

# Asymptotic justification of models of plates containing inside hard thin inclusions

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## Abstract

An equilibrium problem of the Kirchhoff-Love plate containing a nonhomogeneous inclusion is considered. It is assumed that elastic properties of the inclusion depend on a small parameter characterizing width of the inclusion  $\varepsilon$  as  $\varepsilon^N$  with  $N < 1$ . The passage to the limit as the parameter  $\varepsilon$  tends to zero is justified, and an asymptotic model of a plate containing a thin inhomogeneous hard inclusion is constructed. It is shown that there exists two types of thin inclusions: rigid inclusion ( $N < -1$ ) and elastic inclusion ( $N = -1$ ). The inhomogeneity disappears in the case of  $N \in (-1, 1)$ .

**Keywords:** Kirchhoff-Love plate; Composite material; Thin inclusion; Asymptotic analysis

## 1 Introduction

An equilibrium problem of a Kirchhoff-Love plate containing a nonhomogeneous inclusion is considered. It is assumed that elastic properties of the inclusion depend on a small parameter characterizing width of the inclusion  $\varepsilon$  as  $\varepsilon^N$  with  $N < 1$ . The problem is formulated as a variational one, namely, as a minimization problem of the energy functional over a set of admissible deflections in the Sobolev space  $H^2$ . This implies that the deflections function is a solution of a boundary value problem for bi-harmonic operator (pure bending, see, e.g., [1, 2, 3, 4]).

The aim of the present work is to justify passing to the limit as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ . To do this, we apply a method originally introduced in [5, 6] for problems of gluing plates. The method is based on variational properties of the solution to the corresponding minimization problem and allows to find a limit problem for any  $N < 1$  simultaneously. It is shown that there exist two types of hard inclusions in dependence of  $N$ : thin rigid inclusion ( $N < -1$ ) and thin elastic inclusion ( $N = -1$ ). In case  $N \in (-1, 1)$ , the influence of the inhomogeneity disappears in the limit. We get limit problems in a variational form, which is convenient, for example, for numerical analysis by the finite element method.

Let us give a short survey of works close to the present investigation. Note that there are not so many works devoted to study of models of thin inclusions in plates. We mention [7, 8, 9], in which thin elastic inclusions in plates were studied. Papers [10, 11, 12, 13] are devoted investigations of thin rigid inclusions. At last, we refer to [14, 15, 16, 17, 18] for asymptotic analyses for different models of bonded structures in Elasticity.

## 2 Statement of problem

Let us fix a small parameter  $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$  and consider an inhomogeneous rectangular plate  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  with a thin rectangular inclusion  $\Omega_{inc}^\varepsilon \subset \Omega$  of width  $2\varepsilon d$ , where  $d$  is diameter of  $\Omega$ . Let us specify some notations:

$$\begin{aligned}\Omega &= (-a_1, a_2) \times (-b_1, b_2), \quad a_\alpha, b_\alpha > 0, \quad \alpha = 1, 2, \\ \Omega_{inc}^\varepsilon &= (-\varepsilon d, \varepsilon d) \times (-c_1, c_2), \quad 0 < c_\alpha < b_\alpha, \quad \alpha = 1, 2, \\ \Omega_\pm &= \{(y_1, y_2) \in \Omega \mid \pm y_1 > 0\}, \\ S &= \partial\Omega_- \cap \partial\Omega_+, \\ S_{inc} &= S \cap \Omega_{inc}^\varepsilon, \\ \Omega_{mat}^\varepsilon &= \Omega \setminus \overline{\Omega_{inc}^\varepsilon}, \quad \Omega_\pm^\varepsilon = \Omega_{mat}^\varepsilon \cap \Omega_\pm,\end{aligned}$$

Note that for all small enough  $\varepsilon > 0$  a family of subdomains  $\Omega_{inc}^\varepsilon$  lies strictly inside  $\Omega$ . Besides, let us define the following notations:

$$\Omega_{mid}^\varepsilon = \{(y_1, y_2) \in \Omega \mid -\varepsilon d < y_1 < \varepsilon d, \quad y_2 \in S\},$$

$$S_{\pm}^{\varepsilon} = \{(y_1, y_2) \in \Omega \mid y_1 = \pm \varepsilon d, y_2 \in S\},$$

We assume that  $S_{inc}$  is divided into three subsets  $S_{\alpha} \subset S_{inc}$ , where each  $S_{\alpha}$  is an union of finite number of segments or empty set,  $\alpha = 1, 2, 3$ .

