$, and $\theta_m(\mathbf{x}) - a_m = O(\varepsilon^\alpha)$, with $\alpha > 0$, because of the regularity assumption on the geometrical transformation Φ . If we also assume that $|\dot{q}^*(\mathbf{x}) - \dot{q}^*(\mathbf{y})| \leq Cr^{\alpha-1}$ (which is quite reasonable), we can conclude that

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{s_\varepsilon} [(Gq)^* + Gq D_m \theta_m] dS = 0. \quad (25)$$

Moreover, when \mathbf{y} is on an edge of tangent \mathbf{a} , the limit of the line integral on $\partial\Gamma_\varepsilon$ is zero

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \left[\oint_{\partial\Gamma_\varepsilon} (\theta_m - a_m) \nu_m Gq ds + a_m \oint_{\partial\Gamma_\varepsilon} \nu_m Gq ds \right] = 0 \quad (26)$$

since it is zero on each side (provided q is piecewise $C^{0,\alpha}$ at \mathbf{y}). Essentially, owing to the scalar product $a_m \nu_m$, the line integral on each side amounts in the limit to the integral from 0 to π of $\cos \varphi d\varphi$.

Therefore, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \left. \frac{dI}{dp} \right|_{p=0} &= \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \left\{ \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} \left[G\dot{q} + a_m \frac{\partial G}{\partial y_m} q \right] dS \right\} \\ &= \int_{\partial\Omega} G\dot{q} dS + a_m \rlap{-}\int_{\partial\Omega} W_m q dS \\ &= \int_{\partial\Omega} G\dot{q} dS + \rlap{-}\int_{\partial\Omega} \dot{G} q dS \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

where $W_m = \partial G / \partial y_m$ are the kernel functions of the hypersingular boundary integral equations [10] and $\dot{G} = a_m W_m$. The weak singularity of G allows the first integral in (25) to be defined as an ordinary integral on $\partial\Omega$. On the other hand, the second integral with strongly singular kernel \dot{G} is equivalent (owing to the assumed circular shape of $\partial\Gamma_\varepsilon$) to a Cauchy principal value [5].

5.2 Elastic problems

In this case we have to consider the tangential derivative of the weakly singular integral

$$I(p) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y}^p) + s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y}^p)} U_{ij}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}^p) t_j(p, \mathbf{x}) dS_x, \quad (28)$$

where the kernels U_{ij} , are the fundamental solutions for 3D elastic problems, and the density functions t_j are just sufficiently regular functions. Again, a possible expression for dI/dp is given by (20).

Using the same arguments as above, we can show that

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{s_\varepsilon} [(U_{ij} t_j)^* + U_{ij} t_j D_m \theta_m] dS = 0. \quad (29)$$

Similarly, when \mathbf{y} is on an edge of tangent \mathbf{a} the line integral on $\partial\Gamma_\varepsilon$ is zero since it is zero on each side (provided, on each element, $t_j \in C^{0,\alpha}$ at \mathbf{y}).

Therefore, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \left. \frac{dI}{dp} \right|_{p=0} &= \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \left\{ \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} \left[U_{ij} \dot{t}_j + a_m \frac{\partial U_{ij}}{\partial y_m} t_j \right] dS \right\} \\ &= \int_{\partial\Omega} U_{ij} \dot{t}_j dS + a_m \rlap{-}\int_{\partial\Omega} W_{ijm} t_j dS \\ &= \int_{\partial\Omega} U_{ij} \dot{t}_j dS + \rlap{-}\int_{\partial\Omega} \dot{U}_{ij} t_j dS \end{aligned} \quad (30)$$

where $W_{ijm} = \partial U_{ij} / \partial y_m$ and $\dot{U}_{ij} = a_m W_{ijm}$.

Formulas (27) and (30) have the same structure. They show that the derivative dI/dp is given by a term that accounts for the dependence on p of the density function and another term that takes into account the effect of the changing singular point on the kernel function. This last term is the one predicted by classical potential theory.

6 Strongly singular kernels

6.1 Potential problems

Let us consider the following boundary integral with strongly singular kernel $T = G_{,j} n_j$

$$I(p) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y}^p) + s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y}^p)} T(\mathbf{y}^p, \mathbf{x}) u(p, \mathbf{x}) dS_x = \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y}^p) + s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y}^p)} G_{,j}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}^p) n_j(\mathbf{x}) u(p, \mathbf{x}) dS_x, \quad (31)$$

where, in general, the density function u is only an approximation to a potential.

First we consider the derivative of the integral on s_ε , for fixed $\varepsilon > 0$. According to (20), we apply formula (12) and obtain

$$\frac{d}{dp} \left(\int_{s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y}^p)} T u dS \right) \Big|_{p=0} = \int_{s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y})} [(Tu)^* + Tu D_i \theta_i] dS, \quad (32)$$

This expression can be given a more explicit form using (11) and (14)

$$(Tu)^* + Tu D_i \theta_i = (G_{,j} n_j u)^* + G_{,j} n_j u D_i \theta_i \quad (33)$$

$$= G_{,j} n_j \overset{*}{u} + \overset{*}{G}_{,j} n_j u + G_{,j} \overset{*}{n}_j u + G_{,j} n_j u D_i \theta_i \quad (34)$$

$$= G_{,j} n_j \overset{*}{u} + [G_{,ij} n_j (\theta_i - a_i) + G_{,j} (n_j D_i \theta_i - n_i D_j \theta_i)] u \quad (35)$$

$$= G_{,j} n_j \overset{*}{u} + [(D_{ji} G_{,j}) (\theta_i - a_i) + G_{,j} D_{ji} \theta_i] u \quad (36)$$

$$= G_{,j} n_j \overset{*}{u} + D_{ji} (G_{,j} [\theta_i - a_i]) u \quad (37)$$

where $a_i = \theta_i(\mathbf{y})$. Expression (36) comes from (4) once with $f = \theta_i$, and once with $f = G_{,j}$ with the additional fact that $G_{,ii} = 0$. The final step is possible since $D_{ji} a_i = 0$ (a_i do not depend on \mathbf{x}).

