

# Computational Models of Motion

Continuum Mechanics and FEM



The background image shows a group of students in a modern, well-lit building with large windows and wooden paneling. In the foreground, a young man and woman are sitting at a table, looking at a laptop. In the background, a young woman is walking towards the camera, and a young man is standing behind her. The overall atmosphere is bright and academic.

# Studierendenbefragung 2021

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**13. – 25.04.2021**

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[www.ethz.ch/studierendenbefragung](http://www.ethz.ch/studierendenbefragung)

# Do robots have to be rigid?



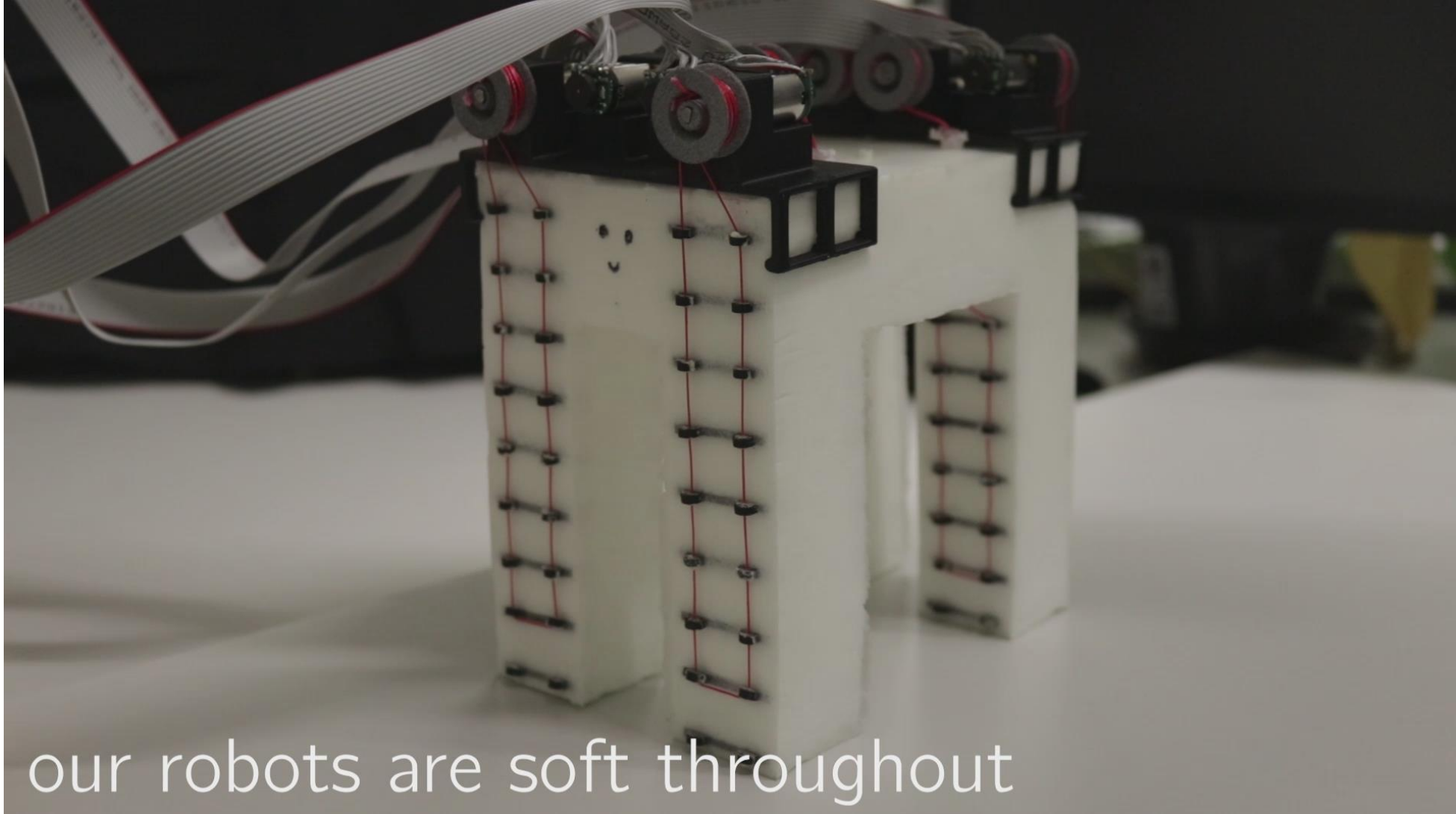
# Soft Robots



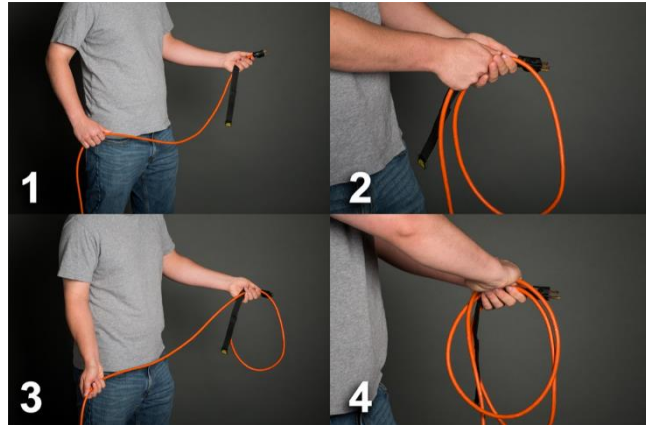
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2DsbS9cMOAE>



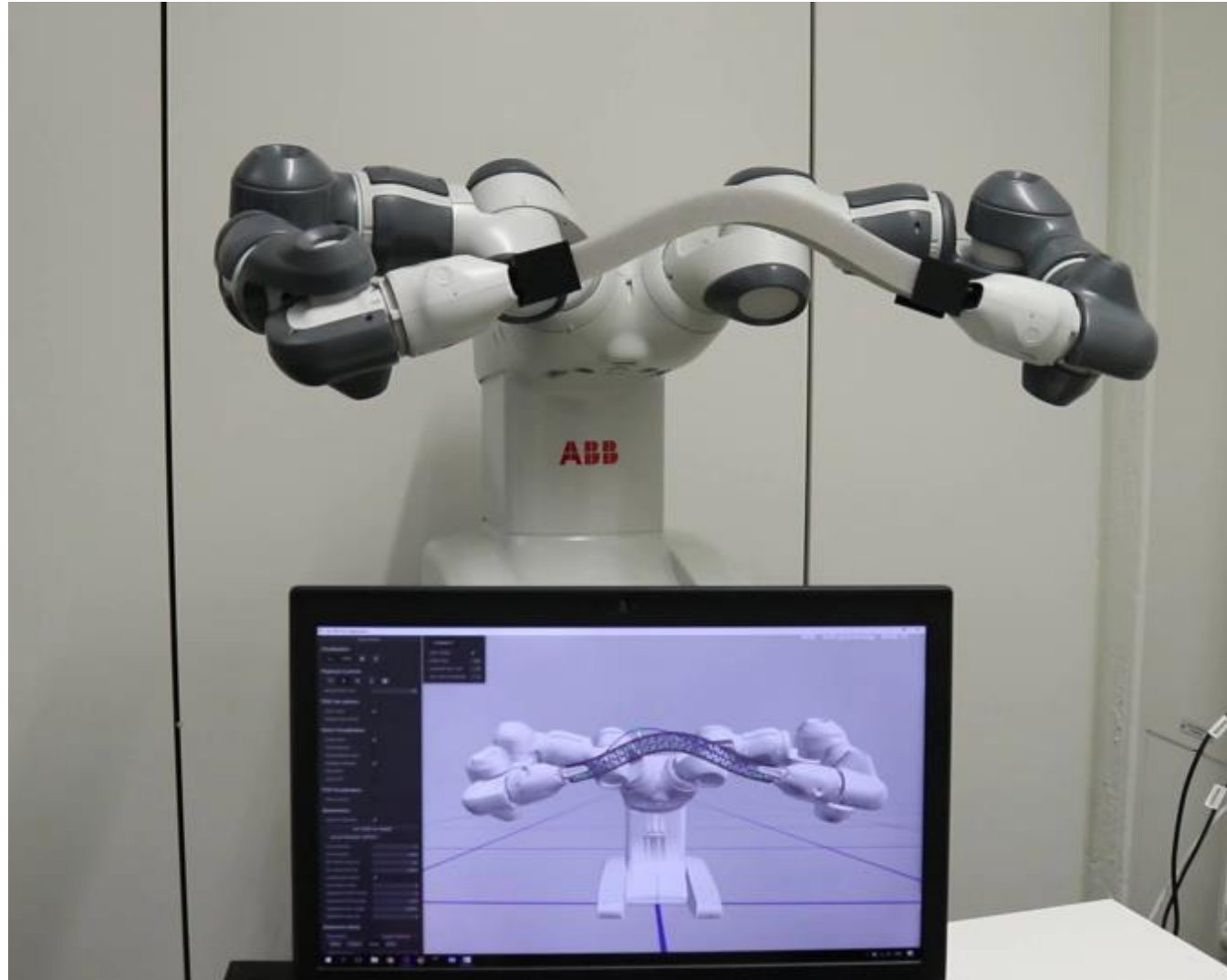
# Soft Robots



# Real-world human manipulation



# Robotic manipulation: soft materials



[CRL, IROS '18]

# Continuum Mechanics



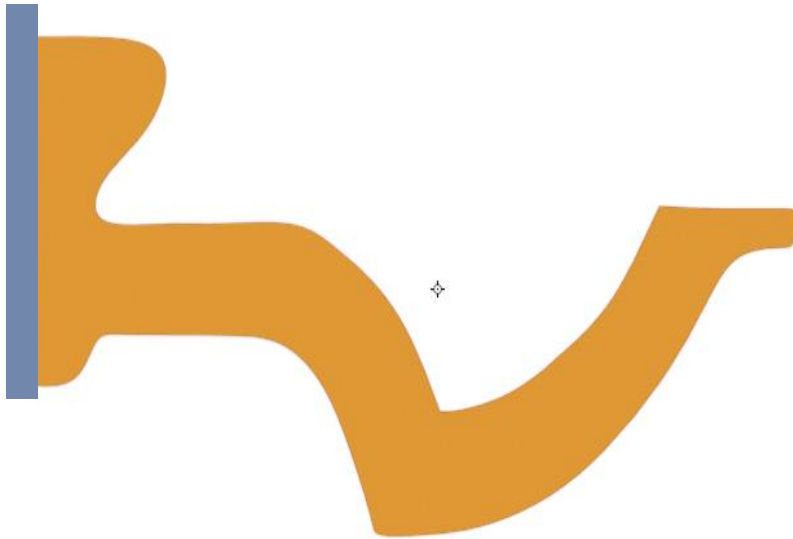
# Elasticity



## Elasticity

The ability of a material to resist a deforming force and to return to its original size and shape when that force is removed.

