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# Refined 2-D theories for free vibration analysis of annular plates: unified Ritz formulation and numerical assessment 

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#### Abstract

This paper presents a unified Ritz-based method for computation of modal properties of both thick and thin, circular and annular isotropic plates with different boundary conditions. The solution is based on an appropriate and simple formulation capable of handling in an unified way a large variety of two-dimensional higher-order plate theories. The formulation is also invariant with respect to the set of Ritz admissible functions. In this work, accurate upper-bound vibration solutions are presented by using kinematic models up to sixth order and products of Chebyshev polynomials and boundary-compliant functions. Considering the circumferential symmetry of annular plates and the 2-D nature of underlying theories, the present method is also computationally efficient since only single series of trial functions in the radial direction are required.


Keywords: free vibration analysis, circular and annular plates, higher-order plate theories, variable-kinematic Ritz method.

## 1 Introduction

Circular and annular plates are widely adopted as structural elements in many engineering fields. Therefore, reliable mathematical models capable of predicting with high accuracy their dynamic behaviour can be of great importance in the design process.

It is known that the accuracy in the computation of natural frequencies and mode shapes of plate structures can strongly depend on the kinematics assumed to represent their deformation. Modelling approaches range from fully three-dimensional (3-D) models, without any simplifying assumption on the kinematics of deformation, to
traditional plate theories, like classical plate theory (CPT) and first-order shear deformation theory (FSDT), based on a reduction of the 3-D problem to simple and economical two-dimensional (2-D) models [1]. Many attempts lying in the middle have also appeared in the last three decades. They fall into the category of so-called refined or higher-order plate theories, where the conventional kinematics of FSDT is enriched with various higher-order terms as power series expansion of the thickness coordinate $[2,3,4,5,6,7,8]$. The aim of such refined theories is twofold. Firstly, to preserve the 2-D nature of the model and thus avoid the complexity and computational inefficiency of 3-D elasticity solutions. Secondly, to improve, compared to classical theories, the capability of estimating the correct mechanical behaviour of the plate when thickness-to-length ratio increases, accurate through-the-thickness distribution of displacements and stresses is sought or discrete medium-to-high frequency analysis is required.

In contrast to CPT and FSDT, plate theories of high order typically involve complicated mathematical formulations. Derivation and computer implementation of the corresponding models would be less cumbersome with the availability of appropriate techniques capable of handling in an easy and efficient way arbitrary refinements of classical theories. Furthermore, it would be highly desirable to rely on an unified modelling framework giving the ability of performing comparisons of different theories of increasing complexity without the need of a new modelling effort each time.

In view of the above remarks, this paper presents a unified Ritz-based formulation based on an entire class of 2-D higher-order theories for free vibration analysis of both thick and thin isotropic annular plates with different combinations of classical boundary conditions. The novelty of the present work is twofold.

Firstly, a comprehensive assessment of refined plate theories against free vibration of annular plates of any thickness is presented for the first time. Indeed, most of the past investigations on free vibration of circular and annular plates performed an exact or numerical analysis on the basis of CPT and FSDT (see, e.g., [9, 10, 11, 12, 13]). A satisfactory number of papers that carried out a 3-D vibration analysis are also available $[14,15,16,17,18]$. Conversely, probably due to the mathematical and computational complexities mentioned above, higher-order plate theories were employed only in very few works [19, 20, 21]. In particular, remarkable exact closed-form frequency solutions are obtained in [20] and [21] using Reddy's third-order shear deformation theory (TSDT). However, since TSDT discards thickness-stretching effects, which are increasingly important as the thickness-to-radius increases, their analysis is limited to moderately thick plates. The current study aims at evaluating how accurate natural frequencies of higher-order 2-D theories would be in representing a 3-D problem.

Secondly, all previous works on free vibration of circular and annular plates modelled according to 2-D theories suffer from a common shortcoming: they rely on axiomatic models with a fixed kinematic theory. As a result, the development of a refined theory of a certain order requires each time a new mathematical effort along with the related code implementation. This process can be cumbersome and prone to errors. The powerful yet simple method presented in the following overcomes the above de-
ficiency.
The present study can be considered as an extension to annular plates of the variablekinematic Ritz method developed in [22, 23, 24], which were focused on straight-sided quadrilateral plates. The formulation has some attractive properties. It is invariant with respect to both the specific plate theory and the set of admissible functions. In other words, a unified modelling framework is derived in terms of simple modelling kernels, called Ritz fundamental nuclei, which are properly expanded to yield the mass and stiffness matrices of the model. Considering the circumferential symmetry of circular plates and the 2-D nature of the underlying theories, the present method is also computationally efficient since only single series of trial functions in the radial direction are required. In addition, relying on a global approximation, the method has a high spectral accuracy and converges faster than local methods such as finite elements. As a result, the formulation derived in this work is accurate in providing benchmark values yet efficient to be used for design purposes and parametric analysis.

The current paper is an extended version of the conference paper [25] and includes a more complete numerical analysis with new comparison studies for plates with different thickness-to-radius ratios and boundary conditions. The paper is organised as follows. Section 2 contains the mathematical derivation of the method. Details about the Ritz trial set adopted in this study are also given. The convergence and numerical stability properties of the current approach are presented in Section 3. Upper-bound vibration solutions based on various higher-order 2-D models are shown in Section 4. In-depth discussion is provided by comparison the frequency parameters obtained by the current method with various results available in the literature. Finally, some concluding remarks are drawn in Section 5.

## 2 Theoretical formulation

An annular isotropic plate of outer radius $R_{o}$ and inner radius $R_{i}$ is considered as shown in Figure 1. The plate has uniform thickness $h$. An orthogonal cylindrical coordinate system is defined with radial direction $r\left(R_{i} \leq r \leq R_{o}\right)$, circumferential direction $\theta(0 \leq \theta \leq 2 \pi)$ and thickness direction $z(-h / 2 \leq z \leq h / 2)$.

For generality and convenience, the present formulation is derived using a dimensionless coordinate $\xi(-1 \leq \xi \leq 1)$ for the radial direction defined as follows

$$
\begin{equation*}
\xi=\frac{r}{\gamma}-\delta \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where

$$
\begin{align*}
& \gamma=\frac{R_{o}-R_{i}}{2}  \tag{2}\\
& \delta=\frac{R_{o}+R_{i}}{R_{o}-R_{i}} \tag{3}
\end{align*}
$$



Figure 1: Geometry of an annular plate.

The displacement vector $\mathbf{u}=\mathbf{u}(\xi, \theta, z, t)$ of a generic point of the plate is given by

$$
\mathbf{u}(\xi, \theta, z, t)=\left\{\begin{array}{l}
u_{\xi}(\xi, \theta, z, t)  \tag{4}\\
u_{\theta}(\xi, \theta, z, t) \\
u_{z}(\xi, \theta, z, t)
\end{array}\right\}
$$

Strain components can be grouped into an in-plane strain vector $\varepsilon_{\mathrm{p}}$ and out-of-plane (normal) strain vector $\varepsilon_{\mathrm{n}}$ as follows

$$
\varepsilon_{\mathrm{p}}=\left\{\begin{array}{l}
\varepsilon_{\xi \xi}  \tag{5}\\
\varepsilon_{\theta \theta} \\
\gamma_{\xi \theta}
\end{array}\right\} \quad \varepsilon_{\mathrm{n}}=\left\{\begin{array}{c}
\gamma_{\xi z} \\
\gamma_{\theta z} \\
\varepsilon_{z z}
\end{array}\right\}
$$

