SHAPE DERIVATIVES FOR THE PENALTY FORMULATION OF CONTACT PROBLEMS WITH TRESCA FRICTION

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ABSTRACT

In this article, the shape optimization of a linear elastic body subject to frictional (Tresca) contact is investigated. Due to the projection operators involved in the formulation of the contact problem, the solution is not shape differentiable in general. Moreover, shape optimization of the contact zone requires the computation of the gap between the bodies in contact, as well as its shape derivative. Working with directional derivatives, sufficient conditions for shape differentiability are derived. Then, some numerical results, obtained with a gradient descent algorithm based on those shape derivatives, are presented.

Keywords: shape and topology optimization · unilateral contact · frictional contact · penalty method · level set method

1 Introduction

Optimal design is becoming a key element in industrial conception and applications. As the interest to include shape optimization in the design cycle of structures broadens, we are confronted with increasingly complex mechanical context. Large deformations, plasticity, contact and such can lead to difficult mathematical formulation. The non-linearities and/or non-differentiabilities stemming from the mechanical model give rise to complex shape sensitivity analysis which often requires a specific and delicate treatment.

This article deals with bodies in frictional (Tresca model) contact with a rigid foundation. Therefore this model is concerned with the non-penetrability and the eventual friction of the bodies in contact. From the mathematical point of view, it takes the form of an elliptic variational inequality of the second kind, see for example [16, 8] for existence, uniqueness, and regularity results.

Our approach to solve shape optimization problems is based on a gradient descent and Hadamard’s boundary variation method, which requires the shape derivative of the cost functional. Such approaches, following the pioneer work [20], have been widely studied for the past forty years, for example in [39, 47, 43, 49, 15, 25], to name a few. Obviously this raises the question of the differentiability of the cost functional with respect to the domain, which naturally leads to shape sensitivity analysis of the associated variational inequality. More specifically, as in [2], we use a level-set representation of the shapes, which allows to deal with changes of topology during the optimization process. Regarding more general topology optimization methods, let us mention density methods, in which the shape is represented by a local density of material inside a given fixed domain. Among the most popular, we cite [5] for the SIMP method (Solid Isotropic Material with Penalisation) and [1] for the homogenization method.

As projection operators are involved in the formulation, the solution map is non-differentiable with respect to the shape or any other control parameter. There exist three main approaches to treat this non-differentiability. The first one was

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introduced in [38], where the author proves differentiability in a weaker sense, namely conical differentiability, and derives optimality conditions using this notion. We mention [48] for the application of this method to shape sensitivity analysis of contact problems with Treca friction. Another approach consists in discretizing the formulation, then use the tools from subdifferential calculus, see the series of papers [33, 6, 24, 17], in the context of shape optimization for elastic bodies in frictional contact with a plane. The third approach, which is very popular in mechanical engineering, is to consider the penalized contact problem, which takes the form of a variational equality, then regularize all non-smooth functions. This leads to an approximate formulation having a Fréchet differentiable solution map. Following this penalty/regularization approach, we mention [31] for two-dimensional parametric shape optimization, where the authors compute shape derivatives for the continuous problem in two and three dimensions, but do not take into account a possible gap between the bodies in contact. The same approach can be found in the context of optimal control, see among others [28] for the general framework, and [3] for the specific case of frictional (Treca) contact mechanics.

Let us finally mention the substantial work of Haslinger et al., who proved existence of optimal shapes for contact problems in some specific cases, see [22, 21]. Moreover, in [23], they proved consistency of the penalty approach in this context.

In this paper, we aim at expressing shape derivatives for the continuous penalty formulation of frictional contact problems of Treca type. Our approach is similar to the penalty/regularization, but we do not regularize non-smooth functions involved in the formulation. Indeed, shape differentiability does not require Fréchet-differentiability of the solution map, which makes the regularization step unnecessary. Especially, the goal is to get similar results to [37] without regularizing, and extend those results in two ways. First, we add a gap in the formulation, which enables to completely optimize the contact zone, as in [31]. Second, we work in the slightly more general case where the Treca threshold is not necessarily constant. This way, the formulae obtained could also be used in the context of the numerical approximation of a regularized Coulomb friction law by a fixed-point of Treca problems. We refer to [16, 41, 13] for existence and uniqueness results for this regularized Coulomb problem, and to [27] (among others) for its numerical resolution by means of a fixed-point algorithm.

This work is structured as follows. Section 2 presents the problem, its formulation and some related notations. Section 3 is dedicated to shape optimization. Especially, we express sufficient conditions for the solution of the penalty formulation to be shape differentiable (Theorem 3.2 and Corollary 3.1). The shape optimization algorithm of gradient type, based on those shape derivatives, is briefly discussed. Finally, in section 5, some numerical results are exposed.

2 Problem formulation

2.1 Geometrical setting

The body \( \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d \), \( d \in \{2, 3\} \), is assumed to have \( C^1 \) boundary, and to be in contact with a rigid foundation \( \Omega_{rig} \), which has a \( C^0 \) compact boundary \( \partial\Omega_{rig} \), see fig. 1. Let \( \Gamma_D \) be the part of the boundary where a homogenous Dirichlet conditions applies (blue part), \( \Gamma_N \) the part where a non-homogenous Neumann condition \( \tau \) applies (orange part), \( \Gamma_C \) the potential contact zone (green part), and \( \Gamma \) the rest of the boundary, which is free of any constraint (i.e. homogenous Neumann boundary condition). Those four parts are mutually disjoint and moreover: \( \Gamma_D \cup \Gamma_N \cup \Gamma_C \cup \Gamma = \partial\Omega \). In order to avoid technical difficulties, it is assumed that \( \Gamma_C \cap \Gamma_D = \emptyset \).

The outward normal to \( \Omega \) is denoted \( n_\Omega \). Similarly, the inward normal to \( \Omega_{rig} \) is denoted \( n \).

2.2 Notations and function spaces

Throughout this article, for any \( \mathcal{O} \subset \mathbb{R}^d \), \( L^p(\mathcal{O}) \) represents the usual set of \( p \)-th power measurable functions on \( \mathcal{O} \), and \( (L^p(\mathcal{O}))^d = L^p(\mathcal{O}^d) \). The scalar product defined on \( L^2(\mathcal{O}) \) or \( L^2(\mathcal{O}) \) is denoted (without distinction) by \( \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_\mathcal{O} \) and its norm \( \| \cdot \|_{0,\mathcal{O}} \).

The Sobolev spaces, denoted \( W^{m,p}(\mathcal{O}) \) with \( p \in [1, +\infty) \), \( m \) integer are defined as
\[
W^{m,p}(\mathcal{O}) = \left\{ u \in L^p(\mathcal{O}) : D^\alpha u \in L^p(\mathcal{O}) \quad \forall |\alpha| \leq m \right\},
\]
where \( \alpha \) is a multi-index in \( \mathbb{N}^d \) and \( W^{m,p}(\mathcal{O}) = (W^{m,p}(\mathcal{O}))^d \). The spaces \( W^{s,2}(\mathcal{O}) \) and \( W^{s,2}(\mathcal{O}) \), \( s \in \mathbb{R} \), are denoted \( H^s(\mathcal{O}) \) and \( H^s(\mathcal{O}) \) respectively. Their norm are denoted \( \| \cdot \|_{s,\mathcal{O}} \).

The subspace of functions in \( H^s(\mathcal{O}) \) that vanish on a part of the boundary \( \gamma \subset \partial\mathcal{O} \) are denoted \( H^s_\gamma(\mathcal{O}) \) and \( H^s_\gamma(\mathcal{O}) \). In particular, we denote the vector space of admissible displacements \( \mathbf{X} := H^1_{\Gamma_D}(\Omega) \), and \( \mathbf{X}^* \) its dual.
In order to fit the notations of functions spaces, vector-valued functions are denoted in bold. For example, \( w \in L^2(\Omega) \) while \( w \in L^2(\Omega) \).

For any \( v \) vector in \( \mathbb{R}^d \), the product with the normal \( v \cdot n \) is denoted \( v_n \) (respectively \( v \cdot n \)). Similarly, the tangential part of \( v \) is denoted \( v_t = v - v_n n \).

Finally, the space of second order tensors in \( \mathbb{R}^d \), i.e. the space of linear maps from \( \mathbb{R}^d \) to \( \mathbb{R}^d \), is denoted \( \mathbb{T}^2 \). In the same way, the space of fourth order tensors is denoted \( \mathbb{T}^4 \).

### 2.3 Mechanical model

In this work the material is assumed to verify the linear elasticity hypothesis (small deformations and Hooke’s law, see for example [12]), associated with the small displacements assumption (see [29]). The physical displacement is denoted \( u \). The stress tensor is defined by \( \sigma(u) = C : \varepsilon(u) \), where \( \varepsilon(u) = \frac{1}{2}(\nabla u + \nabla u^T) \) denotes the linearized strain tensor, and \( C \) is the elasticity tensor. This elasticity tensor is a fourth order tensor belonging to \( L^\infty(\Omega, \mathbb{T}^4) \), and it is assumed to be elliptic (with constant \( \alpha_0 > 0 \)). Regarding external forces, the body force \( f \in L^2(\Omega) \), and traction (or surface load) \( \tau \in L^2(\Gamma) \).

### 2.4 Non-penetration condition

At each point \( x \) of \( \Gamma_C \), let us define the gap \( g_n(x) \), as the oriented distance function to \( \partial \Omega_{rig} \) at \( x \), see fig. 1. Due to the regularity of the rigid foundation, there exists \( h \) sufficiently small such that

\[
\partial \Omega_{rig}^h := \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^d : |g_n(x)| < h \},
\]

is a neighbourhood of \( \partial \Omega_{rig} \) where \( g_n \) is of class \( C^3 \), see [14]. In particular, this ensures that \( n \) is well defined on \( \partial \Omega_{rig}^h \), and that \( n \in C^2(\partial \Omega_{rig}^h, \mathbb{R}^d) \). Moreover, in the context of small displacements, it can be assumed that the potential contact zone \( \Gamma_C \) is such that \( \Gamma_C \subset \partial \Omega_{rig}^h \). Hence there exists a neighbourhood of \( \Gamma_C \) such that \( g_n \) and \( n \) are of class \( C^3 \) and \( C^2 \), respectively.