We can now add and subtract the same terms to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} (Tu)^* + Tu D_i \theta_i &= G_{,j} n_j [\overset{*}{u}(\mathbf{x}) - \overset{*}{u}(\mathbf{y})] + D_{ji} (G_{,j} [\theta_i - a_i]) [u(\mathbf{x}) - u(\mathbf{y})] \\ &\quad + \overset{*}{u}(\mathbf{y}) G_{,j} n_j + u(\mathbf{y}) D_{ji} (G_{,j} [\theta_i - a_i]). \end{aligned} \quad (38)$$

At this stage we have to make some assumptions on the regularity of the density function $u(\mathbf{x})$ at \mathbf{y} . We assume $u \in C^{0,\alpha}(\mathbf{y})$ and $\overset{*}{u} \in C^{0,\alpha}(\mathbf{y})$, along with $\boldsymbol{\theta} \in C^{0,1}(\mathbf{y})$ which comes from the geometrical

transformation Φ being a diffeomorphism. It is worth noting that we do *not* require $u \in C^{1,\alpha}(\mathbf{y})$ (i.e., $\nabla u \in C^{0,\alpha}(\mathbf{y})$), but only the total derivative

$$\overset{*}{u}(\mathbf{y}) = \dot{u}(\mathbf{y}) + \nabla u \cdot \mathbf{a} \quad (39)$$

to be Hölder continuous at \mathbf{y} . This is a condition that is satisfied by standard continuous boundary elements provided \mathbf{a} is tangent to the interelement border between two elements.

Under these assumptions, the integrals on s_ε of the first two terms on the r.h.s. of eq. (38) vanish in the limit, as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$.

Therefore, we have that

$$\int_{s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y})} [(Tu)^* + TuD_i\theta_i]dS = \overset{*}{u}(\mathbf{y}) \int_{s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y})} G_{,j} n_j dS + u(\mathbf{y}) \int_{s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y})} D_{ji}(G_{,j} [\theta_i - a_i]) dS + o(1). \quad (40)$$

The limit of the first integral in the above expression is readily obtained

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \overset{*}{u}(\mathbf{y}) \int_{s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y})} G_{,j} n_j dS = \overset{*}{u}(\mathbf{y}) \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y})} T dS = \overset{*}{u}(\mathbf{y}) c(\mathbf{y}) = \left[\dot{u}(\mathbf{y}) + \frac{\partial u}{\partial a} \right] c(\mathbf{y}), \quad (41)$$

where, by definition, $c(\mathbf{y})$ is the free-term coefficient of the usual boundary integral equation.

We already found that $D_{ji}G_{,j} = G_{,ij} n_j$. Hence from the final term in (40) we get

$$\begin{aligned} -u(\mathbf{y})a_i \int_{s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y})} D_{ji}G_{,j} dS &= -u(\mathbf{y})a_i \int_{s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y})} G_{,ij} n_j dS \\ &= u(\mathbf{y})a_i \int_{s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y})} V_i dS \\ &= u(\mathbf{y})a_i \left[\frac{b_i}{\varepsilon} + d_i + O(\varepsilon) \right], \end{aligned} \quad (42)$$

that is the same free-term coefficients of the hypersingular boundary integral equations as obtained in [7]. In fact the hypersingular kernel is $V_i = -G_{,ij} n_j$.

Stokes' theorem in the form (5) can be applied to the function $D_{ji}(G_{,j} \theta_i)$ in (40)

$$u(\mathbf{y}) \int_{s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y})} D_{ji}(G_{,j} \theta_i) dS = u(\mathbf{y}) e_{jip} \oint_{\partial s_\varepsilon} G_{,j} \theta_i \tilde{\tau}_p ds = -u(\mathbf{y}) \oint_{\partial \Gamma_\varepsilon} T \theta_i \nu_i ds, \quad (43)$$

where we used the fact that ∂s_ε and $\partial \Gamma_\varepsilon$ are identical curves with opposite tangents $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\tau}} = -\boldsymbol{\tau}$. The last step in (43) comes from the following general result

$$e_{jip} w_i \tilde{\tau}_p = -(\mathbf{w} \times \boldsymbol{\tau})_j = -(\mathbf{w} \cdot \boldsymbol{\nu}) n_j + (\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{n}) \nu_j,$$

where \mathbf{w} is a general vector, $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\tau}} = -\boldsymbol{\tau}$, and $(\mathbf{n}, \boldsymbol{\nu}, \boldsymbol{\tau})$ is a Cartesian orthonormal basis defined in (7). If the vector \mathbf{w} is replaced by $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ we have that

$$e_{jip} \theta_i \tilde{\tau}_p = -(\boldsymbol{\theta} \times \boldsymbol{\tau})_j = -(\boldsymbol{\theta} \cdot \boldsymbol{\nu}) n_j,$$

because of the assumed orthogonality between $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ and \mathbf{n} (eq. (18)).

Collecting the results of (41), (42), and (43), we can write the derivative of the integral on s_ε as

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dp} \left(\int_{s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y}^p)} Tu dS \right) \Big|_{p=0} &= \int_{s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y})} [(Tu)^* + Tu D_i \theta_i] dS, \\ &= \left[\dot{u}(\mathbf{y}) + \frac{\partial u}{\partial a} \right] c(\mathbf{y}) + u(\mathbf{y}) a_i \left[\frac{b_i}{\varepsilon} + d_i + O(\varepsilon) \right] - u(\mathbf{y}) \oint_{\partial \Gamma_\varepsilon} T \theta_i \nu_i ds. \end{aligned} \quad (44)$$

We can now turn our attention to the integral on Γ_ε in (31). To compute the derivative with respect to p , for fixed ε , we can employ the general relation (13) with the obvious simplification due to $\boldsymbol{\theta} \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0$ on Γ_ε

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dp} \left(\int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} T u dS \right) \Big|_{p=0} &= \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} T \dot{u} dS + \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} \dot{T} u dS + \oint_{\partial \Gamma_\varepsilon} T u \theta_i \nu_i ds \\ &= \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} T \dot{u} dS - a_i \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} (G_{,ji} n_j) u dS + u(\mathbf{y}) \oint_{\partial \Gamma_\varepsilon} T \theta_i \nu_i ds + \oint_{\partial \Gamma_\varepsilon} T [u - u(\mathbf{y})] \theta_i \nu_i ds \\ &= \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} T \dot{u} dS + a_i \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} V_i u dS + u(\mathbf{y}) \oint_{\partial \Gamma_\varepsilon} T \theta_i \nu_i ds + o(1), \end{aligned} \quad (45)$$

where $\dot{T} = a_i V_i$.

