

Derived Ritz Vectors, Numerical Integration

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Dynamic analysis can be understood as a three steps procedure

1. *FEM* model discretization of the structural system,
2. solution of the eigenproblem,
3. integration of the uncoupled equations of motion.

The eigenproblem solution is often obtained by some variation of the Rayleigh-Ritz procedure: using Ritz coordinates and a reduced set of the resulting eigenvectors is both an efficient and an accurate way of solving the eigenproblem.

A key point in the procedure is a proper choice of the initial Ritz base Φ_0 , and it turns out that an effective set of base vectors is given by the so called Lanczos vectors, to which we associate a set of Lanczos coordinates.

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The Lanczos vectors are obtained in a manner that is similar to matrix iteration and are constructed in such a way that each one is orthogonal to all the others.

In general, in a similar sequence (e.g., Gram-Schmidt orthogonalisation) all the vectors must be orthogonalised with respect to all preceding vectors, but in the case of Lanczos vectors it is sufficient to orthogonalise a new vector with respect to the two preceding ones to ensure full orthogonality (at least theoretically, real life numerical errors are a different story...).

Lanczos vectors sequence was invented as a procedure to solve the eigenproblem for a large symmetrical matrix and the details of the procedure are slightly different from the application that we will see.

First Vector

Our initial assumption is that the load vector can be decoupled, $\mathbf{p}(x, t) = \mathbf{r} f(t)$

1. Obtain the deflected shape ℓ_1 due to the application of the force shape vector (ℓ 's are displacements).

$$\mathbf{K} \ell_1 = \mathbf{r}$$

2. Compute the normalisation factor for the first deflected shape with respect to the mass matrix (β is a displacement).

$$\beta_1^2 = \frac{\ell_1^T \mathbf{M} \ell_1}{1 \text{ unit mass}}$$

3. Obtain the first derived Ritz vector normalising ℓ_1 such that $\boldsymbol{\phi}_1^T \mathbf{M} \boldsymbol{\phi} = 1$ unit of mass (ϕ 's are adimensional).

$$\boldsymbol{\phi}_1 = \frac{1}{\beta_1} \ell_1$$

Second Vector

A load vector is computed, $\mathbf{r}_1 = \mathbf{1M}\boldsymbol{\phi}_1$, where $\mathbf{1}$ is a unit acceleration and \mathbf{r}_1 is a vector of forces.

1. Obtain the deflected shape $\boldsymbol{\ell}_2$ due to the application of the force shape vector.

$$\mathbf{K}\boldsymbol{\ell}_2 = \mathbf{r}_1$$

2. Purify the displacements $\boldsymbol{\ell}_2$ (α_1 is dimensionally a displacement).

$$\alpha_1 = \frac{\boldsymbol{\phi}_1^T \mathbf{M} \boldsymbol{\ell}_2}{1 \text{ unit mass}}$$
$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\ell}}_2 = \boldsymbol{\ell}_2 - \alpha_1 \boldsymbol{\phi}_1$$

3. Compute the normalisation factor.

$$\beta_2^2 = \frac{\hat{\boldsymbol{\ell}}_2^T \mathbf{M} \hat{\boldsymbol{\ell}}_2}{1 \text{ unit mass}}$$

4. Obtain the second derived Ritz vector normalising $\hat{\boldsymbol{\ell}}_2$.

$$\boldsymbol{\phi}_2 = \frac{1}{\beta_2} \hat{\boldsymbol{\ell}}_2$$

Third Vector

The new load vector is $\mathbf{r}_2 = 1\mathbf{M}\boldsymbol{\phi}_2$, 1 being a unit acceleration.