The non-penetration condition can be stated as follows: \( u_n \leq g_n \) a.e. on \( \Gamma_C \). Thus, we introduce the closed convex set of admissible displacements that realize this condition, see [17]:

\[
K := \{ v \in X : v_n \leq g_n \text{ a.e. on } \Gamma_C \}.
\]

### 2.5 Mathematical formulation of the problem

Let us introduce the bilinear and linear forms \( a : X \times X \to \mathbb{R} \) and \( L : X \to \mathbb{R} \), such that:

\[
a(u, v) := \int_{\Omega} C : \varepsilon(u) : \varepsilon(v), \quad L(v) := \int_{\Omega} f v + \int_{\Gamma_N} \tau \cdot v.
\]

According to the assumptions of the previous sections, one is able to show (see [12]) that \( a \) is \( X \)-elliptic with constant \( \alpha_0 \) (ellipticity of \( C \) and Korn’s inequality), symmetric, continuous, and that \( L \) is continuous (regularity of \( f \) and \( \tau \)).

The unknown displacement \( u \) of the frictionless contact problem is the minimizer of the total mechanical energy of the elastic body, which reads, in the case of pure sliding (unilateral) contact problems:

\[
\inf_{v \in K} \varphi(v) := \inf_{v \in K} \frac{1}{2} a(v, v) - L(v).
\]

---

Figure 1: Elastic body in contact with a rigid foundation.
It is clear that the space $X$, equipped with the usual $H^1$ norm, is a Hilbert space. Moreover, under the conditions of the previous section, since $K$ is obviously non-empty and the energy functional is strictly convex, continuous and coercive, we are able to conclude (see e.g. [18] Chapter 1) that a solution of (1) exists and is unique.

It is well known that [1] may be rewritten as a variational inequality (of the first kind):

$$ a(u, v - u) \geq L(v - u), \quad \forall v \in K. $$

Moreover, as $f \in L^2(\Omega)$ and $\tau \in L^2(\Gamma_N)$, it can be shown (see [10]) that (1) and (2) are also equivalent to the strong formulation:

$$
\begin{align*}
- \text{div } \sigma(u) &= f & \text{in } \Omega, \\
\sigma(u) \cdot n_o &= \tau & \text{on } \Gamma_D, \\
\sigma(u) \cdot n_o &= 0 & \text{on } \Gamma_N, \\
\sigma(u) \cdot n_o &= 0 & \text{on } \Gamma, \\
u_n \leq g_n, \sigma_{n,n}(u) \leq 0, \sigma_{n,n}(u)(u_n - g_n) &= 0 & \text{on } \Gamma_C, \\
\sigma_{n,t}(u) &= 0 & \text{on } \Gamma_C,
\end{align*}
$$

where $\sigma_{n,n}(u) = \sigma(u) \cdot n_o \cdot n$ and $\sigma_{n,t}(u) = \sigma(u) \cdot n_o - \sigma_{n,n}(u) n$ are the normal and tangential constraints on $\Gamma_C$.

**Remark 2.1.** Note that existence and uniqueness of the solution to (1) $u \in X$ also holds under weaker assumptions on the data, namely $f \in X^*$ and $\tau \in H^{-\frac{1}{2}}(\Gamma_N)$ (under the appropriate modifications in the definition of $L$). Here, we choose the minimal regularity that ensures equivalence between (2) and (3). Regarding regularity results, the reader is referred to [22].

**Remark 2.2.** Conditions (3e) and (3f) may seem different from the usual

$$
\begin{align*}
u_{n_o} \leq g_{n_o}, \quad \sigma_{n,n_o}(u) &\leq 0, \quad \sigma_{n,n_o}(u)(u_n - g_{n_o}) = 0 & \text{on } \Gamma_C, \\
\sigma_{n,t}(u) &= 0 & \text{on } \Gamma_C,
\end{align*}
$$

where $g_{n_o}(x)$ denotes the distance between $x \in \Gamma_C$ and the rigid foundation computed in the direction of the normal $n_o$ to $\Gamma_C$. Actually, since we assume the deformable body undergoes small displacements relative to its reference configuration, both sets of conditions are equivalent. More specifically, from the small displacement hypothesis, the normal vector $n$ and the gap $g_n$ to the rigid foundation can be replaced by $n_o$ and $g_{n_o}$ (we refer to [29] Chapter 2 for the details).

Therefore, in our context, writing the formulation associated to the contact problem using $n_o$ or $n$ makes absolutely no difference. We choose the latter formulation because it proves itself very convenient when dealing with shape optimization, see section 3.

### 2.6 Friction condition

Let $\tilde{s} : \Gamma_C \to \mathbb{R}$, $\tilde{s} > 0$, be the friction coefficient. The basis of Tresca model is to replace the usual Coulomb threshold $|\sigma_{n,n}(u)|$ by a fixed strictly positive function $s$, which leads to the following conditions on $\Gamma_C$:

$$
\begin{align*}
\left\{ \begin{array}{ll}
|\sigma_{n,t}(u)| &< \tilde{s}s & \text{on } \{ x \in \Gamma_C : u_t(x) = 0 \}, \\
\sigma_{n,t}(u) &= -\tilde{s}s \frac{u_t}{|u_t|} & \text{on } \{ x \in \Gamma_C : u_t(x) \neq 0 \},
\end{array} \right.
\end{align*}
$$

which represent respectively sticking and sliding points.

**Remark 2.3.** Of course, replacing the Coulomb threshold by the fixed function $s$ leads to a simplified and approximate model of friction. Especially, in the Tresca model, there may exist points $x \in \Gamma_C$ such that $\sigma_{n,n}(u)(x) = 0$ and $u_t(x) \neq 0$, in which case $\sigma_{n,n}(u)(x) \neq 0$. In other words, friction can occur even if there is no contact.

In order to avoid regularity issues, it is assumed that $\tilde{s}$ is uniformly Lipschitz continuous and $s \in L^2(\Gamma_C)$. Before stating the minimization problem in this case, let us introduce the non-linear functional $j_T : X \to \mathbb{R}$ defined by:

$$j_T(v) := \int_{\Gamma_C} \tilde{s}|v_t|.$$ 

With these notations, since considering the Tresca friction model means taking into account the frictional term $j_T$ in the energy functional, the associated minimization problem writes:

$$
\inf_{v \in K} \phi(v) + j_T(v).
$$

(6)
Since the additional term $j_T$ in the functional is convex, positive and continuous one can deduce existence and uniqueness of the solution $u \in X$, see for example [40] Section 1.5. From this reference, one also gets that (6) can be equivalently rewritten as a variational inequality (of the second kind):

$$a(u, v - u) + j_T(v) - j_T(u) \geq L(v - u), \quad \forall v \in K.$$  \hfill (7)

Again, from [16] problems (6) and (7) are equivalent to the strong formulation (3), except for the last condition (3f), which is replaced by the two conditions (5).

**Remark 2.4.** Since $u \in X$, the regularity of $\sigma(u) \cdot n_o$ is in general $H^{-\frac{1}{2}}(\Gamma_C)$. However, even though no better regularity can be expected for the normal component $\sigma_{n,n}$ in the general case, one has that the tangential component $\sigma_{n,t} \in L^2(\Gamma_C)$ when $s \in L^2(\Gamma_C)$. We refer to [37] Chapter 4 for further details.

### 2.7 Penalty formulation

The formulation that will be studied here originate from the classical penalty method, see [36] and [4] for the general method, [30] or [29] for its application to unilateral contact problems, and [11] for its application to the Tresca friction problem. This formulation reads: find $u_\varepsilon$ in $X$ such that, for all $v \in X$,

$$a(u_\varepsilon, v) + \frac{1}{\varepsilon}(p_+ (u_\varepsilon - n_g) , v_n)_{\Gamma_C} + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} (q(t, u_\varepsilon, v_e))_{\Gamma_C} = L(v),$$  \hfill (8)

where $p_+$ denotes the projection onto $\mathbb{R}_+$ in $\mathbb{R}$ (also called the positive part function) and, for any $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}_+$, $q(\alpha, \cdot)$ denotes the projection onto the ball $B(\alpha)$ in $\mathbb{R}^{d-1}$. Those projections admit analytical expressions: for all $y \in \mathbb{R}$, $z \in \mathbb{R}^{d-1}$:

$$p_+(y) := \max\{0, y\}, \quad q(\alpha, z) := \begin{cases} \alpha & \text{if } |z| \leq \alpha, \\ z & \text{else}. \end{cases}$$

It is well known (see for example [30, 11] or [29] Section 6.5) that (8) admits a unique solution $u_\varepsilon \in X$. Moreover, from the same references, one gets that passing to the limit $\varepsilon \to 0$ leads to $u_\varepsilon \to u$ strongly in $X$.

**Remark 2.5.** Formulation (8) is actually the optimality condition related to the unconstrained differentiable optimization problem derived from (9):

$$\inf_{v \in X} \{\varphi(v) + j_T, v) + j_\varepsilon(v)\},$$

where $j_\varepsilon$ is a penalty term introduced to relax the constraint $v \in K$, and $j_T, v)$ is a regularization of $j_T$.

Moreover, in this model, one gets from (8) that the non-penetration conditions (3e)–(3f) and the friction condition (5) rewrite:

$$\sigma_{n,n}(u_\varepsilon) = -\frac{1}{\varepsilon} p_+ (u_\varepsilon - n_g) \quad \text{on } \Gamma_C, \quad \tau \geq 0$$  \hfill (9a)

$$\sigma_{n,t}(u_\varepsilon) = -\frac{1}{\varepsilon} q(t, u_\varepsilon, t) \quad \text{on } \Gamma_C. \quad \tau \geq 0$$  \hfill (9b)

From those expressions, one deduces the new definitions for the sets of points of particular interest:

- **points in contact**: $\{x \in \Gamma_C \mid u_\varepsilon \cdot n \geq g_n\}$,
- **sticking points**: $\{x \in \Gamma_C \mid |u_\varepsilon \cdot t| \leq \varepsilon s\}$,
- **sliding points**: $\{x \in \Gamma_C \mid |u_\varepsilon \cdot t| \geq \varepsilon s\}$.

### 3 Shape optimization

Given a cost functional $J(\Omega)$ depending explicitly on the domain $\Omega$, and also implicitly, through $y(\Omega)$ the solution of some variational problem on $\Omega$, the optimization of $J$ with respect to $\Omega$ or shape optimization problem reads:

$$\inf_{\Omega \in \mathcal{U}_{ad}} J(\Omega),$$  \hfill (10)

where $\mathcal{U}_{ad}$ stands for the set of admissible domains.