When contributions from s_ε and Γ_ε are taken together, we observe that the line integrals in (44) and (45) cancel each other. Therefore, we are left with the following final expression

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dI}{dp} \Big|_{p=0} &= \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{d}{dp} \left[\int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y}^p) + s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y}^p)} T u dS \right] \Big|_{p=0} \\ &= \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \left[\dot{u}(\mathbf{y}) \int_{s_\varepsilon} T dS + \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} T \dot{u} dS + u(\mathbf{y}) \int_{s_\varepsilon} \dot{T} dS + \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} \dot{T} u dS + a_i \oint_{\partial \Gamma_\varepsilon} T [u - u(\mathbf{y})] \nu_i ds \right] \\ &= \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \left[\left(\dot{u}(\mathbf{y}) + \frac{\partial u}{\partial a} \right) \int_{s_\varepsilon} T dS + \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} T \dot{u} dS + u(\mathbf{y}) a_i \int_{s_\varepsilon} V_i dS + a_i \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} V_i u dS \right] \\ &= \dot{u}(\mathbf{y}) c(\mathbf{y}) + \frac{\partial u}{\partial a} c(\mathbf{y}) + \int_{\partial \Omega} T \dot{u} dS + \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \left[a_i \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} V_i u dS + u(\mathbf{y}) a_i \left(\frac{b_i}{\varepsilon} + d_i \right) \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (46)$$

We recall that the above expression has been obtained by assuming u and only its directional derivative $\partial u / \partial a$ to be $C^{0,\alpha}$ at the point \mathbf{y} lying on an edge of tangent \mathbf{a} . This is typically satisfied between two standard continuous boundary elements.

6.2 Elastic problems

Let us consider the following boundary integral with strongly singular kernel $T_{ij} = \Sigma_{ijk}n_k$, where Σ_{ijk} is the stress tensor associated to the displacement field U_{ij} (fixed index i)

$$\begin{aligned} I(p) &= \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y}^p) + s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y}^p)} T_{ij}(\mathbf{y}^p, \mathbf{x}) u_j(p, \mathbf{x}) dS_x \\ &= \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y}^p) + s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y}^p)} \Sigma_{ijk}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}^p) n_k(\mathbf{x}) u_j(p, \mathbf{x}) dS_x, \end{aligned} \quad (47)$$

where, in general, the density functions u_j are only an approximation to displacement field components.

As for the potential case, we consider first the derivative of the integral on s_ε , for fixed $\varepsilon > 0$. According to (20), we apply formula (12) and obtain

$$\frac{d}{dp} \left(\int_{s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y}^p)} T_{ij} u_j dS \right) \Big|_{p=0} = \int_{s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y})} [(T_{ij} u_j)^* + T_{ij} u_j D_\ell \theta_\ell] dS, \quad (48)$$

This expression can be given a more explicit form using (11) and (14)

$$(T_{ij} u_j)^* + T_{ij} u_j D_\ell \theta_\ell = (\Sigma_{ijk} n_k u_j)^* + \Sigma_{ijk} n_k u_j D_\ell \theta_\ell \quad (49)$$

$$= \Sigma_{ijk} n_k^* u_j + \Sigma_{ijk} n_k u_j + \Sigma_{ijk} n_k^* u_j + \Sigma_{ijk} n_k u_j D_\ell \theta_\ell \quad (50)$$

$$= \Sigma_{ijk} n_k^* u_j + [\Sigma_{ijk, \ell} n_k (\theta_\ell - a_\ell) + \Sigma_{ijk} (n_k D_\ell \theta_\ell - n_\ell D_k \theta_\ell)] u_j \quad (51)$$

$$= \Sigma_{ijk} n_k^* u_j + [(D_{k\ell} \Sigma_{ijk})(\theta_\ell - a_\ell) + \Sigma_{ijk} D_{k\ell} \theta_\ell] u_j \quad (52)$$

$$= \Sigma_{ijk} n_k^* u_j(\mathbf{x}) + D_{k\ell} (\Sigma_{ijk} [\theta_\ell - a_\ell]) u_j(\mathbf{x}) \quad (53)$$

Expression (52) comes from (4) once with $f = \theta_\ell$, and once with $f = \Sigma_{ijk}$ with the additional fact that $\Sigma_{ijk, k} = 0$.

Following the development of (38) in the potential case, we can now add and subtract the same terms in (53) which, along with the assumptions $u_j \in C^{0, \alpha}(\mathbf{y})$ and $u_j^* \in C^{0, \alpha}(\mathbf{y})$, allows us to write (cfr. eq. (40))

$$\int_{s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y})} [(T_{ij} u_j)^* + T_{ij} u_j D_\ell \theta_\ell] dS = u_j^*(\mathbf{y}) \int_{s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y})} \Sigma_{ijk} n_k dS + u_j(\mathbf{y}) \int_{s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y})} D_{k\ell} (\Sigma_{ijk} [\theta_\ell - a_\ell]) dS + o(1). \quad (54)$$

The limit of the first integral on the r.h.s. of the above expression is readily obtained

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} u_j^*(\mathbf{y}) \int_{s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y})} \Sigma_{ijk} n_k dS = u_j^*(\mathbf{y}) \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y})} T_{ij} dS = u_j^*(\mathbf{y}) c_{ij}(\mathbf{y}) = \left[\dot{u}_j(\mathbf{y}) + \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial a} \right] c_{ij}(\mathbf{y}), \quad (55)$$

where, by definition, $c_{ij}(\mathbf{y})$ are the free-term coefficients of the usual boundary integral equation.

