

# SUSTech - 25Fall - MAE5009 - Note

Yiyuan YING

Southern University of Science and Technology

*Update: October 17, 2025*

## 1 Stress Analysis

### 1.1 Stress State

- Normal Stress
- Shear Stress
- Stress Transformation

### 1.2 Equilibrium Equation of Stress

- Body Force: Gravitational Force, Magnetic Force, Inertial Force
- Surface Force: Friction Force, Pressure, Viscous Force(Fluid Flow)

$$Stress = \lim_{\Delta A \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta F}{\Delta A} \quad (1)$$

The equation means the force at the per unit surface area. The unit is Pascal( $Pa = N/m^2$ ).

Other common units:

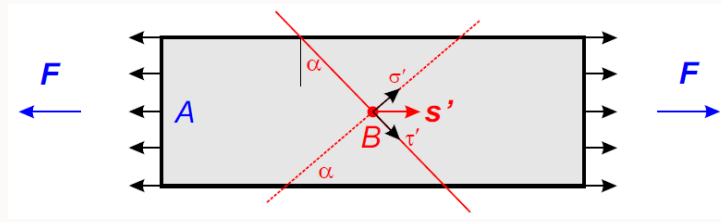
- $1atm \approx 10^5 Pa = 0.1MPa$
- $1bar \approx 0.98atm \approx 1atm = 0.1MPa$

Stress is a kind of tensor, different from **scalar** and **vector**.

- Scalar: only have magnitude, e.g. temperature, density;
- Vector: have both magnitude and direction, e.g. velocity, force;
- Tensor: magnitude and direction in multiple directions, e.g. stress, strain.

At a reference plane, the force  $F$  is vertically upward, the normal stress  $\sigma$  is perpendicular to the plane, while the shear stress  $\tau$  is parallel to the plane.

### 1.3 2D Stress

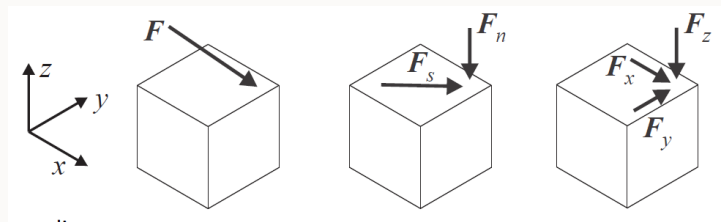


**Figure 1:** Stress components on a reference plane

For the circumstances shown in Figure 1, the normal stress and shear stress on the reference plane can be determined.

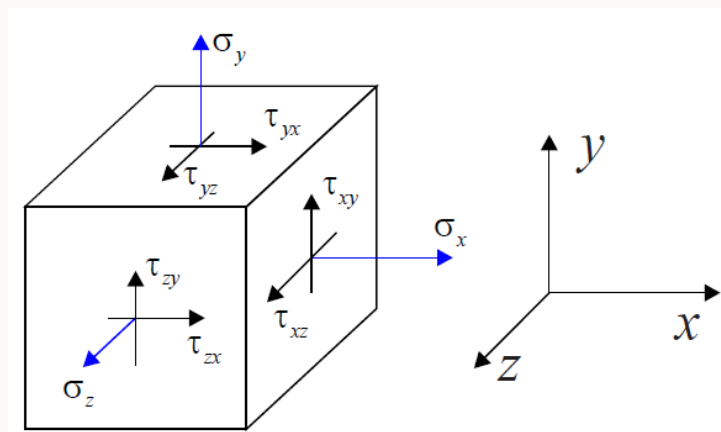
$$A' = \frac{A}{\sin \alpha}, S = \frac{F}{A'} = \frac{F}{A} \sin \alpha, \begin{cases} \tau = S \cdot \cos \alpha = \frac{F}{A} \sin \alpha \cos \alpha \\ \sigma = S \cdot \sin \alpha = \frac{F}{A} \sin^2 \alpha \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

### 1.4 3D Stress



**Figure 2:** Decomposition of an external force  $F$

As shown in Figure 2, the force  $F$  applied at an arbitrary angle to the x-y plane can be resolved into a normal component  $F_n$  and a shear component  $F_s$ . The shear component can be further decomposed into Cartesian components  $F_x$  and  $F_y$ .