# Modeling Elasticity

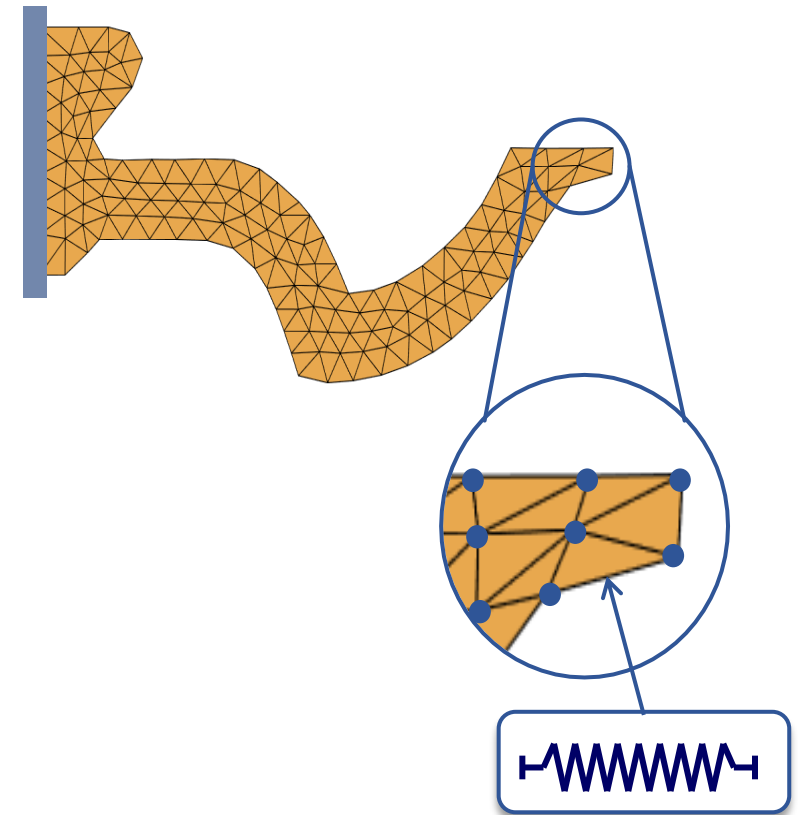


*How to model elastic materials?*

- Atomic or molecular mechanics
- Mass spring systems
- Continuum mechanics

# Mass Spring Systems

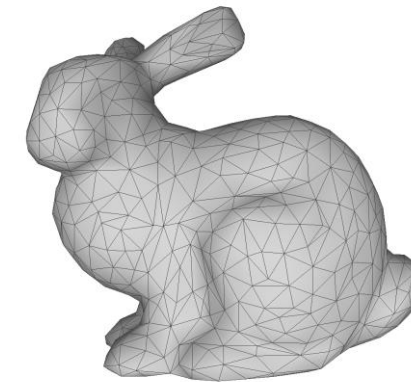
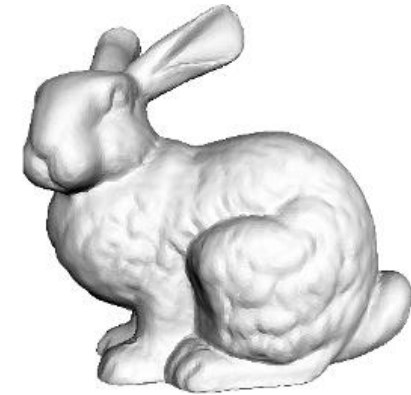
- Mass spring model
  - A simple model for deformable materials
  - Mass points & spring forces
  - Easy to understand and implement
- Limited accuracy
  - Behavior depends on mesh
  - Finding spring stiffness coefficients to best approximate a given real material is difficult
  - No volume and area preservation





# Continuum Mechanics and FEM

- Start from continuous model
  - Deformation, stress, energy
  - Equilibrium conditions
- Discretize with Finite Elements
  - Decompose model into elements (e.g., tetrahedra)
  - Formulate energy and derivatives per element
  - Minimize sum of per-element energies
- Advantages
  - Accurate material behavior
  - Convergence under refinement



# Overview

- Continuum Mechanics in 1D
  - Principles (strain, stress, energy, equilibrium)
  - Governing equations (strong and weak form)
  - Discretization (discrete energy approach)
- Continuum Mechanics in 3D
  - Strain
  - Stress
  - Linear elasticity
- Discretization with FEM
- Nonlinear Elasticity

# 1D Continuous Elasticity

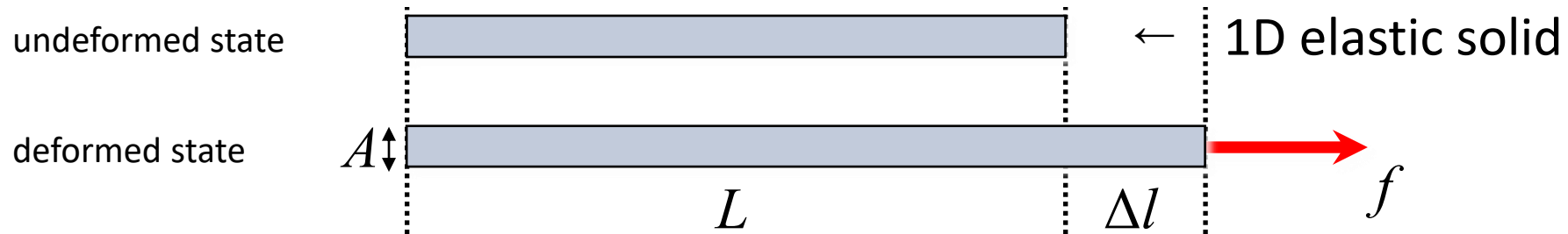


← 1D elastic solid





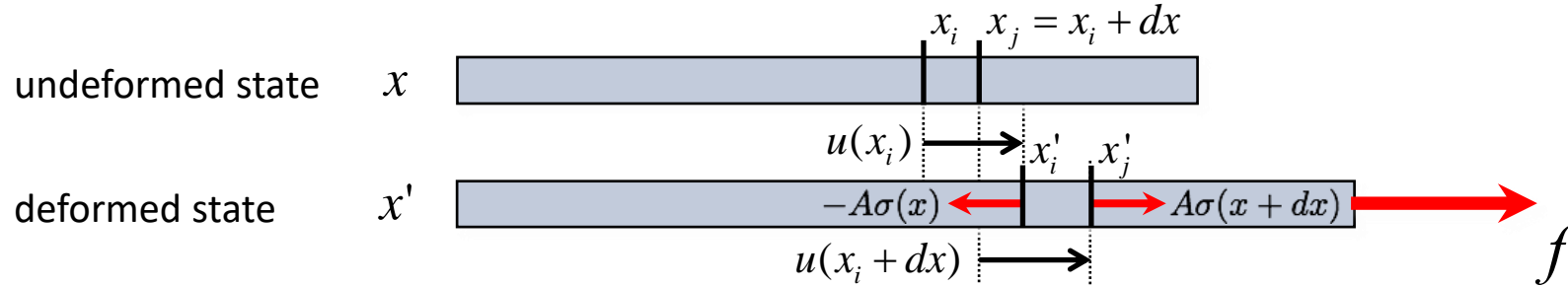
# 1D Continuous Elasticity



- Apply external force  $f$
- Strain (relative stretch):  $\varepsilon = \Delta l / L$
- Stress (internal force per area):  $\sigma = f_{\text{int}} / A$
- Hooke's law:  $\sigma = E\varepsilon$  ( $E$ : Young's elasticity modulus)

Spring analogy:  $F = k\Delta l$

# 1D Continuous Elasticity



- Consider segment  $[x_i, x_j]$  with  $L_{ij} = x_j - x_i$  and  $l_{ij} = x'_j - x'_i$

- Introduce displacement field

$$u(x) = x' - x$$

- Strain on segment

$$\varepsilon_{ij} = \frac{l_{ij} - L_{ij}}{L_{ij}} = \frac{u(x_i + dx) - u(x_i)}{dx}$$

- Strain at arbitrary point

$$\xrightarrow{dx \rightarrow 0} \varepsilon = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} =: \partial_x u$$

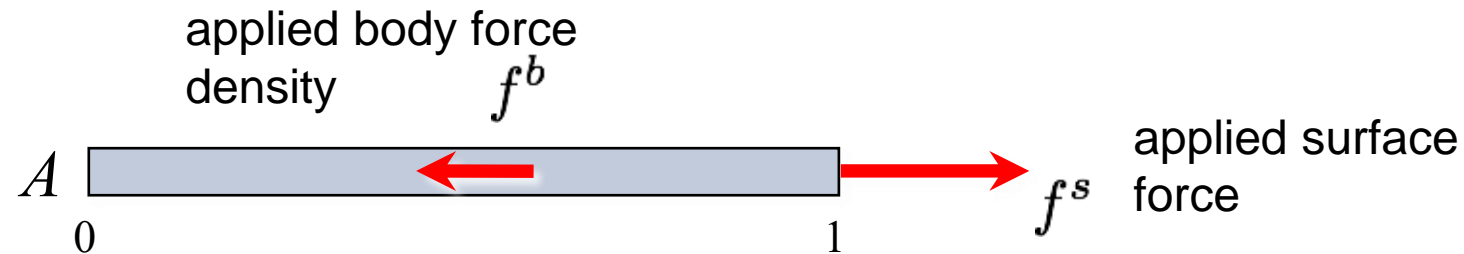
- Force density on segment

$$f_{ij}^{\text{int}} = \frac{A\sigma(x_i + dx) - A\sigma(x_i)}{dx}$$

- Force density at arbitrary point

$$\xrightarrow{dx \rightarrow 0} f^{\text{int}} = A\partial_x \sigma = AE\partial_{xx} u$$

# Equilibrium Equations



- Distinguish between external body force densities and surface forces
- **Balance of forces:** the system is in mechanical equilibrium, if internal and external forces sum to zero in every point.