In our consideration,  $\Omega$  is a composite plate, consisting of the elastic matrix  $\Omega_{mat}^{\varepsilon}$  and the inhomogeneous inclusion  $\Omega_{inc}^{\varepsilon} = \cup_{\alpha=1}^3 \Omega_{\alpha}^{\varepsilon}$ , where

$$\Omega_{\alpha}^{\varepsilon} = \{(y_1, y_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid -\varepsilon d < y_1 < \varepsilon d, y_2 \in S_{\alpha}\}, \quad \alpha = 1, 2, 3.$$

Moreover, in the sequel we will use the following notations:

$$\Omega_0^{\varepsilon} = \Omega_{mid}^{\varepsilon} \setminus \cup_{\alpha=1}^3 \overline{\Omega}_{\alpha}^{\varepsilon},$$

$$S_0 = S \setminus \overline{S}_{inc}.$$

Denote by  $E_0$ ,  $E_{\alpha}^{\varepsilon}$  and  $k_0$ ,  $k_{\alpha}$  Young's modules and Poisson's ratios of parts  $\Omega_{mat}$  and  $\Omega_{\alpha}^{\varepsilon}$  of the composite plate  $\Omega$ , respectively,  $\alpha = 1, 2, 3$ . The compound character of the structure is expressed by the fact that  $E_0$ ,  $k_0$ , and  $k_{\alpha}$  are constants while Young's modulus  $E_{\alpha}^{\varepsilon}$  depends on  $\varepsilon$  as follows:

$$E_{\alpha}^{\varepsilon} = \varepsilon^{N_{\alpha}} E_{\alpha} \quad \text{in } \Omega_{\alpha}^{\varepsilon}, \quad \alpha = 1, 2, 3,$$

where  $N_1$ ,  $N_2$ ,  $N_3$  are real numbers such that

$$N_1 < -1, \quad N_2 = -1, \quad N_3 \in (-1, 1).$$

Such parameters correspond to hard inclusions in the plate  $\Omega$  (see [6, 19, 20]). Moreover, put  $N_0 = 0$ .

Denote by  $w$  deflections of the composite plate  $\Omega$ . Then the bending moments are defined by formulae (see, e.g., [21, 22])

$$m_{ij}(w) = d_{ijkl}^{\varepsilon} w_{,kl}, \quad i, j = 1, 2, \quad w_{,kl} = \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y_k \partial y_l},$$

where the tensor  $\{d_{ijkl}^{\varepsilon}\}$  has the following components:

$$\begin{aligned} d_{iiii}^{\varepsilon}(y) &= D^{\varepsilon}(y), \quad d_{iijj}^{\varepsilon}(y) = D^{\varepsilon}(y)k^{\varepsilon}(y), \\ d_{ijij}^{\varepsilon}(y) &= d_{ijji}^{\varepsilon}(y) = D^{\varepsilon}(y)(1 - k^{\varepsilon}(y))/2, \quad i \neq j, \quad i, j = 1, 2, \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

$$D^{\varepsilon}(y) = \begin{cases} D_0 & \text{in } \Omega_{mat}^{\varepsilon}, \\ \varepsilon^{N_{\alpha}} D_{\alpha} & \text{in } \Omega_{\alpha}^{\varepsilon}, \quad \alpha = 1, 2, 3, \end{cases}$$

$$D_\alpha = \frac{E_\alpha h^3}{12(1 - k_\alpha^2)}, \quad \alpha = 0, 1, 2, 3,$$

$$k^\varepsilon(y) = \begin{cases} k_0 & \text{in } \Omega_{mat}^\varepsilon, \\ k_\alpha^\varepsilon & \text{in } \Omega_\alpha^\varepsilon, \quad \alpha = 1, 2, 3, \end{cases}$$

$h$  is a thickness of the plate  $\Omega$ .

The potential energy functional of the plate has the following representation (see [22]):

$$\Pi(w) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} d_{ijkl}^\varepsilon w_{,kl} w_{,ij} dy - \int_{\Omega} f w dy,$$

where  $f \in L_2(\Omega)$  is a bulk force acting on the plate  $\Omega$ . Then the equilibrium problem of nonhomogeneous plate clamped on the external boundary  $\partial\Omega$  can be formulated as the minimization problem: find a function  $w_\varepsilon \in H_0^2(\Omega)$  such that

$$\Pi(w_\varepsilon) = \inf_{w \in H_0^2(\Omega)} \Pi(w). \quad (2)$$

Problem (2) is known to have a unique solution  $w_\varepsilon$  (see, e.g., [21, 23]), which satisfies the variational equality:

$$\int_{\Omega} d_{ijkl}^\varepsilon w_{\varepsilon,kl} w_{,ij} dy = \int_{\Omega} f w dy \quad \forall w \in H_0^2(\Omega). \quad (3)$$

Moreover, the function  $w_\varepsilon$  is a unique solution the following boundary value problem:

$$(d_{ijkl}^\varepsilon w_{\varepsilon,kl})_{,ij} = f \quad \text{in } \Omega,$$

$$w_\varepsilon = \frac{\partial w_\varepsilon}{\partial \nu} = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega,$$

where  $\nu$  is a unit normal vector  $\partial\Omega$ .