1. Obtain the deflected shape $\boldsymbol{\ell}_3$.

$$\mathbf{K}\boldsymbol{\ell}_3 = \mathbf{r}_2$$

2. Purify the displacements $\boldsymbol{\ell}_3$ where

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\ell}}_3 = \boldsymbol{\ell}_3 - \alpha_2\boldsymbol{\phi}_2 - \beta_2\boldsymbol{\phi}_1$$

$$\alpha_2 = \frac{\boldsymbol{\phi}_2^T \mathbf{M} \boldsymbol{\ell}_3}{1 \text{ unit mass}}$$

$$\alpha_1 = \frac{\boldsymbol{\phi}_1^T \mathbf{M} \boldsymbol{\ell}_3}{1 \text{ unit mass}} = \beta_2$$

3. Compute the normalisation factor.

$$\beta_3^2 = \frac{\hat{\boldsymbol{\ell}}_3^T \mathbf{M} \hat{\boldsymbol{\ell}}_3}{1 \text{ unit mass}}$$

4. Obtain the third derived Ritz vector normalising $\hat{\boldsymbol{\ell}}_3$.

$$\boldsymbol{\phi}_3 = \frac{1}{\beta_2} \hat{\boldsymbol{\ell}}_3$$

Fourth Vector, etc

The new load vector is $\mathbf{r}_3 = \mathbf{1M}\boldsymbol{\phi}_3$, 1 being a unit acceleration.

1. Obtain the deflected shape $\boldsymbol{\ell}_4$.

$$\mathbf{K}\boldsymbol{\ell}_4 = \mathbf{r}_3$$

2. Purify the displacements $\boldsymbol{\ell}_4$ where

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\ell}}_4 = \boldsymbol{\ell}_4 - \alpha_3\boldsymbol{\phi}_3 - \beta_3\boldsymbol{\phi}_2$$

$$\alpha_3 = \frac{\boldsymbol{\phi}_3^T \mathbf{M} \boldsymbol{\ell}_4}{1 \text{ unit mass}}$$

$$\alpha_2 = \frac{\boldsymbol{\phi}_2^T \mathbf{M} \boldsymbol{\ell}_4}{1 \text{ unit mass}} = \beta_3$$

$$\alpha_1 = \frac{\boldsymbol{\phi}_1^T \mathbf{M} \boldsymbol{\ell}_4}{1 \text{ unit mass}} = 0$$

3. Compute the normalisation factor.

$$\beta_4 = \frac{\hat{\boldsymbol{\ell}}_4^T \mathbf{M} \hat{\boldsymbol{\ell}}_4}{1 \text{ unit mass}}$$

4. Obtain the fourth derived Ritz vector normalising $\hat{\boldsymbol{\ell}}_4$.

$$\boldsymbol{\phi}_4 = \frac{1}{\beta_4} \hat{\boldsymbol{\ell}}_4$$

The procedure used for the fourth *DRV* can be used for all the subsequent $\boldsymbol{\phi}_i$, with $\alpha_{i-1} = \boldsymbol{\phi}_{i-1}^T \mathbf{M} \boldsymbol{\ell}_i$ and $\alpha_{i-2} \equiv \beta_{i-1}$, while all the others purifying coefficients are equal to zero, $\alpha_{i-3} = \dots = 0$.

The Tridiagonal Matrix

Having computed $M < N$ *DRV* we can write for, e.g., $M = 5$ that each un-normalised vector is equal to the displacements minus the purification terms

$$\Phi_2 \beta_2 = \mathbf{K}^{-1} \mathbf{M} \Phi_1 - \Phi_1 \alpha_1$$

$$\Phi_3 \beta_3 = \mathbf{K}^{-1} \mathbf{M} \Phi_2 - \Phi_2 \alpha_2 - \Phi_1 \beta_2$$

$$\Phi_4 \beta_4 = \mathbf{K}^{-1} \mathbf{M} \Phi_3 - \Phi_3 \alpha_3 - \Phi_2 \beta_3$$

$$\Phi_5 \beta_5 = \mathbf{K}^{-1} \mathbf{M} \Phi_4 - \Phi_4 \alpha_4 - \Phi_3 \beta_4$$

Collecting the Φ in a matrix Φ , the above can be written

$$\mathbf{K}^{-1} \mathbf{M} \Phi = \Phi \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 & \beta_2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \beta_2 & \alpha_2 & \beta_3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \beta_3 & \alpha_3 & \beta_4 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \beta_4 & \alpha_4 & \beta_5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \beta_5 & \alpha_5 \end{bmatrix} = \Phi \mathbf{T}$$

where we have introduced \mathbf{T} , a symmetric, tridiagonal matrix where $t_{i,i} = \alpha_i$ and $t_{i,i+1} = t_{i+1,i} = \beta_{i+1}$.

