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Problem

Second strain-gradient elasticity introduced by Mindlin [1] to describe surface effects, but restricted to isotropic materials because of complexity (18 constitutive parameters). Experimental approach :

- is very difficult for isotropic (amorphous) materials ;
- is already achieved for crystals, but no framework available to interpret.

Goal : Optimal parametrization of second strain-gradient elasticity with cubic symmetry

$\mathcal{O} \times \mathbb{Z}_2$
(denoted as $m\bar{3}m$ in Hermann–Mauguin notation)

Constitutive law

$\mathbf{u} : \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^3 \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$: displacement field on Ω . The free energy density depends on three state tensors :

$$\psi(\underline{\underline{\varepsilon}}^1, \underline{\underline{\varepsilon}}^2, \underline{\underline{\varepsilon}}^3) \quad (1)$$

- $\underline{\underline{\varepsilon}}^1 \in S^2(\mathbb{R}^3)$ is the usual small-strain tensor (dimension 6);
- $\underline{\underline{\varepsilon}}^2 = \nabla \otimes \nabla \otimes \mathbf{u} \in S^2(\mathbb{R}^3) \otimes \mathbb{R}^3$ is an order 3 tensor, symmetric with respect to the 2 first indices (dimension 18);
- $\underline{\underline{\varepsilon}}^3 = \nabla \otimes \nabla \otimes \nabla \otimes \mathbf{u} \in S^3(\mathbb{R}^3) \otimes \mathbb{R}^3$ is an order 4 tensor, symmetric with respect to the 3 first indices (dimension 30).

Generalized stresses are conjugate of the state tensors with respect to the energy density :

$$\boldsymbol{\tau}^i = \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \underline{\underline{\varepsilon}}^i} \quad (2)$$

Assuming that ψ is a second order polynomial :

$$\begin{bmatrix} \tau^1 \\ \tau^2 \\ \tau^3 \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \underline{\underline{E}} & \underline{\underline{M}} & \underline{\underline{C}} \\ \underline{\underline{M}}^t & \underline{\underline{A}} & \underline{\underline{O}} \\ \underline{\underline{C}}^t & \underline{\underline{O}}^t & \underline{\underline{B}} \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathcal{L}} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{\underline{\varepsilon}}^1 \\ \underline{\underline{\varepsilon}}^2 \\ \underline{\underline{\varepsilon}}^3 \end{bmatrix} + \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \\ \tau_0 \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathcal{T}} \quad (3)$$

- Odd-order tensors vanish because of centro-symmetry
- α is usually zeroed by choosing the initial configuration

$$\begin{bmatrix} \tau^1 \\ \tau^2 \\ \tau^3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \underline{\underline{E}} & \underline{\underline{0}} & \underline{\underline{C}} \\ \underline{\underline{0}}^t & \underline{\underline{A}} & \underline{\underline{0}} \\ \underline{\underline{C}}^t & \underline{\underline{0}}^t & \underline{\underline{B}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{\underline{\varepsilon}}^1 \\ \underline{\underline{\varepsilon}}^2 \\ \underline{\underline{\varepsilon}}^3 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \tau_0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (4)$$

τ_0 is denoted as the cohesion tensor.

Explicit Clebsch-Gordan problem

As the material is assumed centro-symmetric, the sole rotations \mathcal{O} leaving the cube unchanged are considered. U, V and W are irreducible representations of \mathcal{O} :

- Does W appear in the decomposition of $U \otimes V$?
- If yes, what is the multiplicity ?
- What is a basis for W ?

Solution :

- Character formula [2] allows to split a given representation into irreducible representations
- Projection formula [2] is used to build a basis for W .

Decomposition

1. Decompose the state tensors on a basis consistent with the material symmetries
 - $S^2(\mathbb{R}^3) : U = V = \mathbb{R}^3$
 - $S^2(\mathbb{R}^3) \otimes \mathbb{R}^3 : U$ irreducible representation of $S^2(\mathbb{R}^3)$, $V = \mathbb{R}^3$
 - $S^3(\mathbb{R}^3) \otimes \mathbb{R}^3 : U$ irreducible representation of $S^3(\mathbb{R}^3)$, $V = \mathbb{R}^3$
2. Build the constitutive tensors basis from the tensorial product of the decomposition of the state tensors, and build their basis using the projection formula.

Results

- Decomposition of state tensors on subspaces compatible with \mathcal{O} has been obtained (projectors) ;
- τ_0 is in particular shown to depend on two cohesion moduli ;
- An orthogonal basis for the constitutive tensors is obtained :
 - $\underline{\underline{E}}$ depends on 3 elastic moduli, $\underline{\underline{A}}$ requires 11 parameters ;
 - $\underline{\underline{C}}$ is described by 9 parameters, $\underline{\underline{B}}$ depends on 26 parameters.