### 3 Decomposition of the problem and coordinate transformations

In the sequel we will have deal with the problem (3). Let us rewrite it in an equivalent form. For this we introduce the following set:

$$K_\varepsilon = \{v = (v_-, v_+, v_m) \in H^2(\Omega_-^\varepsilon) \times H^2(\Omega_+^\varepsilon) \times H^2(\Omega_m^\varepsilon) \mid \\ v_\pm = v_m, \quad v_{\pm,1} = v_{m,1} \text{ a.e. on } S_\pm^\varepsilon, \\ v_\pm = \frac{\partial v_\pm}{\partial \nu} = 0 \text{ a.e. on } \partial\Omega_\pm^\varepsilon \cap \partial\Omega\}.$$

Taking into account (1), problem (3) can be reformulated as follows: find a triplet  $(w_{\varepsilon-}, w_{\varepsilon+}, w_{\varepsilon m}) \in K_\varepsilon$  satisfying a variational equality

$$b_{\varepsilon-}(w_{\varepsilon-}, v_-) + b_{\varepsilon+}(w_{\varepsilon+}, v_+) + b_{\varepsilon m}(w_{\varepsilon m}, v_m) = \\ = l_-(v_-) + l_+(v_+) + l_m(v_m) \quad \forall (v_-, v_+, v_m) \in K_\varepsilon, \quad (4)$$

where

$$b_{\varepsilon\pm}(u, v) = D_0 \int_{\Omega_\pm^\varepsilon} (u_{,11}v_{,11} + u_{,22}v_{,22} + k_0(u_{,11}v_{,22} + u_{,22}v_{,11}) + 2(1-k_0)u_{,12}v_{,12}) dy, \\ b_{\varepsilon m}(u, v) = \sum_{\alpha=0}^3 D_\alpha^\varepsilon \int_{\Omega_\alpha^\varepsilon} (u_{,11}v_{,11} + u_{,22}v_{,22} + k_\alpha(u_{,11}v_{,22} + u_{,22}v_{,11}) + 2(1-k_\alpha)u_{,12}v_{,12}) dy. \\ l_{\varepsilon\pm}(u) = \int_{\Omega_\pm^\varepsilon} f u dy, \quad l_{\varepsilon m}(u) = \int_{\Omega_m^\varepsilon} f u dy.$$

From Calculus of Variations, it follows that problem (4) has a unique solution  $(w_{\varepsilon-}, w_{\varepsilon+}, w_{\varepsilon m}) \in K_\varepsilon$  for all  $\varepsilon > 0$  small enough (see, e.g., [2, 21]). Herewith,  $w_{\varepsilon\pm}$  and  $w_{\varepsilon m}$  are restrictions of  $w_\varepsilon$  on subdomains  $\Omega_\pm^\varepsilon$  and  $\Omega_m^\varepsilon$ , respectively.

Next, we introduce coordinate transformations that map domains  $\Omega_\pm^\varepsilon$  and  $\Omega_m^\varepsilon$  onto domains independent of  $\varepsilon$ . For this, we consider two convex domains  $\omega_1$  and  $\omega_2$  such that

$$\bar{S} \subset \omega_1, \quad \bar{\omega}_1 \subset \omega_2, \quad \partial\omega_2 \cap \{y_1 = -a_1\} = \emptyset, \quad \partial\omega_2 \cap \{y_1 = a_2\} = \emptyset,$$

and a smooth cut-off function  $\theta$  such that

$$\theta = 1 \text{ in } \bar{\omega}_1, \quad 0 < \theta < 1 \text{ in } \omega_2, \quad \theta = 0 \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \bar{\omega}_2.$$

Let us introduce the following notations:

$$\Omega_m = \{(z_1, z_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid -d < z_1 < d, \ z_2 \in S\},$$

$$S_{\pm} = \{(z_1, z_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid z_1 = \pm d, \ z_2 \in S\},$$

$$\Omega_{\alpha} = \{(z_1, z_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid -d < z_1 < d, \ z_2 \in S_{\alpha}\}, \quad \alpha = 0, 1, 2, 3,$$

$$S_{\alpha}^{\pm} = \{(z_1, z_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid z_1 = \pm d, \ z_2 \in S_{\alpha}\}, \quad \alpha = 0, 1, 2, 3.$$

and define coordinate transformations in the domains  $\Omega_{\pm}$  and  $\Omega_m$  as follows:

$$y_1 = x_1 \pm \varepsilon d \theta(x_1, x_2), \quad y_2 = x_2, \quad (x_1, x_2) \in \Omega_{\pm}, \quad (y_1, y_2) \in \Omega_{\pm}^{\varepsilon}, \quad (5)$$

$$y_1 = \varepsilon z_1, \quad y_2 = z_2, \quad (z_1, z_2) \in \Omega_m, \quad (y_1, y_2) \in \Omega_m^{\varepsilon}. \quad (6)$$

It is not difficult to show that for all sufficiently small coordinate transformations (5) and (6) map bijectively the domains  $\Omega_{\pm}$  and  $\Omega_m$  onto  $\Omega_{\pm}^{\varepsilon}$  and  $\Omega_m^{\varepsilon}$ , respectively, (see, e.g., [24, 25]). Note that the subdomains  $\Omega_{\alpha}^{\varepsilon}$  is mapped into subdomains  $\Omega_{\alpha}$ ,  $\alpha = 0, 1, 2, 3$ .

