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# BUCKLING LOAD OF A BEAM-COLUMN FOR DIFFERENT END CONDITIONS USING MULTI-SEGMENT INTEGRATION TECHNIQUE

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### ABSTRACT

A method of identifying the buckling load of a beam-column is presented based on a technique named 'Multisegment Integration technique'. This method has been applied to a number of problems to ascertain its soundness and accuracy. We consider a boundary-value problem for the beam-column equation, in which the boundary conditions mean that i) it is hinged at both ends; ii) it is fixed at both ends; and iii) it is fixed at one end and hinged at the other end. The results obtained by Finite Difference method are compared in order to determine the efficiency of this method.

Keywords: beam, column, boundary, finite method, multi-segment integration technique.

### INTRODUCTION

The beam-column problem is generally approached from the standpoint of the strength of materials, which drastically simplify the more precise methods of the theory of elasticity and plasticity. The term "beam-column" is used here to specify a structural member which is subjected simultaneously to axial compressive force and bending moment. The first investigation of the buckling of columns under axial compression go back about two centuries to Euler and his study of the elastica, while the initial investigations of necking in bars are already more than a century old. In the early years, columns were designed empirically and their ultimate strength was determined entirely by the crushing strength of the material similar to that of the fracture strength in tension members.

It was vaguely understood that column strength is somehow related to the column length. Van Musschenbroek (1729) first recognized this and presented an empirical formula for column strength in terms of column length l. Euler (1759) was the first to derive the Euler column formula and proved theoretically that there is another criterion for column strength which is independent of crushing or yielding of material. In this early development, the column behavior is analyzed by using the linear theory based on linear elastic material property and small deflection approximation of the column. Amba Rao (1967) is one of many authors who have shown that in the presence of a compressive axial load, the natural frequency of a beam reduces and finally becomes zero when the critical Euler buckling load is reduced. Euler developments of columns and beamcolumns have been reviewed by Bleich (1952) and Timoshenko (1953). Elastic beam-columns were solved by Timoshenko and Gere (1961), Thompson and Hunt (1973) and many others, for various end conditions. Plastic studies of beam-columns were started by Von Karman (1908, 1910) and Chwalla (1928).

In this paper, we first introduce the basic equation of beam-column theory and we present the analytical expression of the deflection equation for different boundary conditions. Then we present the Euler buckling load for q(x) = 0. Next we present the formulation of the fourth order non-homogeneous beamcolumn equation using both Finite Difference method and Multi-segment Integration technique. Finally we establish some results on critical load and graphical presentation of buckling load obtained from Multi-segment Integration technique.

### MATHEMATICAL MODEL

The basic equation of beam-column theory is a differential equation, linking the displacement of the center line w(x) to the axial compressive load P and the lateral load q(x). That is,

$$EI\frac{d^4w}{dx^4} + P\frac{d^2w}{dx^2} = q$$
(1.1)

together with the boundary condition

i) 
$$w(0) = w''(0) = w(l) = w''(l) = 0$$
 (1.2a)

ii) 
$$w(0) = w'(0) = w(l) = w'(l) = 0$$
 (1.2b)

ii) 
$$w(0) = w'(0) = w(l) = w''(l) = 0$$
 (1.2c)

where *E* is the Young's modulus of the beam, *I* is the area moment of inertia of the beam's cross section.





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Figure-1(c). Beam-column with one end fixed and other end hinged.

Equation (1.1) and the boundary conditions (1.2) arise from the study of elastic stability and have definite physical meanings. Equation (1.1) describes the deflection or deformation of a beam-column under a certain force. The boundary condition (1.2a), (1.2b), and (1.2c) means that the beam-column is hinged at the end x = 0 and x = l, is fixed at the end x = 0 and x = l, is fixed at the end x = l is fixed at the end x = l is fixed at the end x = l respectively. Now the general solution of Equation (1.1) is

 $w(x) = A \cos k x + B \sin k x + C x + D + f(x)$ (1.3) in which

$$f(x)=\frac{q}{2P}x^2.$$

### CALCULATION OF DEFLECTION FUNCTION

When we consider the beam-column with both ends hinged, then using the boundary conditions given in Equation (1.2a) and applying those in Equation (1.3), we get the following deflection equation

$$w(x) = -\frac{2q}{k^2 P} \left( \frac{k \ell - k x}{2} \frac{k x}{2} - \frac{\sin \frac{k x}{2}}{\cos \frac{k x}{2}} \sin \frac{k \ell - k x}{2} \right)$$