The last term in (54) can be converted in a more convenient form if we observe that $D_{k\ell}\Sigma_{ijk} = \Sigma_{ijk,\ell}n_k$

$$\begin{aligned}
-u_j(\mathbf{y})a_\ell \int_{s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y})} D_{k\ell}\Sigma_{ijk}dS &= -u_j(\mathbf{y})a_\ell \int_{s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y})} \Sigma_{ijk,\ell}n_kdS \\
&= u_j(\mathbf{y})a_\ell \int_{s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y})} V_{ij\ell}dS \\
&= u_j(\mathbf{y})a_\ell \left[\frac{b_{ij\ell}}{\varepsilon} + d_{ij\ell} + O(\varepsilon) \right], \tag{56}
\end{aligned}$$

that is the same free-term coefficients of the hypersingular boundary integral equations as obtained in [7]. In fact the hypersingular kernel is $V_{ij\ell} = -\Sigma_{ijk,\ell}n_k$.

Finally, Stokes' theorem in the form (5) can be applied to the function $D_{k\ell}(\Sigma_{ijk}\theta_\ell)$ in (54)

$$u_j(\mathbf{y}) \int_{s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y})} D_{k\ell}(\Sigma_{ijk}\theta_\ell)dS = u_j(\mathbf{y})e_{k\ell p} \oint_{\partial s_\varepsilon} \Sigma_{ijk}\theta_\ell \tilde{\tau} ds = -u_j(\mathbf{y}) \oint_{\partial\Gamma_\varepsilon} T_{ij}\theta_\ell \nu_\ell ds, \tag{57}$$

where we took exactly the same steps as in (43).

Summing up, the derivative of the integral on s_ε can be written as

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{d}{dp} \left(\int_{s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y}^p)} T_{ij}u_j dS \right) \Big|_{p=0} &= \int_{s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y})} [(T_{ij}u_j)^* + T_{ij}u_j D_\ell\theta_\ell]dS \\
&= \left[\dot{u}_j(\mathbf{y}) + \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial a} \right] c_{ij}(\mathbf{y}) + u_j(\mathbf{y})a_\ell \left[\frac{b_{ij\ell}}{\varepsilon} + d_{ij\ell} + O(\varepsilon) \right] - u_j(\mathbf{y}) \oint_{\partial\Gamma_\varepsilon} T_{ij}\theta_\ell \nu_\ell ds. \tag{58}
\end{aligned}$$

We can now turn our attention to the integral on Γ_ε in (47). To compute the derivative with respect to p , for fixed ε , we can employ again the general relation (13), simplified by the fact that $\boldsymbol{\theta} \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0$ on Γ_ε

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{d}{dp} \left(\int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} T_{ij}u_j dS \right) \Big|_{p=0} &= \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} T_{ij}\dot{u}_j dS + \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} \dot{T}_{ij}u_j dS + \oint_{\partial\Gamma_\varepsilon} T_{ij}u_j\theta_\ell \nu_\ell ds \\
&= \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} T_{ij}\dot{u}_j dS - a_i \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} (\Sigma_{ijk,\ell}n_k)u_j dS \\
&\quad + u_j(\mathbf{y}) \oint_{\partial\Gamma_\varepsilon} T_{ij}\theta_\ell \nu_\ell ds + \oint_{\partial\Gamma_\varepsilon} T_{ij}[u_j - u_j(\mathbf{y})]\theta_\ell \nu_\ell ds \\
&= \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} T_{ij}\dot{u}_j dS + a_\ell \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} V_{ij\ell}u_j dS \\
&\quad + u_j(\mathbf{y}) \oint_{\partial\Gamma_\varepsilon} T_{ij}\theta_\ell \nu_\ell ds + a_\ell \oint_{\partial\Gamma_\varepsilon} T_{ij}[u_j - u_j(\mathbf{y})]\nu_\ell ds + o(1), \tag{59}
\end{aligned}$$

where $\dot{T}_{ij} = a_\ell V_{ij\ell}$.

It is worth noting that when $i \neq j$, and contrary to the potential case (cfr. (45)), the final line integral in the above expression may not be zero in the limit. In Appendix B it is shown that, when

\mathbf{y} is between two boundary elements with border of tangent \mathbf{a} , we obtain the following result ($i \neq j$)

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \oint_{\partial\Gamma_\varepsilon} T_{ij}[u_j - u_j(\mathbf{y})](a_\ell \nu_\ell) ds = \frac{(1-2\nu)}{12\pi(1-\nu)} \left[\left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial b^1} \times \mathbf{b}^1 \right)_i - \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial b^2} \times \mathbf{b}^2 \right)_i \right], \quad (60)$$

where, on each side 1 and 2, $\mathbf{b}^\ell = \mathbf{n}^\ell \times \mathbf{a}$ is a unit vector normal to the edge and tangent to the surface. It is clear that the result in (60) is zero when at \mathbf{y} the boundary is smooth *and* the gradient $\nabla \mathbf{u}$ is continuous. Smoothness of the boundary is, in general, not sufficient since only $\partial \mathbf{u} / \partial a$ is continuous across the two elements.

When contributions from s_ε and Γ_ε are taken together, we observe that in (58) and (59) there are two line integrals that cancel each other. Therefore, we obtain the following final expression, if $\mathbf{u} \in C^{1,\alpha}(\mathbf{y})$

$$\begin{aligned} \left. \frac{dI}{dp} \right|_{p=0} &= \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{d}{dp} \left[\int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y}^p) + s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y}^p)} T_{ij} u_j dS \right] \Big|_{p=0} \\ &= \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \left[\dot{u}_j^*(\mathbf{y}) \int_{s_\varepsilon} T_{ij} dS + \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} T_{ij} \dot{u}_j dS + u_j(\mathbf{y}) \int_{s_\varepsilon} \dot{T}_{ij} dS + \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} \dot{T}_{ij} u_j dS \right] \\ &= \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \left[\left(\dot{u}_j(\mathbf{y}) + \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial a} \right) \int_{s_\varepsilon} T_{ij} dS + \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} T_{ij} \dot{u}_j dS + u_j(\mathbf{y}) a_\ell \int_{s_\varepsilon} V_{ij\ell} dS + a_\ell \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} V_{ij\ell} u_j dS \right] \\ &= \dot{u}_j(\mathbf{y}) c_{ij}(\mathbf{y}) + \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial a} c_{ij}(\mathbf{y}) + \int_{\partial\Omega} T_{ij} \dot{u}_j dS + \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \left[a_\ell \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} V_{ij\ell} u_j dS + u_j(\mathbf{y}) a_\ell \left(\frac{b_{ij\ell}}{\varepsilon} + d_{ij\ell} \right) \right]. \quad (61) \end{aligned}$$

If $\mathbf{u} \notin C^{1,\alpha}(\mathbf{y})$, the term in (60) must be added on the r.h.s.

