

Triphasic Finite Element Modeling of Intervertebral Discs for Biomechanical Studies in Tissue Engineering

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Abstract

According to mechanobiological studies as an infrastructure for tissue engineering researches, this paper presents a triphasic finite element modeling of intervertebral discs such a hydrated porous soft tissue. First, the governmental equations were derived on the basis of the laws of continuum mechanics. Then the standard Galerkin weighted residual method was used to form the finite element model. The implicit time integration schemes were applied to solve the nonlinear equations. The formulation accuracy and convergence for one dimensional case were examined with Simon's and Sun's analytical solutions and also Drost's experimental Data. It was shown that the mathematical model is in excellent agreement and has the capability to simulate the intervertebral disc response under different types of mechanical and electrochemical loading conditions. Finally, to have a short review of the capability of the model, a homogenous two dimensional version of the model was applied to simulate the response of a simple sagittal slice of the intervertebral disc.

Keywords: Finite element; Mechanobiology; Porous media theory; Intervertebral disc; Galerkin method

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¹ Poroelastic
⁶ Yang

² Mow
⁷ Gu

³ Suh
⁸ Sun

⁴ Biot
⁹ Laible

⁵ Simon

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$$\left(\begin{array}{c} \text{ } \\ \text{ } \end{array} \right) \quad () \quad () \quad []$$

$$\mathbf{J} \quad () \quad ()$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{J}^+ - \nabla \cdot \mathbf{J}^- = 0 \quad () \quad ()$$

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{J}^+ + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{J}^- + \nabla \cdot (c \mathbf{v}^s) = 0 \quad ()$$

$$\mathbf{J}^+ = - \frac{\rho^+ c^+ \nabla \tilde{\mu}^+ (f_{-sf} + f_{-+}) + \rho^- c^+ \nabla \tilde{\mu}^- f_{+-}}{f_{+sf} f_{-sf} + f_{+sf} f_{-+} + f_{+-} f_{-sf}} \quad ()$$

$$\mathbf{J}^- = - \frac{\rho^- c^- \nabla \tilde{\mu}^- (f_{+sf} + f_{+-}) + \rho^+ c^- \nabla \tilde{\mu}^+ f_{-+}}{f_{+sf} f_{-sf} + f_{+sf} f_{-+} + f_{+-} f_{-sf}} \quad ()$$

$$k_{\beta}^{\alpha}$$

$$\mathbf{J}^+ = k_1^+ c^+ \nabla \tilde{\mu}^+ + k_2^+ c^+ \nabla \tilde{\mu}^- \quad ()$$

$$\mathbf{J}^- = k_1^- c^- \nabla \tilde{\mu}^- + k_2^- c^- \nabla \tilde{\mu}^+ \quad ()$$

$$k_1^+ = - \frac{\rho^+ (f_{-sf} + f_{-+})}{f_{+sf} f_{-sf} + f_{+sf} f_{-+} + f_{+-} f_{-sf}} \quad ()$$

$$k_2^+ = - \frac{\rho^- f_{+-}}{f_{+sf} f_{-sf} + f_{+sf} f_{-+} + f_{+-} f_{-sf}} \quad ()$$

$$k_1^- = - \frac{\rho^- (f_{+sf} + f_{+-})}{f_{+sf} f_{-sf} + f_{+sf} f_{-+} + f_{+-} f_{-sf}} \quad ()$$

$$k_2^- = - \frac{\rho^+ f_{-+}}{f_{+sf} f_{-sf} + f_{+sf} f_{-+} + f_{+-} f_{-sf}} \quad ()$$

$$\frac{\partial T_{ji}}{\partial X_j} - \rho \ddot{u}_i - n \rho_f (J^{-1} \frac{\partial x_i}{\partial X_j}) \dot{w}_j = 0 \quad ()$$

$$w \quad u \quad ()$$

$$J \quad n$$

$$\frac{\partial (p + \frac{p^c}{n})}{\partial X_i} - \frac{n}{k} \dot{w}_j - \rho_f \frac{\partial x_j}{\partial X_i} \ddot{u}_j - \rho_f (J^{-1} \frac{\partial x_k}{\partial X_i} \frac{\partial x_k}{\partial X_j}) \dot{w}_j = 0 \quad ()$$