The maximum deflection occurs at the mid-span and then deflection equation becomes,

$$w\left(\frac{\ell}{2}\right) = -\frac{2q}{k^2 P} \left[\frac{k\,\ell}{4}\,\frac{k\ell}{4} - \frac{1-\cos\frac{k\,\ell}{2}}{2\cos\frac{k\,\ell}{2}}\right]$$

When we consider the beam-column with both ends fixed, we use the boundary conditions given in Equation (1.2b) and applying those in Equation (1.3), we get the following deflection equation

$$w(x) = \frac{q}{2kP} \left( kx(x-\ell) + \ell(-1+\cos kx) \cot\left(\frac{k\ell}{2}\right) + \ell \sin kx \right)$$

The maximum deflection occurs at the mid-span and then deflection equation becomes,

$$w\left(\frac{\ell}{2}\right) = \frac{q}{2kP}\left(-\frac{k\ell^2}{4} + \ell\left(-1 + \cos\frac{k\ell}{2}\right)\cot\left(\frac{k\ell}{2}\right) + \ell \sin\frac{k\ell}{2}\right)$$

When we consider the beam-column with one end fixed and the other end hinged, we use the boundary conditions given in Equation (1.2c) and applying those in Equation (1.3), we get the following deflection equation

$$w(x) = \frac{-q \begin{pmatrix} 2 k \ell - 2 k x - k x (-2 + k^2 \ell (-\ell + x)) \cos k \ell \\ -2 k \ell \cos k x - k^2 \ell^2 \sin k \ell + k^2 x^2 \sin k \ell \\ +2 \sin (k(\ell - x)) + k^2 \ell^2 \sin (k(\ell - x)) + 2 \sin k x \end{pmatrix}}{2 k^2 P (k \ell \cos k \ell - \sin k \ell)}$$

### CALCULATION OF BUCKLING LOAD

We consider here a beam subject to an axial compressive load P. The buckling load  $P_{cr}$  then satisfies the equation

$$EI\frac{d^4w}{dx^4} + P_{cr}\frac{d^2w}{dx^2} = 0$$
 (1.4)

where *E* is the Young's modulus of the beam, *I* is the area moment of inertia of the beam's cross section,  $P_{cr}$  is the buckling load, and *w* is the transverse displacement. The general solution of Equation (1.4) is

$$w(x) = A \cos k x + B \sin k x + C x + D$$
(1.5)  
where

 $k = \sqrt{EI}$ Applying the boundary conditions given in Equation (1.2a) in Equation (1.5), we get

$$\begin{array}{l} A+D=0,\\ B\sin k\ \ell & +A\cos k\ \ell & +C\ \ell & +D=0,\\ A=0, \end{array}$$

 $B \sin k \ell + A \cos k \ell = 0.$ 

For non-trivial solution, the characteristic equation is

$$\begin{bmatrix} I & 0 & 0 & I \\ \cos k \,\ell & \sin k \,\ell & l & 1 \\ -k^2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -k^2 \cos k \,\ell & -k^2 \sin k \,\ell & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = 0,$$

which yields A = C = D = 0 and  $B \sin k \ell = 0$ . The solution of this equation is  $k \ell = n \pi$ 

$$\Rightarrow k^{2} = \frac{n^{2} \pi^{2}}{\ell^{2}},$$
  
$$\Rightarrow \frac{P}{EI} = \frac{n^{2} \pi^{2}}{\ell^{2}},$$
  
$$\Rightarrow P = EI \frac{n^{2} \pi^{2}}{\ell^{2}}, n = 1, 2, \dots$$

Therefore the buckling load occurs when n = 1 and we get

$$P_{\rm cr} = \frac{\pi^2 E I}{\ell^2}.$$

Again applying the boundary conditions given in Equation (1.2b) in Equation (1.5), we get

A + D = 0,  $B \sin k \ell + A \cos k \ell + C \ell + D = 0,$ A = 0,

 $B \sin k \ell + A \cos k \ell = 0.$ 

For non-trivial solution, the characteristic equation is

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The expansion of this determinant leads to

$$\sin\left(\frac{k\,\ell}{2}\right)\left[k\,\ell\,\cos\left(\frac{k\,\ell}{2}\right)-2\,\sin\left(\frac{k\,\ell}{2}\right)\right]=0.$$