Within the framework of linear, small strain, elasticity theory, strain vectors are related to displacements through the following equations

$$
\begin{gather*}
\varepsilon_{\mathrm{p}}=\boldsymbol{D}_{\mathrm{p}} \mathbf{u}  \tag{6}\\
\varepsilon_{\mathrm{n}}=\boldsymbol{D}_{\mathrm{n}} \mathbf{u}+\boldsymbol{D}_{z} \mathbf{u} \tag{7}
\end{gather*}
$$

where

$$
\boldsymbol{D}_{\mathrm{p}}=\left[\begin{array}{ccc}
\left(\frac{1}{\gamma}\right) \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} & 0 & 0  \tag{8}\\
\left(\frac{1}{\gamma}\right) \frac{1}{\xi+\delta} & \left(\frac{1}{\gamma}\right) \frac{1}{\xi+\delta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} & 0 \\
\left(\frac{1}{\gamma}\right) \frac{1}{\xi+\delta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} & \left(\frac{1}{\gamma}\right)\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \xi}-\frac{1}{\xi+\delta}\right] & 0
\end{array}\right]
$$

$$
\boldsymbol{D}_{\mathrm{n}}=\left[\begin{array}{ccc}
0 & 0 & \left(\frac{1}{\gamma}\right) \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi}  \tag{9}\\
0 & 0 & \left(\frac{1}{\gamma}\right) \frac{1}{\xi+\delta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \\
0 & 0 & 0
\end{array}\right]
$$

and

$$
\begin{equation*}
\boldsymbol{D}_{z}=\operatorname{diag}\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial z}\right] \tag{10}
\end{equation*}
$$

Accordingly, the stress vector can be partitioned into in-plane $\sigma_{\mathrm{p}}$ and out-of-plane $\sigma_{\mathrm{n}}$ components. Using Eqs. (6) and (7), the three-dimensional Hooke's law can be written as

$$
\begin{align*}
& \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{\mathrm{p}}=\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{pp}} \boldsymbol{D}_{\mathrm{p}} \mathbf{u}+\mathbf{C}_{\mathrm{pn}} \boldsymbol{D}_{\mathrm{n}} \mathbf{u}+\mathbf{C}_{\mathrm{pn}} \boldsymbol{D}_{z} \mathbf{u}  \tag{11}\\
& \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{\mathrm{n}}=\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{np}} \boldsymbol{D}_{\mathrm{p}} \mathbf{u}+\mathbf{C}_{\mathrm{nn}} \boldsymbol{D}_{\mathrm{n}} \mathbf{u}+\mathbf{C}_{\mathrm{nn}} \boldsymbol{D}_{z} \mathbf{u}
\end{align*}
$$

where the following matrices of stiffness coefficients are introduced:

$$
\begin{align*}
& \mathbf{C}_{\mathrm{pp}}=\left[\begin{array}{ccc}
C_{11} & C_{12} & 0 \\
C_{12} & C_{22} & 0 \\
0 & 0 & C_{66}
\end{array}\right], \quad \mathbf{C}_{\mathrm{pn}}=\left[\begin{array}{ccc}
0 & 0 & C_{13} \\
0 & 0 & C_{23} \\
0 & 0 & 0
\end{array}\right]  \tag{12}\\
& \mathbf{C}_{\mathrm{np}}=\left[\begin{array}{ccc}
0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 \\
C_{13} & C_{23} & 0
\end{array}\right], \quad \mathbf{C}_{\mathrm{nn}}=\left[\begin{array}{ccc}
C_{55} & 0 & 0 \\
0 & C_{44} & 0 \\
0 & 0 & C_{33}
\end{array}\right]
\end{align*}
$$

In the case of isotropic materials, the elastic coefficients are given by

$$
\begin{align*}
& C_{11}=C_{22}=C_{33}=\frac{E(1-\nu)}{(1+\nu)(1-2 \nu)} \\
& C_{12}=C_{13}=C_{23}=\frac{E \nu}{(1+\nu)(1-2 \nu)}  \tag{13}\\
& C_{44}=C_{55}=C_{66}=G=\frac{E}{2(1+\nu)}
\end{align*}
$$

in which $E$ is the Young's modulus, $\nu$ is the Poisson's ratio, and $G$ is the shear modulus.

According to the approach developed by Carrera [26], an entire class of twodimensional higher-order plate theories can be compactly described through the following indicial notation:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathbf{u}(\xi, \theta, z, t)=F_{\tau}(z) \mathbf{u}_{\tau}(\xi, \theta, t) \quad(\tau=0,1, \ldots, N) \tag{14}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\mathbf{u}_{\tau}(\xi, \theta, t)$ is the displacement vector containing the unknown kinematic variables related to the specific plate theory, $\tau$ is an integer index related to the order $N$ of the theory and $F_{\tau}(z)$ are selected functions in the thickness direction. The summation convention on indices appearing twice is implied in Eq. (14). In this work, the $z$
expansion is implemented via Taylor polynomials. For the sake of brevity, a higherorder theory of order $N$ will be indicated in the following by $\mathrm{HOT}_{N}$. For example, $\mathrm{HOT}_{3}$ is a plate theory of order 3 based on the following assumed kinematic field:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& u_{\xi}=u_{\xi 0}+z u_{\xi 1}+z^{2} u_{\xi 2}+z^{3} u_{\xi 3} \\
& u_{\theta}=u_{\theta 0}+z u_{\theta 1}+z^{2} u_{\theta 2}+z^{3} u_{\theta 3} \\
& u_{z}=u_{z 0}+z u_{z 1}+z^{2} u_{z 2}+z^{3} u_{z 3}
\end{aligned}
$$

The total number of kinematic degrees of freedom for a given $\operatorname{HOT}_{N}$ is $3(N+1)$. Note that the consideration of higher-order terms in $u_{z}$ allows the inclusion in the present formulation of thickness-stretching effects.

Assuming a harmonic motion and considering the circumferential symmetry of the plate about the coordinate $\theta$, the displacements can be expressed as

$$
\mathbf{u}(\xi, \theta, z, t)=F_{\tau}(z)\left\{\begin{array}{c}
\hat{u}_{\xi \tau}(\xi) \cos (n \theta)  \tag{15}\\
\hat{u}_{\theta \tau}(\xi) \sin (n \theta) \\
\hat{u}_{z \tau}(\xi) \cos (n \theta)
\end{array}\right\} e^{j \omega t}
$$

or, in matrix form,

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathbf{u}(\xi, \theta, z, t)=F_{\tau}(z) \boldsymbol{\Theta}(n \theta) \hat{\mathbf{u}}_{\tau}(\xi) e^{j \omega t} \tag{16}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\hat{u}$ 's are amplitude functions of the dimensionless radial coordinate, $n=0,1,2, \ldots$ is the circumferential wavenumber and $\Theta(n \theta)=\operatorname{diag}(\cos n \theta, \sin n \theta, \cos n \theta)$. Note that $n=0$ in Eq. (15) yields axisymmetric vibration which involves only $u_{\xi}$ and $u_{z}$. A complementary displacement field can be also used by replacing $\cos (n \theta)$ by $\sin (n \theta)$, and conversely, in Eq. (15). In this case, torsional vibration modes are obtained when $n=0$.

A standard Ritz solution is sought for each component of the displacement vector $\hat{\mathbf{u}}_{\tau}(\xi)$ as follows

$$
\begin{align*}
& \hat{u}_{\xi \tau}(\xi)=\phi_{\xi \tau i}(\xi) c_{\xi \tau i} \\
& \hat{u}_{\theta \tau}(\xi)=\phi_{\theta \tau i}(\xi) c_{\theta \tau i}  \tag{17}\\
& \hat{u}_{z \tau}(\xi)=\phi_{z \tau i}(\xi) c_{z \tau i}
\end{align*} \quad(i=1,2, \ldots, M)
$$