Denote by  $\Phi_{\varepsilon}^{\pm}(x)$  and  $J_{\varepsilon}^{\pm}$  Jacobian matrices and Jacobians of transformations (5), respectively,

$$\Phi_{\varepsilon}^{\pm}(x_1, x_2) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \pm \varepsilon d \theta_{,1}(x_1, x_2) & \pm \varepsilon d \theta_{,2}(x_1, x_2) \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$J_{\varepsilon}^{\pm}(x_1, x_2) = \det \Phi_{\varepsilon}^{\pm}(x_1, x_2) = 1 \pm \varepsilon d \theta_{,1}(x_1, x_2).$$

Coordinate transformations (5) and (6) establish one-to-one correspondences between spaces  $H^2(\Omega_{\pm})$ ,  $H^2(\Omega_m)$  and  $H^2(\Omega_{\pm}^{\varepsilon})$ ,  $H^2(\Omega_m^{\varepsilon})$ , respectively. Moreover, the set  $K^{\varepsilon}$  is transformed into a set  $K_{\varepsilon}$ ,

$$K_{\varepsilon} = \{v = (v_{-}, v_{+}, v_m) \in H^{2,0}(\Omega_{-}) \times H^{2,0}(\Omega_{+}) \times H^2(\Omega_m) \mid \\ v_{\pm}|_S = v_m|_{S_{\pm}}, \quad v_{\pm,1}|_S = \frac{1}{\varepsilon} v_{m,1}|_{S_{\pm}}\},$$

where

$$H^{2,0}(\Omega_{\pm}) = \{v_{\pm} \in H^2(\Omega_{\pm}) \mid v_{\pm} = \frac{\partial v_{\pm}}{\partial \nu} = 0 \text{ a.e. on } \partial \Omega_{\pm}^{\varepsilon} \cap \partial \Omega\}.$$

Hereinafter, we assume that for any functions  $v_{\pm}(x)$ ,  $x \in \Omega_{\pm}$ , and  $v_m(z)$ ,  $z \in \Omega_m$ , equality  $v_{\pm}|_S = v_m|_{S_{\pm}}$  means that

$$v_{\pm}(0, x_2) = v_m(\pm d, z_2), \quad x_2 = z_2 \in S.$$

Introduce the following notations:

$$\begin{aligned} w_{\pm}^{\varepsilon}(x_1, x_2) &= w_{\varepsilon\pm}(x_1 \pm \varepsilon d \theta(x_1, x_2), x_2), \quad (x_1, x_2) \in \Omega_{\pm}, \\ w_m^{\varepsilon}(z_1, z_2) &= w_{\varepsilon m}(\varepsilon z_1, z_2), \quad (z_1, z_2) \in \Omega_m. \end{aligned}$$

Due to smoothness of coordinate transformations (5), we have asymptotic expansions for the transformations of the second-order derivatives for (5) (see, e.g., [24, 25, 26, 27] )

$$w_{\varepsilon\pm,ij} = w_{\pm,ij}^{\varepsilon} + \varepsilon P_{ij}^{\pm}(\varepsilon, w_{\pm}^{\varepsilon}), \quad (7)$$

with

$$|P_{ij}^{\pm}(\varepsilon, w_{\pm}^{\varepsilon})| \leq C(|w_{\pm,k}^{\varepsilon}| + |w_{\pm,kl}^{\varepsilon}|), \quad i, j, k, l = 1, 2.$$

Besides, we have for (6)

$$\begin{aligned} w_{\varepsilon m,11}(y_1, y_2) &= \frac{w_{m,11}^{\varepsilon}(z_1, z_2)}{\varepsilon^2}, \quad w_{\varepsilon m,12}(y_1, y_2) = \frac{w_{m,12}^{\varepsilon}(z_1, z_2)}{\varepsilon}, \\ w_{\varepsilon m,22}(y_1, y_2) &= w_{m,22}^{\varepsilon}(z_1, z_2). \end{aligned}$$

After applying coordinate transformations (5) and (6) to (4) we get that the triplet  $(w_{-}^{\varepsilon}, w_{+}^{\varepsilon}, w_m^{\varepsilon}) \in K_{\varepsilon}$  is a unique solution to the following variational equality:

$$\begin{aligned} b_{-}^{\varepsilon}(w_{-}^{\varepsilon}, v_{-}) + b_{+}^{\varepsilon}(w_{+}^{\varepsilon}, v_{+}) + b_m^{\varepsilon}(w_m^{\varepsilon}, v_m) &= l_{-}^{\varepsilon}(v_{-}) + l_{+}^{\varepsilon}(v_{+}) + l_m^{\varepsilon}(v_m) \\ &\quad \forall (v_{-}, v_{+}, v_m) \in K_{\varepsilon}, \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