Here, since the physical problem considered is modeled by (8), one has $y(\Omega) = u_\varepsilon(\Omega)$ solution of (8) defined on $\Omega$. Therefore, let us replace the notation of the functional $J$ by $J_\varepsilon$ to emphasize the dependence with respect to the penalty.
simply denoted \( \dot{\gamma} \).

The goal of this section is to prove the differentiability of \( u_3 \).

### 3.2 Shape sensitivity analysis of the penalty formulation

In order to enjoy more regularity for usual differentiability results to hold. In particular we make the following regularity assumption:

These functions admit directional derivatives. Hence, working with the directional derivatives of \( u_3 \), it is not possible to rely on the implicit function theorem as in [25, Chapter 5]. Nevertheless, when there is no ambiguity, the material and shape derivatives of some function \( \theta \) is linear continuous from \( \mathcal{C}_b^1(\mathbb{R}^d) \) to \( W^1,\infty(\mathbb{R}^d) \).

When there is no ambiguity, we can transform expression on \( \Omega(\cdot) \) into expression on \( \Omega(t) \).

Remark 3.1. Linearity and continuity of \( \dot{y}(\Omega) \) is actually equivalent to the Gâteaux differentiability of the map \( \theta \mapsto y(\Omega(\theta)) \circ (\text{Id} + t \theta) \). The reader is referred to [14, Chapter 8] for a complete review on the different notions of derivatives.

When there is no ambiguity, the material and shape derivatives of some function \( y \) at \( \Omega \) in the direction \( \theta \) will be simply denoted \( \dot{y} \) and \( dy \), respectively.

### 3.2 Shape sensitivity analysis of the penalty formulation

The goal of this section is to prove the differentiability of \( u_3 \) with respect to the shape. As functions \( p_+ \) and \( q \) fail to be Fréchet differentiable it is not possible to rely on the implicit function theorem as in [25, Chapter 5]. Nevertheless, these functions admit directional derivatives. Hence, working with the directional derivatives of \( p_+ \) and \( q \) and following the approach in [49], we show existence of directional material/shape derivatives for \( u_3 \). Then, under assumptions on some specific subsets of \( \Gamma_C \) (this will be presented and referred to as Assumption 2), shape differentiability of \( u_3 \) is proved.

Since the domain is transported, the functions \( \mathcal{C} \), \( f \), \( \tau \), \( \xi \), \( s \), and \( \mathcal{S} \) have to be defined everywhere in \( \mathbb{R}^d \). They also need to enjoy more regularity for usual differentiability results to hold. In particular we make the following regularity assumptions:

Assumption 1. \( \mathcal{C} \in \mathcal{C}_b^1(\mathbb{R}^d, \mathbb{T}^d) \), \( f \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^d) \), \( \tau \in H^2(\mathbb{R}^d) \), \( s \in L^2(\Gamma_C) \), and \( \xi \in H^2(\mathbb{R}^d) \).

Notation. Through change of variables, we can transform expression on \( \Omega(t) \) to expression on \( \Omega \). Composition with the operator \( \circ (\text{Id} + t \theta) \) will be denoted by \( (t) \), for instance, \( \mathcal{C}(t) := \mathcal{C} \circ (\text{Id} + t \theta) \). The normal and tangential component associated to \( u(t) \) of a vector \( v \) is denoted \( v_n(t) \) and \( v_t(t) \) respectively. For integral expressions the \( \mathcal{C}_b^1(\mathbb{R}^d) \) to \( W^1,\infty(\mathbb{R}^d) \).

To simplify the notations let \( u_{\ell \ell} := u_{\ell \ell}(\Omega(t)) \) and \( u_{\ell \ell}^z := u_{\ell \ell} \circ (\text{Id} + t \theta) \). Finally, we also introduce the map \( \Phi_{\ell z} : \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{X} \) such that for each \( t > 0 \), \( \Phi_{\ell z}(t) = u_{\ell \ell}^z(t) \).
Moreover, to simplify the expressions, we introduce \( \theta \). Before getting interested in differentiability, the first step is to prove continuity.

### 3.2.1 Continuity of \( \Phi_c \)

Before getting interested in differentiability, the first step is to prove continuity.

**Theorem 3.1.** If Assumption 1 holds, then for any \( \theta \in C^1([0,T]) \), \( \Phi_c \) is strongly continuous at \( t = 0^+ \).

**Proof.** When \( t \) is small enough, the transported potential contact zone verifies \( \Gamma_C(t) \subset \partial \Omega_{rig} \), so that the regularities of \( \gamma_n \) and \( n \) are preserved. When transported to \( \Omega(t) \), problem (8) becomes: find \( u_{c,t} \in H^1_{1,G}(\Omega(t)) =: X(t) \) such that

\[
\int_{\Omega(t)} C : \epsilon(u_{c,t}) : \epsilon(v_t) + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_C(t)} p_t(u_{c,t} \cdot n - \gamma_n)(v_t)_n \\
+ \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_C(t)} q(\varepsilon \tilde{s}, (u_{c,t})_t)(v_t)_t = \int_{\Omega(t)} f v_t + \int_{\Gamma_N(t)} \tau v_t \quad \forall v_t \in X(t).
\]

(11)

We can transform (11) as an expression on the reference domain \( \Omega \). For the test function we use \( v^t := v_t \circ (Id + t \theta) \). Moreover, to simplify the expressions, we introduce

\[
R_n(v) := p_+(v_n - \gamma_n), \quad R^t_n(v) := p_+(v_n(t) - \gamma_n(t)), \\
S_\theta(v) := q(\varepsilon \tilde{s}, v_t), \quad S^t_\theta(v) := q(\varepsilon \tilde{s}(t), v_t(t)),
\]

and finally, the transported strain tensor \( \epsilon^t \) is also introduced: for all \( v \in X \),

\[
\epsilon^t(v) := \frac{1}{2} \left( \nabla v (I + t \nabla \theta)^{-1} + (I + t \nabla \theta^T)^{-1} \nabla v^T \right).
\]

With the notations introduced and the change of variables mentioned above we have

\[
\int_{\Omega} C(t) : \epsilon^t(u^t_c) : \epsilon^t(v^t) J(t) + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_C} R^t_n(u^t_c) v^t_{n(t)} J(t) \\
+ \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_C} S^t_\theta(u^t_c) v^t_{t(t)} J(t) = \int_{\Omega} f(t) v^t J(t) + \int_{\Gamma_N} \tau(t) v^t J(t).
\]

(12)

Note that for \( t \) sufficiently small, \( \| t \theta \|_{1,\infty} < 1 \). Thus the application \( (Id + t \theta) \) is a \( C^1 \)-diffeomorphism, and so the map \( v_t \mapsto v^t \) is an isomorphism from \( X(t) \) to \( X \). Thus, one deduces that \( u^t_c \) is the solution of the variational formulation obtained when replacing \( v^t \) by \( v \) in (12), which holds for all \( v \) in \( X \).

**Uniform boundedness of \( u^t_c \) in \( X \).** Let us show that \( u^t_c \) is uniformly bounded in \( t \). To achieve this we use the first order Taylor expansions with respect to \( t \) of all known terms in (12). Such expansions are valid due to Assumption 1 and the regularity assumptions on \( \Omega \), see [25,49]. We recall some of them: \( \forall v \in X \),

\[
\left\| \epsilon^t(v) - \epsilon(v) + \frac{t}{2} (\nabla v \nabla \theta + \nabla \theta^T \nabla v^T) \right\|_{0,\Omega} = O(t^2) \| v \|_X,
\]

\[
\left\| \epsilon^t(v) - \epsilon(v) + \frac{t}{2} (\nabla v \nabla \theta + \nabla \theta^T \nabla v^T) \right\|_{0,\Omega} = O(t^2) \| v \|_X,
\]

\[
\left\| C(t) - C - t \nabla C \cdot \theta \right\|_{\infty,\Omega} = O(t^2),
\]

\[
\left\| J(t) - 1 - t \div \theta \right\|_{\infty,\partial \Omega} = O(t^2),
\]

\[
\left\| \nabla v_{n(t)} - \nabla v_{n} - t (v \cdot (\nabla n \theta)) \right\|_{0,\Gamma_C} = O(t^2) \| v \|_{0,\Gamma_C},
\]

\[
\left\| v_{t(t)} - v_{t} + t (v \cdot (\nabla n \theta)) n + t (v \cdot n) (\nabla n \theta) \right\|_{0,\Gamma_C} = O(t^2) \| v \|_{0,\Gamma_C}.
\]

Making use of these expansions, the ellipticity of \( a \) and taking \( u^t_c \) as test-function in (12), one gets the following estimate:

\[
(\alpha_0 + O(t)) \| u^t_c \|_X^2 \leq O(t) \| u^t_c \|_X + O(t^2).
\]

Thus, for \( t \) small enough, one gets that there exist some positive constants \( C_1 \) and \( C_2 \) such that the sequence \( C_1 \| u^t_c \|_X^2 - C_2 \| u^t_c \|_X \) is uniformly bounded in \( t \), which proves uniform boundedness of \( \{ u^t_c \}_k \) in \( X \), for any sequence \( \{ t_k \}_k \) decreasing to 0.
Due to the Taylor expansions above, the weak convergence of \( \{u^\varepsilon\}_k \) to \( u^\varepsilon \) at \( t \to 0 \) is indeed strong. Let \( \{t_k\}_k \) be a sequence decreasing to 0. Since the sequence \( \{u_k^\varepsilon\}_k \) is bounded and \( X \) a reflexive Banach space, there exists a weakly convergent subsequence (still denoted \( u_k^\varepsilon \rightarrow \hat{u}_\varepsilon \)) such that:

\[
\int \Omega \epsilon(\hat{u}_\varepsilon) \epsilon(v) + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_C} R_n(\hat{u}_\varepsilon) v_n + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_C} S_t(\hat{u}_\varepsilon) v_t = \int_{\Omega} f v + \int_{\Gamma_N} \tau v.
\]

This precisely means that \( \hat{u}_\varepsilon = u_\varepsilon \), since they are both solution of problem (8), which admits a unique solution. The uniqueness also proves that the whole sequence \( \{u_k^\varepsilon\}_k \) tends to \( u_\varepsilon \).

Now, strong continuity of the map \( t \mapsto u_t^\varepsilon \) at \( t = 0^+ \) in \( X \) may be proved using the difference \( \delta_{u_\varepsilon}^t := u_t^\varepsilon - u_\varepsilon \), which appears when subtracting the formulations verified by \( u_t^\varepsilon \) and \( u_\varepsilon \), respectively. Note that \( \delta_{u_\varepsilon}^t \) is bounded in \( X \) and that it converges weakly to 0 in \( X \).