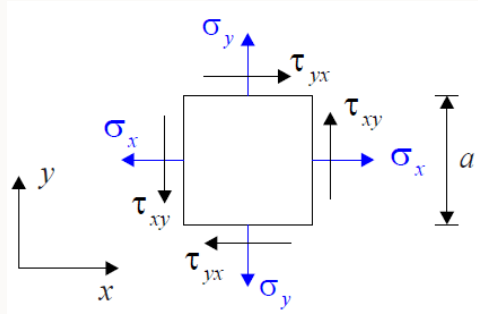


**Figure 3:** Three-Dimensional State of Stress

As shown in the Figure 3, in every face has three stress components, with 1 normal stress( $\sigma_x, \sigma_y, \sigma_z$ ) and 2 shear stresses( $\tau_{xy}, \tau_{xz}, \tau_{yx}, \tau_{yz}, \tau_{zx}, \tau_{zy}$ ). Thus the components of stress can be expressed in a matrix form:

$$[\sigma] = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_x & \tau_{xy} & \tau_{xz} \\ \tau_{yx} & \sigma_y & \tau_{yz} \\ \tau_{zx} & \tau_{zy} & \sigma_z \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

The sign convention is that normal stresses causing tension are positive, while those causing compression are negative. If we consider rotational equilibrium of the infinitesimal square shown as Figure 4, we can calculate the moment with respect to lower left corner:



**Figure 4:** Rotational Equilibrium of an Infinitesimal Element

$$\sigma_x \cdot a(a/2) - \sigma_x \cdot a(a/2) + \sigma_y \cdot a(a/2) - \sigma_y \cdot a(a/2) + \tau_{xy} \cdot a \cdot a - \tau_{yx} \cdot a \cdot a = 0 \quad (4)$$

Thus we have:

$$\tau_{xy} = \tau_{yx} \quad (5)$$

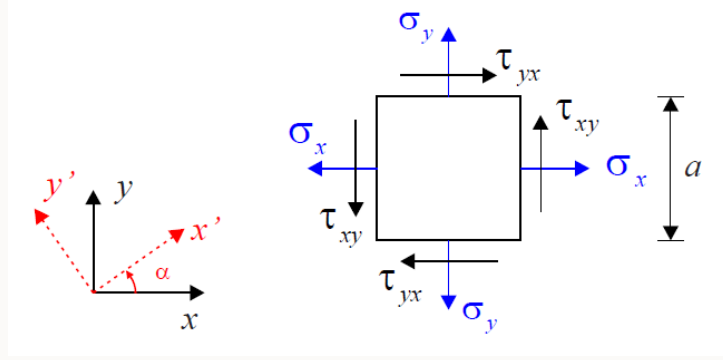
Similarly, we can have:

$$\tau_{yz} = \tau_{zy}, \tau_{zx} = \tau_{xz} \quad (6)$$

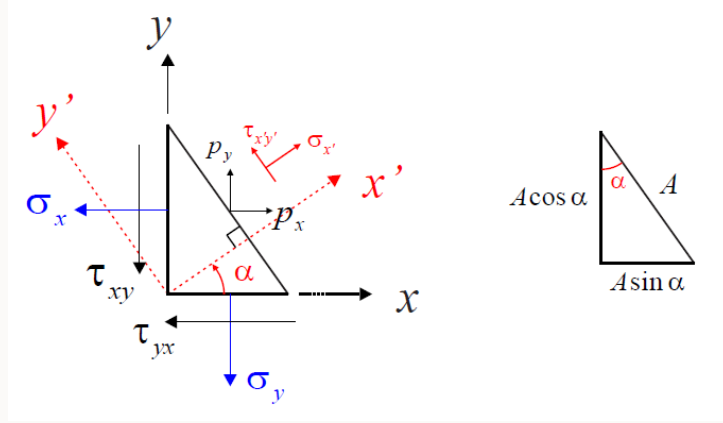
Which means, the stress matrix is symmetric, and there are 3 normal stresses and 3 shear stresses, totally 6 independent stress components in 3D stress state.