Premultiplying by $\Phi^T \mathbf{M}$

$$\Phi^T \mathbf{M} \mathbf{K}^{-1} \mathbf{M} \Phi = \underbrace{\Phi^T \mathbf{M} \Phi}_{\mathbf{I}} \mathbf{T} = \mathbf{T}$$

Write the unknown in terms of the reduced base Φ and a vector of Ritz coordinates z , substitute in the undamped eigenvector equation, premultiply by $\Phi^T M K^{-1}$ and apply the semi-orthogonality relationship written in the previous slide.

$$1. \omega^2 M \Phi z = K \Phi z.$$

$$2. \omega^2 \underbrace{\Phi^T M K^{-1} M \Phi}_{\mathbf{T}} z = \underbrace{\Phi^T M K^{-1} K \Phi}_{\mathbf{I}} z.$$

$$3. \omega^2 \mathbf{T} \ddot{z} = \mathbf{I} z.$$

Due to the tridiagonal structure of \mathbf{T} , the approximate eigenvalues can be computed with very small computational effort.

Write the equation of motion for a Rayleigh damped system, with $p(\mathbf{x}, t) = \mathbf{r} f(t)$ in terms of the *DRV*'s and Ritz coordinates \mathbf{z}

$$\mathbf{M}\Phi\ddot{\mathbf{z}} + c_0\mathbf{M}\Phi\dot{\mathbf{z}} + c_1\mathbf{K}\Phi\dot{\mathbf{z}} + \mathbf{K}\Phi\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{r} f(t)$$

premultiplying by $\Phi^T \mathbf{M} \mathbf{K}^{-1}$, substituting \mathbf{T} and \mathbf{I} where appropriate, doing a series of substitutions on the right member

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{T}(\ddot{\mathbf{z}} + c_0\dot{\mathbf{z}}) + \mathbf{I}(c_1\dot{\mathbf{z}} + \mathbf{z}) &= \Phi^T \mathbf{M} \mathbf{K}^{-1} \mathbf{r} f(t) \\ &= \Phi^T \mathbf{M} \boldsymbol{\ell}_1 f(t) \\ &= \Phi^T \mathbf{M} \beta_1 \boldsymbol{\phi}_1 f(t) \\ &= \beta_1 \{1 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad \dots \quad 0 \quad 0\}^T f(t).\end{aligned}$$

Using the *DRV*'s as a Ritz base, we have a set of *mildly coupled* differential equations, where external loadings directly excite the first *mode* only, and all the other *modes* are excited by inertial coupling only, with rapidly diminishing effects.

Modal Superposition or direct Integration?

Static effects being fully taken into account by the response of the first *DRV*, only a few *DRV*'s are needed in direct integration of the equation of motion.

Furthermore special algorithms were devised for the integration of the *tridiagonal equations of motion*, that aggravate computational effort by $\approx 40\%$ only with respect to the integration of uncoupled equations.

Direct integration in Ritz coordinate is the best choice when the loading shape is complex and the loading duration is relatively short.

On the other hand, in applications of earthquake engineering the loading shape is well behaved and the duration is significantly longer, so that the savings in integrating the uncoupled equations of motion outbalance the cost of the eigenvalue extraction.

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Denoting with Φ_i the i columns matrix that collects the *DRV*'s computed, we define an orthogonality test vector

$$\mathbf{w}_i = \Phi_{i+1}^T \mathbf{M} \Phi_i = \{w_1 \quad w_2 \quad \dots \quad w_{i-1} \quad w_i\}$$

that expresses the orthogonality of the newly computed vector with respect to the previous ones.

When one of the components of \mathbf{w}_i exceeds a given tolerance, the non-exactly orthogonal Φ_{i+1} must be subjected to a Gram-Schmidt orthogonalisation with respect to all the preceding *DRV*'s.

Analogously to the modal participation factor the Ritz participation factor $\hat{\Gamma}_i$ is defined

$$\hat{\Gamma}_i = \frac{\Phi_i^T \mathbf{r}}{\underbrace{\Phi_i^T \mathbf{M} \Phi_i}_1} = \Phi_i^T \mathbf{r}$$

(note that we divided by a unit mass).