where $M$ is the order of the Ritz expansion, $c_{\alpha \tau i}(\alpha=\xi, \theta, z)$ are the unknown Ritz coefficients, and $\phi_{\alpha \tau i}$ are the corresponding Ritz trial functions. Note that, as before for the theory-related index $\tau$ in Eq. (14), Ritz-related dummy index $i$ in Eq. (17) implies summation. The $i$-th admissible function $\phi_{\alpha \tau i}(\xi)$ is chosen here as the product of boundary-compliant functions and the one-dimensional Chebyshev polynomial [17]:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\phi_{\alpha \tau i}(\xi)=f_{\alpha \tau}^{\mathrm{inn}}(\xi) f_{\alpha \tau}^{\text {out }}(\xi) \cos [(i-1) \arccos (\xi)] \tag{18}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $f_{\alpha \tau}^{\mathrm{inn}}(\xi)$ and $f_{\alpha \tau}^{\text {out }}(\xi)$ enable the displacement component $u_{\alpha \tau}$ to satisfy the geometric boundary conditions at the inner $(\xi=-1)$ and outer $(\xi=+1)$ edges of the plate, respectively. The boundary functions corresponding to the most common boundary conditions are reported in Table 1. It is clear that $f_{\alpha \tau}^{\mathrm{inn}}(\xi)=1$ in the case

| Boundary condition | $f_{\xi \tau}^{\text {inn }}$ | $f_{\theta \tau}^{\text {inn }}$ | $f_{z \tau}^{\text {inn }}$ | $f_{\xi \tau}^{\text {out }}$ | $f_{\theta \tau}^{\text {out }}$ | $f_{z \tau}^{\text {out }}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Clamped | $1+\xi$ | $1+\xi$ | $1+\xi$ | $1-\xi$ | $1-\xi$ | $1-\xi$ |
| Hard simply supported | 1 | $1+\xi$ | $1+\xi$ | 1 | $1-\xi$ | $1-\xi$ |
| Soft simply supported | 1 | 1 | $1+\xi$ | 1 | 1 | $1-\xi$ |
| Free | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

Table 1: Boundary functions.
of a solid circular plate. Chebyshev polynomials form a complete and orthogonal set in the interval $[-1,+1]$. As such, good convergence and numerical stability of the method are expected.

For the sake of compact notation, Eq. (17) is rearranged in matrix form as follows

$$
\begin{equation*}
\hat{\mathbf{u}}_{\tau}(\xi)=\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{\tau i}(\xi) \mathbf{c}_{\tau i} \tag{19}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{\tau i}(\xi)=\operatorname{diag}\left(\phi_{\xi \tau i}, \phi_{\theta \tau i}, \phi_{z \tau i}\right)$ and $\mathbf{c}_{\tau i}=\left\{\begin{array}{lll}c_{\xi \tau i} & c_{\theta \tau i} & c_{z \tau i}\end{array}\right\}^{T}$. Therefore, the displacement vector in Eq. (16) is given by

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathbf{u}(\xi, \theta, z, t)=F_{\tau}(z) \mathbf{\Theta}(n \theta) \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{\tau i}(\xi) \mathbf{c}_{\tau i} e^{j \omega t} \tag{20}
\end{equation*}
$$

The potential and kinetic energy of the plate are expressed, respectively, as

$$
\begin{equation*}
U=\frac{1}{2} \gamma^{2} \int_{-1}^{+1} \int_{0}^{2 \pi} \int_{-\frac{h}{2}}^{+\frac{h}{2}}\left(\varepsilon_{\mathrm{p}}^{T} \mathbf{C}_{\mathrm{pp}} \varepsilon_{\mathrm{p}}+\varepsilon_{\mathrm{p}}^{T} \mathbf{C}_{\mathrm{pn}} \varepsilon_{\mathrm{n}}+\varepsilon_{\mathrm{n}}^{T} \mathbf{C}_{\mathrm{np}} \varepsilon_{\mathrm{p}}+\varepsilon_{\mathrm{n}}^{T} \mathbf{C}_{\mathrm{nn}} \varepsilon_{\mathrm{n}}\right)(\xi+\delta) \mathrm{d} z \mathrm{~d} \theta \mathrm{~d} \xi \tag{21}
\end{equation*}
$$

and

$$
\begin{equation*}
T=\frac{1}{2} \gamma^{2} \int_{-1}^{+1} \int_{0}^{2 \pi} \int_{-\frac{h}{2}}^{+\frac{h}{2}} \rho\left[\left(\frac{\partial u_{\xi}}{\partial t}\right)^{2}+\left(\frac{\partial u_{\theta}}{\partial t}\right)^{2}+\left(\frac{\partial u_{z}}{\partial t}\right)^{2}\right](\xi+\delta) \mathrm{d} z \mathrm{~d} \theta \mathrm{~d} \xi \tag{22}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\rho$ is the mass density of the plate. Substituting Eq. (20) into Eqs. (6) and (7) and using Hooke's law in Eq. (11), the expressions of the maximum potential and kinetic energy of the plate vibrating harmonically can be compactly written as follows:

$$
\begin{equation*}
U_{\max }=\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{c}_{\tau i}^{T} \mathbf{K}_{\tau s i j} \mathbf{c}_{s j} \tag{23}
\end{equation*}
$$

and

$$
\begin{equation*}
T_{\max }=\frac{1}{2} \omega^{2} \mathbf{c}_{\tau i}^{T} \mathbf{M}_{\tau s i j} \mathbf{c}_{s j} \tag{24}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $s$ and $j$ are other theory-related and Ritz-related dummy indices, respectively.

In the above equations, when $n \neq 0, \mathbf{K}_{\tau s i j}$ and $\mathbf{M}_{\tau s i j}$ are $3 \times 3$ matrices given by

$$
\begin{align*}
\mathbf{K}_{\tau s i j}=\gamma^{2} \int_{-1}^{+1} \int_{0}^{2 \pi} & \left\{[ \boldsymbol { D } _ { \mathrm { p } } \boldsymbol { \Theta } ( n \theta ) \boldsymbol { \Phi } _ { \tau i } ( \xi ) ] ^ { T } \left[\mathbf{Z}_{\tau s}^{\mathrm{pp}} \boldsymbol{D}_{\mathrm{p}}+\mathbf{Z}_{\tau s}^{\mathrm{pn}} \boldsymbol{D}_{\mathrm{n}}\right.\right. \\
& \left.+\mathbf{Z}_{\tau s, z}^{\mathrm{pn}}\right] \boldsymbol{\Theta}(n \theta) \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{s j}(\xi)+\left[\boldsymbol{D}_{\mathrm{n}} \boldsymbol{\Theta}(n \theta) \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{\tau i}(\xi)\right]^{T}\left[\mathbf{Z}_{\tau s}^{\mathrm{np}} \boldsymbol{D}_{\mathrm{p}}\right. \\
& \left.+\mathbf{Z}_{\tau s}^{\mathrm{nn}} \boldsymbol{D}_{\mathrm{n}}+\mathbf{Z}_{\tau s, z}^{\mathrm{nn}}\right] \boldsymbol{\Theta}(n \theta) \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{s j}(\xi)+\left[\boldsymbol{\Theta}(n \theta) \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{\tau i}(\xi)\right]^{T}\left[\mathbf{Z}_{\tau, z s}^{\mathrm{np}} \boldsymbol{D}_{\mathrm{p}}\right. \\
& \left.\left.+\mathbf{Z}_{\tau, z s}^{\mathrm{nn}} \boldsymbol{D}_{\mathrm{n}}+\mathbf{Z}_{\tau, z s, z}^{\mathrm{nn}}\right] \boldsymbol{\Theta}(n \theta) \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{s j}(\xi)\right\}(\xi+\delta) \mathrm{d} \theta \mathrm{~d} \xi \tag{25}
\end{align*}
$$

and

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathbf{M}_{\tau s i j}=\gamma^{2} \int_{-1}^{+1} \int_{0}^{2 \pi}\left[\boldsymbol{\Theta}(n \theta) \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{\tau i}(\xi)\right]^{T} \mathbf{Z}_{\tau s}^{\rho} \boldsymbol{\Theta}(n \theta) \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{s j}(\xi)(\xi+\delta) \mathrm{d} \theta \mathrm{~d} \xi \tag{26}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\mathbf{Z}_{\tau s}^{\mathrm{pp}}, \ldots, \mathbf{Z}_{\tau s}^{\rho}$ are matrices of thickness integrals whose expression is given in Appendix A. Matrices in Eqs. (25) and (26) represent modeling kernels and are called Ritz fundamental nuclei of the present formulation. Indeed, they are invariant with respect to both the underlying kinematic theory and the set of Ritz admissible functions. In the case of axisymmetric modes, the condition $n=0$ yields fundamental nuclei $\mathbf{K}_{\tau s i j}$ and $\mathbf{M}_{\tau s i j}$ of dimension $2 \times 2$ since only $u_{\xi}$ and $u_{z}$ are involved. In the case of torsional vibration, the fundamental nuclei reduce to scalar quantities. The elements of $\mathbf{K}_{\tau s i j}$ and $\mathbf{M}_{\tau s i j}$ are explicitly reported in Appendix B.