6.3 Some general remarks

In the analysis presented in this paper the density functions q , u , t_j and u_j are just sufficiently regular functions that do not necessarily solve a boundary value problem as in the case, e.g., of approximate or numerical solutions. In particular, Green's or Betti's reciprocity identities have never been used. Moreover, the resulting formulae for the tangential derivatives of the integral $I(p)$ allow for a change of density (\dot{q} , \dot{u} , etc.) induced by the change of the singular point.

Among other things, these results support the approach presented in [8] to BEM error estimation through sensitivity analysis as shown in Section 8.

Quite remarkable is the fairly weak requirement posed on the smoothness of u and u_j at the singular point \mathbf{y} . The presented analysis only needs the density u and its total derivative \dot{u}^* (eq. (39)) be $C^{0,\alpha}$ at the singular points. In other words, we do *not* require $u \in C^{1,\alpha}(\mathbf{y})$, but only \dot{u} and its directional derivative $\partial u / \partial a$ to be Hölder continuous at \mathbf{y} . As already stated, directional derivatives are continuous between two standard boundary elements provided \mathbf{a} is taken tangent to

the interelement border. Therefore, the analysis is applicable when the point \mathbf{y} is located on an edge and simply continuous elements are used.

7 Numerical examples

Some numerical computations are carried out to test the theoretical findings presented in this paper. In particular, we consider formula (61) for the tangential derivative of a double-layer elastic potential, which is probably the most severe test.

Formula (61) covers the general case. However, if we make some simplifying assumptions, the same computation can also be performed by alternative classical means that can be used for comparison.

In particular, if we consider a piece-wise *flat* surface Γ , the kernel function T_{ij} becomes

$$T_{ij}(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x}) = -\frac{(1-2\nu)}{8\pi(1-\nu)} \frac{(n_i r_{,j} - n_j r_{,i})}{r^2} = \frac{(1-2\nu)}{8\pi(1-\nu)} D_{ij} \left(\frac{1}{r} \right),$$

and hence, according to (5), the following Cauchy principal value integral can be converted into a line integral

$$\oint_{\Gamma} T_{ij} dS = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\Gamma_{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{y}^p)} T_{ij}(\mathbf{y}^p, \mathbf{x}) dS_x = \frac{(1-2\nu)}{8\pi(1-\nu)} \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \oint_{\partial\Gamma_{\varepsilon}} e_{ijk} \tau_k(\mathbf{x}) \frac{ds}{r},$$

where $\partial\Gamma_{\varepsilon} = \partial\Gamma \cup \partial e_{\varepsilon}$ (Figure 1). If the singular point lies on the edge between two panels Γ_1 and Γ_2 we obtain that

$$I(\mathbf{y}) = \oint_{\Gamma} T_{ij} dS = \frac{1-2\nu}{8\pi(1-\nu)} \oint_{\partial\Gamma} e_{ijk} \tau_k(\mathbf{x}) \frac{ds}{r} + 2e_{ijk}(\mathbf{b}^1 - \mathbf{b}^2) \cdot \mathbf{e}_k,$$

where, on each panel Γ_{ℓ} , $\mathbf{b}^{\ell} = \mathbf{n}^{\ell} \times \mathbf{a}$ like in (60). If the source point \mathbf{y} lies within one panel, the last term vanishes.

In either case, the line integrals on the r.h.s. involve only regular functions since $\mathbf{y} \notin \partial\Gamma$. Thus, differentiation with respect to \mathbf{y} can be expressed by differentiation under the integral sign. If, as usual in this paper, $y^p = \mathbf{y}(p) = \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{a}p + \mathbf{o}(p)$, we have that

$$\left. \frac{dI}{dp} \right|_{p=0} = \frac{1-2\nu}{8\pi(1-\nu)} \oint_{\partial\Gamma} e_{ijk} \tau_k a_{\ell} \frac{(x_{\ell} - y_{\ell})}{r^3} ds. \quad (62)$$

The regular integral on the r.h.s. can be evaluated by standard quadrature rules.

The last result is precisely what we need to evaluate the derivative in (61) if we assume a constant density $u_j = 1$ (and hence $\mathbf{u} \in C^{1,\alpha}(\mathbf{y})$), with $\dot{u}_j = 0$. Therefore, we can compare these results to check the general formula (61) which employs the hypersingular integration algorithm described in [9] and [10]. In particular, we can test the exactness of our results regarding the differentiation along the edge.