force constraint

displacement constraint

⏟

boundary conditions

$$EA \partial_{xx} u(x) = -f^b(x) \quad x \in ]0,1[$$

$$\rightarrow EA \partial_x u(1) = -f^s$$

$$\rightarrow u(0) = 0$$

**governing PDE in strong form**



# Weak Form

- Assume strong form is satisfied

$$EA \partial_{xx} u(x) + f^b(x) = 0 \quad \text{for all } x \in (0,1)$$

- Then, for *any* test function  $\bar{u}(x)$ ,  $\bar{u}(0) = 0$

$$\int_0^1 \left( EA \partial_{xx} u(x) + f^b(x) \right) \bar{u}(x) dx = 0$$

$$- \int_0^1 EA \partial_x u \partial_x \bar{u} + [EA \partial_x u \bar{u}]_0^1 + \int_0^1 f^b \bar{u} = 0$$

integration by parts

$$\int_0^1 f' g = [fg]_0^1 - \int_0^1 f g'$$

boundary conditions

$$\bar{u}(0) = 0, \quad EA \partial_x u(1) = f^s$$

$$\int_0^1 EA \partial_x u \partial_x \bar{u} dx = \int_0^1 f^b \bar{u} dx - f^s \bar{u}(1)$$

$$u(0) = 0$$

$$\forall \bar{u} \text{ with } \bar{u}(0) = 0$$

**governing PDE in  
weak form**

# Strong vs. Weak Form

- Strong form

$$\begin{aligned}EA \partial_{xx} u(x) &= -f^b(x) \quad x \in ]0,1[ \\ EA \partial_x u(1) &= -f^s \\ u(0) &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Requires  $u \in C^1$  with  
displacement constraints  
and force constraints

⇒ Finite Difference Discretization

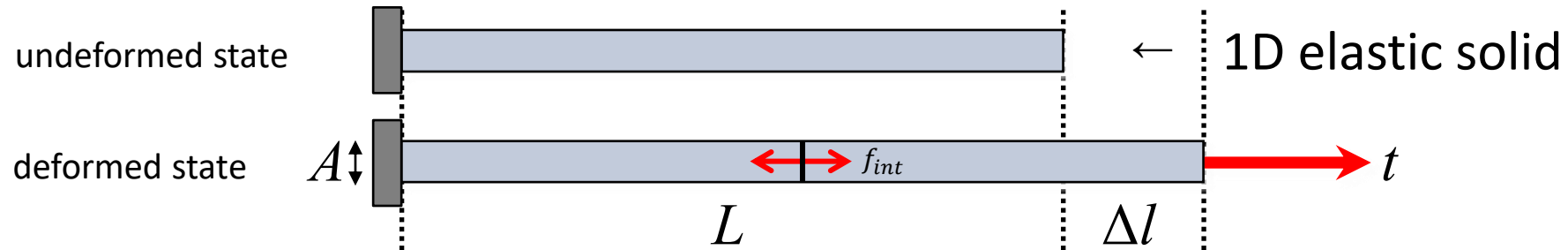
- Weak form

$$\begin{aligned}\int_0^1 EA \partial_x u \partial_x \bar{u} \, dx &= \int_0^1 f^b \bar{u} \, dx - f^s \bar{u}(1) \\ u(0) &= 0 \\ \forall \bar{u} \text{ with } \bar{u}(0) &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Requires  $u \in C^0$  with  
displacement constraints

⇒ Finite Element Discretization

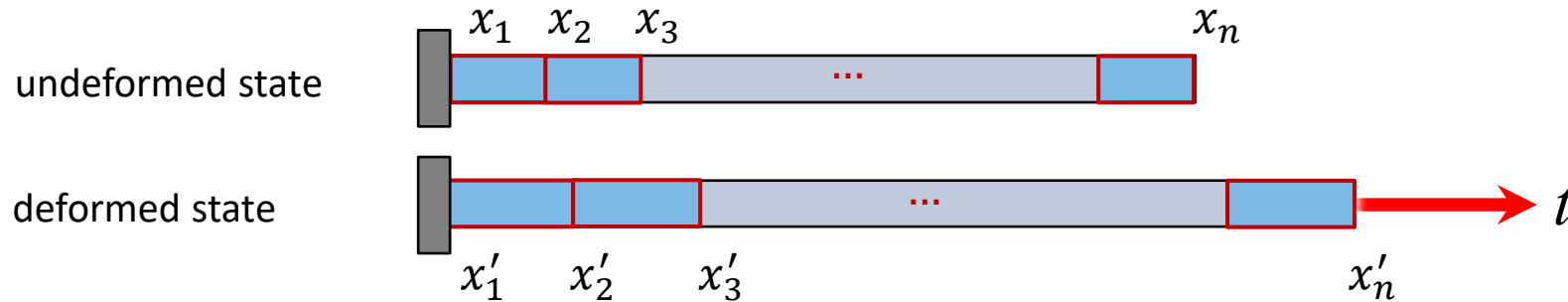
# 1D Continuous Elasticity – Discrete Energy Approach



- Strain:  $\varepsilon = \frac{\Delta l}{L}$  *(relative stretch)*
- Stress:  $\sigma = \frac{f_{int}}{A}$  *(internal force density)*
- Hooke's law:  $\sigma = k\varepsilon$  *( $k$  material constant)*
- Strain energy density:  $\Psi = \frac{1}{2}k\varepsilon^2$  *(postulate via  $\sigma = \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial \varepsilon}$ )*

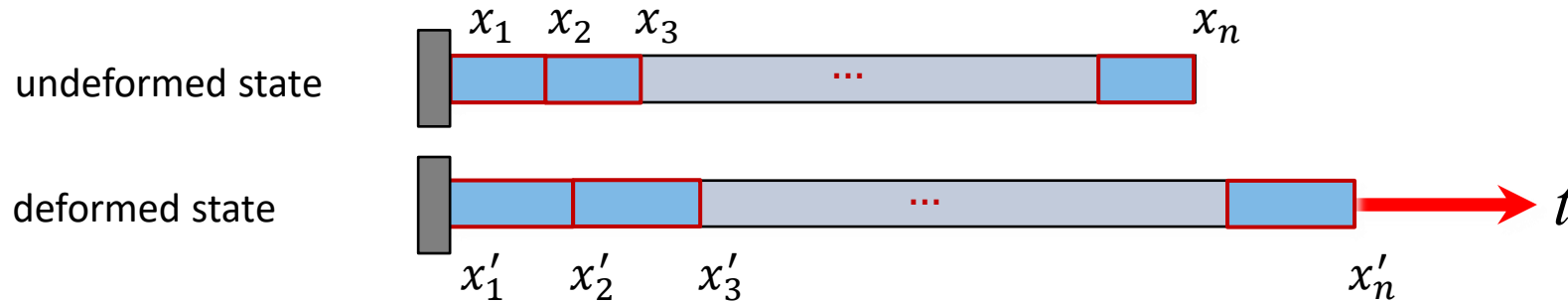


# 1D Continuous Elasticity – Discrete Energy Approach



- Discretize domain into *finite* elements
- Element strain:  $\varepsilon_i = \frac{x'_{i+1} - x'_i - L_i}{L_i}$  with  $L_i = x_{i+1} - x_i$
- Element strain energy:  $W_i = \int \Psi_i(x) dx = \Psi_i \cdot L_i = \frac{1}{2} k \varepsilon_i^2 \cdot L_i$
- Total strain energy:  $W = \sum W_i$

# 1D Continuous Elasticity – Discrete Energy Approach

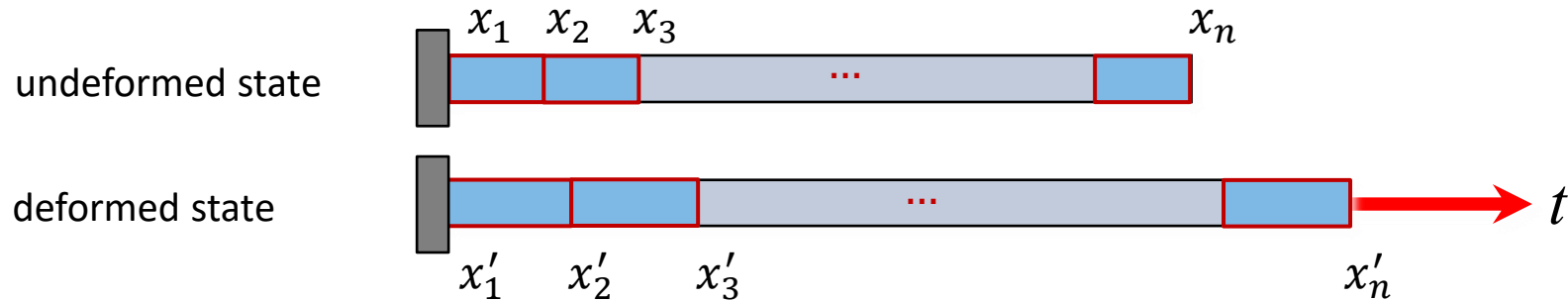


**Principle of minimum potential energy:** at static equilibrium

- The system is in a state of minimum potential energy
- The total forces vanish for all nodes

- $W_i = \frac{1}{2} k \varepsilon_i^2 \cdot L_i$  and  $\varepsilon_i = \frac{x'_{i+1} - x'_i - L_i}{L_i} \rightarrow \frac{\partial W_i}{\partial x'_i} = \frac{\partial W_i}{\partial \varepsilon_i} \frac{\partial \varepsilon_i}{\partial x'_i} = -k \varepsilon_i$
- $f_i = -\frac{\partial W}{\partial x'_i} = -\frac{\partial W_{i-1}}{\partial x'_i} - \frac{\partial W_i}{\partial x'_i} = -k(\varepsilon_{i-1} - \varepsilon_i)$  for  $i = 2 \dots n - 1$
- $f_1 = k \varepsilon_1$  and  $f_n = -k \varepsilon_{n-1}$