The stiffness and mass matrices of the plate are built from the above nuclei through an assembly-like procedure. The nuclei are first expanded to $3(N+1) \times 3(N+1)$ matrices by varying the theory-related indices $\tau$ and $s$ from 0 to $N$. This expansion yields

$$
\begin{align*}
\mathbf{K}_{i j} & =\left[\begin{array}{lll}
\mathbf{K}_{00 i j} & \mathbf{K}_{0 r i j} & \mathbf{K}_{0 N i j} \\
\mathbf{K}_{r 0 i j} & \mathbf{K}_{r r i j} & \mathbf{K}_{r N i j} \\
\mathbf{K}_{N 0 i j} & \mathbf{K}_{N r i j} & \mathbf{K}_{N N i j}
\end{array}\right]  \tag{27}\\
\mathbf{M}_{i j} & =\left[\begin{array}{ccc}
\mathbf{M}_{00 i j} & \mathbf{M}_{0 r i j} & \mathbf{M}_{0 N i j} \\
\mathbf{M}_{r 0 i j} & \mathbf{M}_{r r i j} & \mathbf{M}_{r N i j} \\
\mathbf{M}_{N 0 i j} & \mathbf{M}_{N r i j} & \mathbf{M}_{N N i j}
\end{array}\right] \tag{28}
\end{align*}
$$

where $r=1, \ldots, N-1$. Then, the final matrices $\mathbf{K}$ and $\mathbf{M}$ of dimensions $3 M(N+$ 1) $\times 3 M(N+1)$ are generated accordingly through variation of Ritz-related indeces $i$ and $j$ in the above quantities $\mathbf{K}_{i j}$ and $\mathbf{M}_{i j}$ and by applying the same assembly operations adopted for the nuclei expansion.

The extremization of the energy functional $\Pi=U_{\max }-T_{\max }$ with respect to the coefficients $\mathbf{c}_{\tau i}$ yields the following generalized eigenvalue problem:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left(\mathbf{K}-\omega^{2} \mathbf{M}\right) \mathbf{c}=\mathbf{0} \tag{29}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\mathbf{c}$ is the vector containing the unknown coefficients $\mathbf{c}_{s j}$.

## 3 Convergence and stability analysis

The mathematically complete set of admissible functions in Eq. (18) yields upperbound frequency values with increasing accuracy towards exact solutions as the number of terms $M$ retained in the series of Eq. (19) increases. However, nothing can be said in advance with regard to the efficiency of the present method in terms of rate of convergence. Furthermore, possible numerical issues associated with ill-conditioned eigenvalue problems in Eq. (29) can arise when an high number of terms are taken.

### 3.1 Convergence study

The convergence of the method is discussed by referring to the particular case of a clamped solid circular plate ( $R_{o}=R$ ) with various thickness-to-radius $h / R$ ratios. It is worth noting that the conclusions outlined in the following are also valid for circular plates with other boundary conditions and for annular plates having different $R_{o} / R_{i}$ ratios. Clamping boundary conditions have been selected since the convergence is expected to be slower than for other edge conditions, even for the lowest frequency parameters [15, 22]. This is mainly due to the difficulty of global trial functions in approximating the actual displacement field near the fixed boundary. Three cases are considered corresponding to a thin plate $(h / R=0.01)$, a moderately thick plate $(h / R=0.1)$, and a very thick plate $(h / R=0.5)$. The first six non-dimensional frequencies $\lambda=\omega R^{2} \sqrt{\rho h / D}$, where $D=E h^{3} / 12\left(1-\nu^{2}\right)$ is the plate bending stiffness, are listed in Table 2 for three different kinematic theories of increasing complexity ( $N=1,2,6$ ). Numerical results are shown as functions of increasing value of order $M$ for the Ritz expansion in the radial direction. Frequency values with superscripts $a$ and $t$ denote axisymmetric and torsional vibration modes, respectively, corresponding to $n=0$. In the following, Poisson's ratio is taken as $\nu=0.3$.

As expected, all the frequency parameters monotonically decrease with the increase in the number of admissible functions, regardless of the thickness-to-radius ratio and the order of the kinematic model.

For each thickness-to-radius ratio, the rate of convergence of the method is very similar for $\mathrm{HOT}_{2}$ and $\mathrm{HOT}_{6}$. Although corresponding results are not shown here due to brevity reasons, the same can be said for kinematic models of intermediate order. From Table 2, it can be seen that fewer terms are needed for the frequency values to converge when the thickness dimension becomes significant. Indeed, all the first six frequency parameters converged to five-digit upper-bound values with $M=16$ in the case of $h / R=0.5$. When thinner plates are considered, the same frequencies are of only three- or four-digit accuracy even when the order $M$ raises up to 30 . A more rapid convergence as the plate thickness ratio increases has been also observed in 3-D Ritz-based vibration studies [16]. Moreover, the substantial invariance of the convergence behavior with respect to the assumed kinematic theory was also found in previous works on straight-sided plates [22, 23].

By further comparing solutions obtained with $N=2$ with those obtained with $N=$

Table 2: Convergence of the first six frequency parameters $\lambda=\omega R^{2} \sqrt{\rho h / D}$ for solid clamped circular plates.