For \( t \) sufficiently small, let us consider

\[
\int \Omega \epsilon(t) \epsilon'(u_t^\varepsilon) \epsilon'(v) J_\Omega(t) - \int \Omega \epsilon(\hat{u}_\varepsilon) \epsilon(v) + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_C} R_n(u_t^\varepsilon) v_n(t) J_\Gamma(t) - \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_C} R_n(\hat{u}_\varepsilon) v_n
\]

\[
+ \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_C} S_t(u_t^\varepsilon) v_t(t) J_\Gamma(t) - \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_C} S_t(\hat{u}_\varepsilon) v_t = \int_{\Omega} f v + \int_{\Gamma_N} \tau v.
\]

Let us introduce three groups of terms, for any \( v \in X \), say \( T_1(v) \), \( T_2(v) \), \( T_3(v) \) and \( T_4(v) \), each \( T_i(v) \) corresponding to the \( i\)-th line in equation (13). The terms \( T_1 \) and \( T_4 \) have already been treated in the literature as they appear in the classical elasticity problem. Specifically, one gets from (41) Section 3.5] that

\[
T_1(\delta_{u_\varepsilon}^t) \geq \alpha_0 \|\delta_{u_\varepsilon}^t\|_X^2 - tC \|\delta_{u_\varepsilon}^t\|_X,
\]

\[
|T_3(\delta_{u_\varepsilon}^t)| \leq tC \|\delta_{u_\varepsilon}^t\|_X = o(t).
\]

As for \( T_2 \) and \( T_3 \), some boundedness results are needed which can be deduced from the properties of functions \( p_+ \) and \( q_\cdot \), the trace theorem and continuity of \( t \mapsto n(t), t \mapsto g_n(t) \), \( t \mapsto (\bar{s}(\cdot))(t) \), \( t \mapsto v_t(t) \). For any \( v \in X \), one has:

\[
\|v_n(t)\|_{0,\Gamma_C} \leq C \|v\|_X, \quad \|v_t(t)\|_{0,\Gamma_C} \leq C \|v\|_X,
\]

\[
\|R_n^t(v)\|_{0,\Gamma_C} \leq C (1 + \|v\|_X), \quad \|S_t^t(v)\|_{0,\Gamma_C} \leq C,
\]

and the same inequalities applies to \( v_n, v_t, R_n, S_t \). Then, for \( T_2 \)

\[
T_2(v) = \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_C} R_n(u_t^\varepsilon) v_n(t) (J_\Gamma(t) - 1) + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_C} R_n^t(u_t^\varepsilon)v_t(u_t^\varepsilon) - v_n
\]

\[
+ \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_C} (R_n^t(u_t^\varepsilon) - R_n(u_\varepsilon)) v_n.
\]

since \( (R_n^t(u_t^\varepsilon) - R_n(u_\varepsilon)) \) is bounded in \( L^2(\Gamma_C) \) and \( \delta_{u_\varepsilon}^t \rightarrow 0 \) strongly in \( L^2(\Gamma_C) \),

\[
|T_2(\delta_{u_\varepsilon}^t)| \leq tC \|\delta_{u_\varepsilon}^t\|_X + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_C} \|R_n^t(u_t^\varepsilon) - R_n(u_\varepsilon)\| \|\delta_{u_\varepsilon}^t\| = o(1).
\]

As for \( T_3 \), using the boundedness of \( (S_t^t(u_t^\varepsilon) - S_t(u_\varepsilon)) \) in \( L^2(\Gamma_C) \) and the same decomposition as for \( T_2 \) we get

\[
|T_3(\delta_{u_\varepsilon}^t)| \leq tC \|\delta_{u_\varepsilon}^t\|_X + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_C} \|S_t^t(u_t^\varepsilon) - S_t(u_\varepsilon)\| \|\delta_{u_\varepsilon}^t\| = o(1),
\]

Thus, choosing \( \delta_{u_\varepsilon}^t \) as a test-function in (13) yields:

\[
\alpha_0 \|\delta_{u_\varepsilon}^t\|_X^2 \leq o(1),
\]

which proves strong continuity of \( t \mapsto u_t^\varepsilon \) in \( X \) at \( t = 0^+ \).

This result means that \( u_\varepsilon \) is strongly directionally continuous with respect to the shape. Now, it remains to prove that differentiability also holds.
3.2.2 Directional differentiability of p+ and q

In order to study differentiability of Ψε, we need some preliminary results concerning the directional differentiability of the non-Fréchet differentiable functions p+ and q. Let us briefly recall the definition of a Nemytskij operator.

Definition 3.1. Let S be a measurable subset of R^d, let X and Y be two real Banach spaces of functions defined on S. Given a mapping ψ : S × X → Y, the associated Nemytskij operator Ψ is defined by:

Ψ(v)(x) := ψ(x, v(x)), for all x ∈ S.

As explained in details in [19] or [52, Section 4.3], the smoothness of ψ does not guarantee the smoothness of Ψ. In our case, we are only interested in directional differentiability of the Nemytskij operators associated to p+ and q. Thus, directional differentiability and Lipschitz continuity of p+ and q in R and R^d, combined with Lebesgue’s dominated convergence, will enable us to conclude directly, without using the more general results from [19].

Lemma 3.1. The function p+ : R → R is Lipschitz continuous and directionally differentiable, with directional derivative at u in the direction v ∈ R:

dp+(u; v) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } u < 0, \\ p+(v) & \text{if } u = 0, \\ v & \text{if } u > 0. \end{cases}

Lemma 3.2. The Nemytskij operator p+ : L^2(Γ_C) → L^2(Γ_C) is Lipschitz continuous and directionally differentiable.

The reader is referred to [51], for example, for the proof of those results.

Notation. Let us introduce three subsets of R^d+ × R^d-1:

\[ J^- := \{ (α, z) : |z| < α \}, \quad J^0 := \{ (α, z) : |z| = α \}, \quad J^+ := \{ (α, z) : |z| > α \}, \]

and the functions \( \partial_α q \) and \( \partial_ζ q \) from \( R^d+ \times R^d-1 \) to \( L(R; R^d) \) and \( L(R^d; R) \), respectively, such that:

\[
\partial_α q(α, z) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{in } J^-, \\ \frac{1}{|z|} & \text{in } J^+, \end{cases} \quad \partial_ζ q(α, z) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{|z|} (I_{d-1} - \frac{1}{|z|^2} z \otimes z) & \text{in } J^-. \end{cases}
\]

Lemma 3.3. The function q : R^d+ × R^d-1 → R^d is Lipschitz continuous and directionally differentiable, with derivative at (α, z) in the direction (β, h) ∈ R × R^d-1:

\[
dq((α, z); (β, h)) = \begin{cases} h & \text{in } J^-, \\ h - p+ \left( \frac{h \cdot \frac{1}{|z|} - β}{|z|} \right) & \text{in } J^0, \\ \frac{α}{|z|} (h - \frac{1}{|z|^2} (z \cdot h)z) + β \frac{z}{|z|} & \text{in } J^+. \end{cases}
\]

Lemma 3.4. The Nemytskij operator q : L^2(Γ_C; R^d+) × L^2(Γ_C) → L^2(Γ_C) is Lipschitz continuous and directionally differentiable.

Proof. First, Lipschitz continuity of this Nemytskij operator follows directly from Lipschitz continuity of q : R^d+ × R^d-1 → R^d. Then, from Lemma 3.3, it is clear that, for all (α, z) ∈ R^d+ × R^d-1 and (β, h) ∈ R × R^d-1, one has:

\[
|dq((α, z); (β, h))| ≤ |β| + |h|. \tag{14}
\]

Let \( (α, z) ∈ L^2(Γ_C; R^d+) × L^2(Γ_C) \) and \( (β, h) ∈ L^2(Γ_C) \times L^2(Γ_C) \), and \( t > 0 \). Directional differentiability of q : R^d+ × R^d-1 → R^d-1 yields:

\[
\lim_{t \to 0} \frac{|q(α + tβ, z + tβ) - q(α, z) - dq((α, z); (β, h))|}{t} \to 0 \quad \text{a.e. on } Γ_C.
\]

Moreover, from estimation (14), along with Lipschitz continuity of q, one gets:

\[
\lim_{t \to 0} \frac{|q(α + tβ, z + tβ) - q(α, z) - dq((α, z); (β, h))|}{t} \leq 2 (|β| + |h|) \quad \text{a.e. on } Γ_C.
\]

Since \( |h| \) and \( |β| \) ∈ L^2(Γ_C), Lebesgue’s dominated convergence theorem finishes the proof.
3.2.3 Differentiability of $\Phi_\varepsilon$

We are now in measure to state the main results of this work.

**Notation.** For any smooth function $f$ defined on $\mathbb{R}^d$, and that does not depend on $\Omega$, we denote $f'(\theta)$ or simply $f'$ the following directional derivative:

$$f'(\theta) := \lim_{t \searrow 0} \frac{1}{t} \left( f(\theta + t) - f(\theta) \right) = (\nabla f)(\theta).$$

Using this notation, $n' := (\nabla n)(\theta)$ and for any $v \in X$ we define:

$$v_n' := v \cdot n', \quad v_T := -v \cdot ((\nabla n)(\theta)) n - (v \cdot n)(\nabla n)(\theta) = -v_n' - v_n n'.$$

For the gap $g_n := (\nabla g_n)(\theta)$ and since $g_n$ is the oriented distance function to the smooth boundary $\partial\Omega_{rig}$, $\nabla g_n = -n$, which implies that $g_n' = -\theta \cdot n$. However, we will still use the notation $g_n'$ to emphasize that this term comes from differentiation of the gap. Finally we define

$$T_0^0 := \{ x \in \Gamma_C : u_{\varepsilon,n} - g_n = 0 \} \subset \Gamma_C, \quad J_\varepsilon^0 := \{ x \in \Gamma_C : |u_{\varepsilon,t}| = \varepsilon^3 s \} \subset \Gamma_C,$$

two sets of special interest in the rest of this work.

**Theorem 3.2.** If Assumption $[\square]$ holds, then for any $\theta \in C^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$, $\Phi_\varepsilon$ is strongly differentiable at $t = 0^+$.