# 1D Continuous Elasticity – Discrete Energy Approach



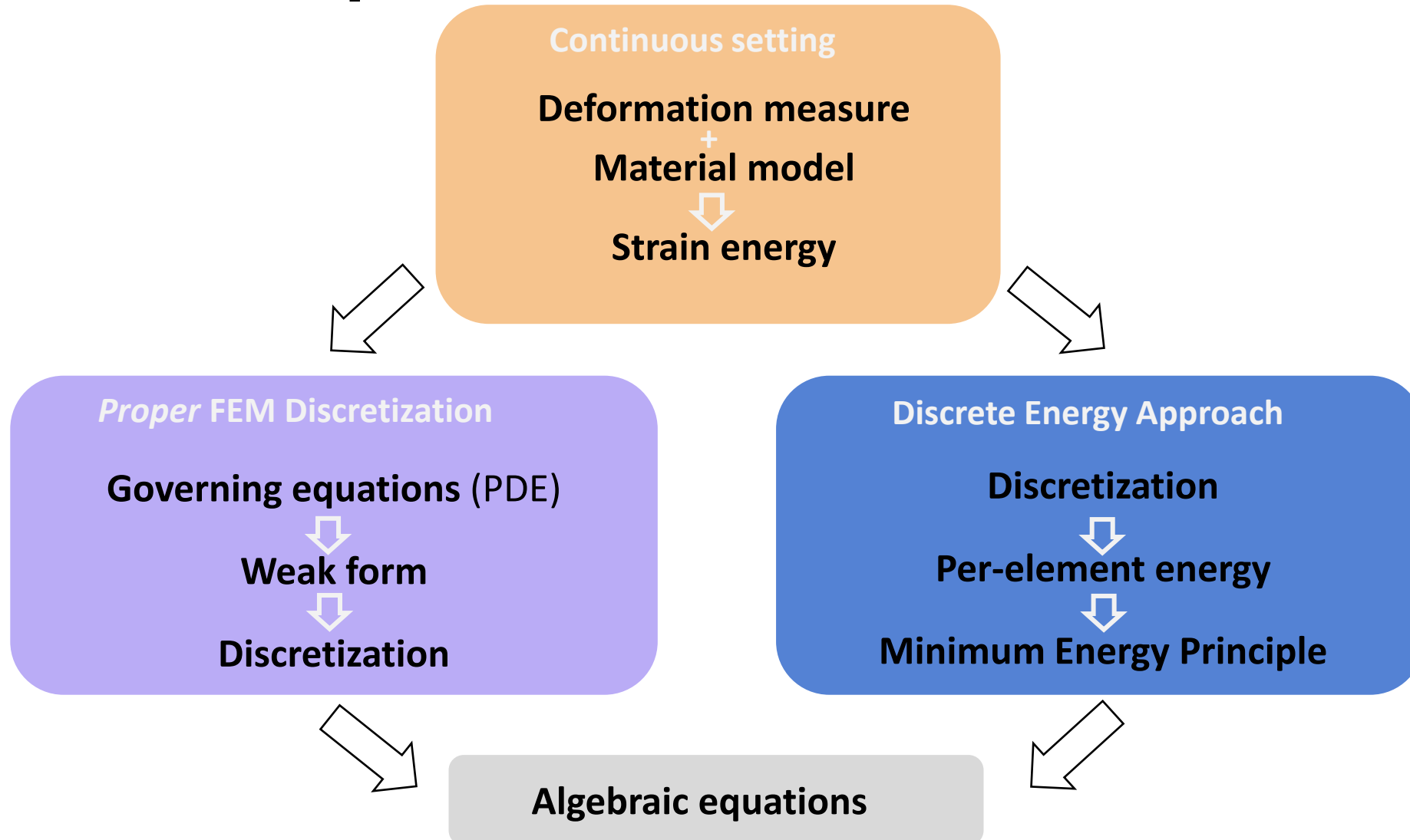
Equilibrium conditions

$$f_i = \begin{cases} 0 & \forall i \in 2 \dots n-1 \\ t & i = 1 \\ -t & i = n \end{cases}$$

- $n-1$  linear equations for  $n-1$  unknowns  $x'_i$
- solve linear system of equations to obtain deformed configuration.

*In this case (constant material, no body forces), deformation is constant.*

# General Concept



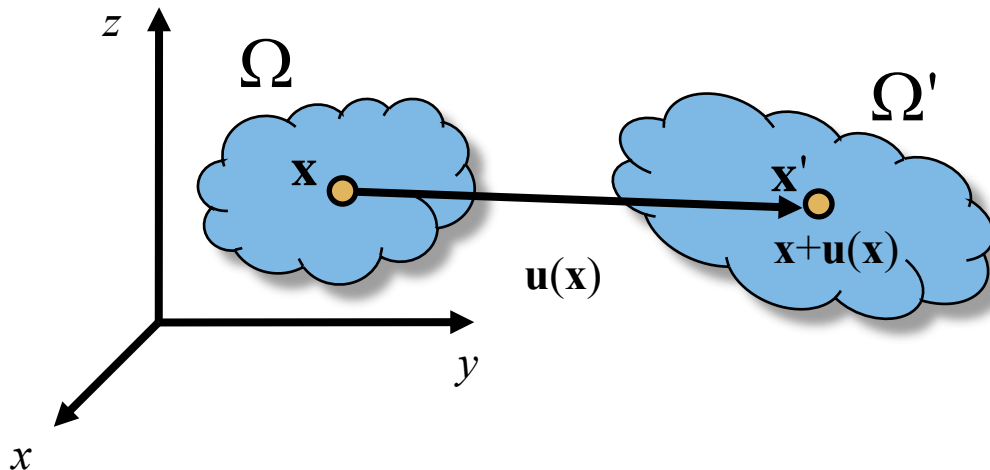


# 3D Continuum Mechanics

## 3D Deformations

- For a deformable body, identify the
  - undeformed state  $\Omega \subset \mathbf{R}^3$  described by positions  $\mathbf{x}$
  - deformed state  $\Omega' \subset \mathbf{R}^3$  described by positions  $\mathbf{x}'$
- Displacement field  $\mathbf{u}$  describes  $\Omega'$  in terms of  $\Omega$

$$\mathbf{u} : \Omega \rightarrow \Omega' \quad \mathbf{x}' = \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x})$$



$$\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{pmatrix} u(x, y, z) \\ v(x, y, z) \\ w(x, y, z) \end{pmatrix}$$

$u$  is displacement in  $x$  direction  
 $v$  is displacement in  $y$  direction  
 $w$  is displacement in  $z$  direction



## 3D Deformations

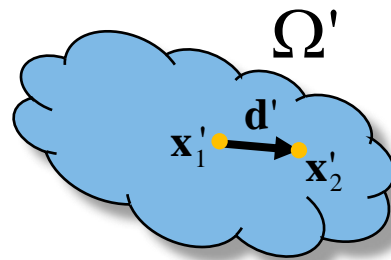
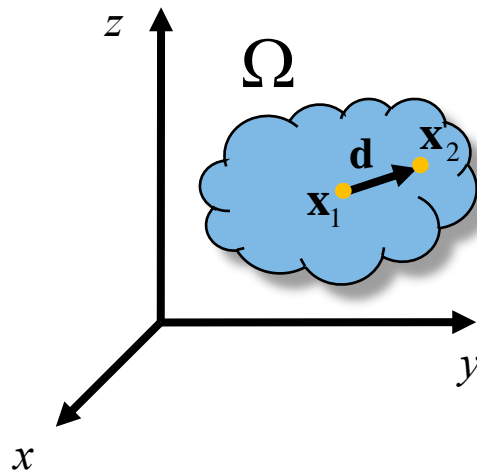
- Consider material points  $\mathbf{x}_1$  and  $\mathbf{x}_2$  and  $\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{x}_2 - \mathbf{x}_1$  such that  $|\mathbf{d}|$  is infinitesimal

- Now consider deformed vector  $\mathbf{d}'$

$$\mathbf{d}' = \mathbf{x}'_2 - \mathbf{x}'_1 = \mathbf{x}_2 + \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}_2) - \mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}_1)$$

$$= \mathbf{d} + \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}_1 + \mathbf{d}) - \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}_1)$$

$$\approx \mathbf{d} + \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}_1) + \nabla \mathbf{u} \mathbf{d} - \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}_1) = \underbrace{(\mathbf{I} + \nabla \mathbf{u})}_{\text{Deformation gradient } \mathbf{F}} \mathbf{d}$$



$$\nabla \mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} \partial_x u & \partial_y u & \partial_z u \\ \partial_x v & \partial_y v & \partial_z v \\ \partial_x w & \partial_y w & \partial_z w \end{pmatrix}$$

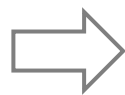
## 3D Nonlinear Strain

- Deformation gradient  $\mathbf{F} = (\mathbf{I} + \nabla \mathbf{u})$  maps undeformed vectors to deformed vectors,  $\mathbf{d}' = \mathbf{F}\mathbf{d}$ .

*How can we quantify deformation  
at a given point?*

- Measure change in length (squared) in all directions

$$|\mathbf{d}'|^2 - |\mathbf{d}|^2 = \mathbf{d}'^T \mathbf{d}' - \mathbf{d}^T \mathbf{d}$$



<b>Green strain</b> $\mathbf{E} = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{F}^T \mathbf{F} - \mathbf{I})$
--

## 3D Linear Strain

- Green strain is quadratic in displacements

$$\mathbf{E} = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{F}^T \mathbf{F} - \mathbf{I}) = \frac{1}{2}(\nabla \mathbf{u} + \nabla \mathbf{u}^T + \nabla \mathbf{u}^T \nabla \mathbf{u})$$

- Discarding quadratic terms leads to the linear

$$\text{Cauchy strain } \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} = \frac{1}{2}(\nabla \mathbf{u} + \nabla \mathbf{u}^t) = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{F} + \mathbf{F}^t) - \mathbf{I}$$

- Written out:

$$\boldsymbol{\varepsilon} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 2\partial_x u & \partial_y u + \partial_x v & \partial_z u + \partial_x w \\ \partial_x v + \partial_y u & 2\partial_y v & \partial_z v + \partial_y w \\ \partial_x w + \partial_z u & \partial_y w + \partial_z v & 2\partial_z w \end{pmatrix}$$

**Notation**

$$\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{pmatrix} u(x, y, z) \\ v(x, y, z) \\ w(x, y, z) \end{pmatrix}$$

