Finite element method

By Dr. M. ALALI

Abstract:

The Finite Element Method (FEM) is a numerical technique used to solve complex engineering problems by dividing them into smaller, simpler parts. It has become an essential tool in many fields of engineering, including structural, mechanical, and civil engineering. In this essay, we will discuss the history of the FEM, its basic principles, and its applications in various fields.

Introduction:

The Finite Element Method (FEM) is a numerical technique used to solve complex engineering problems. It is a powerful tool that allows engineers to simulate and analyze the behavior of structures and systems under different conditions. The FEM works by dividing a complex problem into smaller, simpler parts, and then solving each part separately. In this essay, we will explore the history of the FEM, its basic principles, and its applications in various fields.

History of the Finite Element Method:

The Finite Element Method has its roots in the early days of computing. In the 1940s and 1950s, engineers and mathematicians began developing numerical techniques for solving differential equations. In the 1960s, the FEM was first introduced as a method for solving partial differential equations. The FEM gained popularity in the 1970s and 1980s with the development of powerful computers that could handle the complex calculations required by the method.

Basic Principles of the Finite Element Method:

The FEM works by dividing a complex problem into smaller, simpler parts called elements. Each element is a small, well-defined region of the problem domain that can be easily solved. The behavior of each element is described by a set of mathematical equations that relate the element's geometry, material properties, and boundary conditions. These equations are then combined to form a global system of equations that describes the behavior of the entire system.

Applications of the Finite Element Method:

The FEM has applications in various fields of engineering, including structural, mechanical, and civil engineering. In structural engineering, the FEM is used to analyze the behavior of buildings, bridges, and other structures under

different loading conditions. In mechanical engineering, the FEM is used to design and analyze the behavior of mechanical systems, such as engines and turbines. In civil engineering, the FEM is used to design and analyze the behavior of geotechnical systems, such as dams and retaining walls.

Conclusion:

The Finite Element Method is a powerful numerical technique used to solve complex engineering problems. It has a long history, beginning in the early days of computing, and has gained popularity over the years with the development of more powerful computers. The FEM works by dividing a complex problem into smaller, simpler parts, making it a useful tool in various fields of engineering. Its applications range from analyzing the behavior of structures and mechanical systems to designing geotechnical systems. As computing power continues to increase, the FEM will continue to be a valuable tool in engineering analysis and design.

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