One solution of this equation is

$$k = \frac{2n\pi}{\ell},$$
  

$$\Rightarrow \frac{P}{EI} = \frac{4n^2\pi^2}{l^2}$$
  

$$\Rightarrow P = \frac{4\pi^2 EI}{\ell^2} n^2, n = 1, 2, \dots,$$

Therefore the buckling load occurs when n = 1 and we get

$$P_{cr} = \frac{4\pi^2 E I}{\ell^2} \cdot$$

Again applying the boundary conditions given in Equation (1.2c) in Equation (1.5), we get A + D = 0

$$B \sin k \ell + A \cos k \ell + C \ell + D = 0,$$
  

$$k B + C = 0,$$
  

$$-k^2 B \sin k \ell - k^2 A \cos k \ell = 0.$$

For non-trivial solution, the characteristic equation is

The expansion of this determinant leads to  $k \ell \cos k \ell - \sin k \ell = 0$ 

 $\Rightarrow tan k \ell = k \ell$ .

The solution of this equation is  $k \ell = 4.493$ . So we can write

$$k^{2} = \frac{(4.493)^{2}}{\ell^{2}}$$
$$\Rightarrow \frac{P}{EI} = \frac{(4.493)^{2}}{\ell^{2}}$$
$$\Rightarrow P = \frac{(4.493)^{2}}{\ell^{2}} EI.$$

This equation determines the value of the buckling load.

But in case of a beam-column problem, it is impossible to find the buckling load manually by traditional methods for the problem (1.1)-(1.2). For this reason we use Finite Difference method and Multisegment Integration technique to calculate the buckling load and the answers obtained are not the exact but approximate solutions.

# FINITE DIFFERENCE METHOD

The problem (1.1)-(1.2) is formulated from a mathematical point of view.



Finite Difference Formulae for Governing Differential Equation (1.1):

1. Forward Difference Formula:

-  $EIf_{i+7} + 12EIf_{i+6} - 59EIf_{i+5} + 154EIf_{i+4} - (231EI + 4Ph^2)f_{i+3} + (200EI + 16Ph^2)f_{i+2} - (93EI + 20Ph^2)f_{i+1} + (18EI + 4Ph^2)f_i = 4h^4q$ 2. Backward Difference Formula:

 $\begin{array}{l} - EIf_{i.7} + 12 EIf_{i-6} - 59 EIf_{i-5} + 154 EIf_{i-4} - (231 EI + 4Ph^2)f_{i-3} + \\ (200 EI + 16Ph^2)f_{i-2} - (93 EI + 20Ph^2)f_{i-1} + (18 EI + 4Ph^2)f_i = 4h^4q\\ \textbf{3.} \quad \text{Central Difference Formula:} \end{array}$ 

$$\begin{split} & Elf_{i+3} - 2Elf_{i+2} + (\,4Ph^2 - El)f_{i+1} + (\,4El - 8Ph^2\,)f_i + \\ & (\,4Ph^2 - El)f_{i-1} - 2Elf_{i-2} + Elf_{i-3} = 4h^4\,q \end{split}$$

We use all three formulae to determine the deflection of the beam-column. We use forward difference formula for node 2, backward difference formula for node 8 and central difference formula for node 4, 5 and 6.

Finite Difference Formulae for boundary conditions (1.2a):

$$\begin{split} f_1 &= 0, & \text{at node 1,} \\ &- f_4 + 4 f_3 - 5 f_2 + 2 f_1 = 0, & \text{at node 3,} \\ f_9 &= 0, & \text{at node 9,} \\ &- f_6 + 4 f_7 - 5 f_8 + 2 f_9 = 0, & \text{at node 7.} \end{split}$$

Finite Difference Formulae for boundary conditions (1.2b):

$$f_1 = 0$$
, at node 1,

$$-f_3 + 4f_2 - 3f_1 = 0$$
, at node 3,

$$f_9 = 0, \qquad \text{at node 9},$$

$$f_7 - 4f_8 + 3f_9 = 0$$
, at node 7

Finite Difference Formulae for boundary conditions (1.2c):

- $f_1 = 0$ , at node 1,
- $-f_3 + 4f_2 3f_1 = 0$ , at node 3,  $f_0 = 0$ , at node 9,

$$-f_6 + 4f_7 - 5f_8 + 2f_9 = 0$$
, at node 7.