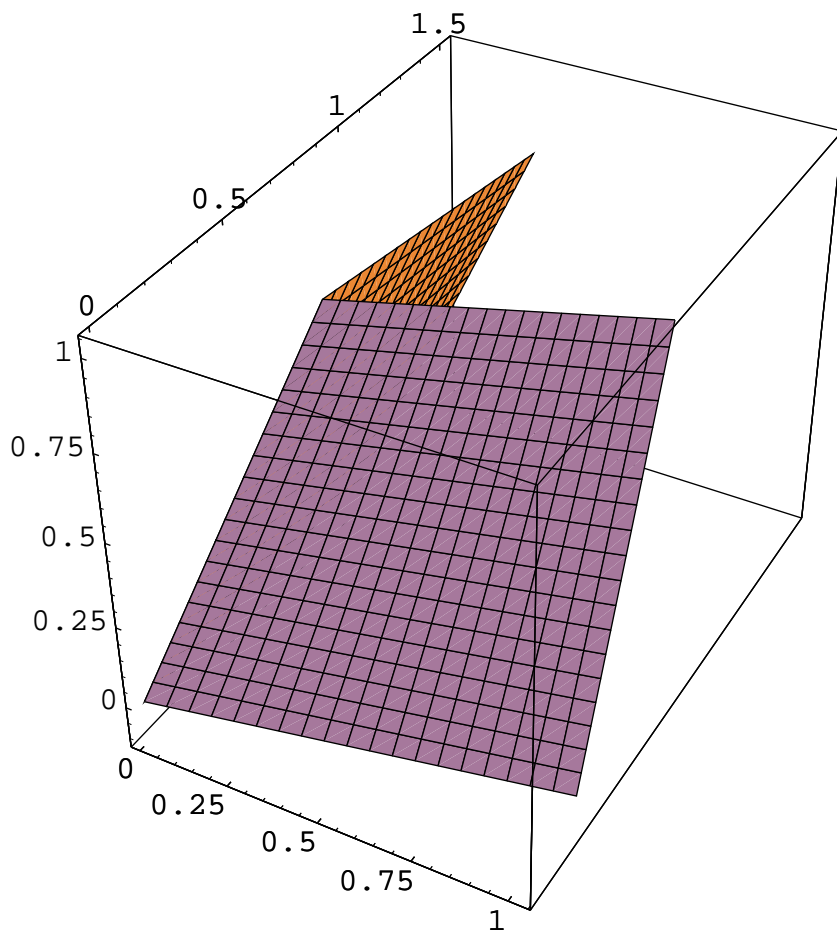


Figure 2: Flat distorted elements employed in numerical examples.

Two flat panels of *distorted* shape and general orientation were considered (Figure 2). The coordinates of the four nodes of each element are as follows: $(1.03, 0.65, 1.03)$, $(0.3, 0.4, 1)$, $(0, 0, 0)$, $(1, 0.3, -0.1)$ for one element, and $(0.3, 0.4, 1)$, $(0.24, 1.52, 0.8)$, $(0, 1, 0)$, $(0, 0, 0)$, for the other element. The singular point $\mathbf{y} = (0.189, 0.252, 0.63)$ was on the common edge of direction $\mathbf{a} = (0.268328, 0.357771, 0.894427)$. A Poisson ratio $\nu = 0.3$ was assumed.

Both methods, i.e., equations (61) and (62), provided the same results up to the seventh significant digit, thus confirming the correctness of the theoretical results presented even when the singular point is located on an edge. The numerical results are summarized in Table 1 for all relevant indices of the kernel function T_{ij} (kernels with equal indices are not singular on flat elements).

For completeness, the same comparison was carried out also for the case of the singular point y located inside one flat element. Again, for more generality, the element had a distorted shape. The coordinates of the four nodes are as in the first element of the former example. The singular point

Table 1: Derivatives of strongly singular integrals: pole along the edge between two elements.

indices (i, j)	derivative
(1,2)	-0.00277012
(2,3)	-0.0719483
(3,1)	0.0590433

Table 2: Directional derivatives of strongly singular integrals: pole within one element.

indices (i, j)	derivative
(1,2)	0.113809
(2,3)	-0.0711122
(3,1)	0.0107791

y was set to have intrinsic coordinates $(0.3, -0.2)$, and the derivative was taken along the direction $\mathbf{a} = (0.645733, 0.407501, 0.645733)$. The results obtained with both methods, i.e., equations (61) and (62), agreed within six significant digits and are reported in Table 2.

8 Sensitivity of approximate boundary element solutions

In the standard boundary element method (BEM), approximate solutions are obtained by collocation at a suitable number of boundary points. Details can be found in any BEM book.

Let, as in [8], the whole set of collocation points $\{\mathbf{y}^{(k)}\}$ be dependent upon a single scalar parameter p . Therefore, given the value of p we know the location of each collocation point $\mathbf{y}^{(k)}(p)$ on $\partial\Omega$. The value $p = 0$ can be associated to the standard nodal collocation. Clearly, the *approximate* BEM solution $u_j(\{\mathbf{y}^{(k)}(p)\}, \mathbf{x}) = u_j(p, \mathbf{x})$ and $t_j(\{\mathbf{y}^{(k)}(p)\}, \mathbf{x}) = t_j(p, \mathbf{x})$ do depend on p through the full set $\{\mathbf{y}^{(k)}(p)\}$ of p -dependent collocation points.

After the system of equations has been solved, the approximate solution is known all over the boundary $\partial\Omega$ and we have the following identities

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\partial\Omega_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y}^{(k)}(p))} \left[T_{ij}(\mathbf{y}^{(k)}(p), \mathbf{x}) u_j(p, \mathbf{x}) - U_{ij}(\mathbf{y}^{(k)}(p), \mathbf{x}) t_j(p, \mathbf{x}) \right] dS = R_k(p) \equiv 0, \quad (63)$$

where $\mathbf{y}^{(k)}(p)$ is any collocation point. Some comments are in order here. First, we must observe that R_k is not the residual of the boundary integral equation. The residual would be obtained with a fixed approximate solution and a changing singular point, whereas both depend on p in (63). In fact, $R_k(p)$ is, by construction, identically zero for any p . Changing p means selecting a new set of collocation

points and obtaining, by collocation and through the solution of a new system of equations, a different numerical solution which has again zero residual at each new point $\mathbf{y}^{(k)}(p)$.

Obviously, since $R_k(p) \equiv 0$, also its derivative is identically zero

$$\frac{dR_k}{dp} \equiv 0.$$

The results obtained in this paper allow for a more explicit expression of the above derivative. It is just a matter of collecting the results in (30) and (61)

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{d}{dp} \int_{\partial\Omega_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y}^{(k)}(p))} \left[T_{ij}(\mathbf{y}^{(k)}(p), \mathbf{x}) u_j(p, \mathbf{x}) - U_{ij}(\mathbf{y}^{(k)}(p), \mathbf{x}) t_j(p, \mathbf{x}) \right] dS \\ &= c_{ij}(\mathbf{y}) \dot{u}_j(\mathbf{y}) + \int_{\partial\Omega} T_{ij} \dot{u}_j dS - \int_{\partial\Omega} U_{ij} \dot{t}_j dS \\ & \quad + c_{ij}(\mathbf{y}) \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial a} + a_\ell d_{ij\ell} u_j(\mathbf{y}) + \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \left[\int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} a_\ell [V_{ij\ell} u_j - W_{ij\ell} t_j] dS + a_\ell \frac{b_{ij\ell}}{\varepsilon} u_j(\mathbf{y}) \right] \equiv 0, \end{aligned} \quad (64)$$

where $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{y}^{(k)}(p)$. If $u_j \notin C^{1,\alpha}(\mathbf{y}^{(k)})$, the additional term (60) must be added on the r.h.s.