| $N$ | $h / R$ | M | Mode |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1 | 0.01 | 8 | $11.304^{a}$ | 23.518 | 38.568 | $43.976{ }^{\text {a }}$ | 56.410 | 67.232 |
|  |  | 10 | 11.304 | 23.518 | 38.568 | 43.976 | 56.409 | 67.229 |
|  |  | 20 | 11.304 | 23.518 | 38.568 | 43.976 | 56.409 | 67.229 |
|  | 0.1 | 8 | $11.000^{a}$ | 22.324 | 35.625 | $40.354^{a}$ | 50.625 | 59.557 |
|  |  | 10 | 11.000 | 22.324 | 35.625 | 40.354 | 50.624 | 59.556 |
|  |  | 20 | 11.000 | 22.324 | 35.625 | 40.354 | 50.624 | 59.556 |
|  | 0.5 | 8 | $7.3607^{a}$ | 12.364 | 13.720 | $15.705^{t}$ | 17.387 | $19.102^{a}$ |
|  |  | 10 | 7.3607 | 12.364 | 13.720 | 15.705 | 17.387 | 19.102 |
|  |  | 18 | 7.3607 | 12.364 | 13.720 | 15.705 | 17.387 | 19.102 |
| 2 | 0.01 | 8 | $10.259^{a}$ | 21.345 | 35.006 | $39.916^{a}$ | 51.201 | 61.022 |
|  |  | 10 | 10.244 | 21.314 | 34.955 | 39.858 | 51.129 | 60.938 |
|  |  | 20 | 10.222 | 21.269 | 34.881 | 39.773 | 51.019 | 60.808 |
|  |  | 30 | 10.218 | 21.260 | 34.867 | 39.757 | 50.999 | 60.783 |
|  |  | 40 | 10.217 | 21.257 | 34.862 | 39.752 | 50.992 | 60.775 |
|  | 0.1 | 8 | $10.030^{a}$ | 20.426 | 32.713 | $37.085^{\text {a }}$ | 46.647 | 54.963 |
|  |  | 10 | 10.019 | 20.404 | 32.679 | 37.048 | 46.602 | 54.912 |
|  |  | 20 | 10.010 | 20.386 | 32.652 | 37.018 | 46.566 | 54.870 |
|  |  | 30 | 10.010 | 20.386 | 32.652 | 37.018 | 46.565 | 54.869 |
|  | 0.5 | 8 | $7.0527^{a}$ | 11.955 | 13.684 | $15.705^{t}$ | 16.864 | $18.548^{a}$ |
|  |  | 10 | 7.0525 | 11.955 | 13.684 | 15.705 | 16.864 | 18.547 |
|  |  | 16 | 7.0525 | 11.955 | 13.684 | 15.705 | 16.864 | 18.547 |
|  |  | 18 | 7.0525 | 11.955 | 13.684 | 15.705 | 16.864 | 18.547 |
| 6 | 0.01 | 8 | $10.258^{a}$ | 21.343 | 35.003 | $39.912^{\text {a }}$ | 51.194 | 61.013 |
|  |  | 10 | 10.243 | 21.312 | 34.952 | 39.853 | 51.122 | 60.928 |
|  |  | 20 | 10.222 | 21.267 | 34.877 | 39.768 | 51.012 | 60.798 |
|  |  | 30 | 10.217 | 21.258 | 34.863 | 39.752 | 50.991 | 60.773 |
|  |  | 40 | 10.216 | 21.255 | 34.858 | 39.747 | 50.984 | 60.765 |
|  | 0.1 | 8 | $9.9973{ }^{a}$ | 20.310 | 32.449 | $36.766^{a}$ | 46.167 | 54.340 |
|  |  | 10 | 9.9862 | 20.288 | 32.416 | 36.728 | 46.121 | 54.286 |
|  |  | 20 | 9.9746 | 20.265 | 32.381 | 36.689 | 46.073 | 54.230 |
|  |  | 30 | 9.9735 | 20.263 | 32.377 | 36.685 | 46.068 | 54.224 |
|  | 0.5 | 8 | $6.8094{ }^{\text {a }}$ | 11.501 | 13.659 | $15.705^{t}$ | 16.234 | $17.829^{a}$ |
|  |  | 10 | 6.8075 | 11.498 | 13.657 | 15.705 | 16.231 | 17.827 |
|  |  | 16 | 6.8060 | 11.497 | 13.657 | 15.705 | 16.230 | 17.825 |
|  |  | 18 | 6.8060 | 11.497 | 13.657 | 15.705 | 16.230 | 17.825 |

6 , it is noted that, except for the thin case $(h / R=0.01)$ and the results corresponding to torsional modes, all the natural frequencies converged to different values according to the adopted theory. As shown in the next section, the accuracy of the solution for moderately thick and very thick plates is largely affected by the underlying kinematic model. In the case of thin plates, frequency values computed by plate theories of increasing order are all very close to each other and completely consistent with results obtained from the classical 2-D Kirchhoff theory (see Table 2.1 in [9]).

Tabulated results corresponding to $N=1$ show that the rate of convergence of the method is very fast in that case, regardless of the thickness-to-radius ratio. All the frequency parameters converged to five-digit upper-bound values with $M=10$. However, it is observed that convergent results are all significantly higher than those obtained with more refined theories. This behavior is due to a locking mechanism, known as thickness locking (TL), which occurs when the kinematic model exhibits a constant distribution of the transverse normal strain $\varepsilon_{z z}$ [22]. Note that TL effects are more distinct for thin plates and bending dominated modes and slightly decrease with increasing thickness. A way to avoid TL when a first-order theory is used is discussed in the next section.

### 3.2 Numerical stability

As far as the numerical stability of the method is concerned, it can be noticed from Table 2 that ill-conditioning of the eigenvalue problem is avoided even when a high number $M$ of terms is taken to compute the frequency solutions. Indeed, it is shown in Table 2 that stable numerical analysis can still be carried out when $M=40$.

As a further insight, a numerical test involving up to $M=100$ terms in the radial direction is presented in Table 3 by referring again to a clamped circular plate. Only the thin case with $h / R=0.01$ is now considered. Some selected frequency parameters $\lambda=\omega R^{2} \sqrt{\rho h / D}$ corresponding to vibration modes with $n=1$ and different radial mode numbers $s=1,5,10,15,20,25$ are tabulated using a refined theory of fourth order $(N=4)$. It is observed that stable solutions are obtained for both low and high values of radial wavenumbers. As shown in the table, such immunity against ill-conditioned behavior can be of great importance in improving the accuracy of the eigenfrequencies of higher order vibration modes.

## 4 Numerical assessment

The variable-kinematic Ritz formulation derived in Section 2 is here validated against some reference solutions available in the literature. In particular, the following analysis is focused on comparing eigenfrequencies of different annular plates obtained on the basis of higher-order 2-D theories with those computed using a fully 3-D approach. Some results are given in tabulated form, so that listed solutions may serve as benchmark values for future comparison.

Table 3: Convergence and numerical stability of modes corresponding to $n=1$ and different radial mode numbers $s$ for a solid clamped circular plate with $h / R=0.01$ using $\mathrm{HOT}_{4}$.

|  | $s$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $M$ | 1 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10 | 21.3124 | 301.531 | 1487.54 | 3053.78 | 5442.73 | 9136.66 |
| 20 | 21.2670 | 296.267 | 876.225 | 1734.88 | 2952.54 | 4338.17 |
| 30 | 21.2582 | 296.144 | 875.737 | 1734.85 | 2399.24 | 3232.13 |
| 40 | 21.2555 | 296.108 | 875.633 | 1734.84 | 2399.24 | 3189.49 |
| 50 | 21.2547 | 296.097 | 875.599 | 1734.84 | 2399.24 | 3189.38 |
| 60 | 21.2544 | 296.092 | 875.585 | 1734.84 | 2399.24 | 3189.33 |
| 70 | 21.2542 | 296.090 | 875.578 | 1734.84 | 2399.24 | 3189.31 |
| 80 | 21.2541 | 296.089 | 875.575 | 1734.84 | 2399.24 | 3189.29 |
| 90 | 21.2541 | 296.088 | 875.574 | 1734.84 | 2399.24 | 3189.29 |
| 100 | 21.2541 | 296.088 | 875.573 | 1734.84 | 2399.24 | 3189.29 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Table 4: Frequency parameters $\lambda=\omega R_{o}^{2} \sqrt{\rho h / D}$ for the first eight modes of annular plates with $R_{o}=(10 / 3) R_{i}, h / R_{o}=0.2$ and various boundary conditions (BCs).