$$[\sigma] = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_x & \tau_{xy} & \tau_{xz} \\ & \sigma_y & \tau_{yz} \\ Sym. & & \sigma_z \end{bmatrix} \quad (7)$$

## 1.5 2D Stress Transformation



**Figure 5:** Stress Transformation on an Arbitrary Plane



**Figure 6:** Stress Components on an Inclined Plane in 2D Stress State

After the transformation shown in Figure 5, the new stress components are shown in Figure 6. The stress transformation equations may be derived based on force equilibrium analysis:

$$\sum F_x = 0 \Rightarrow p_x = \sigma_x \cos \alpha + \tau_{yx} \sin \alpha \quad (8)$$

$$\sum F_y = 0 \Rightarrow p_y = \sigma_y \sin \alpha + \tau_{xy} \cos \alpha \quad (9)$$

Thus we have:

$$\begin{cases} \sigma_{x'} = \frac{\sigma_x + \sigma_y}{2} + \frac{\sigma_x - \sigma_y}{2} \cos 2\alpha + \tau_{xy} \sin 2\alpha \\ \sigma_{y'} = \frac{\sigma_x + \sigma_y}{2} - \frac{\sigma_x - \sigma_y}{2} \cos 2\alpha - \tau_{xy} \sin 2\alpha \\ \tau_{x'y'} = -\frac{\sigma_x - \sigma_y}{2} \sin 2\alpha + \tau_{xy} \cos 2\alpha \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

In 2D circumstances,  $\sigma'$  can be calculated by  $\sigma' = \mathbf{R}\sigma\mathbf{R}^T$ , in which:

$$\sigma = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_x & \tau_{yx} \\ \tau_{xy} & \sigma_y \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{R} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \alpha & \sin \alpha \\ -\sin \alpha & -\cos \alpha \end{bmatrix}, \sigma' = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma'_x & \tau'_{yx} \\ \tau'_{xy} & \sigma'_y \end{bmatrix} \quad (11)$$

Also, the rotation angle  $\alpha$  (principle directions) can be calculated by:

$$\tan 2\alpha = \frac{2\tau_{xy}}{\sigma_x - \sigma_y} (\alpha \in [0, \pi]) \quad (12)$$

$$\sin 2\alpha = \pm \frac{2\tau_{xy}}{\sqrt{4\tau_{xy}^2 + (\sigma_x - \sigma_y)^2}}, \quad \cos 2\alpha = \frac{\sigma_x - \sigma_y}{\sqrt{4\tau_{xy}^2 + (\sigma_x - \sigma_y)^2}} \quad (13)$$

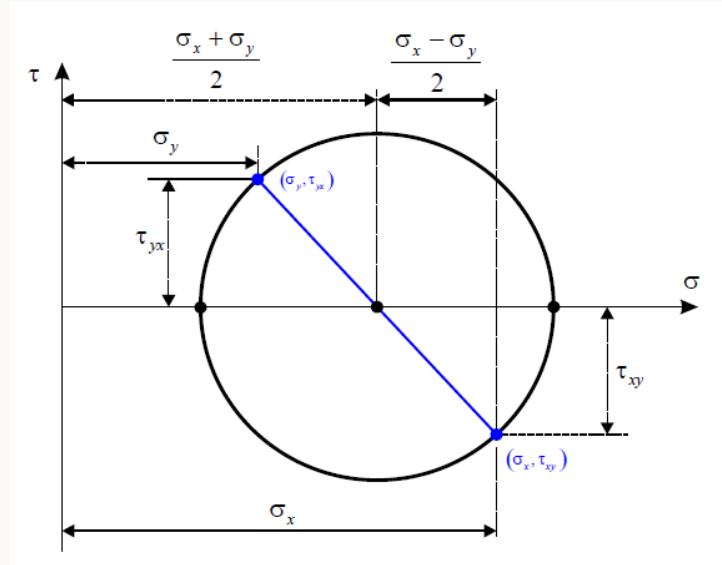
The principle stress can be calculated by:

$$\sigma_1 = \frac{\sigma_x + \sigma_y}{2} + \sqrt{\left(\frac{\sigma_x - \sigma_y}{2}\right)^2 + \tau_{xy}^2} \quad (14)$$

$$\sigma_2 = \frac{\sigma_x + \sigma_y}{2} - \sqrt{\left(\frac{\sigma_x - \sigma_y}{2}\right)^2 + \tau_{xy}^2} \quad (15)$$

$$\tau_{x'y'max} = \pm \sqrt{\left(\frac{\sigma_x - \sigma_y}{2}\right)^2 + \tau_{xy}^2} \quad (16)$$

