

# Elasticipy: A Python package for linear elasticity and tensor analysis

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## Summary

Elasticipy is a Python library designed to streamline computation and manipulation of elasticity tensors for materials and crystalline materials, taking their specific symmetries into account. It provides tools to manipulate, visualize, and analyze tensors –such as stress, strain and stiffness tensors– simplifying workflows for materials scientists and engineers.

## Statement of Need

In continuum mechanics, the deformation of a material is described by the second-order strain tensor (usually denoted  $\epsilon$ ) whereas the stress is described by the second-order Cauchy's stress tensor ( $\sigma$ ). Under the linear elasticity assumption, the relationship between the elastic strain  $\epsilon$  and  $\sigma$ , known as the generalized Hooke's law, is given through the fourth-order stiffness tensor  $C$  with:

$$\sigma = C : \epsilon$$

where ":" denotes the tensor product contracted twice, so that:

$$\sigma_{ij} = C_{ijkl}\epsilon_{kl}$$

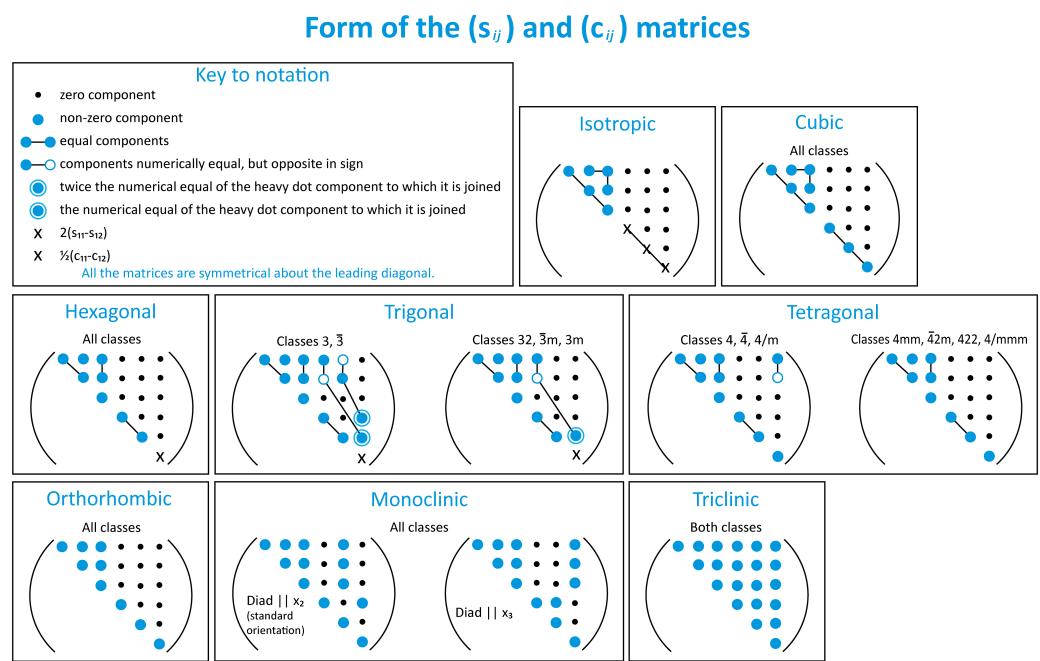
In order to simplify the above equations, one usually uses the so-called Voigt notation, which reads:

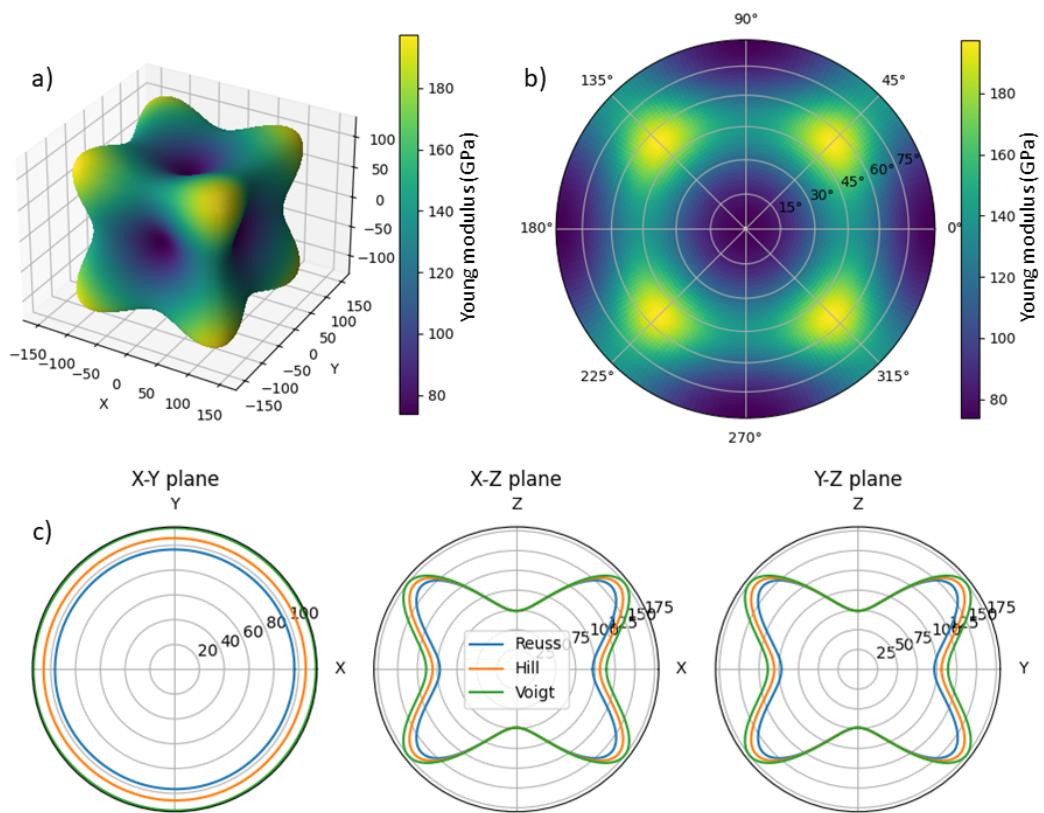
$$\begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{11} \\ \sigma_{22} \\ \sigma_{33} \\ \sigma_{23} \\ \sigma_{13} \\ \sigma_{12} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} C_{1111} & C_{1122} & C_{1133} & C_{1123} & C_{1113} & C_{1112} \\ & C_{2222} & C_{2233} & C_{2213} & C_{2212} & \\ & & C_{3333} & C_{3323} & C_{3313} & C_{3312} \\ & & & C_{2323} & C_{2313} & C_{2312} \\ & & & & C_{1313} & C_{1312} \\ & & & & & C_{1212} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_{11} \\ \epsilon_{22} \\ \epsilon_{33} \\ 2\epsilon_{23} \\ 2\epsilon_{13} \\ 2\epsilon_{12} \end{bmatrix}$$

sym.

The values of  $C$  depend on the material, whereas its pattern (set of zero-components, or linear relationships between them) depends on the material's symmetry ([Nye, 1985](#)), as outlined in [Figure 1](#).

Pymatgen ([Ong et al., 2013](#)) provides some built-in functions to work on strain, stress and elasticity but lacks some functionalities about the tensor analysis. Conversely, Elate ([Gaillac et al., 2016](#)) is a project dedicated to analysis of stiffness and compliance tensors (e.g. plotting directional engineering constants, such as Young modulus). It is implemented in the Materials Project ([Jain et al., 2013](#)). AnisoVis ([Healy et al., 2020](#)) is similar to Elate, but works on MATLAB®.





**Figure 2:** Young modulus (GPa) of Cu single crystal as a 3D surface (a) or a pole figure (b); Young modulus of Cu polycrystal with [001] fiber texture, plotted in three orthogonal sections, depending on the averaging method (c).

Elasticipy also introduces the concept of *tensor arrays*, in a similar way as in MTEX (Mainprice et al., 2011), allowing to process several tensors at once with simple and highly efficient commands. In order to highlight the performances of Elasticipy, Figure 3 shows the wall-time required to perform two basic operations on tensors (namely, apply the generalized Hooke's law and compute the von Mises equivalent stress) as functions of the number of considered tensors. This demonstrates that, when processing large datasets of tensors ( $n > 10^3$ ), basic tensor operations are 1 to 2 orders of magnitude faster in Elasticipy compared to Pymatgen. These performance gains are achieved by leveraging NumPy's array broadcasting capabilities (Harris et al., 2020). However, as tensor algebra is not the primary focus of Pymatgen, Elasticipy is designed to complement rather than replace it. Elasticipy supports seamless conversion between its own data structures and those of Pymatgen, allowing users to integrate both tools and benefit from Pymatgen's extensive features beyond tensor analysis. Elasticipy is also compatible with Orix (Johnstone et al., 2020), a Python library for analysing orientations and crystal symmetry.

