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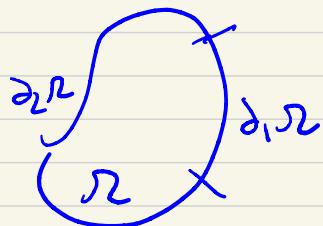
When solving for stress potential, you are solving for compatibility

★ Stress from Any stress potential automatically satisfy conservations, but not necessarily compatibility

★ Traditional Boundary value problem approach }  
 ↳ Solve pde for conservations

The stresses  
might not  
be real

### Principle of minimum potential energy



Given a body  $\Omega$ , body forces  $\underline{f}$ , and boundary conditions:

$$\begin{aligned}\underline{u} &= \underline{u}^* \text{ on } \partial_1 \Omega \\ \underline{t} &= \underline{t}^* \text{ on } \partial_2 \Omega\end{aligned}$$

We can find the solution to the BVP in elastostatics by minimizing the functional

$$I(\underline{u}) = W - E$$

over all displacements  $\underline{u}$  that satisfy  $\underline{u} = \underline{u}^*$  on  $\partial_1 \Omega$

•  $\Pi = \Pi(\underline{u}) \equiv$  potential energy of the linear elastic solid  
(scalar)

$$\bullet W = W(\underline{u}) = \int_{\Omega} \frac{1}{2} \underbrace{\nabla \underline{u} : \underline{\underline{c}} : \nabla \underline{u}}_{\text{strain energy}} dV$$

Analogous to

$$\frac{1}{2} k (\Delta X)^2$$

(Spring potential energy)

$$\bullet E = E(\underline{u}) = \int_{\Omega} \underbrace{b \cdot \underline{u}}_{p \text{ misde } b} dV + \int_{\partial \Omega} \underline{t}^* \cdot \underline{u} dA$$

$\equiv$  work done by forces  $b$  and  $t^*$

In summary,

$$\underset{\underline{u}}{\text{Min}} \quad \Pi(\underline{u}) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} \nabla \underline{u} : \underline{\underline{c}} : \nabla \underline{u} dV - \int_{\Omega} b \cdot \underline{u} dV - \int_{\partial \Omega} \underline{t}^* \cdot \underline{u} dA$$

$$\underline{u} = \underline{u}^* \text{ on } \partial_1 \Omega \quad \underline{u} = \underline{u}^* \text{ on } \partial_2 \Omega$$

$\Leftrightarrow$  BVP in  
elastostatics

(Find displacement field that minimizes...)

(BVPE: Boundary Value  
problem in Elastostatics)

Remarks: (Elastostatics only)

- \* The principle of minimum potential energy (PMPE) provides an alternative problem formulation to BVPE. (equivalent to)
- \* PMPE is a variational or weak formulation, BVPE is a differential or strong formulation
- \* The strong formulation contains derivatives of stress, which translate into second derivatives of displacements
- \* The weak formulation contains only first derivatives of displacements, and it is the starting step towards the 'finite element method'.

Idea of proof: Let  $\tilde{u}$  be a solution for the BVPE. Then, we'd like to show that for any  $u$  that satisfies  $u = \tilde{u}$  on  $\partial\Omega$ , we have  $\Pi(u) - \Pi(\tilde{u}) \geq 0$ , with equality only for  $u = \tilde{u}$

The minimization problem is finding  
a function  $u$  that minimizes the  
functional  $\Pi$

Notes:

- The minimization of the functional  $\Pi(u)$  must be carried out over all functions  $u$  over the domain  $\Omega$ .
- The necessary tools for performing such operations are provided by a branch of math called "Calculus of variations".
- Within the framework of variational calculus, it is minimum if and only if it is stationary, which means its variation is zero.

we write  $\delta\Pi = 0$

- Some properties of variations:

$$\delta \left( \frac{\partial^n v}{\partial x^n} \right) = \frac{d^n \delta v}{dx^n}$$

$$\delta \int v(x) dx = \int \delta v dx$$

$$v = v(x_1, \dots, x_n) \Rightarrow \delta v = \frac{\partial v}{\partial x_1} \delta x_1 + \dots +$$

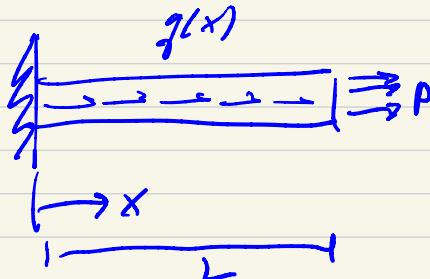
$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial x_n} \delta x_n$$

$$\delta(v+w) = \delta v + \delta w$$

$$\delta(v \cdot w) = \delta v \cdot w + v \cdot \delta w$$

$$\delta(v^n) = n v^{n-1} \delta v$$

## Example: Uniaxial bar



(Linear elastic material with Young's modulus  $E$ , cross-sectional area  $A$ , Body force  $g(x)$ )

- Solution:
- Find  $\Pi$
  - Find  $\delta \Pi = 0 \Rightarrow u(x)$

$$\Pi = \frac{AE}{2} \int_0^L \left( \frac{\partial u_1}{\partial x} \right)^2 dx - A \int_0^L g(x) u_1 dx$$

-  $A P u_1 \Big|_{x=L}$

- Now, we know the solution is given by

$$\delta \Pi = 0$$

- Applying rules of variation, we get

$$\int_0^L \left[ E \frac{\partial^2 u_1}{\partial x^2} + g(x) \delta u_1 \right] dx = 0 \quad \begin{cases} \delta u_1 \text{ is arbitrary.} \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{implies } \underbrace{E \frac{\partial^2 u_1}{\partial x^2} + g(x)}_{=0}$$

(Ends up w/ the strong formulation)

$$\Rightarrow E \frac{\partial u_1}{\partial x} = p \quad (\text{also recovered the BCs})$$