## 1.6 Mohr's circle of stress

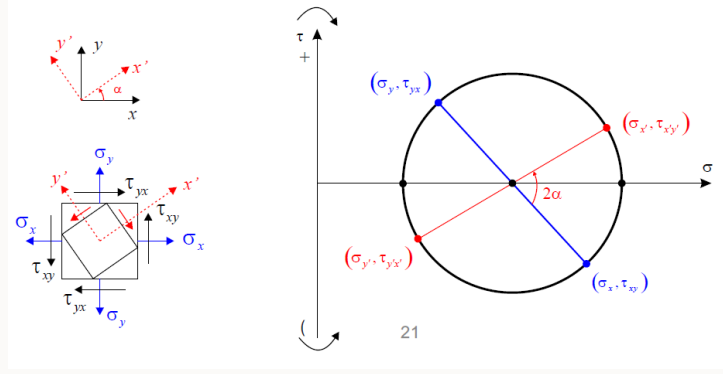


**Figure 7:** Mohr's Circle of Stress

As shown in the Figure 7, 2D stress transformation can also be conveniently represented graphically in a circle. And from Equation 10, we can calculate that the equation of the circle is

$$\left(\sigma - \frac{\sigma_x + \sigma_y}{2}\right)^2 + \tau^2 = \left(\frac{\sigma_x - \sigma_y}{2}\right)^2 + \tau_{xy}^2 \quad (17)$$

From the Equation 17 we can get the center is  $\left(\frac{\sigma_x + \sigma_y}{2}, 0\right)$  and the radius is  $R = \sqrt{\left(\frac{\sigma_x - \sigma_y}{2}\right)^2 + \tau_{xy}^2}$ .



**Figure 8:** Rotation in the Mohr's Circle of Stress

After rotating the x-y axis as shown in the Figure 8, the stress would be:

$$\begin{cases} \sigma'_x = \frac{\sigma_1 + \sigma_2}{2} + \frac{\sigma_1 - \sigma_2}{2} \cos 2\alpha \\ \sigma'_y = \frac{\sigma_1 + \sigma_2}{2} - \frac{\sigma_1 - \sigma_2}{2} \cos 2\alpha \\ \tau_{x'y'} = -\frac{\sigma_1 - \sigma_2}{2} \sin 2\alpha \end{cases} \quad (18)$$

## 1.7 3D stress transformation

Same to 2D stress transformation, the 3D stress transformation can also be expressed in matrix form:

$$\sigma' = \mathbf{R}\sigma\mathbf{R}^T \quad (19)$$

where

$$\mathbf{R} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(x', x) & \cos(x', y) & \cos(x', z) \\ \cos(y', x) & \cos(y', y) & \cos(y', z) \\ \cos(z', x) & \cos(z', y) & \cos(z', z) \end{bmatrix} \quad (20)$$

which means the direction cosines between the old and new coordinate axes. And in each columns and rows of matrix  $\mathbf{R}$ , we have:

$$a_{1i}^2 + a_{2i}^2 + a_{3i}^2 = 1, \quad i = 1, 2, 3 \quad (21)$$

$$a_{i1}^2 + a_{i2}^2 + a_{i3}^2 = 1, \quad i = 1, 2, 3 \quad (22)$$

## 1.8 3D principal stress

For symmetric matrix  $\mathbf{A}$ , its eigenvalue and eigenvector satisfy:

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v} = \lambda\mathbf{v} \quad (23)$$

$$(\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I})\mathbf{v} = 0 \quad (24)$$