**Proof.** In order to prove the differentiability of this map, one has to study the difference $w_\varepsilon^2 := \frac{1}{t}(u_R^t - u_\varepsilon)$, which appears when dividing (13) by $t$. Of course, this leads to the formulation: $rac{1}{t} (T_1(v) + T_2(v) + T_3(v)) = \frac{1}{t} T_4(v)$. Again, from [49] Section 3.5, taking $v = w_\varepsilon^2$ as a test-function, one gets for the first and fourth groups of terms:

$$\frac{1}{t} T_1(w_\varepsilon^2) \geq \alpha_0 \|w_\varepsilon^2\|^2_X - C \|w_\varepsilon^2\|_X,$$
$$\frac{1}{t} T_4(w_\varepsilon^2) \leq C \|w_\varepsilon^2\|_X.$$

Using the property $(p_+(a) - p_+(b))(a - b) \geq 0$, for all $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$, one gets for the second group of terms:

$$\frac{1}{t} T_2(w_\varepsilon^2) = \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_C} R_n^t(u_\varepsilon^t) w_{\varepsilon,n}(t) \frac{1}{t} (J_\Gamma(t) - 1)$$
$$+ \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_C} R_n^t(u_\varepsilon^t) \frac{1}{t} (w_{\varepsilon,n}(t) - w_{\varepsilon,n}) + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_C} \frac{1}{t} (R_n^t(u_\varepsilon^t) - R_n(u_\varepsilon)) w_{\varepsilon,n}$$
$$\geq -C \|w_\varepsilon^2\|_X + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_C} \frac{1}{t} (R_n(u_\varepsilon^t) - R_n(u_\varepsilon)) w_{\varepsilon,n}$$
$$\geq -C \|w_\varepsilon^2\|_X.$$

One can estimate the third term in the same way, using this time the properties of $q$, and especially the property $(q(\alpha, z_1) - q(\alpha, z_2))(z_1 - z_2) \geq 0$, for all $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^+, z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{d-1}$.

$$\frac{1}{t} T_3(w_\varepsilon^2) = \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_C} S_n^t(u_\varepsilon^t) w_{\varepsilon,t}(t) \frac{1}{t} (J_\Gamma(t) - 1)$$
$$+ \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_C} \frac{1}{t} (S_n^t(u_\varepsilon^t) - S_n(u_\varepsilon)) w_{\varepsilon,t}$$
$$\geq -C \|w_\varepsilon^2\|_X + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_C} \frac{1}{t} (S_n(u_\varepsilon^t) - S_n(u_\varepsilon)) w_{\varepsilon,t}$$
$$\geq -C \|w_\varepsilon^2\|_X.$$

Combining these four estimates leads to boundedness of $w_\varepsilon^2$ in $X$ (uniformly in $t$). Thus for any sequence $\{t_k\}_k$ decreasing to 0, there exists a weakly convergent subsequence of $\{w_{\varepsilon,k}^t\}_k$ (still denoted $\{w_{\varepsilon,k}^t\}_k$), say $w_{\varepsilon,k}^t \rightharpoonup w_\varepsilon \in X$.

The next step is to characterize this weak limit as the solution of a variational formulation. This can be done by taking $t = t_k$, then passing to the limit $k \to +\infty$ in formulation (13) divided by $t$. Before doing that, the bilinear form $a'$ and
the linear form \( e' \), which will be very useful, are introduced as in \cite{49} Section 3.5: for any \( u, v \in X \),

\[
a'(u, v) := \int_{\Omega} \left\{ \varepsilon : e'(u) : e(v) + C : e(u) : e'(v) + (\text{div } \varepsilon \ C + \nabla C \ \theta) : e(u) : e(v) \right\} ,
\]

\[
e'(v) := -\frac{1}{2} \left( \nabla v \ \nabla \theta + \nabla \theta^T \nabla v^T \right).
\]

Now, passing to the limit \( k \to +\infty \) in \( T_1(v) \) is rather straightforward and gives:

\[
\frac{1}{t_k} T_1(v) \to a(w_\varepsilon, v) + a'(u_\varepsilon, v).
\]

For the second group of terms, one gets:

\[
\frac{1}{t_k} T_2(v) \to \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_C} R_n(u_\varepsilon) (v \cdot (\text{div}_T \varepsilon \theta n + n')) + \lim_{k \to \infty} \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_C} (R^n(u_{\varepsilon, k}^n - R^n(u_\varepsilon)) (v \cdot n).
\]

The key ingredient to deal with the second limit is the directional differentiability of the function \( p_+ \) from \( L^2(\Gamma_C) \) to \( L^2(\Gamma_C) \), see section 3.2.2. The candidate function for the derivative of \( t \to R^n(u_{\varepsilon, k}) \) at \( t = 0^+ \) is:

\[ R'_n(u_\varepsilon) := dp_+ (u_\varepsilon - g_n, z^\theta_{\varepsilon, n}). \]

where \( z^\theta_{\varepsilon, n} := w_{\varepsilon, n} + u_{\varepsilon, n'} \) - \( g_n' \). Let us show strong convergence in \( L^2(\Gamma_C) \) to this candidate function by estimating:

\[
\left\| \frac{1}{t_k} (R^n(u_{\varepsilon, k}^n) - R^n(u_\varepsilon)) \right\|_{0, \Gamma_C} \\
\leq \left\| \frac{1}{t_k} \left( p_+ (u_{\varepsilon, k}^n - g_n - t_k z^\theta_{\varepsilon, n}) - p_+ (u_{\varepsilon, n} - g_n + t_k z^\theta_{\varepsilon, n}) \right) \right\|_{0, \Gamma_C} \\
+ \left\| \frac{1}{t_k} \left( p_+ (u_{\varepsilon, n} - g_n + t_k z^\theta_{\varepsilon, n}) - p_+ (u_{\varepsilon, n} - g_n) \right) \right\|_{0, \Gamma_C} \\
\leq \left\| w_{\varepsilon, k} - w_\varepsilon \right\|_{0, \Gamma_C} + t_k C \left( 1 + \left\| w_\varepsilon \right\|_{0, \Gamma_C} + \left\| u_\varepsilon \right\|_{0, \Gamma_C} \right) \\
+ \left\| \frac{1}{t_k} \left( p_+ (u_{\varepsilon, n} - g_n + t_k z^\theta_{\varepsilon, n}) - p_+ (u_{\varepsilon, n} - g_n) \right) - dp_+ (u_{\varepsilon, n} - g_n, z^\theta_{\varepsilon, n}) \right\|_{0, \Gamma_C}
\]

The first term goes to 0 due to compact embedding, and the last one also goes to 0 using directional differentiability of the function \( p_+ \) from \( L^2(\Gamma_C) \) to \( L^2(\Gamma_C) \). This finally leads for the second group of terms:

\[
\frac{1}{t_k} T_2(v) \to \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_C} R_n(u_\varepsilon) (v_n \text{div}_T \varepsilon \theta + v_{n'}) + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_C} R'_n(u_\varepsilon) v_n.
\]

From Lemma 3.1 \( R'_n(u_\varepsilon) = p_+(z^\theta_{\varepsilon, n}) \) on \( T^0_\varepsilon \). The function \( p_+ : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R} \) being non-linear, the limit formulation is non-linear in \( \theta \) if \( T^0_\varepsilon \) is not of null measure. For the third group of terms, one gets:

\[
\frac{1}{t_k} T_3(v) \to \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_C} S_k(u_\varepsilon) (v_\varepsilon \text{div}_T \varepsilon \theta + v_\varepsilon) + \lim_{k \to \infty} \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_C} \left( S_{t_k}(u_{\varepsilon, k}^n) - S_k(u_\varepsilon) \right) v_\varepsilon.
\]

The key ingredient is the directional differentiability of the Nemytskij operator associated to \( q \), see section 3.2.2. The candidate function for the derivative of \( t \to S^a_k(u_{\varepsilon, k}^n) \) at \( t = 0^+ \) is:

\[ S'_k(u_\varepsilon) := dq \left( (\varepsilon \overline{\varepsilon} s, u_{\varepsilon, t}); (\varepsilon \nabla(\overline{\varepsilon} s) \theta, z^\theta_{\varepsilon, t}) \right), \]
where $z_{\varepsilon,t}^\theta := w_{\varepsilon,t} + u_{\varepsilon,t'}$. Another series of estimations gives strong convergence to this candidate function in $L^2(\Gamma_C)$.

\[
\left\| \frac{1}{t_k} \left( S_{t, t_k}(u_{\varepsilon}) - S_1(u_{\varepsilon}) \right) - S'_1(u_{\varepsilon}) \right\|_{0, \Gamma_C} \\
\leq \left\| \frac{1}{t_k} \left( q \left( \varepsilon(s) + t_k \nabla(s) \theta, u_{\varepsilon,t} + t_k z_{\varepsilon,t}^\theta \right) \right) - q \left( \varepsilon(s) + t_k \nabla(s) \theta, u_{\varepsilon,t} + t_k z_{\varepsilon,t}^\theta \right) \right\|_{0, \Gamma_C} \\
+ \left\| \frac{1}{t_k} \left( q \left( \varepsilon(s) + t_k \nabla(s) \theta, u_{\varepsilon,t} + t_k z_{\varepsilon,t}^\theta \right) - q \left( \varepsilon(s), u_{\varepsilon,t} - \varepsilon(s) - t_k \nabla(s) \theta, u_{\varepsilon,t} + t_k z_{\varepsilon,t}^\theta \right) \right) \right\|_{0, \Gamma_C} \\
\leq \left\| w_{\varepsilon}^{t_k} - w_{\varepsilon} \right\|_{0, \Gamma_C} + C t_k \left( \varepsilon + \| w_{\varepsilon} \|_{0, \Gamma_C} + \| u_{\varepsilon} \|_{0, \Gamma_C} \right) \\
+ \left\| \frac{1}{t_k} \left( q \left( \varepsilon(s) + t_k \nabla(s) \theta, u_{\varepsilon,t} + t_k z_{\varepsilon,t}^\theta \right) - q \left( \varepsilon(s), u_{\varepsilon,t} \right) \right) \right\|_{0, \Gamma_C} .
\]

Due to compact embedding and directional differentiability for $q$, all terms on the right hand side converge to 0. Thus,

\[
\frac{1}{t_k} \left( S_{t}(u_{\varepsilon}) - S_1(u_{\varepsilon}) \right) \rightarrow \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_C} S_t(u_{\varepsilon}) (v_t \text{ div}_\Gamma \theta + v_{t'}) + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_C} S'_1(u_{\varepsilon}) v_t . \tag{17}
\]

From Lemma 3.3, $S'_1(u_{\varepsilon})$ is non linear uniquely on $\mathcal{J}_\varepsilon$ where it uses the $p_+$ function. Therefore the limit variational formulation is non linear only on $\mathcal{J}_\varepsilon$.