The loading shape can be expressed as a linear combination of Ritz vector inertial forces,

$$\mathbf{r} = \sum \hat{\Gamma}_i \mathbf{M} \Phi_i.$$

The number of computed *DRV*'s can be assumed sufficient when $\hat{\Gamma}_i$ falls below an assigned value.

Required Number of DRV

Another way to proceed: define an error vector

$$\hat{\mathbf{e}}_i = \mathbf{r} - \sum_{j=1}^i \hat{\Gamma}_j \mathbf{M} \boldsymbol{\phi}_j$$

and an error norm

$$|\hat{\mathbf{e}}_i| = \frac{\mathbf{r}^T \hat{\mathbf{e}}_i}{\mathbf{r}^T \mathbf{r}},$$

and stop at $\boldsymbol{\phi}_i$ when the error norm falls below a given value.

BTW, an error norm can be defined for modal analysis too.

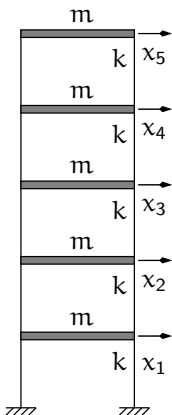
Assuming normalized eigenvectors,

$$\mathbf{e}_i = \mathbf{r} - \sum_{j=1}^i \Gamma_j \mathbf{M} \boldsymbol{\phi}_j, \quad |\mathbf{e}_i| = \frac{\mathbf{r}^T \mathbf{e}_i}{\mathbf{r}^T \mathbf{r}}$$

Error Norms, modes

In this example, we compare the error norms using modal forces and *DRV* forces to approximate 3 different loading shapes.

The building model, on the left, used in this example is the same that we already used in different examples.



The structural matrices are $M = m \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$,

$$K = k \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, F = \frac{1}{k} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 3 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Eigenvalues and eigenvectors matrices are:

$$\Lambda = \begin{bmatrix} 0.0810 & 0.0000 & 0.0000 & 0.0000 & 0.0000 \\ 0.0000 & 0.6903 & 0.0000 & 0.0000 & 0.0000 \\ 0.0000 & 0.0000 & 1.7154 & 0.0000 & 0.0000 \\ 0.0000 & 0.0000 & 0.0000 & 2.8308 & 0.0000 \\ 0.0000 & 0.0000 & 0.0000 & 0.0000 & 3.6825 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\Psi = \begin{bmatrix} +0.1699 & -0.4557 & +0.5969 & +0.5485 & -0.3260 \\ +0.3260 & -0.5969 & +0.1699 & -0.4557 & +0.5485 \\ +0.4557 & -0.3260 & -0.5485 & -0.1699 & -0.5969 \\ +0.5485 & +0.1699 & -0.3260 & +0.5969 & +0.4557 \\ +0.5969 & +0.5485 & +0.4557 & -0.3260 & -0.1699 \end{bmatrix}$$

The *DRV's* are computed for three different shapes of force vectors,

$$\mathbf{r}_{(1)} = \{0 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad +1\}^T$$

$$\mathbf{r}_{(2)} = \{0 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad -2 \quad 1\}^T$$