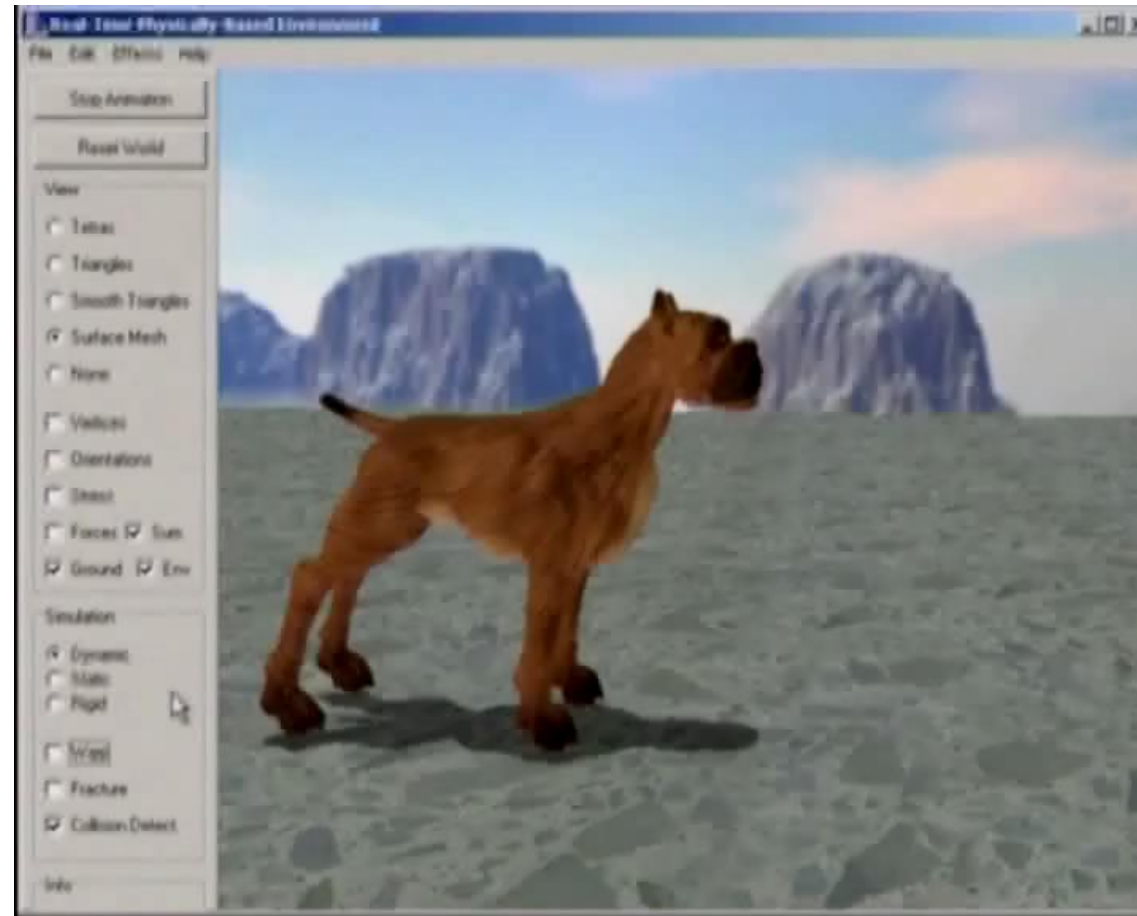
## Cauchy vs. Green strain

- Nonlinear Green strain is rotation-invariant
  - Apply incremental rotation  $\mathbf{R}$  to given deformation  $\mathbf{F}$  to obtain  $\mathbf{F}' = \mathbf{R}\mathbf{F}$
  - Then  $\mathbf{E}' = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{F}'^T \mathbf{F}' - \mathbf{I}) = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{F}^T \mathbf{R}^T \mathbf{R} \mathbf{F} - \mathbf{I}) = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{F}^T \mathbf{F} - \mathbf{I}) = \mathbf{E}$
- Linear Cauchy strain is not rotation-invariant
$$\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}' = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{F}' + \mathbf{F}'^t) - \mathbf{I} \neq \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{F} + \mathbf{F}^t) - \mathbf{I} = \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$$

→ artifacts for larger rotations



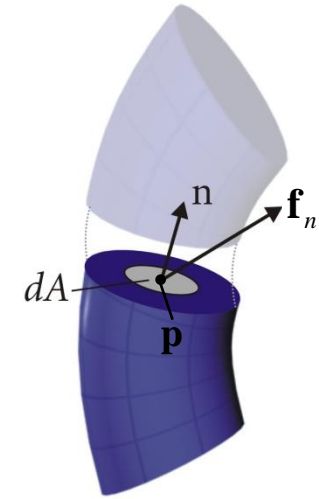
# Stiffness Warping



Mueller and Gross, Interactive Virtual Materials, Graphics Interface '04  
<http://matthias-mueller-fischer.ch/publications/GI2004.pdf>

## 3D Stress

- Virtual experiment on deformed solid
  - Insert cut plane with normal  $\mathbf{n}$  through  $\mathbf{p}$
  - Observe traction force  $\mathbf{f}_n(\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{p})$  on area  $dA$
  - Traction force density  $\mathbf{t}_n(\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{p}) = \frac{d\mathbf{f}_n}{dA}$  as  $dA \rightarrow 0$



*How does  $\mathbf{t}_n$  change with  $\mathbf{n}$ ?*

- Cauchy's stress theorem:  $\mathbf{t}_n$  depends linearly on  $\mathbf{n}$

$$\mathbf{t}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{n}) = \sigma(\mathbf{x}) \cdot \mathbf{n}$$



*Cauchy stress tensor*

# Linear Elasticity – Material Model

- Material model links strain to energy (and stress)
- Linear isotropic material (generalized Hooke's law)
  - Energy density  $\Psi = \frac{1}{2} \lambda \text{tr}(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon})^2 + \mu \text{tr}(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^2)$
  - Cauchy stress  $\boldsymbol{\sigma} = \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}} = \lambda \text{tr}(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}) \mathbf{I} + 2\mu \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$
- Lamé parameters  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$  are material constants

$$\text{tr}(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}) = \sum \varepsilon_{ii}$$

# Linear Elasticity – Material Parameters

Elastic moduli for homogeneous isotropic materials							[hide]
Bulk modulus ( $K$ ) · Young's modulus ( $E$ ) · Lamé's first parameter ( $\lambda$ ) · Shear modulus ( $G, \mu$ ) · Poisson's ratio ( $\nu$ ) · P-wave modulus ( $M$ )							
Conversion formulas							[hide]
Homogeneous isotropic linear elastic materials have their elastic properties uniquely determined by any two moduli among these; thus, given any two, any other of the elastic moduli can be calculated according to these formulas.							
	$K =$	$E =$	$\lambda =$	$G =$	$\nu =$	$M =$	Notes
$(K, E)$	$K$	$E$	$\frac{3K(3K-E)}{9K-E}$	$\frac{3KE}{9K-E}$	$\frac{3K-E}{6K}$	$\frac{3K(3K+E)}{9K-E}$	
$(K, \lambda)$	$K$	$\frac{9K(K-\lambda)}{3K-\lambda}$	$\lambda$	$\frac{3(K-\lambda)}{2}$	$\frac{\lambda}{3K-\lambda}$	$3K - 2\lambda$	
$(K, G)$	$K$	$\frac{9KG}{3K+G}$	$K - \frac{2G}{3}$	$G$	$\frac{3K-2G}{2(3K+G)}$	$K + \frac{4G}{3}$	
$(K, \nu)$	$K$	$3K(1 - 2\nu)$	$\frac{3K\nu}{1+\nu}$	$\frac{3K(1-2\nu)}{2(1+\nu)}$	$\nu$	$\frac{3K(1-\nu)}{1+\nu}$	
$(K, M)$	$K$	$\frac{9K(M-K)}{3K+M}$	$\frac{3K-M}{2}$	$\frac{3(M-K)}{4}$	$\frac{3K-M}{3K+M}$	$M$	
$(E, \lambda)$	$\frac{E+3\lambda+R}{6}$	$E$	$\lambda$	$\frac{E-3\lambda+R}{4}$	$\frac{2\lambda}{E+\lambda+R}$	$\frac{E-\lambda+R}{2}$	$R = \sqrt{E^2 + 9\lambda^2 + 2E\lambda}$
$(E, G)$	$\frac{EG}{3(3G-E)}$	$E$	$\frac{G(E-2G)}{3G-E}$	$G$	$\frac{E}{2G} - 1$	$\frac{G(4G-E)}{3G-E}$	
$(E, \nu)$	$\frac{E}{3(1-2\nu)}$	$E$	$\frac{E\nu}{(1+\nu)(1-2\nu)}$	$\frac{E}{2(1+\nu)}$	$\nu$	$\frac{E(1-\nu)}{(1+\nu)(1-2\nu)}$	
$(E, M)$	$\frac{3M-E+S}{6}$	$E$	$\frac{M-E+S}{4}$	$\frac{3M+E-S}{8}$	$\frac{E-M+S}{4M}$	$M$	$S = \pm\sqrt{E^2 + 9M^2 - 10EM}$ There are two valid solutions. The plus sign leads to $\nu \geq 0$ . The minus sign leads to $\nu \leq 0$ .
$(\lambda, G)$	$\lambda + \frac{2G}{3}$	$\frac{G(3\lambda+2G)}{\lambda+G}$	$\lambda$	$G$	$\frac{\lambda}{2(\lambda+G)}$	$\lambda + 2G$	
$(\lambda, \nu)$	$\frac{\lambda(1+\nu)}{3\nu}$	$\frac{\lambda(1+\nu)(1-2\nu)}{\nu}$	$\lambda$	$\frac{\lambda(1-2\nu)}{2\nu}$	$\nu$	$\frac{\lambda(1-\nu)}{\nu}$	Cannot be used when $\nu = 0 \Leftrightarrow \lambda = 0$
$(\lambda, M)$	$\frac{M+2\lambda}{3}$	$\frac{(M-\lambda)(M+2\lambda)}{M+\lambda}$	$\lambda$	$\frac{M-\lambda}{2}$	$\frac{\lambda}{M+\lambda}$	$M$	
$(G, \nu)$	$\frac{2G(1+\nu)}{3(1-2\nu)}$	$2G(1 + \nu)$	$\frac{2G\nu}{1-2\nu}$	$G$	$\nu$	$\frac{2G(1-\nu)}{1-2\nu}$	
$(G, M)$	$M - \frac{4G}{3}$	$\frac{G(3M-4G)}{M-G}$	$M - 2G$	$G$	$\frac{M-2G}{2M-2G}$	$M$	
$(\nu, M)$	$\frac{M(1+\nu)}{3(1-\nu)}$	$\frac{M(1+\nu)(1-2\nu)}{1-\nu}$	$\frac{M\nu}{1-\nu}$	$\frac{M(1-2\nu)}{2(1-\nu)}$	$\nu$	$M$	

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lam%C3%A9\\_parameters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lam%C3%A9_parameters)

# Linear Elasticity – Material Model

- The material model links strain to stress (and energy)
- Linear isotropic material (*generalized Hooke's law*)

- Energy density  $\Psi = \frac{1}{2} \lambda \text{tr}(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon})^2 + \mu \text{tr}(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^2)$

$$\text{tr}(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}) = \sum \varepsilon_{ii}$$

- Cauchy stress  $\boldsymbol{\sigma} = \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}} = \lambda \text{tr}(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}) \mathbf{I} + 2\mu \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$

- Lamé parameters  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$  are material constants