Using once again the results from [49, Section 3.5] gives

\[
\frac{1}{t_k} \left( S_{t}(u_{\varepsilon}) - S_1(u_{\varepsilon}) \right) \rightarrow \int_{\Omega} (\text{div} \, f + \nabla f \theta) v + \int_{\Gamma_N} (\text{div}_\Gamma \theta + \nabla \theta) v . \tag{18}
\]

Combining (15), (16), (17) and (18), and using the Heaviside function $H$ and $\partial_n$ and $\partial_z$ defined in section 3.2, one gets that $w_{\varepsilon} \in X$ is the solution of

\[
b_{\varepsilon}(w_{\varepsilon}, v) + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \left( R_n'(u_{\varepsilon}), v_n \right)_{T^0} + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \left( S'_1(u_{\varepsilon}), v_t \right)_{\mathcal{J}_\varepsilon} = L_{\varepsilon} \left[ \theta \right](v) , \quad \forall \, v \in X, \tag{19}
\]

where the bilinear form $b_{\varepsilon}$ and linear form $L_{\varepsilon}[\theta]$ are defined as, for any $u, v \in X$:

\[
b_{\varepsilon}(u, v) := a(u, v) + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \left( H(u_{\varepsilon,n} - g_n) u_n, v_n \right)_{\Gamma_C \setminus \mathcal{J}_\varepsilon} \qquad + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \left( \partial_z q(\varepsilon, u_{\varepsilon,t}) u_t, v_t \right)_{\Gamma_C \setminus \mathcal{J}_\varepsilon} ;
\]

\[
L_{\varepsilon}[\theta](v) := \int_{\Omega} (\text{div} \, f + \nabla f \theta) v + \int_{\Gamma_N} (\text{div}_\Gamma \theta + \nabla \theta) v - a'(u_{\varepsilon}, v) \\
- \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_C} R_n(u_{\varepsilon}) (v \cdot (\text{div}_\Gamma \theta n + n')) \\
- \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_C \setminus \mathcal{J}_\varepsilon} H(u_{\varepsilon,n} - g_n) (u_{\varepsilon,n'} - g'_n) v_n \\
- \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_C} S_t(u_{\varepsilon}) (v_t \text{ div}_\Gamma \theta + v_{t'}) \\
- \int_{\Gamma_C \setminus \mathcal{J}_\varepsilon} \left( \partial_n q(\varepsilon, u_{\varepsilon,t}) \nabla(\varepsilon) \theta + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \partial_z q(\varepsilon, u_{\varepsilon,t}) u_{\varepsilon,t'} \right) v_t .
\]
Due to the regularities of $n$, $g_n$, $\theta$, $f$, $\tau$, $\tilde{g}$, $\mathbf{s}$, $u_c$, and uniform boundedness of both $\partial_\alpha q$, $\partial_\alpha q$, it is clear that $L_\varepsilon[\theta] \in X^*$ for any $\theta$. From the uniform boundedness and positivity of $H(\cdot)$ and $\partial_\alpha q(\cdot, \cdot)$, one has, for all $u$, $v$, in $X$:

$$\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \left( (H(u_{c,n} - g_n) u_n, v_n)_{\Gamma_c \setminus \partial D} \right) \leq \frac{K}{\varepsilon} \|u\|_X \|v\|_X,$$

$$\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \left( H(u_{c,n} - g_n) u_n, u_n \right)_{\Gamma_c \setminus \partial D} = \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_c \setminus \partial D} H(u_{c,n} - g_n) (u_n)^2 \geq 0,$$

$$\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \left( \partial_\alpha q(\varepsilon \tilde{g}s, u_{c,t}) u_t, v_t \right)_{\Gamma_c \setminus \partial D} \leq \frac{K}{\varepsilon} \|u\|_X \|v\|_X,$$

$$\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \left( \partial_\alpha q(\varepsilon \tilde{g}s, u_{c,t}) u_t, u_t \right)_{\Gamma_c \setminus \partial D} = \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_c \setminus \partial D} \left( \partial_\alpha q(\varepsilon \tilde{g}s, u_{c,t}) u_t \right) u_t \geq 0.$$

Thus $b_\varepsilon$ is continuous and coercive over $X \times X$. Because of the non-linearities occuring on the sets $\mathcal{T}_0$ and $\mathcal{J}_0$, well-posedness of (19) is proved using an optimization argument. Let us introduce the following functionals, defined for $\|x\|_X$:

$$\tilde{\phi}(w) := \frac{1}{2} b_\varepsilon(w, w) - L_\varepsilon[\theta](\varepsilon \tilde{g}s, u_{c,t}) u_t, v_t \right)_{\Gamma_c \setminus \partial D} \leq \frac{K}{\varepsilon} \|u\|_X \|v\|_X,$$

$$\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \left( (H(u_{c,n} - g_n) u_n, v_n)_{\Gamma_c \setminus \partial D} \right) \leq \frac{K}{\varepsilon} \|u\|_X \|v\|_X,$$

$$\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \left( H(u_{c,n} - g_n) u_n, u_n \right)_{\Gamma_c \setminus \partial D} = \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_c \setminus \partial D} H(u_{c,n} - g_n) (u_n)^2 \geq 0,$$

$$\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \left( \partial_\alpha q(\varepsilon \tilde{g}s, u_{c,t}) u_t, v_t \right)_{\Gamma_c \setminus \partial D} \leq \frac{K}{\varepsilon} \|u\|_X \|v\|_X,$$

$$\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \left( \partial_\alpha q(\varepsilon \tilde{g}s, u_{c,t}) u_t, u_t \right)_{\Gamma_c \setminus \partial D} = \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Gamma_c \setminus \partial D} \left( \partial_\alpha q(\varepsilon \tilde{g}s, u_{c,t}) u_t \right) u_t \geq 0.$$

Obviously, solving (19) is equivalent to finding a minimum of $\tilde{\phi}$ over $X$. Both $\phi_n$ and $\phi_t$ are convex, continuous and positive. Due to the properties of $b_\varepsilon$ and $L_\varepsilon[\theta]$, $\tilde{\phi}$ is strictly convex, coercive and continuous, and one gets that problem (19) has a unique solution $w_\varepsilon$. Uniqueness also proves that the whole sequence $\{w_\varepsilon\}_k$ converges weakly to $w_\varepsilon$.

**Strong convergence.** Strong convergence is proved taking $\delta_{w_\varepsilon} := w_\varepsilon - w_\varepsilon$ as test-function and subtracting: $\frac{1}{\varepsilon}(13)$ – (19). Gathering all terms properly enable to get the following estimation:

$$\alpha_0 \|\delta_{w_\varepsilon}\|_X^2 \leq \left( tC + \left\| \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \left( R_n(u_\varepsilon) - R_n(u_\varepsilon) \right) \right\|_{0,\Gamma_c} \right. + \left. \left\| \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \left( S_n(u_\varepsilon) - S_n(u_\varepsilon) \right) \right\|_{0,\Gamma_c} \right) \|\delta_{w_\varepsilon}\|_X.$$}

It has already been showed that all terms in parentheses go to 0, which yields strong convergence of $w_\varepsilon$ to $w_\varepsilon$ in $X$.

Existence and uniqueness of the limit $\frac{1}{\varepsilon}(u_\varepsilon - u_\varepsilon)$ have been established. In other words, it has been proved that $u_\varepsilon$ admits a strong material derivative in any direction $\theta$, namely $w_\varepsilon = \tilde{u}_\varepsilon(\Omega)[\theta] \in X$, or simply $w_\varepsilon = \tilde{u}_\varepsilon \in X$. Nevertheless, as mentionned in the previous proof, the map $\theta \mapsto \tilde{u}_\varepsilon(\Omega)[\theta]$ fails to be linear on $\mathcal{T}_0 \cup \mathcal{J}_0$ due to non-Gâteaux-differentiability of $p_+$ and $q$. Thus, some additional assumptions are required. A rather straightforward way to get around this is to assume that for a fixed value of $\varepsilon$, those sets are of measure zero:

**Assumption 2.** The sets $\mathcal{T}_0$ and $\mathcal{J}_0$ are of measure 0.

Note that, due to [92], $x \in \mathcal{T}_0$ implies that both $u_{c,n}(x) - g_n(x) = 0$ and $\sigma_{u_n}(u_c)(x) = 0$, which means that $x$ is in contact but there is no contact pressure. On the other hand, definition $x \in \mathcal{J}_0$ is at the same time in sliding contact and in sticking contact. In the case of the non-penalty formulation, $\mathcal{T}_0$ is sometimes referred to as the weak contact set, while $\mathcal{J}_0$ is sometimes referred to as the weak sticking set (see [17] for contact with Coulomb friction). Following these denominations, let us refer to the points of $\mathcal{T}_0$ and $\mathcal{J}_0$ as weak contact points, and weak sticking points, respectively.

For example, Assumption 2 is satisfied when all weak contact points and all weak sticking points represent a finite number of points in 2D or a finite number of curves in 3D.
Remark 3.2. Both sets can be gathered under the more general denomination of biactive sets, borrowed from optimal
control (see [53] in the case of the obstacle problem). Moreover, in optimal control problems related to variational
inequalities, Gâteaux differentiability of the solution with respect to the control parameter is obtained under the strict
complementarity condition, see for example [9]. This condition is actually quite difficult to explicit and to use in
practice, see [45 Lemma 2.6], and [53] for a discussion. However, in our context, the variational inequality has been
regularized by the penalty approach. Therefore our conditions are simpler to express: the biactive sets are of zero
measure.

Corollary 3.1. If Assumption 1 and Assumption 2 hold, then \( u_e \) solution of (8) is (strongly) shape differentiable in
\( L^2(\Omega) \). For any \( \theta \in C^1([\mathbb{R}^d]) \), its shape derivative in the direction \( \theta \) writes \( d\theta_{\theta}(\theta) := u_e(\Omega)[\theta] - \nabla u_{\theta} \theta \), where
\( u_e(\Omega)[\theta] \) is the unique solution of
\[
b_e(u_e, \theta) = L_e(\theta)(v), \quad \forall v \in X.
\] (20)
Moreover, \( \{u_e\}_e \) and \( \{d\theta_{\theta}u_e\}_e \) are uniformly bounded in \( X \) and \( L^2(\Omega) \), respectively.

Proof. When Assumption 2 holds, the variational formulation (19) solved by \( u_e \) may be rewritten as (20). Since the
map \( \theta \mapsto L_e(\theta) \) is linear from \( C^1([\mathbb{R}^d]) \) to \( X^* \), one gets that the map \( \theta \mapsto u_e(\Omega)[\theta] \in X \) is linear as well, which
directly leads to the desired result.