| BCs | Method | Mode |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| FS | Present ( $N=1$ ) | 4.9611 | 12.171 | 12.761 | 15.942 | 22.959 | 27.961 | 32.928 | 33.166 |
|  | Present ( $N=2$ ) | 4.5470 | 11.365 | 12.744 | 15.907 | 21.107 | 27.933 | 31.059 | 32.042 |
|  | Present ( $N=3$ ) | 4.5401 | 11.240 | 12.743 | 15.906 | 20.856 | 27.932 | 30.717 | 31.553 |
|  | Present ( $N=4$ ) | 4.5399 | 11.240 | 12.741 | 15.904 | 20.852 | 27.931 | 30.709 | 31.543 |
|  | Present ( $N=5$ ) | 4.5398 | 11.239 | 12.740 | 15.904 | 20.852 | 27.931 | 30.708 | 31.542 |
|  | Present ( $N=6$ ) | 4.5398 | 11.239 | 12.740 | 15.904 | 20.852 | 27.931 | 30.708 | 31.542 |
|  | 3D-Ritz [16] | 4.5401 | 11.240 | 12.742 | 15.904 | 20.852 | 27.931 | 30.709 | 31.543 |
| FF | Present ( $N=1$ ) | 4.7487 | 8.5204 | 11.462 | 15.687 | 16.290 | 19.438 | 27.918 | 28.378 |
|  | Present ( $N=2$ ) | 4.6393 | 7.9075 | 11.222 | 15.389 | 15.662 | 19.030 | 27.206 | 27.779 |
|  | Present ( $N=3$ ) | 4.6196 | 7.8940 | 11.143 | 15.189 | 15.662 | 18.828 | 26.815 | 27.384 |
|  | Present ( $N=4$ ) | 4.6196 | 7.8939 | 11.143 | 15.187 | 15.661 | 18.826 | 26.809 | 27.378 |
|  | Present ( $N=5$ ) | 4.6195 | 7.8939 | 11.143 | 15.187 | 15.661 | 18.826 | 26.808 | 27.377 |
|  | Present ( $N=6$ ) | 4.6195 | 7.8939 | 11.143 | 15.187 | 15.661 | 18.826 | 26.808 | 27.377 |
|  | 3D-Ritz [16] | 4.6198 | 7.8939 | 11.143 | 15.189 | 15.662 | 18.826 | 26.810 | 27.378 |
| FC | Present ( $N=1$ ) | 11.143 | 17.069 | 27.808 | 39.482 | 39.662 | 39.964 | 40.534 | 44.172 |
|  | Present ( $N=2$ ) | 10.553 | 16.323 | 26.210 | 37.101 | 38.249 | 39.627 | 40.534 | 44.106 |
|  | Present ( $N=3$ ) | 10.453 | 16.035 | 25.674 | 36.263 | 37.403 | 39.606 | 40.534 | 44.083 |
|  | Present ( $N=4$ ) | 10.442 | 16.020 | 25.645 | 36.214 | 37.339 | 39.598 | 40.534 | 44.074 |
|  | Present ( $N=5$ ) | 10.440 | 16.015 | 25.638 | 36.202 | 37.321 | 39.594 | 40.534 | 44.071 |
|  | Present ( $N=6$ ) | 10.438 | 16.013 | 25.634 | 36.197 | 37.313 | 39.592 | 40.534 | 44.068 |
|  | 3D-Ritz [16] | 10.448 | 16.026 | 25.650 | 36.220 | 37.346 | 39.602 | - | 44.080 |
|  | 3D-Ritz [17] | 10.437 | 16.012 | 25.632 | 36.194 | 37.309 | 39.591 | 40.534 | 44.066 |
| CC | Present ( $N=1$ ) | 33.182 | 33.965 | 37.123 | 43.579 | 48.220 | 52.792 | 53.107 | 63.563 |
|  | Present ( $N=2$ ) | 31.822 | 32.548 | 35.451 | 41.442 | 48.220 | 50.147 | 53.085 | 60.479 |
|  | Present ( $N=3$ ) | 30.835 | 31.565 | 34.456 | 40.353 | 48.220 | 48.835 | 53.075 | 58.844 |
|  | Present ( $N=4$ ) | 30.741 | 31.473 | 34.371 | 40.271 | 48.220 | 48.745 | 53.071 | 58.729 |
|  | Present ( $N=5$ ) | 30.711 | 31.444 | 34.344 | 40.248 | 48.220 | 48.722 | 53.069 | 58.704 |
|  | Present ( $N=6$ ) | 30.696 | 31.430 | 34.333 | 40.238 | 48.220 | 48.713 | 53.068 | 58.695 |
|  | 3D-Ritz [16] | 30.743 | 31.474 | 34.370 | 40.266 | - | 48.736 | 53.072 | - |
|  | 3D-Ritz [17] | 30.688 | 31.422 | 34.325 | 40.231 | 48.220 | 48.707 | 53.067 | 58.689 |

The first analysis is referred to annular plates with $R_{o}=(10 / 3) R_{i}$ and $h / R_{o}=0.2$. Four cases with different combinations of free (F), clamped (C) and hard simply supported (S) boundary conditions are considered. For the sake of brevity, a two-letter symbolic notation is used to define the conditions at the inner and outer edges, respectively. The first eight frequency parameters $\lambda=\omega R_{o}^{2} \sqrt{\rho h / D}$ are sorted in Table 4 as a result of the adoption of kinematic models of order $N=1, \ldots, 6$. Present Ritzbased solutions are computed with $M=30$ and compared with those obtained from three-dimensional analysis using orthogonally generated polynomial functions [16] and Chebyshev polynomials [17]. Note that missing terms corresponding to mode 7th and mode 5th for FC and CC boundary conditions, respectively, are related to a torsional mode, which was not computed in [16]. Instead, missing term corresponding to mode 8th for the case of inner and outer edges clamped is not reported by Liew and Yang [16]. The following observations can be made from computed results.

First, it is clear from Table 4 that frequency values arising from 2-D models converge towards 3-D based accurate solutions reported in $[16,17]$ as the order $N$ of the underlying theory increases. The agreement is excellent when computations are performed using a kinematic model of order 6 . The accuracy is slightly worse, but still very good, for models of lower order. This shows that, using the variable-kinematic formulation presented in this work, one can easily select the theory refinement needed to achieve a desired accuracy without any further development effort and without the complexity and computational inefficiency associated to 3-D models.

Note also that upper-bound results obtained by the present method using $N \geq 4$ are slightly lower than those obtained in [16] from a 3-D analysis. This is probably due to the relatively low number of Ritz terms taken in the radial and thickness directions in the 3-D case.

As a third remark, it is found that the accuracy in the computation of natural frequencies corresponding to torsional modes is not affected by the assumed plate theory and the computed solutions coincide with 3-D values.

Finally, contrary to theories of higher order where at least a parabolic distribution of transverse displacement component $u_{z}$ is adopted, it is observed that frequency solutions based on $\mathrm{HOT}_{1}$ suffer from the already mentioned effects due to thickness locking. A known technique to contrast TL consists of modifying the elastic stiffness coefficients by imposing the condition $\sigma_{z z}=0$. In this way, the first-order shear deformation theory can be actually obtained from $\mathrm{HOT}_{1}$ using the present formulation. The reduced elastic coefficients in Eq. (11) are the following

$$
\begin{align*}
\tilde{C}_{i j} & =C_{i j}-\frac{C_{i 3} C_{j 3}}{C_{33}} \quad(i, j=1,2)  \tag{30}\\
\tilde{C}_{i i} & =\chi C_{i i} \quad(i=4,5)
\end{align*}
$$

where $\chi$ is the shear correction factor. Frequency parameters obtained with imposition of $\sigma_{z z}=0$ in $\mathrm{HOT}_{1}$ for the same annular plate previously considered are reported in Table 5. Results are computed with a shear correction factor $\chi=5 / 6$. Comparison with Table 4 shows that the use of reduced elastic coefficients provides improved

Table 5: First eight frequency parameters $\lambda=\omega R_{o}^{2} \sqrt{\rho h / D}$ of annular plates with $R_{o}=(10 / 3) R_{i}, h / R_{o}=0.2$ and various boundary conditions. Results obtained by imposing $\sigma_{z z}=0$ in $\mathrm{HOT}_{1}$.

|  | Mode |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| BC | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| FS | 4.5328 | 11.205 | 12.711 | 15.875 | 20.740 | 27.931 | 30.530 | 31.301 |
| FF | 4.6160 | 7.8878 | 11.126 | 15.146 | 15.659 | 18.778 | 26.674 | 27.279 |
| FC | 10.365 | 15.895 | 25.384 | 35.763 | 36.860 | 39.424 | 40.534 | 43.901 |
| CC | 30.146 | 30.878 | 33.775 | 39.638 | 47.999 | 48.220 | 52.997 | 57.793 |

results. However, except for the torsional modes, frequencies are now underestimated, as previously pointed out by So and Leissa [15].