where, taking into account (7) and (1),

$$\begin{aligned} b_{\pm}^{\varepsilon}(u, v) &= b_{\pm}(u, v) + r_{\pm}(\varepsilon, u, v), \\ b_{\pm}(u, v) &= D_0 \int_{\Omega_{\pm}} (u_{,11}v_{,11} + u_{,22}v_{,22} + k_{\pm}(u_{,11}v_{,22} + u_{,22}v_{,11}) + 2(1 - k_{\pm})u_{,12}v_{,12}) dx, \end{aligned}$$

$$|r_{\pm}(\varepsilon, u, v)| \leq c_{\pm}(\varepsilon) \left( \|u\|_{H^2(\Omega_{\pm})}^2 + \|v\|_{H^2(\Omega_{\pm})}^2 \right), \quad 0 \leq c_{\pm}(\varepsilon) = o(1) \text{ as } \varepsilon \rightarrow 0, \quad (9)$$

$$\begin{aligned} b_m^{\varepsilon}(u, v) &= \\ &= D_0 \int_{\Omega_m} \left( \frac{u_{,11}v_{,11}}{\varepsilon^3} + \varepsilon u_{,22}v_{,22} + \frac{k_m}{\varepsilon}(u_{,11}v_{,22} + v_{,22}w_{,11}) + \frac{2(1-k_m)}{\varepsilon}u_{,12}v_{,12} \right) dz + \\ &= D_1 \int_{\Omega_m} \left( \frac{u_{,11}v_{,11}}{\varepsilon^{3-N_1}} + \frac{u_{,22}v_{,22}}{\varepsilon^{-N_1-1}} + \frac{k_m}{\varepsilon^{1-N_1}}(u_{,11}v_{,22} + v_{,22}w_{,11}) + \frac{2(1-k_m)}{\varepsilon^{1-N_1}}u_{,12}v_{,12} \right) dz + \\ &+ D_2 \int_{\Omega_m} \left( \frac{u_{,11}v_{,11}}{\varepsilon^4} + u_{,22}v_{,22} + \frac{k_m}{\varepsilon^2}(u_{,11}v_{,22} + v_{,22}w_{,11}) + \frac{2(1-k_m)}{\varepsilon^2}u_{,12}v_{,12} \right) dz + \\ &+ D_3 \int_{\Omega_m} \left( \frac{u_{,11}v_{,11}}{\varepsilon^{3-N_3}} + \varepsilon^{N_3+1}u_{,22}v_{,22} + \frac{k_m}{\varepsilon^{1-N_3}}(u_{,11}v_{,22} + v_{,22}w_{,11}) + \frac{2(1-k_m)}{\varepsilon^{1-N_3}}u_{,12}v_{,12} \right) dz, \end{aligned}$$

$$l_{\pm}^{\varepsilon}(v) \int_{\Omega_{\pm}} f(x_1 \pm d\theta(x_1, x_2), x_2)(1 \pm d\theta_{,1}(x_1, x_2)v) dx$$

$$l_m^{\varepsilon}(v) = \varepsilon \int_{\Omega_m} f(\varepsilon z_1, z_2)v dz,$$

$$|l_{\pm}^{\varepsilon}(v)| \leq C\|v\|_{L_2(\Omega_{\pm})}, \quad (10)$$

$$|l_m^{\varepsilon}(v)| \leq C\varepsilon\|v\|_{L_2(\Omega_m)}. \quad (11)$$

## 4 Limit problem

To justify passing to the limit as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  we need some auxiliary lemma proved in [5, 6].

**Lemma.** For any triplet  $(v_-, v_+, v_m) \in K_{\varepsilon}$  and  $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$ , the inequalities

$$\begin{aligned} \|v_m\|_{L_2(\Omega_m)}^2 &\leq C \left( \|v_{m,11}\|_{L_2(\Omega_m)}^2 + \|v_{\pm}\|_{H^{2,0}(\Omega_{\pm})}^2 \right), \\ \|v_{m,1}\|_{L_2(\Omega_m)}^2 &\leq C \left( \|v_{m,11}\|_{L_2(\Omega_m)}^2 + \varepsilon^2 \|v_{\pm,1}\|_{L_2(S)}^2 \right) \end{aligned}$$

hold, where a constant  $C > 0$  does not depend on  $(v_-, v_+, v_m)$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ .

Our main result is the following theorem.



**Theorem.** Let  $w^\varepsilon = (w_-^\varepsilon, w_+^\varepsilon, w_m^\varepsilon)$  be a solution to (8); let  $w_0 \in K_0$  be a solution to the following variational equality:

$$b(w_0, w) + 4d(1 - k_2)D_m \int_{S_2} \frac{\partial(w_{0,1}|_{S_2})}{\partial z_2} \frac{\partial(w_{,1}|_{S_2})}{\partial z_2} dz_2 = l(w) \quad \forall w \in K_0, \quad (12)$$

where

$$K_0 = \{w \in H_0^2(\Omega) \mid w = \alpha x_2 + \beta \text{ a.e. on } S_1, \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}; w_{,1} \in H^1(S_2)\}.$$

Denote by  $w_\pm$  a restriction of  $w$  to subdomain  $\Omega_\pm$  and, moreover, put

$$w_m(z_1, z_2) = w_0(z_1, 0) \quad \text{for } (z_1, z_2) \in \Omega_m.$$

Then the following convergences

$$w_\pm^\varepsilon \rightarrow w_\pm \quad \text{weakly in } H^2(\Omega_\pm),$$

$$w_m^\varepsilon \rightarrow w_m \quad \text{weakly in } L_2(\Omega_m),$$

take place as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ .

**Proof.** Let us substitute  $(w_-^\varepsilon, w_+^\varepsilon, w_m^\varepsilon)$  in (8) as a test function. Taking into account Lemma, (9), (10), and (11), we get an estimate

$$\begin{aligned} & \|w_-^\varepsilon\|_{H^{2,0}(\Omega_-)}^2 + \|w_+^\varepsilon\|_{H^{2,0}(\Omega_+)}^2 + \\ & \left\| \frac{w_{m_0,11}^\varepsilon}{\varepsilon^{\frac{3}{2}}} \right\|_{L_2(\Omega_0)}^2 + \left\| \frac{w_{m_0,12}^\varepsilon}{\varepsilon^{\frac{1}{2}}} \right\|_{L_2(\Omega_0)}^2 + \|\varepsilon^{\frac{1}{2}} w_{m_0,22}^\varepsilon\|_{L_2(\Omega_0)}^2 + \\ & + \left\| \frac{w_{m_1,11}^\varepsilon}{\varepsilon^{\frac{3-N_1}{2}}} \right\|_{L_2(\Omega_1)}^2 + \left\| \frac{w_{m_1,12}^\varepsilon}{\varepsilon^{\frac{1-N_1}{2}}} \right\|_{L_2(\Omega_1)}^2 + \left\| \frac{w_{m_1,22}^\varepsilon}{\varepsilon^{\frac{-N_1-1}{2}}} \right\|_{L_2(\Omega_1)}^2 + \\ & \left\| \frac{w_{m_2,11}^\varepsilon}{\varepsilon^2} \right\|_{L_2(\Omega_2)}^2 + \left\| \frac{w_{m_2,12}^\varepsilon}{\varepsilon} \right\|_{L_2(\Omega_2)}^2 + \|w_{m_2,22}^\varepsilon\|_{L_2(\Omega_2)}^2 + \\ & \left\| \frac{w_{m_3,11}^\varepsilon}{\varepsilon^{\frac{3-N_3}{2}}} \right\|_{L_2(\Omega_3)}^2 + \left\| \frac{w_{m_3,12}^\varepsilon}{\varepsilon^{\frac{1-N_3}{2}}} \right\|_{L_2(\Omega_3)}^2 + \|\varepsilon^{\frac{N_3+1}{2}} w_{m_3,22}^\varepsilon\|_{L_2(\Omega_3)}^2 \leq C \quad (13) \end{aligned}$$

with a constant  $C$  independent of  $\varepsilon$ . Here by  $w_{m_\alpha}^\varepsilon$  denote a restriction of  $w^\varepsilon$  to  $\Omega_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha = 0, 1, 2, 3$ . Moreover, from (13), Lemma, and definition of the set  $K_\varepsilon$ , we additionally have

$$\|w_m^\varepsilon\|_{L_2(\Omega_m)} \leq C, \quad \|w_{m,1}^\varepsilon\|_{L_2(\Omega_m)} \leq C\varepsilon. \quad (14)$$

Estimates (13) and (14) entail the existence of functions  $w_{\pm} \in H^{2,0}(\Omega_{\pm})$ ,  $w_m \in L_2(\Omega_m)$ ,  $p_{\alpha}, q_{\alpha}, r_{\alpha} \in L_2(\Omega_{\alpha})$ ,  $\alpha = 0, 1, 2, 3$ , such that for some subsequence  $\{\varepsilon_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  still denoted by  $\varepsilon$ , the following convergences:

$$\begin{aligned}
w_{\pm}^{\varepsilon} &\rightarrow w_{\pm} \quad \text{weakly in } H^2(\Omega_{\pm}), \\
w_m^{\varepsilon} &\rightarrow w_m \quad \text{weakly in } L_2(\Omega_m), \\
\frac{w_{m,11}^{\varepsilon}}{\varepsilon^{\frac{3}{2}}} &\rightarrow p_0 \quad \text{weakly in } L_2(\Omega_0), \\
\frac{w_{m,12}^{\varepsilon}}{\varepsilon^{\frac{1}{2}}} &\rightarrow q_0 \quad \text{weakly in } L_2(\Omega_0), \\
\varepsilon^{\frac{1}{2}} u_{m,22}^{\varepsilon} &\rightarrow r_0 \quad \text{weakly in } L_2(\Omega_0), \\
\frac{w_{m,11}^{\varepsilon}}{\varepsilon^{\frac{3-N_1}{2}}} &\rightarrow p_1 \quad \text{weakly in } L_2(\Omega_1), \\
\frac{w_{m,22}^{\varepsilon}}{\varepsilon^{\frac{-1-N_1}{2}}} &\rightarrow q_1 \quad \text{weakly in } L_2(\Omega_1), \\
\frac{w_{m,12}^{\varepsilon}}{\varepsilon_n^{\frac{1-N_1}{2}}} &\rightarrow r_1 \quad \text{weakly in } L_2(\Omega_1), \\
\frac{w_{m,11}^{\varepsilon}}{\varepsilon^2} &\rightarrow p_2 \quad \text{weakly in } L_2(\Omega_2), \\
w_{m,22}^{\varepsilon} &\rightarrow u_{m,22} \quad \text{weakly in } L_2(\Omega_2), \\
\frac{w_{m,12}^{\varepsilon_n}}{\varepsilon} &\rightarrow q_2 \quad \text{weakly in } L_2(\Omega_2), \\
\frac{w_{m,1}^{\varepsilon_n}}{\varepsilon_n} &\rightarrow r_2 \quad \text{weakly in } L_2(\Omega_2), \\
\frac{w_{m,11}^{\varepsilon}}{\varepsilon^{\frac{3-N_3}{2}}} &\rightarrow p_3 \quad \text{weakly in } L_2(\Omega_3), \\
\frac{w_{m,12}^{\varepsilon}}{\varepsilon^{\frac{1-N_3}{2}}} &\rightarrow q_3 \quad \text{weakly in } L_2(\Omega_3), \\
\varepsilon^{\frac{N_3+1}{2}} u_{m,22}^{\varepsilon} &\rightarrow r_3 \quad \text{weakly in } L_2(\Omega_3)
\end{aligned} \tag{15}$$

hold as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ . Moreover, from (13) and (14) it follows that

$$w_{m,1}^{\varepsilon} \rightarrow w_{m,1} = 0 \quad \text{strongly in } L_2(\Omega_m), \tag{16}$$

$$w_{m,11}^{\varepsilon} \rightarrow w_{m,11} = 0 \quad \text{strongly in } L_2(\Omega_m), \tag{17}$$

$$w_{m,22}^\varepsilon \rightarrow w_{m,22} = 0 \quad \text{strongly in } L_2(\Omega_1). \quad (18)$$

From definition of the set  $K_\varepsilon$ , after passing to the limit as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ , we get

$$w_m|_{S_\pm} = w_\pm|_S. \quad (19)$$

Since  $w_{m,1} = 0$  in  $\Omega_m$  (see (16)),  $w_m$  does not depend on  $z_2$ . Therefore, taking into account (17), we conclude that there exists a function  $\beta(z_2) \in L_2(\Omega_m)$  such that

$$w_m(z_1, z_2) = \beta(z_2), \quad (z_1, z_2) \in \Omega_m.$$

Condition (18) means that the function  $w_m$  is affine in the domain  $\Omega_m$  with respect to  $z_2$ , i.e., there exists  $\delta, \gamma \in \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$w_m(z_1, z_2) = \delta z_2 + \gamma \quad \text{in } \Omega_1. \quad (20)$$

Due to (19), we have

$$w_-|_S = w_+|_S. \quad (21)$$

Now let us show that  $w_\pm$  satisfy the following equality:

$$w_{+,1} = w_{-,1} \quad \text{on } S. \quad (22)$$

Indeed, from the relation

$$\int_{-d}^d w_{m,11}^\varepsilon(z_1, z_2) dz_1 = w_{m,1}^\varepsilon(d, z_2) - w_{m,1}^\varepsilon(-d, z_2),$$

it follows that

$$\int_a^b |w_{m,1}^\varepsilon(d, z_2) - w_{m,1}^\varepsilon(-d, z_2)|^2 dz_2 \leq 2d \|w_{m,11}^\varepsilon\|_{L_2(\Omega_m)}^2.$$

Due to estimate (13) and the equalities  $w_{m,1}^\varepsilon(\pm d, z_2) = \varepsilon w_\pm^\varepsilon(0, z_2)$  for  $z_2 \in (a, b)$  (see definition of the set  $K_\varepsilon$ ), we obtain

$$\|w_{+,1}^\varepsilon - w_{-,1}^\varepsilon\|_{L_2(S)} \leq \frac{2d}{\varepsilon} \|w_{m,11}^\varepsilon\|_{L_2(\Omega_m)} \rightarrow 0$$

as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ . From (15) (the first line) and the compactness of trace operator, it follows

$$w_{\pm,1}^\varepsilon \rightarrow w_{\pm,1} \quad \text{strongly in } L_2(S)$$

as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ , and (22) holds.