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# **MULTI-SEGMENT INTEGRATION TECHNIQUE**

The Multi-segment Integration technique is developed by Kalnins and Lestingi (1967) and it involves much less computational work. This method has been applied to a number of problems to ascertain its soundness and accuracy. But the success of this method is limited to the very simple problems which can be managed just as well by direct integration. Finite element formulation of such problems, which ultimately resolves into solution of a large number of linear algebraic equations, has often met the problem of non-convergence. To overcome the difficulty of direct integration of the following problem, Kalnins and Lestingi (1967) developed a Multi-segment method of Integration which avoided integration over large ranges of x.

The linear ordinary differential equation of order *m* is given in matrix form as

$$\frac{d}{dx} [y(x)] = A(x) \cdot y(x) + B(x)$$
where  $y(x) = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \dots \\ y_m \end{bmatrix}$ ,  
 $A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & \dots & a_{1m} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & \dots & \dots & a_{2m} \end{bmatrix}$  and  $B = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & \dots & a_{1m} \\ a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & \dots & \dots & a_{2m} \end{bmatrix}$ 

$$\begin{bmatrix} 21 & 22 & & 2m \\ ... & ... & ... & ... & ... \\ ... & ... & ... & ... & ... \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & ... & ... & ... \\ a_{mm} \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } B = \begin{bmatrix} b_2 \\ ... \\ b_m \end{bmatrix}$$

We can write the given boundary conditions in the matrix form

$$C y(a) + D y(b) = E$$
 (1.6)

Let the solution be  $y(x) = Y(x) \cdot G + Z(x)$ 

where

Consider

G is known as the constants of integration, Y(x) is known as general solution and

Z(x) is known as particular solution.

$$\frac{d}{dx}[Y(x)] = A(x).Y(x) \text{ with } Y(a) = I$$
(1)

$$\frac{d}{dx}[Z(x)] = A(x).Z(x) + B(x) \text{ with } Z(a) = 0$$
(1.9)

Evaluating Equation (1.7) at x = a, we get y(a) = Y(a) G + Z(a).

This follows that G = Y(a).

Again evaluating Equation (1.7) at x = b, we get y(b) = Y(b) G + Z(b).(1.10)

where Y(b) is evaluated at Equation (1.8) by Runge Kutta method of order 4 with initial condition Y(a) = I and Z(b)is evaluated at Equation (1.9) by Runge Kutta method of order 4 with initial condition Z(a) = 0. Solving Equation (1.6)

Iving Equation (1.6) and (1.10), we get   
 
$$C y(a) + D[Y(b), y(a) + Z(b)] = E.$$

$$\Rightarrow y(a) [C+D.Y(b)] = E - D.Z(b).$$

 $\Rightarrow y(a) = [C + D.Y(b)]^{-1} [E - D.Z(b)]$ 

By this way we can obtain the numerical solution of y(x)at the intermediate grid points between x = a and x = b.

### FORMULATION OF THE PROBLEM (1.1-1.2)

Let

$$y = y_1, \frac{dy}{dx} = y_2, \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} = y_3, \frac{d^3 y}{dx^3} = y_4.$$

Then we get

$$\frac{dy_1}{dx} = y_2, \frac{dy_2}{dx} = y_3, \frac{dy_3}{dx} = y_4, \frac{dy_4}{dx} = \frac{q}{EI} - \frac{P}{EI}y_3$$

The governing differential equation in matrix form is
$$\frac{d}{d} \left[ \left( \begin{array}{c} c \end{array} \right) \right] = c \left( \begin{array}{c} c \end{array} \right) = p(c)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \begin{bmatrix} y(x) \end{bmatrix} = A(x) \times y(x) + B(x)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dx} \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ y_3 \\ y_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{P}{EI} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ y_3 \\ y_4 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \frac{q}{EI} \end{bmatrix}.$$
where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{P}{EI} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \frac{q}{EI} \end{bmatrix}$$

The boundary conditions in matrix form is  $C \times y(a) + D \times y(b) = E$ 

where

(1.7)