As the equation has non-zero  $\mathbf{v}$  if and only if:

$$|\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I}| = 0 \quad (25)$$

Then we have the **Characteristic Equation** for the principle stress(in Equation 23 - Equation 25, the matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  can be replaced by stress matrix  $[\sigma]$ ):

$$\det(\sigma - \lambda \mathbf{I}) = 0 \quad (26)$$

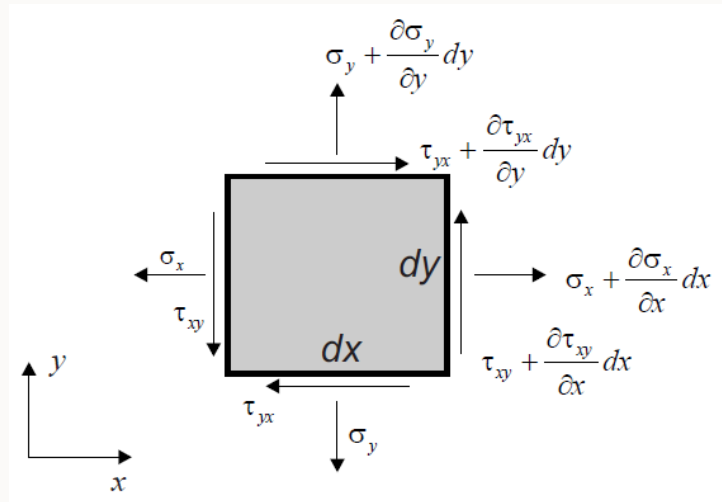
Expand the determinant, we have:

$$\lambda^3 - I_1 \lambda^2 + I_2 \lambda - I_3 = 0 \quad (27)$$

The invariants  $I_1, I_2, I_3$  are **Stress Invariants**, which means they are independent of the coordinate system:

$$\begin{cases} I_1 = \sigma_x + \sigma_y + \sigma_z = \sigma_1 + \sigma_2 + \sigma_3 \\ I_2 = \sigma_x \sigma_y + \sigma_y \sigma_z + \sigma_z \sigma_x - \tau_{xy}^2 - \tau_{yz}^2 - \tau_{zx}^2 = \sigma_1 \sigma_2 + \sigma_2 \sigma_3 + \sigma_3 \sigma_1 \\ I_3 = \sigma_x \sigma_y \sigma_z + 2\tau_{xy} \tau_{yz} \tau_{zx} - \sigma_x \tau_{yz}^2 - \sigma_y \tau_{zx}^2 - \sigma_z \tau_{xy}^2 = \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \sigma_3 \end{cases} \quad (28)$$

## 1.9 Differential equation of equilibrium



**Figure 9:** Differential Element under Stress and Body Force

For the force balance  $\sum F = 0$  in the circumstances shown in Figure 9, we have:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial \sigma_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \tau_{yx}}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial \tau_{zx}}{\partial z} + f_x = 0 \\ \frac{\partial \tau_{xy}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \sigma_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial \tau_{zy}}{\partial z} + f_y = 0 \\ \frac{\partial \tau_{xz}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \tau_{yz}}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial \sigma_z}{\partial z} + f_z = 0 \end{cases} \quad (29)$$

Which can be expressed like:

$$\nabla \cdot \sigma + f = 0 \quad (30)$$

In the Equation 29 and Equation 30,  $f$  is the body force intensities(per unit volume), e.g. gravitational force, magnetic force, inertial force.

And when the body has acceleration, the Equation 30 can be expressed as:

$$\nabla \cdot \sigma + f = \rho \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} \quad (31)$$

And for the torque balance  $\sum M = 0$  in the circumstances shown in Figure 9, we have:

$$\tau_{xy} = \tau_{yx}, \tau_{yz} = \tau_{zy}, \tau_{zx} = \tau_{xz} \quad (32)$$

From the Equation 29, there are 6 independent unknowns in total, while only 3 equations. Thus additional equations are needed to complete the solutions of the stress distribution in a body. For example, Strain-displacement, Generalized Hooke's Law, etc.

## 2 Strain Analysis