$$\mathbf{r}_{(3)} = \{1 \quad 1 \quad 1 \quad 1 \quad +1\}^T.$$

For the three force shapes, we have of course different sets of *DRV's*

$$\Phi_{(1)} = \begin{bmatrix} +0.1348 & +0.3023 & +0.4529 & +0.5679 & +0.6023 \\ +0.2697 & +0.4966 & +0.4529 & +0.0406 & -0.6884 \\ +0.4045 & +0.4750 & -0.1132 & -0.6693 & +0.3872 \\ +0.5394 & +0.1296 & -0.6794 & +0.4665 & -0.1147 \\ +0.6742 & -0.6478 & +0.3397 & -0.1014 & +0.0143 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\Phi_{(2)} = \begin{bmatrix} -0.1601 & -0.0843 & +0.2442 & +0.6442 & +0.7019 \\ -0.3203 & -0.0773 & +0.5199 & +0.4317 & -0.6594 \\ -0.4804 & +0.1125 & +0.5627 & -0.6077 & +0.2659 \\ -0.6405 & +0.5764 & -0.4841 & +0.1461 & -0.0425 \\ -0.4804 & -0.8013 & -0.3451 & -0.0897 & -0.0035 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\Phi_{(3)} = \begin{bmatrix} +0.1930 & -0.6195 & +0.6779 & -0.3385 & +0.0694 \\ +0.3474 & -0.5552 & -0.2489 & +0.6604 & -0.2701 \\ +0.4633 & -0.1805 & -0.5363 & -0.3609 & +0.5787 \\ +0.5405 & +0.2248 & -0.0821 & -0.4103 & -0.6945 \\ +0.5791 & +0.4742 & +0.4291 & +0.3882 & +0.3241 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Error Norm, comparison

Error Norm						
Forces $\mathbf{r}_{(1)}$		Forces $\mathbf{r}_{(2)}$		Forces $\mathbf{r}_{(3)}$		
modes	<i>DRV</i>	modes	<i>DRV</i>	modes	<i>DRV</i>	
1	0.643728	0.545454	0.949965	0.871794	0.120470	0.098360
2	0.342844	0.125874	0.941250	0.108156	0.033292	0.012244
3	0.135151	0.010489	0.695818	0.030495	0.009076	0.000757
4	0.028863	0.000205	0.233867	0.001329	0.001567	0.000011
5	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000

Reduced Eigenproblem using DRV base

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Using the same structure as in the previous example, we want to compute the first 3 eigenpairs using the first 3 *DRV*'s computed for $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r}_{(3)}$ as a reduced Ritz base, with the understanding that $\mathbf{r}_{(3)}$ is a reasonable approximation to inertial forces in mode number 1.

The *DRV*'s used were printed in a previous slide, the reduced mass matrix is the unit matrix (by orthonormalisation of the *DRV*'s), the reduced stiffness is

$$\hat{\mathbf{K}} = \mathbf{\Phi}^T \mathbf{K} \mathbf{\Phi} = \begin{bmatrix} +0.0820 & -0.0253 & +0.0093 \\ -0.0253 & +0.7548 & -0.2757 \\ +0.0093 & -0.2757 & +1.8688 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The eigenproblem, in Ritz coordinates is

$$\hat{\mathbf{K}} \mathbf{z} = \omega^2 \mathbf{z}.$$

A comparison between *exact* solution and Ritz approximation is in the next slide.

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Reduced Eigenproblem using DRV base, comparison

In the following, hatted matrices refer to approximate results.

The eigenvalues matrices are

$$\mathbf{\Lambda} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.0810 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.6903 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1.7154 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{\mathbf{\Lambda}} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.0810 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.6911 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1.9334 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The eigenvectors matrices are

$$\mathbf{\Psi} = \begin{bmatrix} +0.1699 & -0.4557 & +0.5969 \\ +0.3260 & -0.5969 & +0.1699 \\ +0.4557 & -0.3260 & -0.5485 \\ +0.5485 & +0.1699 & -0.3260 \\ +0.5969 & +0.5485 & +0.4557 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{\mathbf{\Psi}} = \begin{bmatrix} +0.1699 & -0.4553 & +0.8028 \\ +0.3260 & -0.6098 & -0.1130 \\ +0.4557 & -0.3150 & -0.4774 \\ +0.5485 & +0.1800 & -0.1269 \\ +0.5969 & +0.5378 & +0.3143 \end{bmatrix}.$$

When we reviewed the numerical integration methods, we said that some methods are unconditionally stable and others are conditionally stable, that is the response *blows-out* if the time step h is great with respect to the natural period of vibration, $h > \frac{T_n}{\alpha}$, where α is a constant that depends on the numerical algorithm.

For *MDOF* systems, the relevant T is the one associated with the highest mode present in the structural model, so for moderately complex structures it becomes impossible to use a conditionally stable algorithm.

In the following, two unconditionally stable algorithms will be analysed, i.e., the constant acceleration method, that we already know, and the new Wilson's θ method.