.8)

$$y(a) = \begin{bmatrix} y_1(a) \\ y_2(a) \\ y_3(a) \\ y_4(a) \end{bmatrix}, \quad y(b) = \begin{bmatrix} y_1(b) \\ y_2(b) \\ y_3(b) \\ y_4(b) \end{bmatrix}.$$

i) For boundary conditions (1.2a):

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, D = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, E = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

ii) For boundary conditions (1.2b):

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, D = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, E = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

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iii) For boundary conditions (1.2c):

<i>C</i> =	1	0	0	0	, <i>D</i> =	0	0	0	0	, <i>E</i> =	0	
	0	0	0	0		1	0	0	0		0	
	0	1	0	0		0	0	0	0		0	
	0	0	0	0_		0	0	1	0		0	

#### RESULTS

To illustrate these procedures consider a beamcolumn that is i) hinged at both ends, ii) fixed at both ends, iii) fixed at one end and hinged at other end subject to an axial force *P* and lateral load *q* as shown in Figures 1(a), 1(b), 1(c), respectively. The buckling loads  $P_{\rm cr}$  of a beam-column with length l = 2m,  $EI = 100 KNm^2$ , and q = 0.01, 0.05, 0.10, 0.15, 0.20, 0.25 kN/m calculated using both Finite Difference method and Multi-segment Integration technique that is used in this paper, are given in Table-1, and the buckling shape of the beam-column is also shown in Figures 1(a), 1(b) and 1(c), respectively.

The Figures 3(a), 3(b) and 3(c) show that for a lateral load q, the lateral displacement produce but when the lateral load q reaches the critical value  $P_{\rm cr}$  then it will not return to its initial position and if q exceeds  $P_{\rm cr}$  then the beam-column will collapse after a slight disturbance.



Figure-3(a). Critical load of a beam-column with both end hinged.



Figure-3(b). Critical load of a beam-column with both end fixed.



Figure-3(c). Critical load of a beam-column with one end fixed and the other end hinged.

From the following results, it is apparent that the approximate solutions yield very good estimates of the values obtained from both the methods, and that any error is simply a function of the number of iterations used. The proposed methods therefore provide a straightforward and effective numerical technique for the problem (1.1)-(1.2).

Boundary conditions	Euler critical load	Finite difference method	Multi-segment Integration technique
Both ends hinged	246.74	247.23	246.82
Both ends fixed	986.96	994.65	991.02
One end fixed and the other end hinged	504.75	505.11	504.69

Table-1. Buckling load of a beam-column

#### CONCLUSION

This paper makes a brief comparison between the proposed method and the familiar finite difference technique. From the results, we have found that the Multi-segment Integration technique is seen to be capable of solving this kind of problem and that the method is both effective and efficient.

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### APPENDIX

	Derivative	Formula	Error
f"(x <sub>i</sub> )	Forward Difference	$\frac{-f_{i+3}+4f_{i+2}-5f_{i+1}+2f_i}{h^2}$	O(h <sup>2</sup> )
	Backward Difference	$\frac{2f_i - 5f_{i-1} + 4f_{i-2} - f_{i-3}}{h^2}$	O(h <sup>2</sup> )
	Central Difference	$\frac{f_{i+1}-2f_i+f_{i-1}}{h^2}$	O(h <sup>2</sup> )

Formulas for Computing Second Derivative.

### Formulas for Computing Fourth Derivative.

D	erivative	Formula	Error
	Forward Difference	$\frac{1}{4h^4} \begin{pmatrix} -f_{i+7} + 12f_{i+6} - 59f_{i+5} + 154f_{i+4} \\ 23lf_{i+3} + 200f_{i+2} - 93f_{i+1} + 18f_i \end{pmatrix}$	O(h <sup>2</sup> )
f''''(x <sub>i</sub> )	Backward Difference	$\frac{1}{4h^4} \begin{pmatrix} -f_{i-7} + 12f_{i-6} - 59f_{i-5} + 154f_{i-4} \\ -231f_{i-3} + 200f_{i-2} - 93f_{i-1} + 18f_i \end{pmatrix}$	O(h <sup>2</sup> )
	Centered Difference	$\frac{1}{4h^4} \begin{pmatrix} f_{i+3} - 2f_{i+2} - f_{i+1} + \\ 4f_i - f_{i-1} - 2f_{i-2} + f_{i-3} \end{pmatrix}$	O(h <sup>2</sup> )