$$p^c \quad p$$

$$k$$

$$\alpha \quad Q \quad ()$$

$$K \quad E \quad () \quad ()$$

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$$() \quad ()$$

$$p = n Q w_{i,i} + \alpha Q J \left[\frac{\partial X_m}{\partial x_k} E_{mn} \frac{\partial X_n}{\partial x_k} \right] \quad ()$$

$$\frac{1}{Q} = \frac{n}{K_{fluid}} + \frac{\alpha - n}{K_{solid}} \quad ()$$

$$\alpha = 1 - \frac{K}{K_{solid}} \quad ()$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{M}_{11} & \mathbf{M}_{12} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{M}_{21} & \mathbf{M}_{22} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \ddot{\mathbf{u}} \\ \ddot{\mathbf{w}} \\ \ddot{\mathbf{p}} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{C}_{22} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{u}} \\ \dot{\mathbf{w}} \\ \dot{\mathbf{p}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{f}_1 \\ \mathbf{f}_2 \\ \mathbf{f}_3 \end{bmatrix} \quad ()$$

¹⁰ Galerkin weighted residual method

¹¹ Green & Divergence Theory

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$${}^{t+\Delta t}\dot{X} = \frac{1}{\Delta t}({}^{t+\Delta t}X - {}^tX) \quad ()$$

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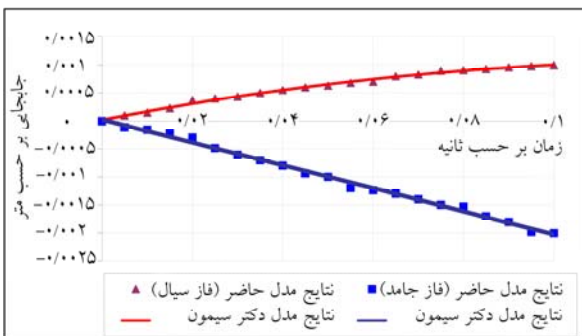
$$({}^{t+\Delta t})\mathbf{K}^+ ({}^{t+\Delta t})\tilde{\mu}^+ + ({}^{t+\Delta t})\mathbf{K}^- ({}^{t+\Delta t})\tilde{\mu}^- = ({}^{t+\Delta t})\mathbf{f}_4 \quad ()$$

$$\frac{\mathbf{C}^c}{\Delta t} ({}^{t+\Delta t})\mathbf{c} - ({}^t)\mathbf{c} = ({}^{t+\Delta t})\mathbf{f}_5 \quad ()$$

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$$\mathbf{K}^+\mu^+ + \mathbf{K}^-\mu^- = \mathbf{f}_4 \quad ()$$

$$\mathbf{C}\dot{\mathbf{c}} = \mathbf{f}_5 \quad ()$$

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$${}^{t+\Delta t}\dot{\mathbf{X}} = {}^t\dot{\mathbf{X}} + [(1-\delta){}^t\ddot{\mathbf{X}} + \delta{}^{t+\Delta t}\ddot{\mathbf{X}}]\Delta t \quad ()$$

$${}^{t+\Delta t}\mathbf{X} = {}^t\mathbf{X} + {}^t\dot{\mathbf{X}}\Delta t + [(\frac{1}{2}-\alpha){}^t\ddot{\mathbf{X}} + \alpha{}^{t+\Delta t}\ddot{\mathbf{X}}]\Delta t^2 \quad ()$$

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$${}^{t+\Delta t}\dot{\mathbf{X}} = {}^t\dot{\mathbf{X}} + \frac{1}{2}[{}^t\ddot{\mathbf{X}} + {}^{t+\Delta t}\ddot{\mathbf{X}}]\Delta t \quad ()$$

$${}^{t+\Delta t}\mathbf{X} = {}^t\mathbf{X} + {}^t\dot{\mathbf{X}}\Delta t + \frac{1}{4}[{}^t\ddot{\mathbf{X}} + {}^{t+\Delta t}\ddot{\mathbf{X}}]\Delta t^2 \quad ()$$

() $t + \Delta t$

$$\mathbf{M}{}^{t+\Delta t}\ddot{\mathbf{X}} + \mathbf{C}{}^{t+\Delta t}\dot{\mathbf{X}} = {}^{t+\Delta t}\mathbf{F} \quad ()$$