At last, using the same arguments as in [6] we can prove additionally that

$$w_{\pm,1}|_{S_2} \in H^1(S_2) \quad (23)$$

and, moreover,

$$\begin{aligned} p_2 &= -k_m w_{m,22} \quad \text{in } \Omega_2, \\ q_2 &= \frac{\partial(w_{-,1}|_{S_2})}{\partial z_2} \quad \text{in } \Omega_2, \\ r_2 &= w_{-,1}|_{S_2} \quad \text{in } \Omega_2. \end{aligned}$$

Now let us define a function

$$w_0(x) = \begin{cases} w_-(x) & x \in \Omega_-, \\ w_+(x) & x \in \Omega_+. \end{cases} \quad (24)$$

Conditions (19), (20), (21), (22), and (23) imply that the function  $w_0$  belongs to the set  $K_0$ .

In order to proceed with a problem defining the function  $w_0$ , we take arbitrary function  $v \in C^2(\Omega) \cap K_0$  and define three functions  $v_-$ ,  $v_+$ ,  $v_m$  by

$$v_- = v|_{\Omega_-}, \quad v_+ = v|_{\Omega_+},$$

$$v_m(z_1, z_2) = v(0, z_2), \quad (z_1, z_2) \in \Omega_m.$$

Then for these functions we consider a triplet  $(v_- + \varepsilon \psi_-, v_+ + \varepsilon \psi_+, v_m + \varepsilon \psi_m) \in K_\varepsilon$ , where  $\psi_m(z_1, z_2) = v_{,1}(0, z_2)z_1$  for  $(z_1, z_2) \in \Omega_m$ , and  $\psi_\pm \in H^{2,0}(\Omega_\pm)$  is arbitrary extensions of  $\psi_m$  in domains  $\Omega_\pm$  such that

$$\psi_\pm|_S = \psi_m|_{S_m^\pm}, \quad \psi_{\pm,1} = 0 \quad \text{on } S,$$

and substitute it in (8). Since  $v_{m,11} = 0$  and  $\psi_{m,11} = 0$  in  $\Omega_m$ , weak convergences in (15) and formulas (23) allows us to pass to the limit as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  and obtain the following relation:

$$\begin{aligned} b_-(w_-, v_-) + b_+(w_+, v_+) + 4d(1 - k_2)D_2 \int_{S_2} \frac{\partial(w_{-,1}|_{S_2})}{\partial z_2} \frac{\partial(v_{-,1}|_{S_2})}{\partial z_2} dz_2 = \\ = l_-(v_-) + l_+(v_+) \quad \forall v \in C^2(\Omega) \cap K_0. \end{aligned}$$

Taking into account (24) and the fact that  $C^2(\Omega) \cap K_0$  is dense in  $K_0$ , we obtain (12). Theorem is proved.

Assuming that the solution  $w_0$  to variational problem (12) has additional regularity, by applying the generalized Green formula (see, e.g., [2, 21]), we are about to deduce differential equations and boundary conditions for the functions  $w_0$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
D_0 \Delta^2 w_0 &= f \quad \text{in } \Omega \setminus (\overline{S}_1 \cup \overline{S}_2), \\
w_0 &= \frac{\partial w_0}{\partial \nu} = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial \Omega, \\
w_0 &= \delta_0 x_2 + \beta_0 \quad \text{on } S_1, \quad \delta_0, \beta_0 \in \mathbb{R}, \\
[m^1(w_0)] &= 0 \quad \text{on } S_1, \\
\int_{S_1} [t^1(w_0)] dx_2 &= 0, \quad \int_{S_1} [t^1(w_0)] x_2 dx_2 = 0, \\
[t^2(w_0)] &= 0 \quad \text{on } S_2, \\
4dD_2(1 - k_2)w_{0,122} &= [m^2(w_0)] \quad \text{on } S_2, \\
w_{0,12} &= 0 \quad \text{at } \partial S_2,
\end{aligned}$$

where  $m^\alpha(w_0)$  and  $t^\alpha(w_0)$  are bending moments and transverse forces, respectively, defined by

$$\begin{aligned}
m^\alpha(w_0) &= D_\alpha \left( k_\alpha \Delta w_0 + (1 - k_\alpha) \frac{\partial^2 w_0}{\partial \nu^2} \right), \\
t^\alpha(w_0) &= D_\alpha \frac{\partial}{\partial \nu} \left( \Delta w_0 + (1 - k_\alpha) \frac{\partial^2 w_0}{\partial \tau^2} \right),
\end{aligned}$$

$\nu = (1, 0)$  and  $\tau = (-1, 0)$  are a unit normal vector and a unit tangent vector, respectively,  $\alpha = 1, 2$ .

The mechanical interpretation of boundary conditions can be found in [6], see also [10, 28, 29].

## 4.1 Concluding remarks

We proposed a method of asymptotic derivation of plate models containing hard thin inclusions lying strictly inside the plate. The method is based on the variational properties of the solution of the equilibrium problem and allows one to simultaneously construct all possible cases of hard thin inclusions. It is shown that there exist two type of thin inclusions in the Kirchhoff-Love plate, namely, the rigid inclusion  $S_1$  for  $N < -1$  and the elastic inclusion  $S_2$  for  $N = -1$ . The inhomogeneity disappears in the case of  $N \in (-1, 1)$ . The last means that we have no any peculiarity along the set  $S_3$ .

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