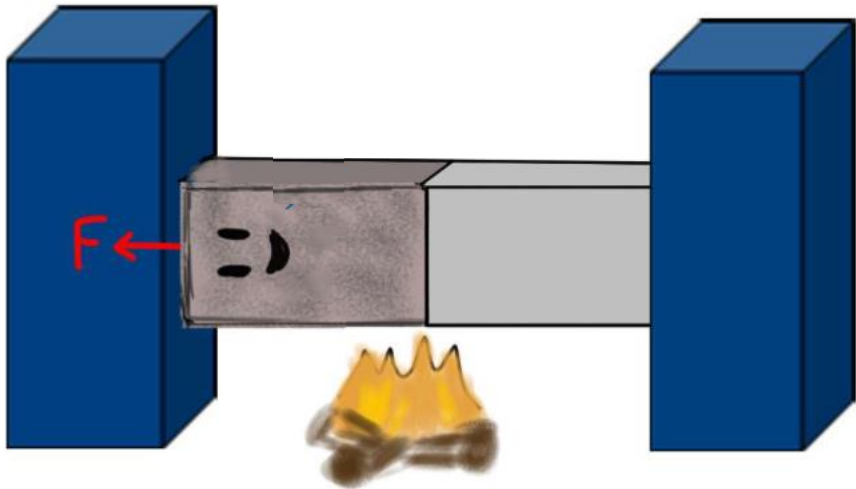
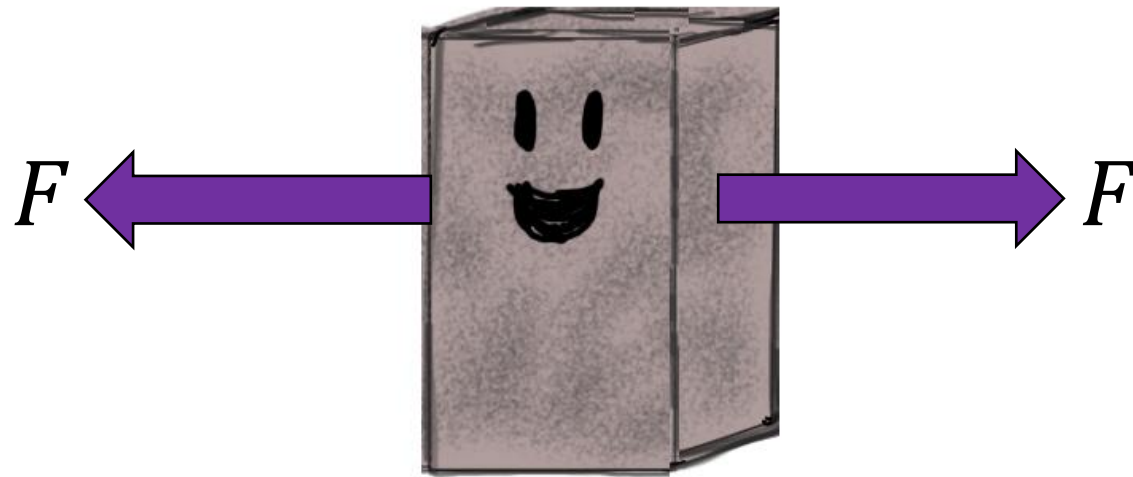


Lecture 7.  
Thermal expansion &  
Mechanical compression



# Last time:



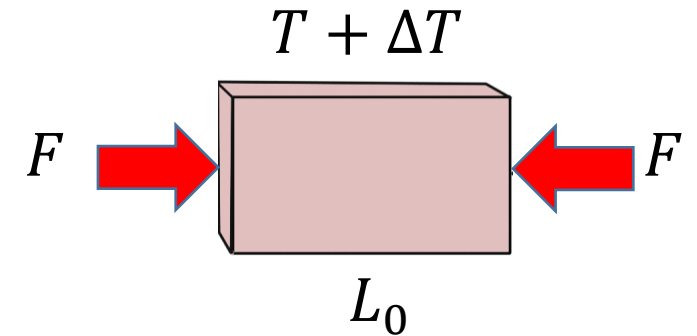
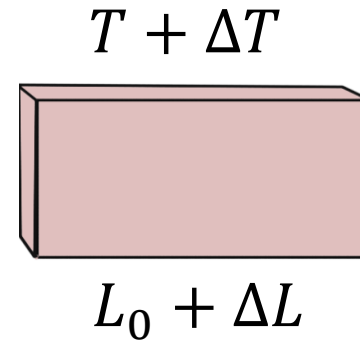
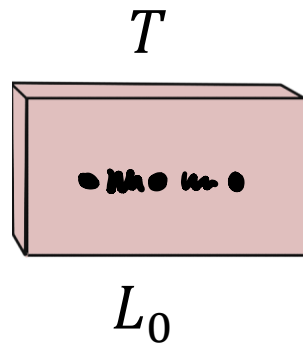
$$\frac{F}{A} = Y \frac{\Delta L}{L_0}$$



$$\Delta L = \alpha L_0 \Delta T$$

Q: A steel rod of length  $L_0$  is heated by temperature  $\Delta T$ . How would you determine how much stress (force per unit area) is required to compress the rod back to its original length?