() () $t + \Delta t$ $\dot{\mathbf{X}}$ $t + \Delta t$ $\ddot{\mathbf{X}}$

()

$$[\frac{4}{\Delta t^2}\mathbf{M} + \frac{2}{\Delta t}\mathbf{C}]{}^{t+\Delta t}\mathbf{X} = {}^{t+\Delta t}\mathbf{F} \quad ()$$

$$+ [\frac{4}{\Delta t^2}{}^t\mathbf{X} + \frac{4}{\Delta t}{}^t\dot{\mathbf{X}} + {}^t\ddot{\mathbf{X}}]\mathbf{M} + [\frac{2}{\Delta t}{}^t\mathbf{X} + {}^t\dot{\mathbf{X}}]\mathbf{C}$$

() $t + \Delta t$ $\dot{\mathbf{X}}$ $t + \Delta t$ $\ddot{\mathbf{X}}$

()

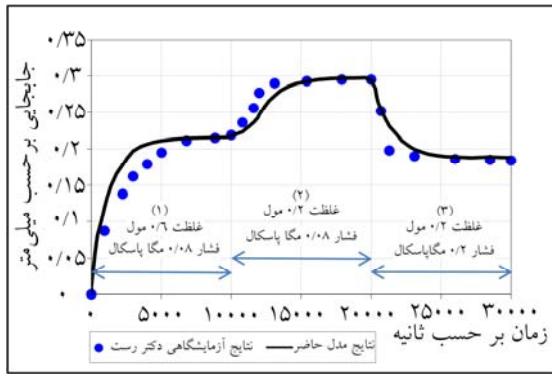
$${}^{t+\Delta t}\dot{\mathbf{X}} = \frac{2}{\Delta t}({}^{t+\Delta t}\mathbf{X} - {}^t\mathbf{X}) - {}^t\dot{\mathbf{X}} \quad ()$$

$${}^{t+\Delta t}\ddot{\mathbf{X}} = \frac{4}{\Delta t^2}({}^{t+\Delta t}\mathbf{X} - {}^t\mathbf{X} - \Delta t{}^t\dot{\mathbf{X}}) - {}^t\ddot{\mathbf{X}} \quad ()$$

$t + \Delta t$ \mathbf{X}

$t + \Delta t$ $\dot{\mathbf{X}}$ $t + \Delta t$ $\ddot{\mathbf{X}}$ () ()

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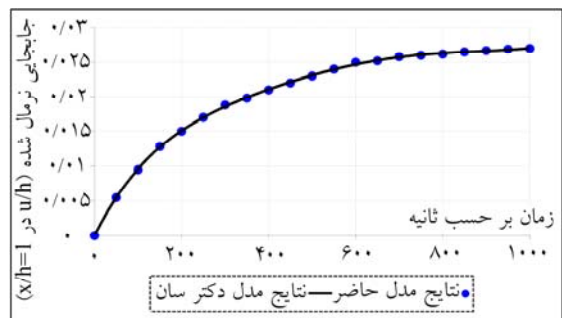
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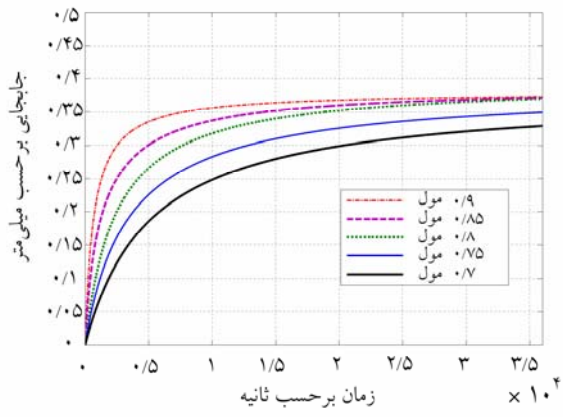
/ Mol / MPa / Mol
 / MPa / Mol / MPa