- Interpretation

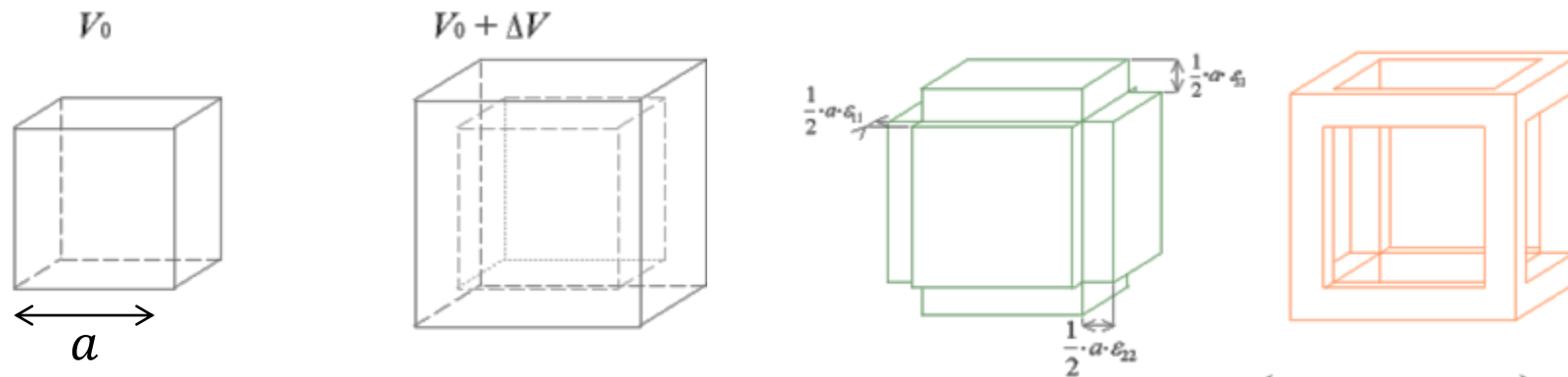
- $\text{tr}(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^2) = \text{tr}(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^T \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}) = \|\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}\|_F^2$  penalizes all strain components equally
  - $\lambda \text{tr}(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon})^2$  penalizes dilatations, i.e., volume changes

# Linear Elasticity – Volumetric Strain

- Consider a cube with side length  $a$
- For a given deformation  $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$ , the added volume is

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta V &= a(1 + \varepsilon_{11}) \cdot a(1 + \varepsilon_{22}) \cdot a(1 + \varepsilon_{33}) - a^3 \\ &= a^3(\varepsilon_{11} + \varepsilon_{22} + \varepsilon_{33}) + O(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^2) \approx a^3 \text{tr}(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon})\end{aligned}$$

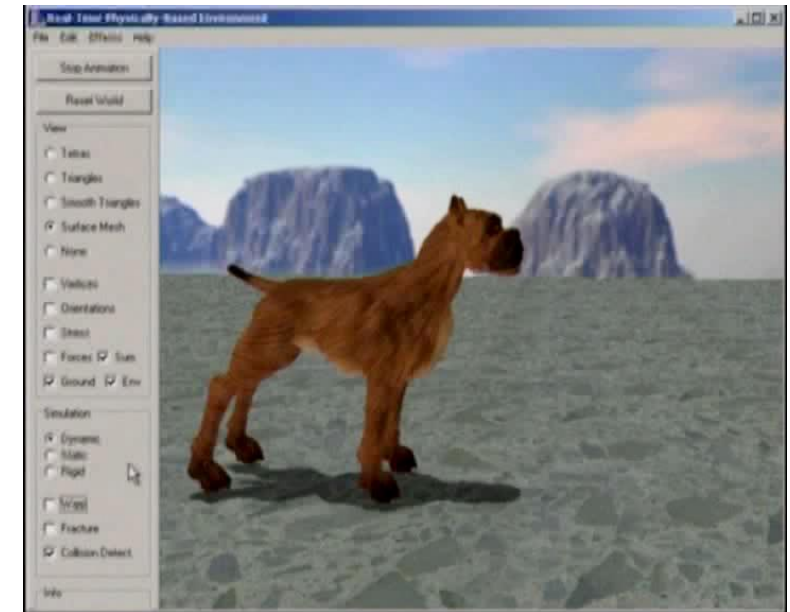
$$\varepsilon = \frac{\Delta l}{L} \rightarrow l = L + \Delta l = L(1 + \varepsilon)$$





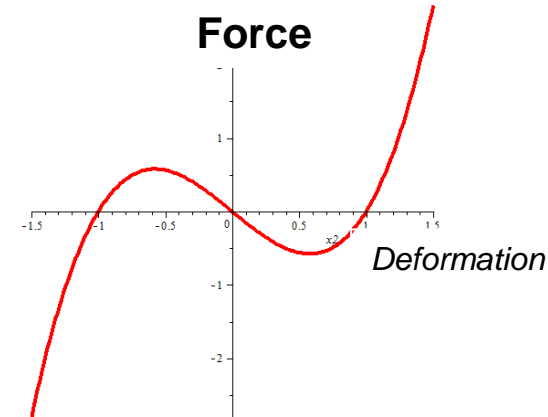
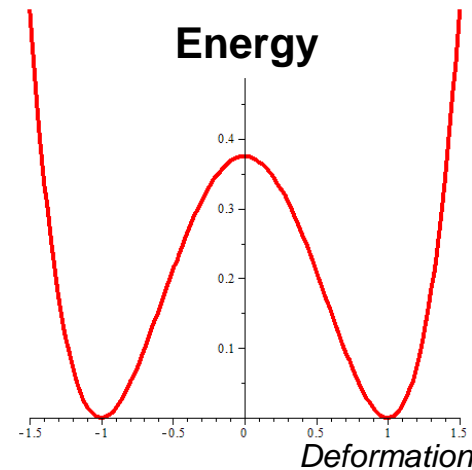
# Linear Elasticity – Limitations

- Linear elasticity relies on linear Cauchy strain
- Problem: Cauchy strain is not invariant under rotations  
→ inaccuracies for rotations
- Solution: use nonlinear deformation measure  
→ nonlinear elasticity



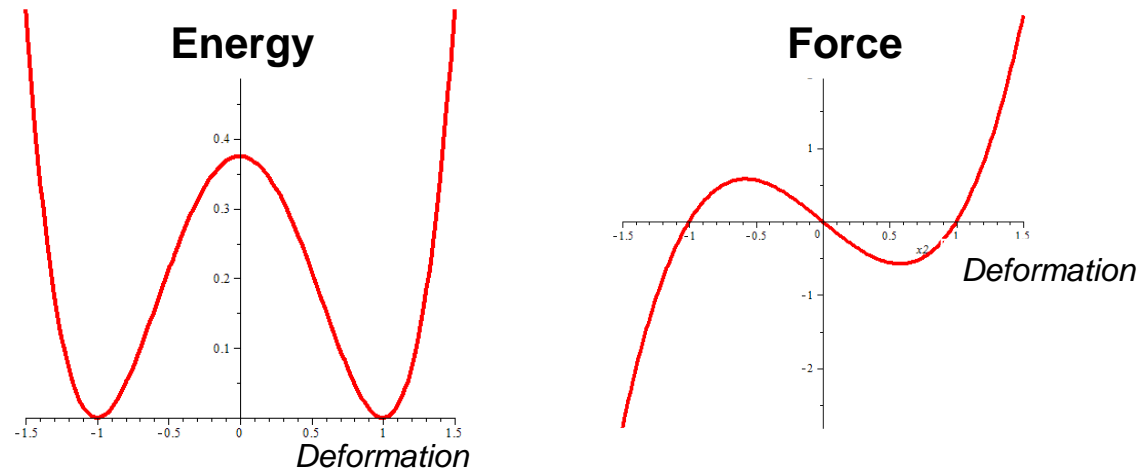
# Nonlinear Elasticity – St.Venant Kirchhoff Material

- First idea: simply replace Cauchy strain with Green strain  
→ *St. Venant-Kirchhoff material* (StVK)
- Energy density  $\Psi_{StVK} = \frac{1}{2} \lambda \text{tr}(\mathbf{E})^2 + \mu \text{tr}(\mathbf{E}^2)$



# StVK Limitations

- *Problem:* StVK softens under compression



- *Reason:* Green strain  $\mathbf{E} = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{F}^t \mathbf{F} - \mathbf{I}) \rightarrow -\frac{1}{2}\mathbf{I}$  for  $\mathbf{F} \rightarrow \mathbf{0}$
- *Work around:* add volume term

$$\Psi_{StVK} = \frac{\lambda}{2} \text{tr}(\mathbf{E})^2 + \mu \text{tr}(\mathbf{E}^2) \quad \rightarrow \quad \Psi_{Mod} = \eta (\det(\mathbf{F}) - 1)^2 + \mu \text{tr}(\mathbf{E}^2)$$

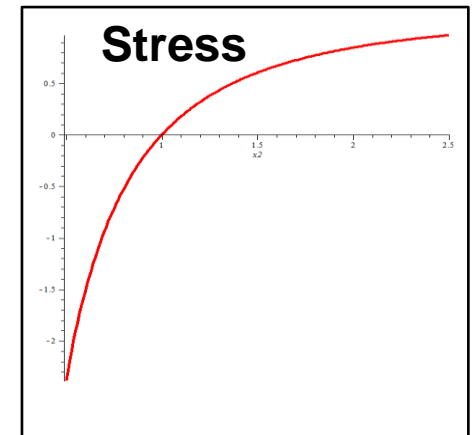
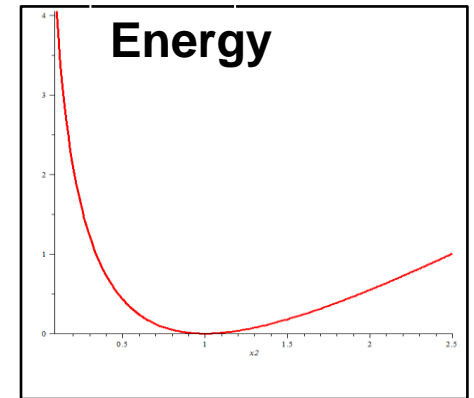
# Neo-Hookean Material

- The strain energy density for a *compressible* Neo-Hookean solid is defined as

$$\Psi_{NH} = \frac{\mu}{2} (\text{tr}(\mathbf{C}) - 3) - \mu \ln J + \frac{\lambda}{2} \ln(J)^2$$

Observations:

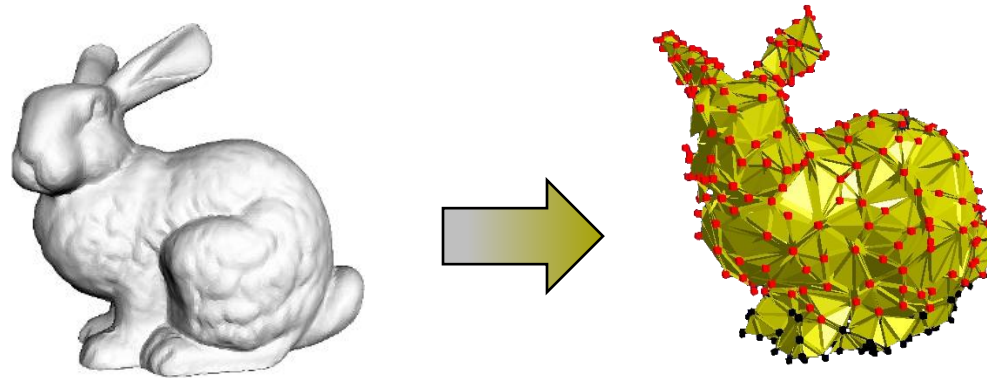
- the first term penalizes all deformations equally  
(since  $\text{tr}(\mathbf{C}) = |\mathbf{F}|_F^2$ )
- the second and third terms go to infinity for increasing compression ( $J = \det \mathbf{F}$ )
- the stress-strain behavior is initially linear, but goes into plateau for larger deformations
- Rule of thumb: NH is good for deformations of up to 20%