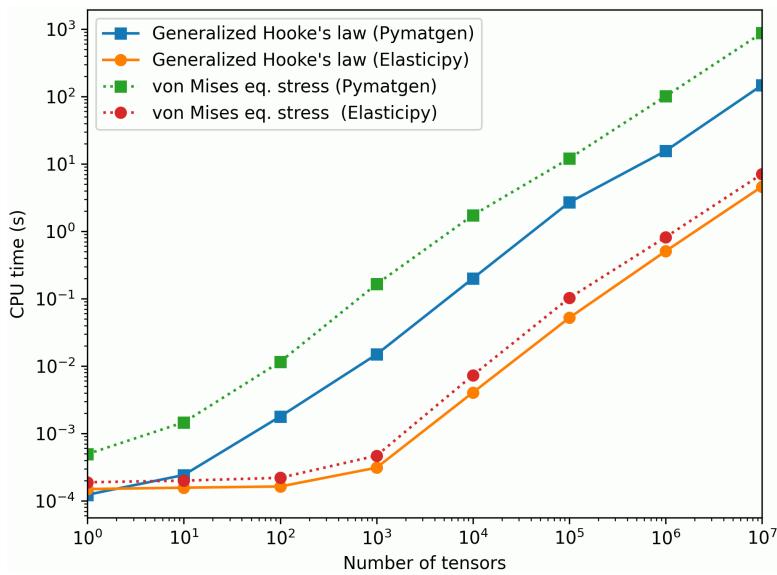


Figure 3: Performance comparison between Elasticipy and pymatgen.

## Possible extensions

It is worth mentioning that Elasticipy provides a full framework for working on tensors, allowing to extend the analyses to other averaging methods (e.g. self-consistent models), possibly beyond linear elasticity problems (e.g. plasticity) with ease. It already implements thermal expansion.

## Usage

This section presents the syntaxes of few basic operations performed with Elasticipy v4.0.0.

### Plot directional engineering constants

Figure 2.a) and b) were rendered with the following syntax:

```
from Elasticipy.tensors.elasticity import StiffnessTensor
C = StiffnessTensor.cubic(C11=186, C12=134, C44=77)
E = C.Young_modulus
fig, _ = E.plot3D(n_phi=500, n_theta=500)
fig.show()
fig, _ = E.plot_as_pole_figure()
fig.show()
```

### Create an array of rotated stiffness tensors and compute average

When considering a finite set of orientations, an array of stiffness tensors can be built to account for the rotations:

```
from scipy.spatial.transform import Rotation
import numpy as np
n = 10000
phi1 = np.random.random(n)*2*np.pi # Random sampling from 0 to 2pi
Euler_angles = np.array([phi1, np.zeros(n), np.zeros(n)]).T # Fibre texture
```

```
rotations = Rotation.from_euler('ZXZ', Euler_angles) # Bunge-Euler angles
C_rotated = C * rotations # n-length tensor array
```

Then, the Voigt–Reuss–Hill average (Hill, 1952) can be computed from the tensor array:

```
C_VRH = C_rotated.Hill_average()
```

Finally, the corresponding Young moduli can be plotted in orthogonal sections, as shown in Figure 2.c), with:

```
fig, ax = C_VRH.Young_modulus.plot_xyz_sections()
fig.show()
```

### Arrays of stress/strain tensor

Efforts have been made to provide out-of-the-box simple syntaxes for common operations. For example, the following will create a tensor array corresponding to evenly-spaced strain along [1, 0, 0] axis:

```
from Elasticipy.tensors.stress_strain import StrainTensor
m = 1000 # length of tensor array
mag = np.linspace(0, 0.1, m) # Strain magnitude
strain = StrainTensor.tensile([1, 0, 0], mag)
```

Given the stiffness tensor C (see above), one can compute the corresponding stress array with:

```
stress = C * strain
```

Finally, stress.vonMises() returns an array of length m and data type float64, providing all the corresponding von Mises equivalent stresses.

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