Surface relaxation

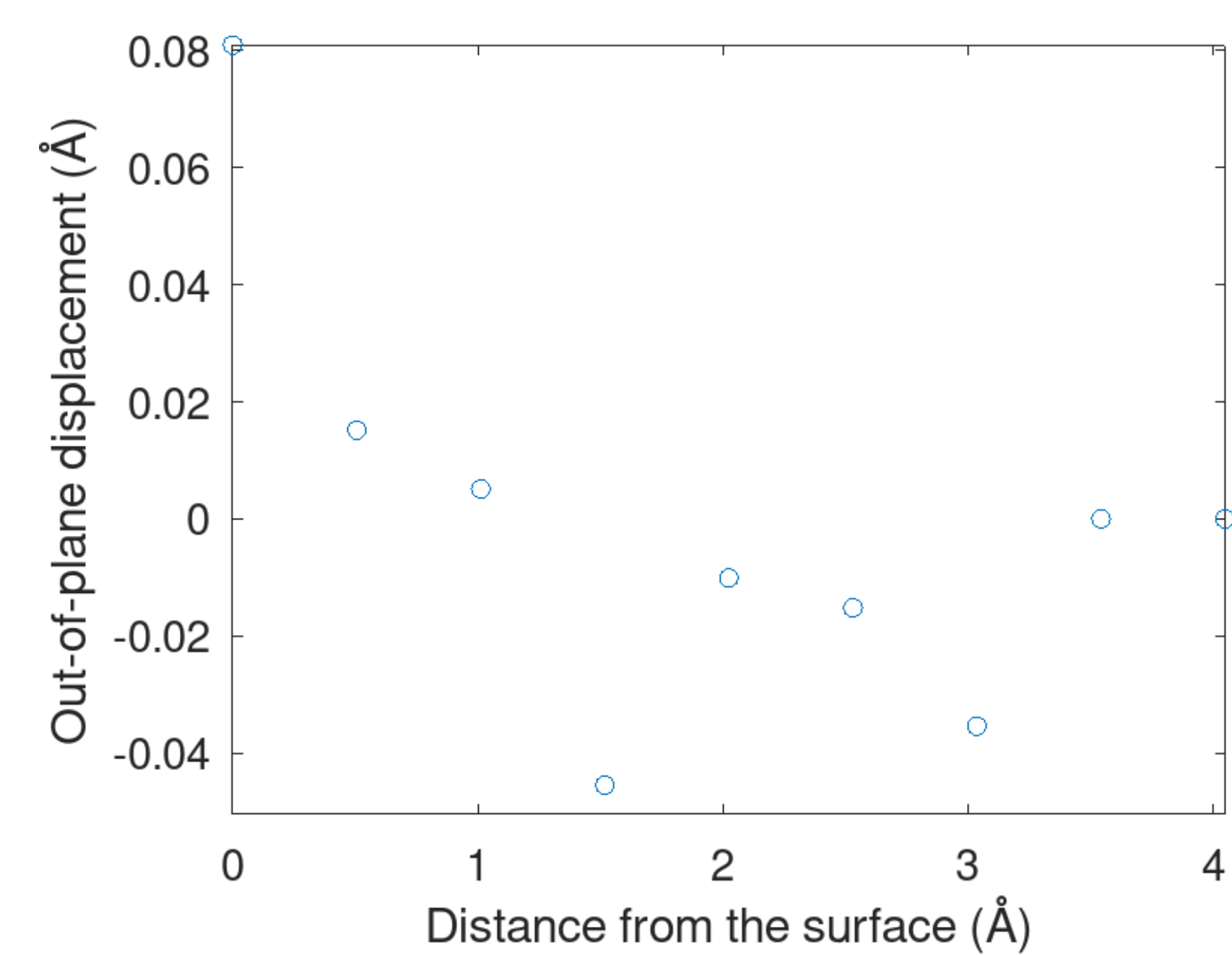
The surface relaxation problem is solved, considering a half-space, whose normal is x_1 . For any crystal orientation, and for any displacement component u_i , the equilibrium imposes

$$\left(1 - l_{i1}^2 \frac{d^2}{dx_1^2}\right) \left(1 - l_{i2}^2 \frac{d^2}{dx_1^2}\right) \frac{d^2 u_i}{dx_1^2} = 0 \quad (5)$$

- The characteristic lengths l_{ij} are real or complex functions of the constitutive parameters and of the crystal orientation ;
- Only u_1 is nonzero because of the boundary conditions.

Low-energy electron diffraction (LEED)

- IV-LEED may be used to retrieve the surface structure of crystals
- Many surface structures, resulting from surface relaxation, have been compiled [3]. Ex : Cu(711) [4]



Conclusion

- Parametrization of second strain-gradient elasticity for centro-symmetric cubic materials
- Clear physical meaning of the parameters
- Towards the experimental identification of the parameters

Bibliography

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