- ▶ The initial conditions are known:

$$\mathbf{x}_0, \quad \dot{\mathbf{x}}_0, \quad \mathbf{p}_0, \quad \rightarrow \quad \ddot{\mathbf{x}}_0 = \mathbf{M}^{-1}(\mathbf{p}_0 - \mathbf{C}\dot{\mathbf{x}}_0 - \mathbf{K}\mathbf{x}_0).$$

- ▶ With a fixed time step h , compute the constant matrices

$$\mathbf{A} = 2\mathbf{C} + \frac{4}{h}\mathbf{M}, \quad \mathbf{B} = 2\mathbf{M}, \quad \mathbf{K}^+ = \frac{2}{h}\mathbf{C} + \frac{4}{h^2}\mathbf{M}.$$

Constant Acceleration, stepping

- ▶ Starting with $i = 0$, compute the effective force increment,

$$\Delta \hat{\mathbf{p}}_i = \mathbf{p}_{i+1} - \mathbf{p}_i + \mathbf{A}\dot{\mathbf{x}}_i + \mathbf{B}\ddot{\mathbf{x}}_i,$$

the tangent stiffness \mathbf{K}_i and the current incremental stiffness,

$$\hat{\mathbf{K}}_i = \mathbf{K}_i + \mathbf{K}^+.$$

- ▶ For linear systems, it is

$$\Delta \mathbf{x}_i = \hat{\mathbf{K}}_i^{-1} \Delta \hat{\mathbf{p}}_i,$$

for a non linear system $\Delta \mathbf{x}_i$ is produced by the modified Newton-Raphson iteration procedure.

- ▶ The state vectors at the end of the step are

$$\mathbf{x}_{i+1} = \mathbf{x}_i + \Delta \mathbf{x}_i, \quad \dot{\mathbf{x}}_{i+1} = 2 \frac{\Delta \mathbf{x}_i}{h} + \dot{\mathbf{x}}_i$$

- ▶ Increment the step index, $i = i + 1$.
- ▶ Compute the accelerations using the equation of equilibrium,

$$\ddot{\mathbf{x}}_i = \mathbf{M}^{-1}(\mathbf{p}_i - \mathbf{C}\dot{\mathbf{x}}_i - \mathbf{K}\mathbf{x}_i).$$

- ▶ Repeat the substeps detailed in the previous slide.

- Initialization

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{y}_0 &= \mathbf{x}_i & \mathbf{f}_{S,0} &= \mathbf{f}_S(\text{system state}) \\ \Delta \mathbf{R}_1 &= \Delta \hat{\mathbf{p}}_i & \mathbf{K}_T &= \hat{\mathbf{K}}_i \end{aligned}$$

- For $j = 1, 2, \dots$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{K}_T \Delta \mathbf{y}_j &= \Delta \mathbf{R}_1 \rightarrow \Delta \mathbf{y}_j \text{ (test for convergence)} \\ \mathbf{y}_j &= \mathbf{y}_{j-1} + \Delta \mathbf{y}_j \\ \mathbf{f}_{S,j} &= \mathbf{f}_S(\text{updated system state}) \\ \Delta \mathbf{f}_{S,j} &= \mathbf{f}_{S,j} - \mathbf{f}_{S,j-1} - (\mathbf{K}_T - \mathbf{K}_i) \Delta \mathbf{y}_j \\ \Delta \mathbf{R}_{j+1} &= \Delta \mathbf{R}_j - \Delta \mathbf{f}_{S,j} \end{aligned}$$

- Return the value $\Delta \mathbf{x}_i = \mathbf{y}_j - \mathbf{x}_i$

A suitable convergence test is

$$\frac{\Delta \mathbf{R}_j^T \Delta \mathbf{y}_j}{\Delta \hat{\mathbf{p}}_i^T \Delta \mathbf{x}_{i,j}} \leq \text{tol}$$

The linear acceleration method is significantly more accurate than the constant acceleration method, meaning that it is possible to use a longer time step to compute the response of a *SDOF* system within a required accuracy.

On the other hand, the method is not safely applicable to *MDOF* systems due to its numerical instability.

Professor Ed Wilson demonstrated that simple variations of the linear acceleration method can be made unconditionally stable and found the most accurate in this family of algorithms, collectively known as *Wilson's θ methods*.