Another illustrative example is referred to a completely free annular plate with $R_{o} / R_{i}=2$ and two different thickness-to-outer-radius ratios, $h / R_{o}=0.4$ and $h / R_{o}=$ 1. The first four non-dimensional frequencies $\lambda=\omega R_{o} \sqrt{\rho / G}$ corresponding to antisymmetric modes are shown in Table 6 for circumferential wavenumber $n$ ranging from 0 to 3. Present solutions, computed with $M=30$ and based on kinematic theories of order $N=3$ and $N=6$, are compared with the 3-D Ritz series solutions available in [15]. Similar conclusions to those outlined in the previous example can be drawn. In particular, it can be observed that a kinematic theory of moderate refinement $(N=3)$ is largely acceptable in providing accurate frequency solutions in the case of $h / R_{o}=0.4$ over the whole frequency range considered in the comparison study. However, when relatively high-order modes of very thick plates are of interest, a 2-D kinematic theory of high refinement is required to achieve a high degree of accuracy. This is evident by examining the third and fourth modes corresponding to $n=0$ when $h / R_{o}=1$.

The last assessment involves an annular circular plate with an inner-to-outer-radius ratio $R_{o} / R_{i}=5.0$ and a thickness-to-radius ratio $h / R_{o}=0.5$. In this comparison study, the first 40 frequency parameters of antisymmetric and symmetric modes corresponding to circumferential wavenumbers $n=0,1,2,3$ are computed for two boundary conditions: a plate with free inner edge and clamped outer edge (FC), and a plate with both edges clamped (CC). Figures 2 and 3 show the percentage differences with respect to 3-D results given in [17] expressed by

$$
\begin{equation*}
\Delta \%=\frac{(2-\mathrm{D} \text { frequency })_{N}-(3-\mathrm{D} \text { frequency })}{(3-\mathrm{D} \text { frequency })} \times 100 \tag{31}
\end{equation*}
$$

where (2-D frequency) $)_{N}$ refers to a frequency solution based on a refined 2-D theory of order $N$. In particular, comparison with 3-D analysis is given when $N=3,4,5$ and 6 is adopted. Graphical results clearly show, in both cases, that $\mathrm{HOT}_{3}$ gives reasonably accurate frequencies (differences within $2.5 \%$ ) when the radial mode number $s$ for each $n$ is less than 10 . Serious disagreement is observed for higher values of the wavenumber, unless the 2-D kinematic model is suitably enriched with additional

Table 6: Frequency parameters $\lambda=\omega R_{o} \sqrt{\rho / G}$ for the first four antisymmetric modes of completely free annular plates with $R_{o}=2 R_{i}$.

| $h / R_{o}$ | $n$ | Method | Mode |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 0.4 | $0^{a}$ | Present ( $N=3$ ) | 1.388 | 8.344 | 9.167 | 14.498 |
|  |  | Present ( $N=6$ ) | 1.388 | 8.321 | 9.127 | 14.133 |
|  |  | 3D-Ritz [15] | 1.388 | 8.321 | 9.127 | 14.133 |
|  | 1 | Present ( $N=3$ ) | 1.944 | 8.049 | 8.554 | 8.974 |
|  |  | Present ( $N=6$ ) | 1.943 | 8.039 | 8.534 | 8.945 |
|  |  | 3D-Ritz [15] | 1.943 | 8.039 | 8.534 | 8.945 |
|  | 2 | Present ( $N=3$ ) | 0.691 | 3.127 | 8.422 | 8.814 |
|  |  | Present ( $N=6$ ) | 0.691 | 3.123 | 8.400 | 8.793 |
|  |  | 3D-Ritz [15] | 0.691 | 3.123 | 8.400 | 8.793 |
|  | 3 | Present ( $N=3$ ) | 1.681 | 4.459 | 8.834 | 9.007 |
|  |  | Present ( $N=6$ ) | 1.680 | 4.450 | 8.808 | 8.986 |
|  |  | 3D-Ritz [15] | 1.680 | 4.450 | 8.808 | 8.986 |
| 1 | $0^{a}$ | Present ( $N=3$ ) | 1.984 | 6.129 | 9.360 | 10.411 |
|  |  | Present ( $N=6$ ) | 1.984 | 5.775 | 8.329 | 9.355 |
|  |  | 3D-Ritz [15] | 1.984 | 5.772 | 8.258 | 9.084 |
|  | 1 | Present ( $N=3$ ) | 2.002 | 3.939 | 6.145 | 7.959 |
|  |  | Present ( $N=6$ ) | 1.999 | 3.930 | 5.842 | 7.719 |
|  |  | 3D-Ritz [15] | 1.999 | 3.930 | 5.839 | 7.706 |
|  | 2 | Present ( $N=3$ ) | 1.040 | 2.858 | 5.213 | 6.424 |
|  |  | Present ( $N=6$ ) | 1.039 | 2.846 | 5.173 | 6.160 |
|  |  | 3D-Ritz [15] | 1.039 | 2.846 | 5.172 | 6.157 |
|  | 3 | Present ( $N=3$ ) | 2.326 | 3.975 | 6.521 | 7.072 |
|  |  | Present ( $N=6$ ) | 2.320 | 3.947 | 6.393 | 6.808 |
|  |  | 3D-Ritz [15] | 2.320 | 3.946 | 6.392 | 6.805 |

higher-order terms. Except for some axisymmetric modes at very high frequency in the CC case, a substantial invariance of the degree of accuracy with respect to 3D values is obtained when $N \geq 5$. Note also that, for each vibration category $n$, the discrepancy between 3-D results and 2-D solutions exhibits an overall increasing mean trend, but locally the percentage difference can be strongly dependent on the mode type. This is seen for example for modes $(n, s)=(3,20)$ and $(3,26)$ in Fig. 2 in the case $N=3$. The present behaviour is more pronounced when theories of low order are used.

## 5 Conclusions

A novel variable-kinematic Ritz formulation capable of handling in an unified way an entire class of 2-D higher-order kinematic theories for accurate vibration analysis of circular and annular plates of any thickness has been derived. The method relies on suitable expansion of invariant kernels of the mass and stiffness matrix. The invariance is to be intended with respect to both the order of the theory and the type of Ritz trial functions. Considering the circumferential symmetry of the problem under study, the present method is computationally efficient even if kinematic models of high order are used.

Upper-bound frequency values have been presented using products of boundarycompliant functions and Chebyshev polynomials. It has been shown that the method exhibits good convergence properties and high numerical stability. As expected, increasing accuracy towards 3-D values in terms of frequency parameters has been found with theory refinement. Kinematic plate models of lower order are more sensitive to thickness-to-radius ratio, whereas accuracy is substantially independent from the plate thickness when a highly refined theory is adopted. This conclusion is also valid with reference to the frequency range of interest. Two examples have been provided to show the importance of refined models in the numerical evaluation of higher vibration modes.

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Figure 2: Percentage differences between 3-D values taken from [17] and 2-D present solutions based on refined theories of different orders for the first 40 modes with $n=$ $0,1,2,3$ of an annular plate with free inner edge and clamped outer edge, $h / R_{o}=0.5$ and $R_{o}=5 R_{i}$. Legend: $\diamond, N=3 ;+, N=4 ; \times, N=5 ; \circ, N=6$.