Regarding boundedness of \( \{u_e\}_e \), the key ingredient is the choice of the right test function. Let us introduce
\[
u_e := \left( u_{e,n} - g_n^e \right) n - u_{e,n} n'\nonumber.
\]
It is clear that \( \nu_e \) \( \in X \), and that one has the following estimation
\[
\|\nu_e\|_X \leq C (1 + \|u_e\|_X)\nonumber.
\]
Now, as \( n' \perp n \), if \( v \in X \) is defined by \( v = \nu_e + u_e \), then
\[
v_n = \nu_{e,n} + u_{e,n} - g_{n,n}'\nonumber, \quad \nu_t = \nu_{e,n} - u_{e,n} n'\nonumber.
\]
Therefore, due to positivity of \( H \) and \( \partial_x \), \( q \), combined with uniform boundedness of both \( \frac{1}{2} R_n(u_e) \) in \( L^2(GC) \) and
\( \frac{1}{2} S_t(u_e) \) in \( L^2(GC) \), taking such a \( v \) as test-function in (20) enables to conclude.

Remark 3.3. Another approach to get around this non-differentiability issue is to modify the formulation by regular-
izing non-smooth functions: in this case, replacing \( p_+ \) and \( q \) by regularized versions \( p_{c,+} \) and \( q_{c} \), where \( c \) stands for
the regularization parameter, \( c \to \infty \). This leads to a solution map that is Fréchet-differentiable. It can be proved, see
[10], that the solution of the regularized formulation \( u_e^c \to u_e \) in \( X \), and that in addition, when Assumption 2 holds,
the shape derivative \( d\theta_{\theta} \to d\theta_{\theta}u_e \) in \( L^2(\Omega) \).

Remark 3.4. Uniform boundedness of \( \{d\theta_{\theta}u_e\}_e \) implies that the sequence converges weakly in \( L^2(\Omega) \) (up to a sub-
sequence) when \( \varepsilon \to 0 \). However, it seems difficult to characterize this weak limit.

3.3 Computation of the shape derivative of a general criterion

Now that shape sensitivity of the penalty formulation have been studied, one may go back to our initial shape opti-
ization problem \( (10) \). Let us focus on cost functionals of the rather general type:
\[
J_e(\Omega) := \int_{\Omega} j(u_e(\Omega)) + k(\Omega, \Omega)\nonumber,
\] (21)
where \( u_e(\Omega) \) is the solution of (8) on \( \Omega \). The functions \( j, k \) are \( C^1([\mathbb{R}^d], \mathbb{R}) \), and their derivatives with respect to \( u_e \),
denoted \( j', k' \), are Lipschitz. It is also assumed that those functions and their derivatives satisfy, for all \( u, v \in \mathbb{R}^d \),
\[
|j(u)| \leq C \left(1 + |u|^2\right) \quad |k(u)| \leq C \left(1 + |u|^2\right) \tag{22}
\]
\[
|j'(u) \cdot v| \leq C|u \cdot v| \quad |k'(u) \cdot v| \leq C|u \cdot v| \tag{23}
\] for some constants \( C > 0 \). From the shape differentiability of \( u_e \), one may deduce the following results, see for example [23].

Theorem 3.3. When Assumption 1 and Assumption 2 hold, \( J_e \) is defined by (21) and satisfy (22) and (23) and \( u_e \) is
the solution of (8), then \( J_e \) is shape differentiable at \( \Omega \) and its derivative in the direction \( \theta \in C_0([\mathbb{R}^d]) \) writes:
\[
dJ_e(\Omega)[\theta] = \int_{\Omega} j'(u_e) \cdot \dot{u}_e + j(u_e) \text{div} \theta + \int_{\partial\Omega} k'(u_e) \cdot \dot{u}_e + k(u_e) \text{div}_\partial \theta
\] (24)
with \( \dot{u}_e \) solution of (20).
Remark 3.5. From Corollary 3.1, one automatically gets that \(dJ_\varepsilon\) is uniformly bounded in \(\varepsilon\). Therefore, formula (24) produces usable shape derivatives, regardless how small \(\varepsilon\) gets.

From a numerical point of view, this last expression contains a number of difficulties (mainly the right hand side of (20) and divergence of \(\theta\)) that can be circumvented through simple transformations. Introducing the adjoint state, it is possible to rewrite (24) avoiding the construction of the right hand side of (20) and resulting in an expression having only boundary integrals with integrand involving only \(\theta\).

In the context of problem (8) with the functional \(J_\varepsilon\), the associated adjoint state \(p_\varepsilon \in X\) is defined as the solution of:

\[
b_\varepsilon(p_\varepsilon, v) = -\int_\Omega j'(u_\varepsilon) \cdot v - \int_{\partial \Omega} k'(u_\varepsilon) \cdot v \quad \forall v \in X.
\]  

(25)

Note that by application of Lax-Milgram lemma, existence and uniqueness of \(p_\varepsilon\) are guaranteed. Using this adjoint state, one is able to get a boundary integral expression of the following form for \(dJ_\varepsilon(\Omega)[\theta]\).

Theorem 3.4. Suppose \(\Omega\) is of class \(C^2\). Then, under the hypothesis of Theorem 3.3 with \(u_\varepsilon, p_\varepsilon \in H^2(\Omega) \cap X\) solutions of (8) and (25) respectively, one has:

\[
dJ_\varepsilon(\Omega)[\theta] = \int_{\partial \Omega}{\mathfrak{A}}_\varepsilon(\theta \cdot n_\varepsilon) + \int_{\Gamma_N}{\mathfrak{B}}_\varepsilon(\theta \cdot n_\varepsilon) + \int_{\Gamma_C}{\mathfrak{C}}_\varepsilon(\theta \cdot n_\varepsilon),
\]

(26)

where \(\mathfrak{A}_\varepsilon\), \(\mathfrak{B}_\varepsilon\), and \(\mathfrak{C}_\varepsilon\) depend on \(u_\varepsilon, p_\varepsilon\), their gradients, and the data.

Proof. Due to Theorem 3.3 when considering (25) with \(v = \tilde{u}_\varepsilon \in X\) as test-function, one gets:

\[
dJ_\varepsilon(\Omega)[\theta] = -b_\varepsilon(p_\varepsilon, \tilde{u}_\varepsilon) + \int_\Omega j(\tilde{u}_\varepsilon) \text{div} \theta + \int_{\partial \Omega} k(\tilde{u}_\varepsilon) \text{div}_\Gamma \theta.
\]

Now, noting that \(b_\varepsilon\) is symmetric and taking \(v = p_\varepsilon \in X\) in (19) leads to

\[
dJ_\varepsilon(\Omega)[\theta] = -L_\varepsilon[\theta](p_\varepsilon) + \int_\Omega j(\tilde{u}_\varepsilon) \text{div} \theta + \int_{\partial \Omega} k(\tilde{u}_\varepsilon) \text{div}_\Gamma \theta.
\]

(27)

From that point, due to the additional regularity assumption on \(u_\varepsilon, p_\varepsilon\), integrating by parts and using the variational formulations (8) and (25) with well chosen test-functions yields the desired result, with

\[
\begin{align*}
\mathfrak{A}_\varepsilon &= j(u_\varepsilon) + (\kappa + \partial_{n_\varepsilon})k(u_\varepsilon) + C : \varepsilon(u_\varepsilon) : \varepsilon(p_\varepsilon) - f p_\varepsilon, \\
\mathfrak{B}_\varepsilon &= -((\kappa + \partial_{n_\varepsilon})\tau p_\varepsilon), \\
\mathfrak{C}_\varepsilon &= \varepsilon_\varepsilon^n + \varepsilon_\varepsilon^t = \frac{1}{\varepsilon}((\kappa + \partial_{n_\varepsilon}) (R_n(u_\varepsilon)p_{\varepsilon,n}) + \frac{1}{\varepsilon}((\kappa + \partial_{n_\varepsilon}) (S_t(u_\varepsilon)p_{\varepsilon,t}).
\end{align*}
\]

(28)

In the previous formulae, \(\kappa\) denotes the mean curvature on \(\partial \Omega\), and \(\partial_{n_\varepsilon}\) stands for the normal derivative with respect to \(n_\varepsilon\).

Remark 3.6. Expression (27) is often referred to as the distributed shape derivative, and it is always valid as it only requires \(u_\varepsilon, p_\varepsilon \in X\). The reader is referred to [26] for more details about distributed shape derivatives. The additional regularity assumption enables to get an explicit expression that fits the Hadamard-Zolésio structure theorem. This structure of the shape derivative suggests to consider deformation fields \(\theta\) of the form \(\theta = \theta n_\varepsilon\), where the normal \(n_\varepsilon\) has been extended to \(\mathbb{R}^d\) (not necessarily using the oriented distance function to \(\partial \Omega\), which is possible when \(\partial \Omega\) is at least \(C^1\), see [23]).

Remark 3.7. The first two terms in (26) are exactly the same as for the elasticity formulation without contact. There are two additional components coming from the contact conditions, namely \(\varepsilon_\varepsilon^n\) stemming from the normal constraint, and \(\varepsilon_\varepsilon^t\), stemming from the tangential constraint. Obviously, these are the only terms involving \(n\). When considering problems without contact, those last two terms cancel, while in the case of pure sliding contact, only \(\varepsilon_\varepsilon^t = 0\). As for contact problems without gap (see for instance [27]), in the expression of \(R_n\), the gap \(g_n\) is simply set to 0, and (26), (28) coincides with the derivative in [27]. Moreover, note that neglecting the term with \(\varepsilon_\varepsilon^t\) (imposing \(\theta = 0\) on \(\Gamma_C\)) is equivalent to excluding the contact zone from the optimization process. In other words, the derived expression (28) is rather general and adapts to many situations: sliding or frictional contact, contact with or without gap, optimizing or not the contact zone, etc.

We decided to write the contact boundary conditions using the normal \(n\) to the rigid foundation instead of the normal \(n_\varepsilon\) to \(\partial \Omega\) because it leads to a simpler expression for \(dJ_\varepsilon\). Indeed, when differentiating our formulation with respect to
the shape, as \( n \) and \( g_n \) do not depend on \( \Omega \), the contact boundary condition can be treated like any Neumann condition. Alternatively, when differentiating the classical formulation, based on \( n_o \) for the contact boundary conditions, additional terms involving the shape derivatives of the gap, \( d_g n_o \), and the normal, \( d_n n_o \), appear in the shape derivative of \( J \) (see [37] in the case with no gap). It turns out that these shape derivatives are quite technical to handle in practice. As these two formulations solve the same mechanical problem, see remark [2.2] the simplified expression for \( dJ/\epsilon \), (26) with (28), is valid for both formulations.