# Finite Element Discretization

# Finite Element Discretization – Overview

- Divide input model into elements (e.g., triangles in 2D, tetrahedra in 3D)



- For each element, evaluate its energy, the energy gradient, and the energy Hessian
- All quantities depend (only) on the deformation gradient  $\mathbf{F}$



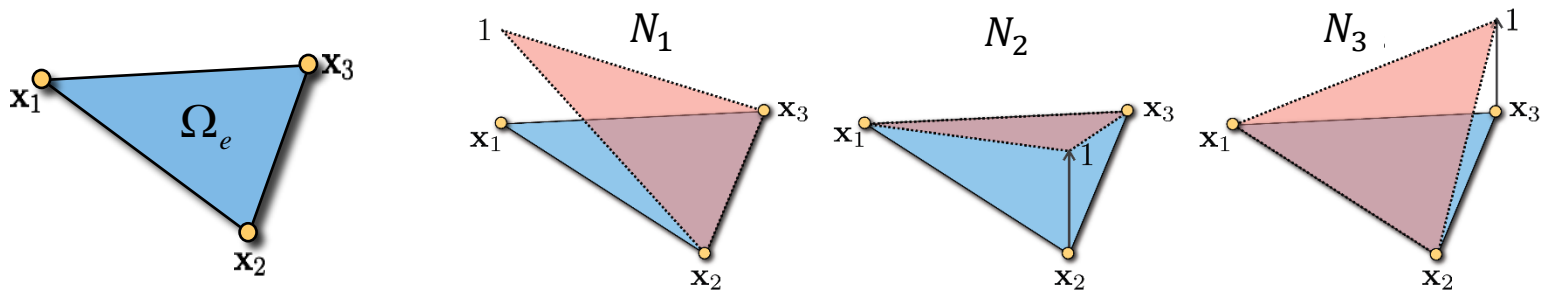
# Finite Elements

*What is a finite element?*

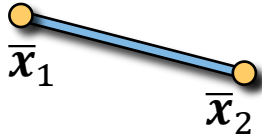
A finite element consists of

- a closed subset  $\Omega_e \subset \mathbf{R}^d$  (in  $d$  dimensions)
- $n$  nodal basis functions,  $N_i: \Omega_e \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$
- $n$  vectors of nodal variables  $\bar{\mathbf{x}}_i \in \mathbf{R}^d$  describing the reference geometry
- $n$  vectors of degrees of freedom (e.g., deformed positions  $\mathbf{x}_i$ )

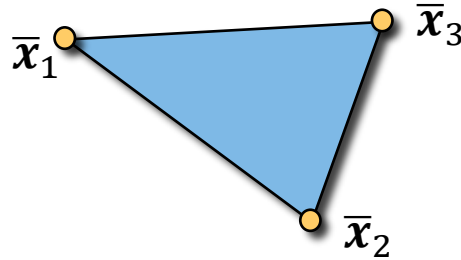
**Example:** 3-node triangle with linear basis functions



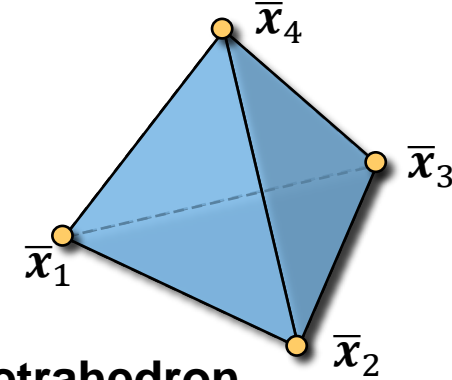
# Linear Simplicial Elements



1D: line segment



2D: triangle



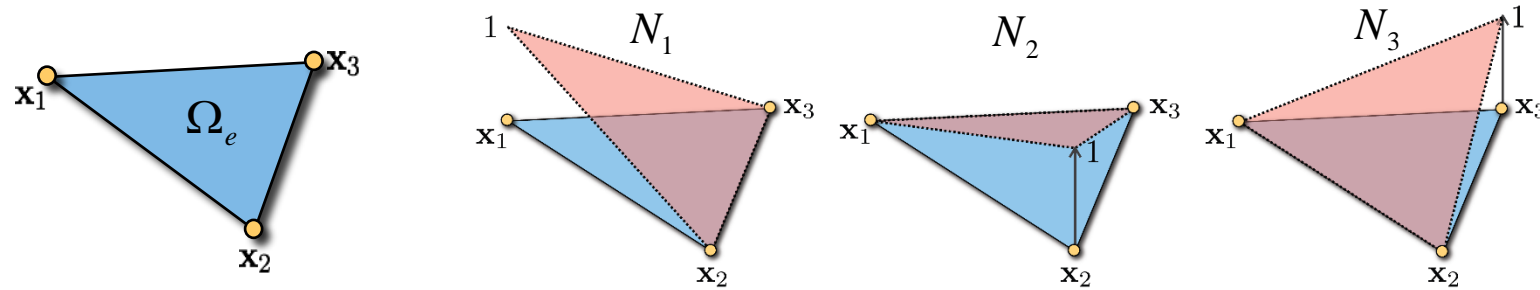
3D: tetrahedron

- Simplicial elements admit linear basis functions
- Basis functions are uniquely defined through
  - reference geometry  $\bar{x}_i$  and
  - interpolation requirement  $N_i(\bar{x}_j) = \delta_{ij}$

$\bar{x}_i = \bar{x}_i$	in 1D
$\bar{x}_i = (\bar{x}_i, \bar{y}_i)$	in 2D
$\bar{x}_i = (\bar{x}_i, \bar{y}_i, \bar{z}_i)$	in 3D

# Computing Basis Functions – 2D

**Example:** 3-node elements with linear basis functions

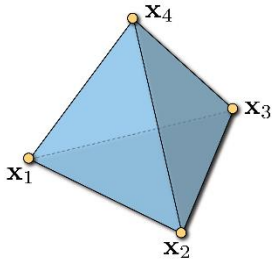


- Basis functions are linear:  $N_i(x, y) = a_i x + b_i y + c$
- Due to  $N_i(\mathbf{x}_j) = \delta_{ij}$ , we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 & y_1 & 1 \\ x_2 & y_2 & 1 \\ x_3 & y_3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} a_i \\ b_i \\ c_i \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \delta_{1i} \\ \delta_{2i} \\ \delta_{3i} \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} a_i \\ b_i \\ c_i \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & y_1 & 1 \\ x_2 & y_2 & 1 \\ x_3 & y_3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \delta_{1i} \\ \delta_{2i} \\ \delta_{3i} \end{bmatrix}$$

# Computing Basis Functions – 3D

4-node tetrahedron with 4 linear basis functions

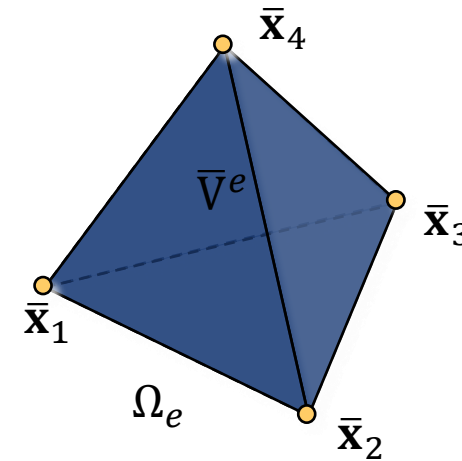


... ..

- Basis functions are linear,  $N_i(\bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{z}) = a_i \bar{x} + b_i \bar{y} + c_i \bar{z} + d_i$
- From  $N_i(\bar{x}_j) = \delta_{ij}$  we obtain

$$N_i(\bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{z}) = a_i \bar{x} + b_i \bar{y} + c_i \bar{z} + d_i$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1 & y_1 & z_1 & 1 \\ x_2 & y_2 & z_2 & 1 \\ x_3 & y_3 & z_3 & 1 \\ x_4 & y_4 & z_4 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a_i \\ b_i \\ c_i \\ d_i \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \delta_{1i} \\ \delta_{2i} \\ \delta_{3i} \\ \delta_{4i} \end{pmatrix}$$



# Deformation Gradient

- Use basis functions to define continuous geometry of element as

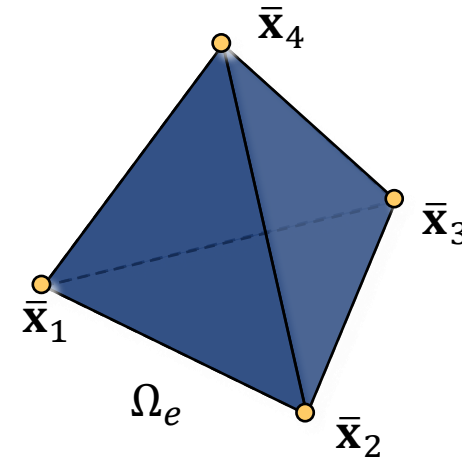
$$\bar{\mathbf{x}}(\bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{z}) = \sum N_i(\bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{z}) \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{x}(\bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{z}) = \sum N_i(\bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{z}) \mathbf{x}_i$$