Expression (64) supports the approach presented in [8] where the sensitivity of two-dimensional approximate boundary element solutions with respect to the positions of collocation points was obtained. Each row in the system of equations (14) in [8] is identical to eq. (64), provided the BEM solution is used for the density functions u_j and t_j . (The notation is different: dotted quantities in this paper correspond to starred quantities in the other paper).

If we rewrite the identity (64) in this fashion

$$\begin{aligned} & c_{ij}(\mathbf{y}) \dot{u}_j(\mathbf{y}) + \int_{\partial\Omega} T_{ij} \dot{u}_j dS - \int_{\partial\Omega} U_{ij} \dot{t}_j dS \\ &= - \left\{ c_{ij}(\mathbf{y}) \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial a} + a_\ell d_{ij\ell} u_j(\mathbf{y}) + \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \left[\int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} a_\ell [V_{ij\ell} u_j - W_{ij\ell} t_j] dS + a_\ell \frac{b_{ij\ell}}{\varepsilon} u_j(\mathbf{y}) \right] \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (65)$$

we have on the l.h.s. a standard boundary integral equation for the ‘‘sensitivities’’ \dot{u} and \dot{t} , and on the r.h.s. the residual (with minus sign) of the hypersingular boundary integral equation (HBIE) for the tangential derivatives in the \mathbf{a} -direction.

The functions \dot{u} and \dot{t} show that the approximate solution is, in fact, sensitive to the selection of collocation points whenever the same approximate solution fails to satisfy the HBIE for tangential derivatives. The exact solution would have all dotted functions identically equal to zero since the r.h.s. would be identically zero as well.

In [8] it was heuristically suggested to employ suitable norms of these sensitivities to steer a self adaptive mesh refinement process.

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Appendix A: Existence of the limits

The integrals in (24) whose value might be affected by the shape of the exclusion neighbourhood are those with more singular kernels. For simplicity, the analysis is presented for smooth boundary at \mathbf{y} . However, the same path can be followed when \mathbf{y} lies on an edge and q is only piecewise $C^{0,\alpha}$.

Basically, using (2) and then integrating by parts using eq. (6) we have that

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} \frac{\partial G}{\partial y_m} dS + \oint_{\partial\Gamma_\varepsilon} G \nu_m ds &= \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} - \left(D_m G - n_m \frac{\partial G}{\partial n} \right) dS + \oint_{\partial\Gamma_\varepsilon} G \nu_m ds \\
&= \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} n_m \left(2\kappa G + \frac{\partial G}{\partial n} \right) dS - \oint_{\partial\Gamma_\varepsilon} G \nu_m ds + \oint_{\partial\Gamma_\varepsilon} G \nu_m ds, \quad (\text{A1})
\end{aligned}$$

where κ is the mean curvature. In the last equation, the original singular integrals have been converted into a weakly singular integral on Γ_ε . Thus the limit investigated exists and its value does not depend on the shape of $v_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y})$.

Now, let us consider eq. (46). We recall that the third line in (46) follows from the first or second line only when a circular shape of uniform radius ε is taken for the vanishing neighbourhood v_ε . We have therefore to show that this choice for v_ε is not relevant.

Integrating by parts as in (5) we have that

$$\begin{aligned}
-a_i \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} (G_{,ij} n_j) u dS &= a_i \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} (D_{ij} G_{,j}) u dS \\
&= a_i e_{ijp} \oint_{\partial\Gamma_\varepsilon} \tau_p G_{,j} u ds + a_i \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} G_{,j} (D_{ji} u) dS \\
&= \oint_{\partial\Gamma_\varepsilon} [(a_i n_i) \nu_j - (a_i \nu_i) n_j] G_{,j} u ds + a_i \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} G_{,j} (D_{ji} u) dS. \quad (\text{A2})
\end{aligned}$$

Still by integration by parts we already knew that

$$- \int_{s_\varepsilon} G_{,ij} n_j dS = \oint_{\partial\Gamma_\varepsilon} G_{,j} (\nu_i n_j - \nu_j n_i) ds.$$

Therefore, an alternative expression for (46) is

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{d}{dp} \left[\int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y}^p) + s_\varepsilon(\mathbf{y}^p)} T u dS \right] \Big|_{p=0} \\ &= \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \left[\dot{u}^*(\mathbf{y}) \int_{s_\varepsilon} G_{,j} n_j dS + \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} (G_{,j} n_j) \dot{u} dS + u(\mathbf{y}) a_i \oint_{\partial\Gamma_\varepsilon} G_{,j} (\nu_i n_j - \nu_j n_i) ds \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \oint_{\partial\Gamma_\varepsilon} [(a_i n_i) \nu_j - (a_i \nu_i) n_j] G_{,j} u ds + a_i \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} G_{,j} (D_{ji} u) dS + a_i \oint_{\partial\Gamma_\varepsilon} G_{,j} n_j [u - u(\mathbf{y})] \nu_i ds \right] \\ &= \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \left[\dot{u}^*(\mathbf{y}) \int_{s_\varepsilon} G_{,j} n_j dS + \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} (G_{,j} n_j) \dot{u} dS + a_i \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} G_{,j} (D_{ji} u) dS \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \oint_{\partial\Gamma_\varepsilon} G_{,j} \nu_j (a_i n_i) [u - u(\mathbf{y})] ds \right], \end{aligned} \tag{A3}$$

where the final line integral clearly tends to zero if $\boldsymbol{\theta} \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0$ and $\mathbf{u} \in C^{0,\alpha}(\mathbf{y})$.

