

**CONTACT PROBLEMS
IN LAYERED MEDIA**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	5
 CHAPTER 1 MATHEMATICAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE METHOD	
1.1 The \mathcal{L} -operator and its properties	8
1.2 Integral representation for the reciprocal of the distance between two points	10
1.3 Internal mixed boundary value problem	13
1.4 External mixed boundary value problem	17
1.5 Some fundamental integrals	20
 CHAPTER 2 FUNDAMENTAL CONTACT PROBLEMS	
2.1 General solution of the Linear Elasticity equations	24
2.2 Point force solutions	28
2.3 An alternative form of the Green function	31
2.4 Contact problem for a smooth punch	37
2.5 Flat centrally loaded circular punch	39
2.6 Inclined circular punch on an elastic half-space	43
2.7 Internal tangential contact problem for a circular domain	44
2.8 External tangential contact problem for a circular domain	69
2.9 Flat punch of arbitrary planform under the action of a normal centrally applied force	91
2.10 Inclined flat punch of general shape	95
2.11 Curved punch of general planform	107
2.12 Flat flexible punch of general planform	

under shifting load	117
2.13 Reissner-Sagoci problem for general domains	120
2.14 Contact problem for a rough punch	126
CHAPTER 3	CONTACT PROBLEMS FOR ONE LAYER
3.1 Application of generalized images method to contact problems for a transversely isotropic elastic layer	129
3.2 Contact problems for a transversely isotropic elastic layer bonded to a rigid foundation	158
3.3 Tangential contact problem for a transversely isotropic elastic layer bonded to a rigid foundation	187
3.4 Application of generalized images method to contact problems for a transversely isotropic elastic layer on a smooth half-space	214
3.5 Solution of contact problems for a transversely isotropic elastic layer bonded to an elastic half-space	240
3.6 Tangential contact problem for a transversely isotropic elastic layer bonded to an elastic foundation	265
CHAPTER 4	CONTACT PROBLEMS FOR SEVERAL LAYERS
4.1 Contact problems for several transversely isotropic elastic layers on a smooth elastic half-space	301
4.2 Contact problems for several transversely isotropic elastic layers bonded to an elastic half-space	339
4.3 Tangential contact problem for several transversely isotropic elastic layers bonded to an elastic foundation	385
4.4 Numerical methods of solution of contact problems in layered media	435
References	459
Subject Index	463

INTRODUCTION

This book may be considered as a logical continuation of the three previously published books (V.I. Fabrikant, *Applications of Potential Theory in Mechanics*, Kluwer Academic, 1989); (V.I. Fabrikant, *Mixed Boundary Value Problems of Potential Theory and Their Applications in Engineering*, Kluwer Academic, 1991) and (V.I. Fabrikant, *Contact and Crack Problems Linear Elasticity*, Bentham Publishing, 2010), where a new and elementary method was described for solving mixed boundary value problems. The method can solve *non-axisymmetric problems* as easily as axisymmetric ones, *exactly and in closed form*. It enables us to treat *analytically* non-classical domains. The method also provides, as a bonus, a tool for exact evaluation of various two-dimensional integrals involving distances between two or more points.

The main emphasis of the first book was on solid mechanics problems. In the second book we described various applications of the new method to electromagnetics, acoustics and diffusion. Also included in the second book were some results in fracture mechanics and elastic contact problems, which were obtained later and could not be included in the first book.

There are numerous books on contact problems (Galín, 1953; Rvachev and Protsenko, 1977; Mossakovskii *et al.*, 1985; Aleksandrov and Chebakov, 2004), there are also books devoted to the crack problems (Cherepanov, 1974; Kassir and Sih, 1975). There seems to be no titles, giving exhaustive treatment of both contact and crack problems in one book. Why this is so, is beyond my comprehension. Indeed, from mathematical point of view, there is not much difference between them: a contact problem is characterized by a displacement, prescribed inside certain domain, with the stress being zero outside, while a crack problem is characterized by a stress prescribed inside a domain, with the displacement vanishing outside. In a way, one problem may be considered as inverse of the other.

The third book gave the state-of-the-art description of both contact and crack problems. The same mathematical apparatus, developed by the author, is used to solve both. Majority of presented solutions is exact and expressed in terms of elementary functions. One may argue, that these elementary solutions are not needed in the age of powerful computers. This is just not so: the most powerful computers are still quite bad in the cases of poor convergence and can not handle singularities directly. In addition, elementary solutions serve as excellent benchmark examples to verify the quality of new numerical methods or a new software.

This book gives detailed description of the Generalized Images Method and its applications to the solution of contact problems in layered media. The method was first developed by the author in the field of crack analysis (Fabrikant, 1997a) and later applied to the contact problems in layered media.

The book consists of 4 chapters. The first chapter describes the mathematical foundations of the method, with some applications. The second chapter describes solution of basic contact problems for a transversely isotropic half-space. The third chapter presents solutions of contact problems for a single layer on rigid and elastic foundation with smooth and bonded conditions on the interface between the layer and foundation. We consider both normal contact and tangential contact problems. The fourth chapter gives further generalization of previous results to the case of arbitrary number of layers, as well as numerical methods for solving these problems. Several Appendices in the book contain various mathematical formulae (derivatives, integrals, etc.), which are not available in other mathematical reference books.

The book is addressed to a wide audience ranging from engineers to mathematical physicists. While an engineer can find in the book some elementary, ready to use formulae for solving various practical problems, a mathematical physicist might become interested in new applications of the mathematical apparatus presented. The book should be of interest to specialists in electromagnetics, acoustics, diffusion, solid and fluid mechanics, etc.

The book is *accessible to anyone* with a background in university undergraduate calculus, but should be of interest to established scientists as well. Though the method is elementary, the transformations involved are sometimes very non-trivial and cumbersome, while the final result is usually very simple. The reader who is interested only in application of the general results to his/her particular problems may skip the long derivations and use the final formulae which requires little effort. The reader, who wants to master the method in order to solve new problems, has to repeat the derivations which are given in sufficient detail.

The book is based entirely on the author's results, and this is why the work of other scientists is mentioned only when such a quotation is inevitable for some reason, like numerical data needed to verify the accuracy of approximate results, comparison with existing results, or pointing out some errors in publications. There are several books and review articles presenting an adequate account of the state-of-the-art in the field. Appropriate references are given for the reader's convenience. The purpose of this book was neither to repeat nor to compete with them.

For the reader's convenience, it was attempted to make each chapter (and section, wherever possible) self-contained. The reader can skip several sections and continue reading, without losing the ability to understand material. On the other hand, this resulted in repetition of some definitions and descriptions. The

author thinks that the additional convenience is worth several extra pages in the book.

The book contains *global* variables, which denote the same quantity throughout the book, for example, $l_1(\cdot, \cdot, \cdot)$, $l_2(\cdot, \cdot, \cdot)$, Λ , etc. There is only limiting amount of characters in the Latin and Greek alphabets, while the number of parameters and notations used in the book is much greater, so inevitably some characters are used as *local* variables to denote several different quantities. For example, δ denotes in some sections the angle of inclination, while in other sections it denotes $(\rho\rho_0 e^{i(\phi-\phi_0)})^{1/2}$. Hopefully, no character is used to denote 2 different quantities in the same section.

The method developed in the book can be generalized for solving mixed boundary value problems for piezo-electric or piezo-magneto-electric bodies. Numerous publications in this field are available in the literature.

The book contains so much new material that some misprints and errors are inevitable, though every effort was made to eliminate them. The author would be grateful for every communication in this regard. All the readers' comments are welcome. The author's present mailing address is:

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