- Deformation gradient

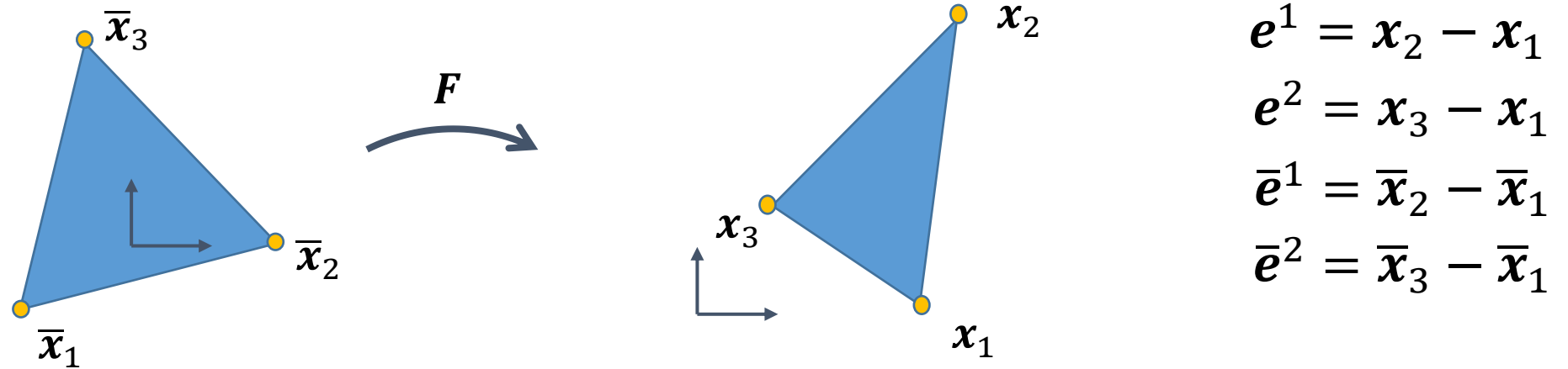
$$\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{I} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}(\bar{\mathbf{x}})}{\partial \bar{\mathbf{x}}} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}(\bar{\mathbf{x}})}{\partial \bar{\mathbf{x}}} = \sum_i \mathbf{x}_i \left( \frac{\partial N_i}{\partial \bar{\mathbf{x}}} \right)^t$$

- Note

- $\mathbf{F} \in \mathbf{R}^{3 \times 3}$  and  $\mathbf{F}$  is linear in  $\mathbf{x}_i$
- $N_i$  are linear on element  $\rightarrow \mathbf{F}$  is constant
- Hence,  $W^e = \int_{\Omega_e} \Psi = \Psi(\mathbf{F}) \cdot \bar{V}^e$



## 2D Example



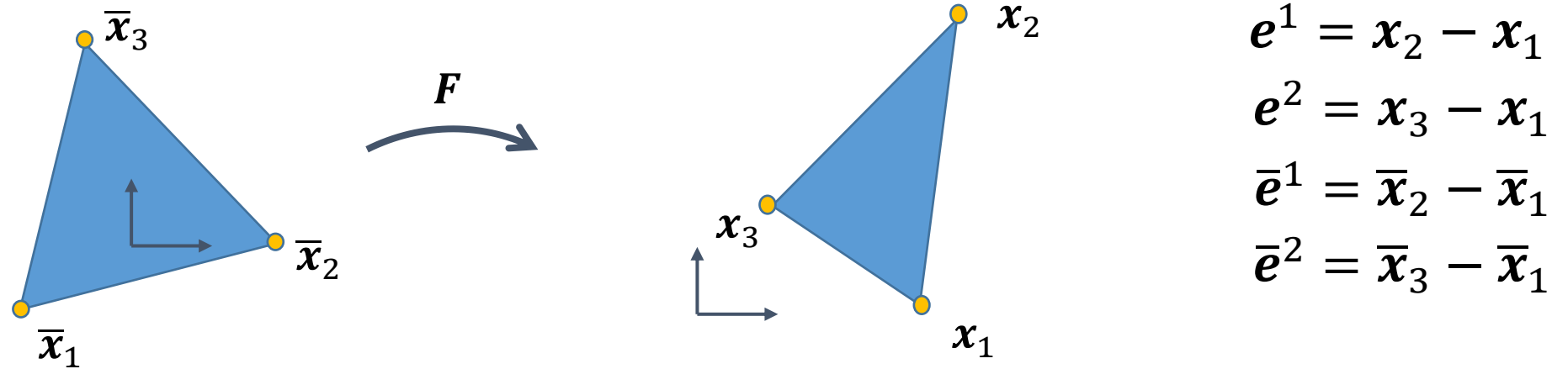
- Linear triangle element in 2D:  $N_i$  are linear on triangle  $\rightarrow F$  is constant on triangle
- Deformation gradient  $F$  maps undeformed vectors to deformed vectors

$$\mathbf{v} = F \bar{\mathbf{v}}$$

- In particular,  $F$  maps undeformed triangle edges to deformed triangle edges

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{e}_x^1 & \mathbf{e}_x^2 \\ \mathbf{e}_y^1 & \mathbf{e}_y^2 \end{bmatrix} = F \begin{bmatrix} \bar{\mathbf{e}}_x^1 & \bar{\mathbf{e}}_x^2 \\ \bar{\mathbf{e}}_y^1 & \bar{\mathbf{e}}_y^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

## 2D Example



- Linear triangle element in 2D:  $N_i$  are linear on triangle  $\rightarrow \mathbf{F}$  is constant on triangle
- Deformation gradient  $\mathbf{F}$  maps undeformed vectors to deformed vectors

$$\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{F} \bar{\mathbf{v}}$$

- In particular,  $\mathbf{F}$  maps undeformed triangle edges to deformed triangle edges

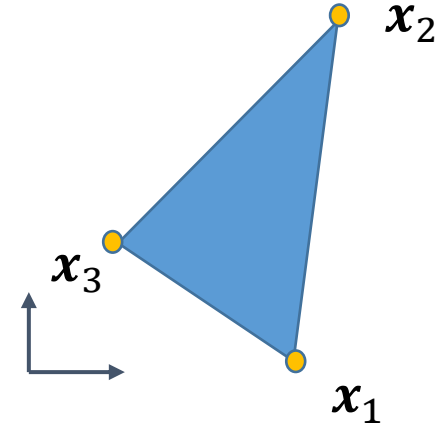
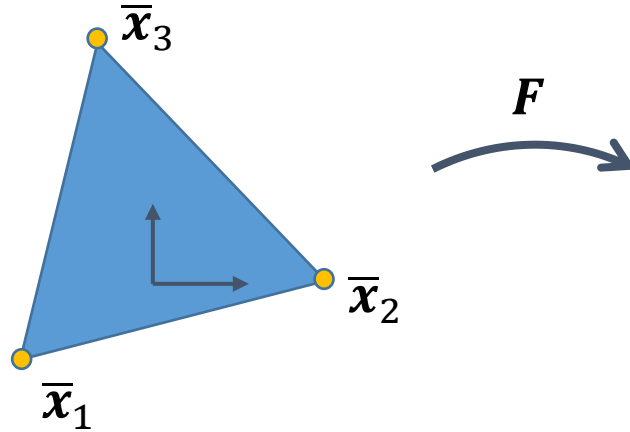
$$\mathbf{F}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}, \mathbf{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{e}_x^1 & \mathbf{e}_x^2 \\ \mathbf{e}_y^1 & \mathbf{e}_y^2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \bar{\mathbf{e}}_x^1 & \bar{\mathbf{e}}_x^2 \\ \bar{\mathbf{e}}_y^1 & \bar{\mathbf{e}}_y^2 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{A}(\bar{\mathbf{x}})$$

- $\mathbf{A}$  does not depend on rest state  $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$ , can be precomputed



## 2D Example

- $\bar{x}_1 = (-2, -1)$
- $\bar{x}_2 = (2, 0)$
- $\bar{x}_3 = (-1, 3)$

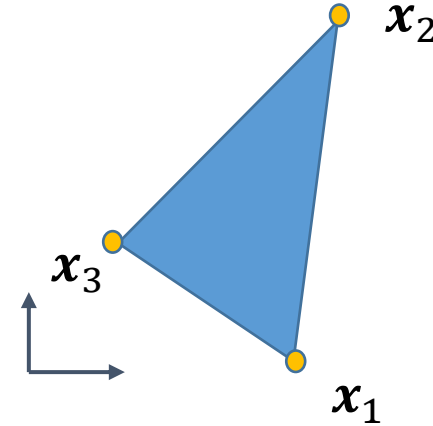
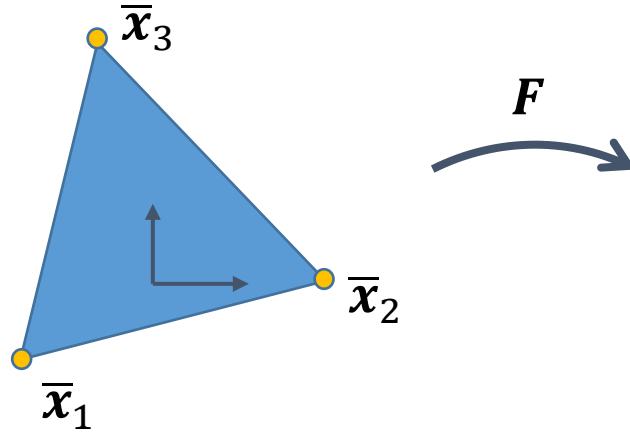


- $x_1 = (3, 0)$
- $x_2 = (4, 5)$
- $x_3 = (1, 2)$

$$\bullet \quad F = BA^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ 5 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 1 \\ 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ 5 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \frac{1}{15} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -1 \\ -1 & 4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.4 & -0.6 \\ 1.2 & 0.2 \end{bmatrix}$$

## 2D Example

- $\bar{x}_1 = (-2, -1)$
- $\bar{x}_2 = (2, 0)$
- $\bar{x}_3 = (-1, 3)$



- $x_1 = (3, 0)$
- $x_2 = (4, 5)$
- $x_3 = (1, 2)$

Alternative (general) way

- Compute basis functions  $N_i$
- Compute basis function derivatives  $\frac{\partial N_i}{\partial \bar{x}} = \nabla_{\bar{x}} N_i$
- Compute  $\mathbf{F}$  via  $F_{kl} = \sum_i x_{i,k} \nabla_{\bar{x}_l} N_i$

# Nodal Forces and Force Jacobian

- To solve static and dynamic equilibrium problems, we must compute nodal forces and the force Jacobian
- Sketch
  - Forces on nodes  $\mathbf{x}_i$  are negative gradients of energy,  $\mathbf{f}_i = -\frac{\partial W}{\partial \mathbf{x}_i}$
  - Total energy is sum of elemental energies,  $W = \sum_e W_e$
  - Per-element energy  $W_e$  depends nonlinearly on deformation gradient  $\mathbf{F}_e$
  - $\mathbf{F}_e$  depends linearly on  $\mathbf{x}_i$
  - Force Jacobian = - Energy Hessian

# Further Reading

## Textbooks

- Bonet and Wood, Nonlinear Continuum Mechanics
- Ogden, Nonlinear Elastic Deformations

## Articles & Tutorials

- Sifakis & Barbic: *FEM Simulation of 3D Deformable Solids: A practitioner's guide to theory, discretization and model reduction*. SIGGRAPH '12 course (<http://femdefo.org/>)
- Kim and Eberle: *Dynamic Deformables: Implementation and Production Practicalities*. SIGGRAPH '20 course ([http://www.tkim.graphics/DYNAMIC\\_DEFORMABLES/](http://www.tkim.graphics/DYNAMIC_DEFORMABLES/))