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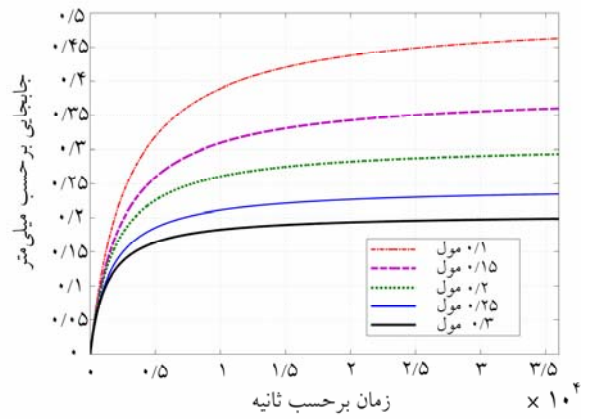
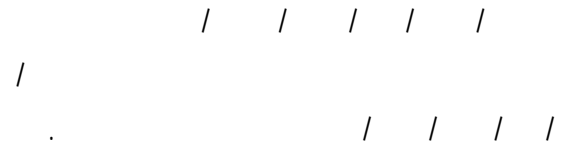


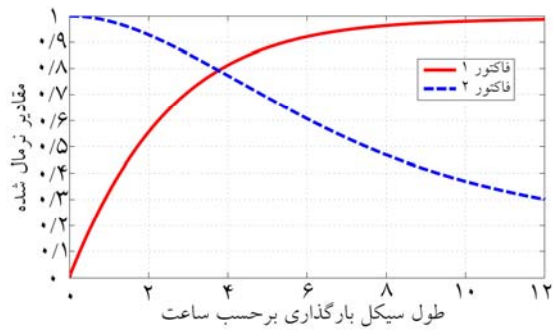
(d)

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$$\sigma_0 = 10 \text{ KPa}$$

(c)





mm

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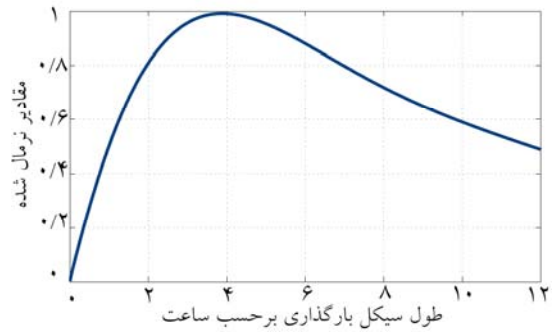
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MPa

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c		M
E		
E		N/m^2
F		
f_{+}/f_{-+}	$N-s/m^4$	
f_{+sf}		
		$N-s/m^4$
f_{-sf}		
		$N-s/m^4$
f_{sf}/f_{fs}	$N-s/m^4$	
J		
$\mathbf{J}^+ / \mathbf{J}^-$		
k		$m^4/N-s$
K_s/K_f	N/m^2	
n		
N^i		
P		N/m^2
p^c	N/m^2	

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t_i	N/m ²
\mathbf{u}	m
\mathbf{v}^α	m/s α
\mathbf{w}	m
μ^+/μ^-	N-m/Kg ()
μ_0	N-m/Kg
ρ_α	Kg/ m ³ α
ν	
f	
s	

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$$\int_{\Omega} \mathbf{W} \left(\frac{\partial T_{ji}}{\partial X_j} - \rho \ddot{u}_i - n \rho_f (J^{-1} \frac{\partial x_i}{\partial X_j}) \ddot{w}_j \right) d\Omega = 0 \quad ()$$

$$\int_{\Omega} \mathbf{W} \left(\frac{\partial(p + \frac{p^c}{n})}{\partial X_i} - \frac{n}{k} \dot{w}_j - \rho_f \frac{\partial x_j}{\partial X_i} \ddot{u}_j \right. \\ \left. - \rho_f (J^{-1} \frac{\partial x_k}{\partial X_i} \frac{\partial x_k}{\partial X_j}) \ddot{w}_j \right) d\Omega = 0 \quad ()$$

$$\int_{\Omega} \mathbf{W} \left(p - n Q w_{i,i} + \alpha Q J \left[\frac{\partial X_r}{\partial x_k} E_{rs} \frac{\partial X_s}{\partial x_k} \right] \right) d\Omega = 0 \quad ()$$

$$\int_{\Omega} \mathbf{W}(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{J}^+ - \nabla \cdot \mathbf{J}^-) = 0 \quad ()$$

$$\int_{\Omega} \mathbf{W} \left(\frac{\partial c^k}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{J}^+ + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{J}^- + \nabla \cdot (c^k \mathbf{v}^s) \right) d\Omega = 0 \quad ()$$