Further manipulations are possible since

$$\int_{s_\varepsilon} G_{,j} n_j dS = - \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} G_{,j} n_j dS$$

and

$$a_i \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} G_{,j} (D_{ji} u) dS = \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} [(a_i u_{,i}) G_{,j} n_j - (a_i n_i) G_{,j} u_{,j}] dS,$$

where $a_i n_i = O(\varepsilon^\alpha)$. Moreover, we can set

$$\begin{aligned} a_i u_{,i} &= a_i [u_{,i} - u_{,i}(\mathbf{y})] + a_i u_{,i}(\mathbf{y}) \\ &= a_i [u_{,i} - u_{,i}(\mathbf{y})] + \dot{u}(\mathbf{y}) + a_i u_{,i}(\mathbf{y}) - \dot{u}(\mathbf{y}) \\ &= a_i [u_{,i} - u_{,i}(\mathbf{y})] + \dot{u}^*(\mathbf{y}) - \dot{u}(\mathbf{y}). \end{aligned}$$

Summing up, the following *regularized* expression for (A3) or (46) is obtained

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{d}{dp} \left\{ \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon + s_\varepsilon} T u dS \right\} \Big|_{p=0} &= \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} \left\{ \left([\dot{u} - \dot{u}(\mathbf{y})] + a_i [u_{,i} - u_{,i}(\mathbf{y})] \right) G_{,j} n_j - (a_i n_i) G_{,j} u_{,j} \right\} dS \\ &= \int_{\partial\Omega} \left\{ \left([\dot{u} - \dot{u}(\mathbf{y})] + a_i [u_{,i} - u_{,i}(\mathbf{y})] \right) G_{,j} n_j - (a_i n_i) G_{,j} u_{,j} \right\} dS \end{aligned} \tag{A4}$$

Since all integrals are weakly singular the limit exists and it does not depend on the selected shape of v_ε .

Similar proofs can be provided for the elastic case.

Appendix B: Proof of eq. (60)

Let the singular point \mathbf{y} be on an edge of tangent \mathbf{a} . On each side we define a unit vector \mathbf{b}^ℓ , $\ell = 1, 2$

$$\mathbf{b}^\ell = \mathbf{n}^\ell \times \mathbf{a}$$

normal to the edge and tangent to the surface. Clearly, $(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}^\ell, \mathbf{n}^\ell)$, $\ell = 1, 2$, are two Cartesian orthonormal bases.

Let $(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{n}) = (\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}^1, \mathbf{n}^1)$ be the basis with \mathbf{b} pointing out of the edge. We have on the half part $\partial\hat{\Gamma}_\varepsilon$ of $\partial\Gamma_\varepsilon$ lying on the corresponding element

$$\begin{aligned} r &= \varepsilon \\ r_{,1} &= \cos\theta + O(\varepsilon) \\ r_{,2} &= \sin\theta + O(\varepsilon) \\ r_{,3} &= O(\varepsilon) \\ n_\ell(\mathbf{y}) &= \delta_{\ell 3} \\ ds &= \varepsilon(1 + O(\varepsilon))d\theta \\ \nu_\ell &= -r_{,\ell} + O(\varepsilon) \\ \mathbf{a} &= (1, 0, 0) \\ \nu_\ell a_\ell &= -\cos\theta + O(\varepsilon), \end{aligned}$$

where polar coordinated centered at \mathbf{y} have been introduced.

Assume that on each side of the edge (i.e., for $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$ here), \mathbf{u} has a $C^{0,\alpha}$ gradient. Then

$$u_j - u_j(\mathbf{y}) = \varepsilon u_{j,m}(\mathbf{y}) r_{,m}(\mathbf{y}) + O(\varepsilon^{1+\alpha}).$$

Then, one has

$$\oint_{\partial\hat{\Gamma}_\varepsilon} T_{ij}[u_j - u_j(\mathbf{y})](a_\ell \nu_\ell) ds = \int_0^\pi \frac{-(1-2\nu)}{8\pi(1-\nu)\varepsilon^2} [r_{,j} n_i - r_{,i} n_j] \varepsilon u_{j,m}(\mathbf{y}) r_{,m}(-\cos\theta) \varepsilon d\theta + o(1),$$

where $n_\ell = n_\ell(\mathbf{y})$ and ν is the Poisson ratio. Now using

$$\int_0^\pi (\cos^3\theta, \cos^2\theta \sin\theta, \cos\theta \sin^2\theta) d\theta = (0, 2/3, 0),$$

we have

$$\int_0^\pi r_{,i} r_{,m} \cos\theta d\theta = (2/3)(\delta_{i1}\delta_{m2} + \delta_{i2}\delta_{m1}),$$

so that

$$\begin{aligned}
\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \oint_{\hat{\Gamma}_\varepsilon} T_{ij}[u_j - u_j(\mathbf{y})](a_\ell \nu_\ell) ds &= A[(\delta_{j1}\delta_{m2} + \delta_{j2}\delta_{m1})\delta_{i3} - (\delta_{i1}\delta_{m2} + \delta_{i2}\delta_{m1})\delta_{j3}]u_{j,m}(\mathbf{y}) \\
&= A[(\delta_{i3}\delta_{j1} - \delta_{i1}\delta_{j3})\delta_{m2} + (\delta_{i3}\delta_{j2} - \delta_{i2}\delta_{j3})\delta_{m1}]u_{j,m}(\mathbf{y}) \\
&= A[e_{kij}e_{k31}u_{j,2}(\mathbf{y}) + e_{kij}e_{k32}u_{j,1}(\mathbf{y})] \\
&= A[(\mathbf{u}_{,2} \times \mathbf{b})_i - (\mathbf{u}_{,1} \times \mathbf{a})_i], \tag{B1}
\end{aligned}$$

where $A = (1 - 2\nu)/(12\pi(1 - \nu))$ and the derivatives of \mathbf{u} are intended in the local frame $(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{n})$.

Since $\mathbf{u}_{,1}$ is continuous across the edge, the contribution for the two half-circles add up to zero. On the other hand, the contributions of terms involving $(\mathbf{u}_{,2} \times \mathbf{b})_i$ will give rise to nonzero free terms in eq. (60) which depend on the two derivatives of \mathbf{u} along the directions \mathbf{b}^ℓ .