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Wilson's θ method

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Vectors,
Numerical
Integration

Giacomo Boffi

Wilson's idea is very simple: the results of the linear acceleration algorithm are *good enough* only in a fraction of the time step. Wilson demonstrated that his idea was correct, too...

The procedure is really simple,

1. solve the incremental equation of equilibrium using the linear acceleration algorithm, with an extended time step

$$\hat{\mathbf{r}} = \theta \mathbf{h}, \quad \theta \geq 1,$$

2. compute the extended acceleration increment

$$\Delta \hat{\mathbf{x}} \text{ at } \hat{\mathbf{t}} = \mathbf{t}_i + \hat{\mathbf{h}},$$

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$$\hat{h} = \theta h, \quad \theta \geq 1,$$

2. compute the extended acceleration increment $\hat{\Delta}\ddot{x}$ at $\hat{t} = t_i + \hat{h}$,
3. scale the extended acceleration increment under the assumption of linear acceleration, $\Delta\ddot{x} = \frac{1}{\theta}\hat{\Delta}\ddot{x}$,
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Using the same symbols used for constant acceleration. First of all, for given initial conditions \mathbf{x}_0 and $\dot{\mathbf{x}}_0$, initialise the procedure computing the constants (matrices) used in the following procedure and the initial acceleration,

$$\ddot{\mathbf{x}}_0 = \mathbf{M}^{-1}(\mathbf{p}_0 - \mathbf{C}\dot{\mathbf{x}}_0 - \mathbf{K}\mathbf{x}_0),$$

$$\mathbf{A} = 6\mathbf{M}/\hat{h} + 3\mathbf{C},$$

$$\mathbf{B} = 3\mathbf{M} + \hat{h}\mathbf{C}/2,$$

$$\mathbf{K}^+ = 3\mathbf{C}/\hat{h} + 6\mathbf{M}/\hat{h}^2.$$

Wilson's θ method description

Starting with $i = 0$,

1. update the tangent stiffness, $\mathbf{K}_i = \mathbf{K}(\mathbf{x}, \dot{\mathbf{x}}_i)$ and the effective stiffness, $\hat{\mathbf{K}}_i = \mathbf{K}_i + \mathbf{K}^+$, compute $\hat{\Delta}\hat{\mathbf{p}}_i = \theta\Delta\mathbf{p}_i + \mathbf{A}\dot{\mathbf{x}}_i + \mathbf{B}\ddot{\mathbf{x}}_i$, with $\Delta\mathbf{p}_i = \mathbf{p}(t_i + \mathbf{h}) - \mathbf{p}(t_i)$
2. solve $\hat{\mathbf{K}}_i\hat{\Delta}\mathbf{x} = \hat{\Delta}\hat{\mathbf{p}}_i$, compute

$$\hat{\Delta}\ddot{\mathbf{x}} = 6\frac{\hat{\Delta}\mathbf{x}}{\hat{h}^2} - 6\frac{\dot{\mathbf{x}}_i}{\hat{h}} - 3\ddot{\mathbf{x}}_i \rightarrow \Delta\ddot{\mathbf{x}} = \frac{1}{\theta}\hat{\Delta}\ddot{\mathbf{x}}$$

3. compute

$$\Delta\dot{\mathbf{x}} = (\ddot{\mathbf{x}}_i + \frac{1}{2}\Delta\ddot{\mathbf{x}})h$$

$$\Delta\mathbf{x} = \dot{\mathbf{x}}_i h + (\frac{1}{2}\ddot{\mathbf{x}}_i + \frac{1}{6}\Delta\ddot{\mathbf{x}})h^2$$

4. update state, $\mathbf{x}_{i+1} = \mathbf{x}_i + \Delta\mathbf{x}$, $\dot{\mathbf{x}}_{i+1} = \dot{\mathbf{x}}_i + \Delta\dot{\mathbf{x}}$, $i = i + 1$, iterate restarting from 1.

Wilson's θ method description

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A final remark

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The Theta Method is unconditionally stable for $\theta > 1.37$ and it achieves the maximum accuracy for $\theta = 1.42$.