$$\mathbf{M}_{11} = \int_{\Omega} \rho_s N_{mi}^u N_{ni}^u d\Omega \quad ()$$

$$\mathbf{M}_{12} = \int_{\Omega} N_{mi}^u n \rho_f \left(J^{-1} \frac{\partial x_i}{\partial X_j} \right) N_{nj}^w d\Omega \quad ()$$

$$\mathbf{M}_{21} = \int_{\Omega} N_{mi}^w \rho_f \frac{\partial x_j}{\partial X_i} N_{nj}^u d\Omega \quad ()$$

$$\mathbf{M}_{22} = \int_{\Omega} N_{mi}^w \frac{\rho_f}{J} \frac{\partial x_k}{\partial X_i} \frac{\partial x_k}{\partial X_j} N_{nj}^w d\Omega \quad ()$$

$$\mathbf{C}_{22} = \int_{\Omega} \frac{n}{k} N_{mi}^w N_{ni}^w d\Omega \quad ()$$

$$\mathbf{f}_1 = \int_{\partial\Omega} N_{mi}^u t_i ds - \int_{\Omega} N_{mi,j}^u \mathbf{T} d\Omega \quad ()$$

$$\mathbf{f}_2 = \int_{\Omega} N_{mi}^w N_{n,i}^u \cdot p_n d\Omega + \int_{\Omega} N_{mi}^w \frac{P^{c,i}}{n} d\Omega \quad ()$$

$$\mathbf{f}_3 = \int_{\Omega} N_m^p N_n^p d\Omega p - \int_{\Omega} (n Q_{w,i,i} + \alpha Q J \left[\frac{\partial X_o}{\partial x_k} E_{op} \frac{\partial X_p}{\partial x_k} \right])_n N_m^p d\Omega \quad ()$$

$$\mathbf{K}^+ = \int_{\Omega} (-k_1^+ c^+ + k_2^- c^-) (\nabla N^c) \cdot (\nabla N^c) d\Omega \quad ()$$

$$\mathbf{K}^- = \int_{\Omega} (-k_2^+ c^+ + k_1^- c^-) (\nabla N^c) \cdot (\nabla N^c) d\Omega \quad ()$$

$$\mathbf{f}_4 = \int_{\Omega} \begin{pmatrix} -k_1^+ c^+ \nabla \tilde{\mu}^+ N^c - k_2^+ c^+ \nabla \tilde{\mu}^- N^c \\ + k_1^- c^- \nabla \tilde{\mu}^- N^c + k_2^- c^- \nabla \tilde{\mu}^+ N^c \end{pmatrix} \cdot \mathbf{n} ds \quad ()$$

$$\mathbf{C} = \int_{\Omega} N^c \mathbf{T} d\Omega \quad ()$$

$$\mathbf{f}_5 = - \int_{\Omega} \begin{pmatrix} k_1^+ c^+ \nabla \tilde{\mu}^+ N^c + k_2^+ c^+ \nabla \tilde{\mu}^- N^c \\ + k_1^- c^- \nabla \tilde{\mu}^- N^c + k_2^- c^- \nabla \tilde{\mu}^+ N^c \end{pmatrix} \cdot \mathbf{n} ds \quad ()$$

$$+ \int_{\Omega} (k_1^+ c^+ + k_2^- c^-) (\nabla N^c) \cdot (\nabla N^c) d\Omega \cdot \tilde{\mu}^+ \quad ()$$

$$+ \int_{\Omega} (k_2^+ c^+ + k_1^- c^-) (\nabla N^c) \cdot (\nabla N^c) d\Omega \cdot \tilde{\mu}^- \quad ()$$

$$- \int_{\Omega} (c^k \mathbf{v}^s N^c) \cdot \mathbf{n} ds + \int_{\Omega} (\nabla N^c) \cdot (c^k \mathbf{v}^s) d\Omega \quad ()$$

$$\int_{\Omega} N_{mi,j}^u T_{ji} d\Omega + \left(\int_{\Omega} \rho N_{mi}^u N_{ni}^u d\Omega \right) \ddot{u}_{ni} \quad ()$$