Figure 3: Percentage differences between 3-D values taken from [17] and 2-D present solutions based on refined theories of different orders for the first 40 modes with $n=$ $0,1,2,3$ of an annular plate with both inner and outer edges clamped, $h / R_{o}=0.5$ and $R_{o}=5 R_{i}$. Legend: $\diamond, N=3 ;+, N=4 ; \times, N=5 ; \circ, N=6$.
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## Appendix A

By introducing the following thickness integrals

$$
\begin{aligned}
E_{\tau s}=\int_{-h / 2}^{+h / 2} F_{\tau}(z) F_{s}(z) \mathrm{d} z & E_{\tau s, z}=\int_{-h / 2}^{+h / 2} F_{\tau}(z) \frac{\mathrm{d} F_{s}(z)}{\mathrm{d} z} \mathrm{~d} z \\
E_{\tau, z}=\int_{-h / 2}^{+h / 2} \frac{\mathrm{~d} F_{\tau}(z)}{\mathrm{d} z} F_{s}(z) \mathrm{d} z & E_{\tau, z s, z}=\int_{-h / 2}^{+h / 2} \frac{\mathrm{~d} F_{\tau}(z)}{\mathrm{d} z} \frac{\mathrm{~d} F_{s}(z)}{\mathrm{d} z} \mathrm{~d} z
\end{aligned}
$$

the matrices $\mathbf{Z}_{\tau s}^{\mathrm{pp}}, \ldots, \mathbf{Z}_{\tau s}^{\rho}$ in Eqs. (25) and (26) are defined as follows:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{Z}_{\tau s}^{\mathrm{pp}} & =E_{\tau s} \mathbf{C}_{\mathrm{pp}} & \mathbf{Z}_{\tau s}^{\mathrm{pn}} & =E_{\tau s} \mathbf{C}_{\mathrm{pn}} \\
\mathbf{Z}_{\tau s}^{\mathrm{np}} & =E_{\tau s} \mathbf{C}_{\mathrm{np}} & \mathbf{Z}_{\tau s}^{\mathrm{nn}} & =E_{\tau s} \mathbf{C}_{\mathrm{nn}} \\
\mathbf{Z}_{\tau s, z}^{\mathrm{pn}} & =E_{\tau s, z} \mathbf{C}_{\mathrm{pn}} & \mathbf{Z}_{\tau s, z}^{\mathrm{nn}} & =E_{\tau s, z} \mathbf{C}_{\mathrm{nn}} \\
\mathbf{Z}_{\tau, z s} & =E_{\tau, z s} \mathbf{C}_{\mathrm{np}} & \mathbf{Z}_{\tau, z s} & =E_{\tau, z} \mathbf{C}_{\mathrm{nn}} \\
\mathbf{Z}_{\tau, z s, z}^{\mathrm{nn}} & =E_{\tau, z s, z} \mathbf{C}_{\mathrm{nn}} & \mathbf{Z}_{\tau s}^{\rho} & =E_{\tau s} \rho
\end{aligned}
$$

## Appendix B

After introducing the quantities

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\Gamma_{c}=\int_{0}^{2 \pi} \cos ^{2}(n \theta) \mathrm{d} \theta & (n=0,1,2, \ldots) \\
\Gamma_{s}=\int_{0}^{2 \pi} \sin ^{2}(n \theta) \mathrm{d} \theta & (n=0,1,2, \ldots)
\end{array}
$$

and defining the following integrals

$$
I_{\alpha \beta}^{a b c}=\int_{-1}^{+1} \frac{\mathrm{~d}^{a} \phi_{\alpha \tau i}}{\mathrm{~d} \xi^{a}} \frac{\mathrm{~d}^{b} \phi_{\beta s j}}{\mathrm{~d} \xi^{b}}(\xi+\delta)^{c} \mathrm{~d} \xi
$$

the elements of the stiffness fundamental nucleus $\mathbf{K}_{\tau s i j}$ can be explicitly written as follows:

$$
\begin{aligned}
K_{\tau s i j}(1,1) & =E_{\tau s} C_{11} \Gamma_{c} I_{\xi \xi}^{111}+E_{\tau s} C_{22} \Gamma_{c} I_{\xi \xi}^{00-1}+E_{\tau s} C_{12} \Gamma_{c}\left(I_{\xi \xi}^{100}+I_{\xi \xi}^{010}\right) \\
& +E_{\tau s} C_{66} n^{2} \Gamma_{s} I_{\xi \xi}^{00-1}+E_{\tau, z s, z} C_{55} \gamma^{2} \Gamma_{c} I_{\xi \xi}^{001} \\
K_{\tau s i j}(1,2) & =E_{\tau s} C_{12} n \Gamma_{c} I_{\xi \theta}^{100}+E_{\tau s} C_{22} n \Gamma_{c} I_{\xi \theta}^{00-1}+E_{\tau s} C_{66} n \Gamma_{s}\left(I_{\xi \theta}^{00-1}-I_{\xi \theta}^{0010}\right) \\
K_{\tau s i j}(1,3) & =E_{\tau s, z} C_{13} \gamma \Gamma_{c} I_{\xi z}^{101}+E_{\tau s_{z}} C_{23} \gamma \Gamma_{c} I_{\xi z}^{000}+E_{\tau, z s} C_{55} \gamma \Gamma_{c} I_{\xi z}^{011} \\
K_{\tau s i j}(2,1) & =E_{\tau s} C_{12} n \Gamma_{1} I_{\theta \xi}^{010}+E_{\tau s} C_{22} n \Gamma_{c} I_{\theta \xi}^{00-1}+E_{\tau s} C_{66} n \Gamma_{s}\left(I_{\theta \xi}^{00-1}-I_{\theta \xi}^{100}\right) \\
K_{\tau s i j}(2,2) & =E_{\tau s} C_{22} n^{2} \Gamma_{c} I_{\theta \theta}^{00-1}+E_{\tau s} C_{66} \Gamma_{s}\left(I_{\theta \theta}^{111}-I_{\theta \theta}^{100}-I_{\theta \theta}^{010}+I_{\theta \theta}^{00-1}\right) \\
& +E_{\tau, s s, z} C_{44} \gamma^{2} \Gamma_{s} I_{\theta \theta}^{001} \\
K_{\tau s i j}(2,3) & =E_{\tau s, z} C_{23} n \gamma \Gamma_{c} I_{\theta z}^{000}-E_{\tau, z s} C_{44} n \gamma \Gamma_{s} I_{\theta z}^{000} \\
K_{\tau s i j}(3,1) & =E_{\tau, s s} C_{13} \gamma \Gamma_{c} I_{z \xi}^{011}+E_{\tau, s s} C_{23} \gamma \Gamma_{c} I_{z \xi}^{000}+E_{\tau s, z} C_{55} \gamma \Gamma_{c} I_{z \xi}^{101} \\
K_{\tau s i j}(3,2) & =E_{\tau, z s} C_{23} n \gamma \Gamma_{c} I_{z \theta}^{000}-E_{\tau s, z} C_{44} n \gamma \Gamma_{s} I_{z \theta}^{000} \\
K_{\tau s i j}(3,3) & =E_{\tau s} C_{55} \Gamma_{c} I_{z z}^{111}+E_{\tau s} C_{44} n^{2} \Gamma_{s} I_{z z}^{00-1}+E_{\tau, z s, z} C_{33} \gamma^{2} \Gamma_{c} I_{z z}^{001}
\end{aligned}
$$

The non-null elements of the mass fundamental nucleus $\mathbf{M}_{\tau s i j}$ are given by

$$
\begin{aligned}
& M_{\tau s i j}(1,1)=E_{\tau s} \rho \gamma^{2} \Gamma_{c} I_{\xi \xi}^{001} \\
& M_{\tau s i j}(2,2)=E_{\tau s} \rho \gamma^{2} \Gamma_{s} I_{\theta \theta}^{001} \\
& M_{\tau s i j}(3,3)=E_{\tau s} \rho \gamma^{2} \Gamma_{c} I_{z z}^{001}
\end{aligned}
$$

By setting $n=0$ in the above equations, axisymmetric modes are obtained. Note that, in this case, $K_{\tau s i j}(1,2)=K_{\tau s i j}(2,1)=K_{\tau s i j}(2,2)=K_{\tau s i j}(2,3)=K_{\tau s i j}(3,2)=$ 0 and $M_{\tau s i j}(2,2)=0$.

In the case of torsional modes, the circumferential is once again null, but now $\Gamma_{c}$ is replaced by $\Gamma_{s}$ and conversely. Therefore, the only non-zero terms are the following:

$$
\begin{gathered}
K_{\tau s i j}=E_{\tau s} C_{66} \Gamma_{c}\left(I_{\theta \theta}^{111}-I_{\theta \theta}^{100}-I_{\theta \theta}^{010}+I_{\theta \theta}^{00-1}\right)+E_{\tau, z s, z} C_{44} \gamma^{2} \Gamma_{c} I_{\theta \theta}^{001} \\
M_{\tau s i j}=E_{\tau s} \rho \gamma^{2} \Gamma_{c} I_{\theta \theta}^{001}
\end{gathered}
$$