### 4 Numerical results

#### 4.1 Shape optimization algorithm

Following the usual approach, [2, 37], the algorithm proposed here to minimize \( J(\Omega) \) is a descent method, based on the shape derivative. Starting from an initial shape \( \Omega^0 \subset D \), using the cost functional derivative (26), the algorithm generates a sequence of shapes \( \Omega^k \in U_{ad} \) such that the real-valued sequence \( \{ J(\Omega^k) \} \) decreases. Each shape \( \Omega^k \) is represented explicitly, as a meshed subdomain of \( D \), as well as implicitly, as the zero level set of some function \( \phi^k \). The explicit representation enables to apply all boundary conditions rigorously, while the implicit representation enables to make the shape evolve smoothly from an iteration to the next by solving the following Hamilton-Jacobi equation on \( [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^d \):

\[
\begin{align*}
\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} + \theta |\nabla \phi| &= 0, \\
\phi(0, x) &= \tilde{\phi}(x),
\end{align*}
\]

where \( T \) is strictly positive, \( \tilde{\phi} \) is a given initial condition, and \( \theta \) is the norm of the normal deformation field (see remark 3.6). The reader is referred to the pioneer work [2] for more details about shape optimization using the level set method.

As mentioned earlier, the method to generate the sequence \( \{ \Omega^k \} \) is based on a gradient descent. It consists in several successive steps.

1. Find \( u^k \) solution of (8) on \( \Omega^k \).
2. Find the adjoint state \( p^k \) solution of (25) on \( \Omega^k \).
3. Find a descent direction with \( \theta^k = \nabla \phi^k \cdot n_{o,k} \) using (26) and (28).
4. Update the level set function \( \phi^{k+1} \) by solving (29) on some interval \( [0, T^k] \) with \( T^k > 0 \), taking \( \theta = \theta^k \) as velocity field and \( \tilde{\phi} = \phi^k \) as initial condition.
5. Cut the mesh of \( D \) around \( \{ \phi^{k+1} = 0 \} \) to get an explicit representation of \( \Omega^{k+1} \).

**Remark 4.1.** In step 4, the real number \( T^k \) is chosen such that the monotonicity of \( \{ J(\Omega^k) \} \) is guaranteed at each iteration. This numerical trick tries to ensure a descent direction, even in situations where Assumption 2 is not verified. Indeed, in such situations, expression (26) will not be an accurate representation of the shape derivative, however it still can provide a valid descent direction.

**Remark 4.2.** Even though such algorithms prove themselves very efficient from the numerical point of view, there are a few limitations. First, note that, in general, problem (10) is not well-posed and \( J_\epsilon \) is not convex. Thus, using a descent method to try and solve it necessarily leads to finding a local minimum that is highly dependent on the initial shape \( \Omega^0 \). The reader is referred to [2] for a more detailed discussion on that matter. Second, the algorithm may generate shapes for which the expression of \( dJ/\epsilon \) is inaccurate (e.g. Assumption 2 is not verified) and, in the worst case scenario, from which no descent direction \( \theta^k \) can be obtained. In such cases, which have not been encountered in practice, the algorithm will stop and no solution will be found.

**Some details about the implementation.** Although it is not the purpose of this work, we present summarily some aspects of the implementation. Numerical experiments are performed with the code MEF+++, developed at the GIREF (Groupe Interdisciplinaire de Recherche en Éléments Finis, Université Laval). Problems (8) and (25) are solved using the finite element method using Lagrange \( P^2 \) finite elements. The Hamilton-Jacobi type equation is solved on a secondary grid, using the second order finite difference scheme presented in [42], with Neumann boundary conditions on \( \partial D \). The reader is referred to the rather recent work [11] for finite element resolution and error estimate of the penalty formulation of contact problems in linear elasticity, and to [46, 44] for details about level set methods and their numerical treatment using finite differences.
4.2 Specific context

Even though the method could deal with any functional $J_c$ of the general type \(21\), we focus here on the special case of a linear combination of the compliance and the volume (with some weight coefficients $\alpha_1$ and $\alpha_2$).

$$J_c(\Omega) = \alpha_1 C(\Omega) + \alpha_2 Vol(\Omega) = \int_\Omega (\alpha_1 f u_\epsilon(\Omega) + \alpha_2) + \int_{\Gamma_N} \alpha_3 \tau u_\epsilon(\Omega).$$

Indeed, from the engineering point of view, minimizing such a $J_c$ means finding the best compromise (in some sense) between weight and stiffness.

The materials are assumed to be isotropic and obeying Hooke’s law (linear elastic), that is:

$$\sigma(u) = C : \varepsilon(u) = 2\mu \varepsilon(u) + \lambda \text{div} u,$$

where $\lambda$ and $\mu$ are the Lamé coefficients of the material, which can be expressed in terms of Young’s modulus $E$ and Poisson’s ratio $\nu$:

$$\lambda = \frac{E\nu}{(1+\nu)(1-2\nu)}, \quad \mu = \frac{E}{2(1+\nu)}.$$  

Here, those constants are set to the classical academic values $E = 1$ and $\nu = 0.3$ and the penalty parameter $\varepsilon$ is set to $10^{-6}$. Such a value for $\varepsilon$ ensures that the solution $u_{\varepsilon}$ is close enough to the solution $u$ of the original contact problem.

Concerning $D$ and the admissible shapes, at each iteration $k$, the current domain $\Omega^k$ will be contained in $D$ and its boundary $\partial \Omega^k$ will be divided as follows (the colours refer to $2$):

- $\Gamma_N^k = \Gamma_N^0$ is fixed as the orange part of $\partial D$,
- $\Gamma_D^k$ is the intersection of $\partial \Omega^k$ and $\Gamma_D$, the blue part of $\partial D$,
- $\Gamma_C^k$ is the transformation, through $\theta^k$, of the green part of $\partial D$.

Working with a formulation with no gap is quite convenient in several cases. First, when an a priori potential contact zone $\Gamma_C \subset \partial D$ is known, then defining $\Gamma_C = \partial \Omega \cap \Gamma_C$ enables to enforce the contact boundary to be part of $\partial D$. In such situations, see for example \cite{37}, the boundary $\Gamma_C^k$ is either treated like $\Gamma_D^k$ (the contact area cannot be empty) or $\Gamma_N^k$ (the contact area is fixed) during the optimization process. Second, those formulations are well suited for interface problems involving several materials, see \cite{35}.

However, introducing a gap in the formulation allows to extend the method to situations where we want to optimize the shape of a body in contact with a rigid foundation (known a priori). Especially, the potential contact zone is included into the shape optimization process: as the contact zone is not fixed, the shape can be modified along $\Gamma_C$.

4.3 The cantilever

We revisit one of the most frequently presented test in shape optimization: the design of a bidimensional cantilever beam. This test differs from the usual one by the added possibility of a support of the beam through contact (sliding or frictional) with a rigid body. For this benchmark, the domain $D$ is the rectangular box $[0, 2] \times [0, 1]$ meshed with triangles, with an average number of vertices equal to 1300. The rigid foundation is the circle of radius $R = 8$ and center $x_C = (1, -8)$. External forces are chosen such that $f = 0$, and $\tau = (0, -0.01)$ is applied on $\Gamma_N$ (in orange in $2$). In the frictional case, $s = 10^{-2}$ and $\dot{\gamma} = 0.2$. And the weight coefficients in $J$ are $\alpha_1 = 15$, $\alpha_2 = 0.01$. These choices are based on the generic behavior of the model for the given data, and can be reinterpreted as searching for a stiff structure under volume constraint. Besides, since $\tau = (0, -0.01)$, the order of magnitude of $u_\epsilon$ is also $10^{-2}$, hence the difference between the orders of magnitude of $\alpha_1$ and $\alpha_2$.

We tested our algorithm on three different physical models: the standard elasticity model without contact (as if the disk was not here), the pure sliding model which does not take into account potential friction (i.e. $\dot{\gamma} = 0$), and the model of contact with Tresca friction. In the case without contact, we recover the classical result, although the cantilever obtained might seem a little heavy due to our choice of coefficients $\alpha_1$ and $\alpha_2$. In the cases with contact, as expected, the optimal design suggested by the algorithm uses the contact with the rigid foundation as well as the clamped region to gain stiffness. More specifically, it seems that the effective contact zone (active set) has been moved to the right during the process. This makes sense because the closer the contact zone is to the zone where the load is applied, the stiffer will be the structure. However, in the frictional case, the tangential stress associated to friction phenomena $\sigma_{n,t}$ points to the left and slightly upwards, since it is parallel to $t$ and opposed to the tangential displacement. This helps the structure to be stiffer as it compensates part of the downward motion induced by the traction $\tau$, which might explain why the optimal shape requires only one anchor point instead of two for the pure sliding case.
Figure 2: Initial geometry for the 2d cantilever.

(a) Initial design.
(b) Final design without contact.
(c) Final design in pure sliding contact.
(d) Final design in frictional contact.

Figure 3: Initial and final designs for the 2d cantilever in contact with a disk (Ω in blue, D \ Ω in yellow).

The convergence history for all cases is displayed figure[4]. Note that the convergence is much faster in the case without contact, which was predictable since the mechanical problem is easier to solve, thus the shape derivatives should be more accurate. Moreover, the final value of $J$ is around 1.6 in the case without contact whereas it is around 0.7 in both cases with contact. Indeed, due to the possibility of laying onto a rigid foundation, the models with contact lead to better designs.

5 Conclusion

In this work, we expressed conditions (similar to strict complementarity conditions) that ensure shape differentiability of the solution to the penalty formulation of the contact problem with prescribed friction based on a Tresca model. In order to achieve this goal, we relied on Gâteaux differentiability, combined with an assumption on the measure of some subsets of the contact region where non-differentiabilities may occur. Under such assumptions, we derived an expression for the shape derivative of any general functional. Finally, this expression has been used in a gradient descent algorithm, which we tested on a revisited version of the classical cantilever benchmark.
As far as future work is concerned, the idea of working with directional shape derivatives could be extended to other formulations where non-Gateaux-differentiable operators are involved: e.g. the Augmented Lagrangian formulation or Nitsche-based formulations.

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