$$- \int_{\partial\Omega} N_{mi}^u t_i ds \quad ()$$

$$+ \left(\int_{\Omega} N_{mi}^u n \rho_f \left(J^{-1} \frac{\partial x_i}{\partial X_j} \right) N_{nj}^w d\Omega \right) \ddot{w}_{nj} = 0 \quad ()$$

$$\int_{\Omega} N_{mi}^w N_{n,i}^w p_n d\Omega + \int_{\Omega} N_{mi}^w \frac{P^{c,i}}{n} d\Omega \quad ()$$

$$- \int_{\Omega} \frac{n}{k} N_{mi}^w N_{ni}^w d\Omega \dot{w}_{nj} - \int_{\Omega} N_{mi}^w \rho_f \frac{\partial x_j}{\partial X_i} N_{nj}^w d\Omega \ddot{u}_{ni} \quad ()$$

$$- \int_{\Omega} N_{mi}^w \frac{\rho_f}{J} \frac{\partial x_k}{\partial X_i} \frac{\partial x_k}{\partial X_j} N_{ni}^w d\Omega \ddot{w}_{nj} = 0 \quad ()$$

$$\int_{\Omega} N_m^p N_n^p d\Omega p \quad ()$$

$$- \int_{\Omega} (n Q_{w,i,i} + \alpha Q J \left[\frac{\partial X_r}{\partial x_k} E_{rs} \frac{\partial X_s}{\partial x_k} \right])_n N_m^p d\Omega = 0 \quad ()$$

$$\int_{\Omega} (k_1^+ c^+ \nabla \tilde{\mu}^+ N^c + k_2^+ c^+ \nabla \tilde{\mu}^- N^c - k_1^- c^- \nabla \tilde{\mu}^- N^c - k_2^- c^- \nabla \tilde{\mu}^+ N^c) \cdot \mathbf{n} ds \quad ()$$

$$+ \int_{\Omega} (-k_1^+ c^+ + k_2^- c^-) (\nabla N^c) \cdot (\nabla N^c) d\Omega \cdot \tilde{\mu}^+ \quad ()$$

$$+ \int_{\Omega} (-k_2^+ c^+ + k_1^- c^-) (\nabla N^c) \cdot (\nabla N^c) d\Omega \cdot \tilde{\mu}^- = 0 \quad ()$$

$$\int_{\Omega} N^c \left(\frac{\partial c^k}{\partial t} \right) d\Omega \quad ()$$

$$+ \int_{\Omega} \begin{pmatrix} k_1^+ c^+ \nabla \tilde{\mu}^+ N^c + k_2^+ c^+ \nabla \tilde{\mu}^- N^c \\ + k_1^- c^- \nabla \tilde{\mu}^- N^c + k_2^- c^- \nabla \tilde{\mu}^+ N^c \end{pmatrix} \cdot \mathbf{n} ds \quad ()$$

$$- \int_{\Omega} (k_1^+ c^+ + k_2^- c^-) (\nabla N^c) \cdot (\nabla N^c) d\Omega \cdot \tilde{\mu}^+ \quad ()$$

$$- \int_{\Omega} (k_2^+ c^+ + k_1^- c^-) (\nabla N^c) \cdot (\nabla N^c) d\Omega \cdot \tilde{\mu}^- \quad ()$$

$$+ \int_{\Omega} (c^k \mathbf{v}^s N^c) \cdot \mathbf{n} ds - \int_{\Omega} (\nabla N^c) \cdot (c^k \mathbf{v}^s) d\Omega = 0 \quad ()$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{M}_{11} & \mathbf{M}_{12} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{M}_{21} & \mathbf{M}_{22} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \ddot{\mathbf{u}} \\ \ddot{\mathbf{w}} \\ \ddot{\mathbf{p}} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{C}_{22} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{u}} \\ \dot{\mathbf{w}} \\ \dot{\mathbf{p}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{f}_1 \\ \mathbf{f}_2 \\ \mathbf{f}_3 \end{bmatrix} \quad ()$$

$$\mathbf{K}^+ \boldsymbol{\mu}^+ + \mathbf{K}^- \boldsymbol{\mu}^- = \mathbf{f}_4 \quad ()$$

$$\mathbf{C} \dot{\mathbf{c}}^k = \mathbf{f}_5 \quad ()$$