- A.  $Y \alpha L_0 \Delta T$
- ☒ B.  $Y \alpha \Delta T$
- C.  $Y L_0 \Delta T$
- D.  $\alpha L_0 \Delta T$
- E.  $Y \alpha L_0$



$$\Delta L_T = \alpha L_0 \Delta T$$

Thermal expansion

$$\left( \frac{F}{A} \right) = Y \frac{\Delta L}{L_0}$$

Stress vs strain

$$|\Delta L_F| = |\Delta L_T|$$

$$\frac{F}{A} = Y \frac{\Delta L_T}{L_0}$$

Q: A steel rod of length  $L_0$  is heated by temperature  $\Delta T$ . How would you determine how much stress (force per unit area) is required to compress the rod back to its original length?

A.  $Y \alpha L_0 \Delta T$

B.  $Y \alpha \Delta T$  

C.  $Y L_0 \Delta T$

D.  $\alpha L_0 \Delta T$

E.  $Y \alpha L_0$

Total change in length is the sum of the change due to temperature and the change due to applied stress:

$$\Delta L = \Delta L_{\text{thermal}} + \Delta L_{\text{stress}}$$

Change in length under heating is:

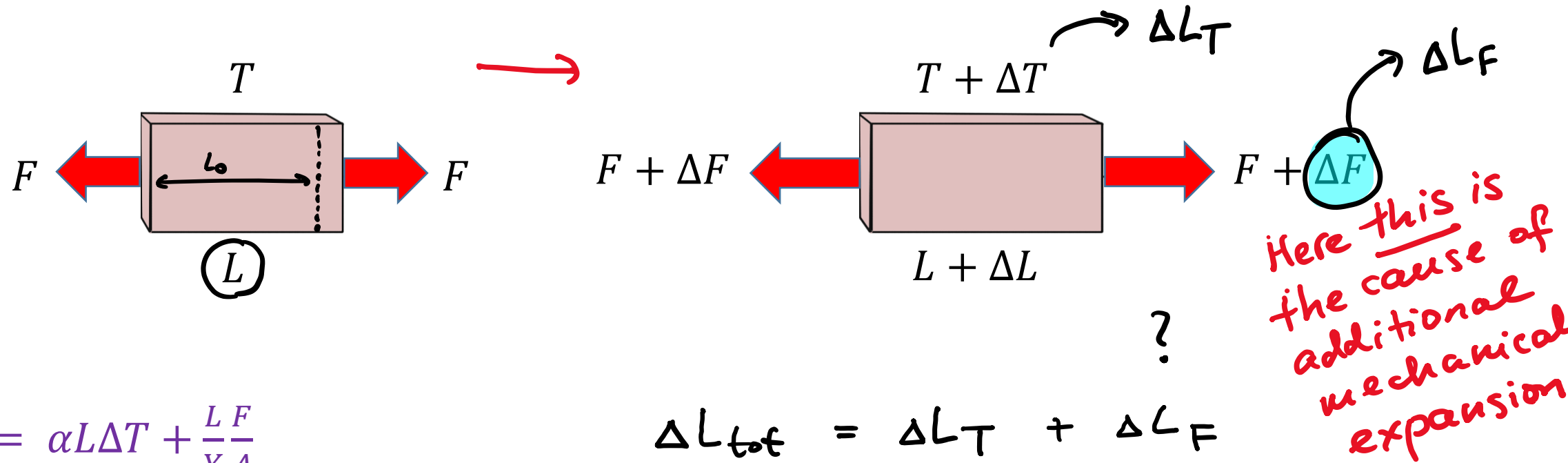
$$\Delta L_{\text{thermal}} = \alpha L_0 \Delta T$$

To reverse this change, need an equal but opposite amount of change in length due to the applied stress:

$$\Delta L_{\text{stress}} = \frac{F}{A} \frac{L_0}{Y} = -\Delta L_{\text{thermal}} = -\alpha L_0 \Delta T$$

- Magnitude:  $|F/A| = Y \alpha \Delta T$
- Direction: compression (inwards)

Q: A copper wire under a tension force of  $F$  and at temperature  $T$  initially has a length  $L$ . If we heat up the wire by  $\Delta T$  and also change the tension force by  $\Delta F$ , how would you determine how much the length of the wire changes (total expansion)?



A.  $\Delta L = \alpha L \Delta T + \frac{L F}{Y A}$

B.  $\Delta L = \alpha L \Delta T + \frac{L \Delta F}{Y A}$

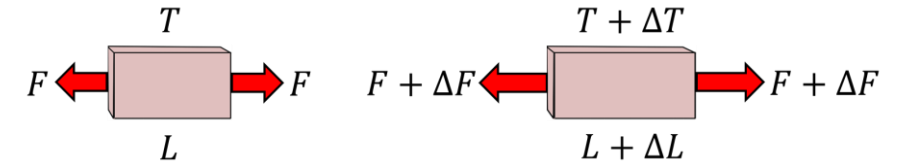
C.  $\Delta L = \alpha L \Delta T + \frac{L (F + \Delta F)}{Y A}$

D. Something else

$$\Delta L_{\text{tot}} = \Delta L_T + \Delta L_F$$

effect  $\left( \frac{F}{A} \right) = Y \left( \frac{\Delta L}{L_0} \right)$   $L_0 \rightarrow L_0 + \Delta L$   
 cause

Q: A copper wire under a tension force of  $F$  and at temperature  $T$  initially has a length  $L$ . If we heat up the wire by  $\Delta T$  and also change the tension force by  $\Delta F$ , how would you determine how much the length of the wire changes (total expansion)?

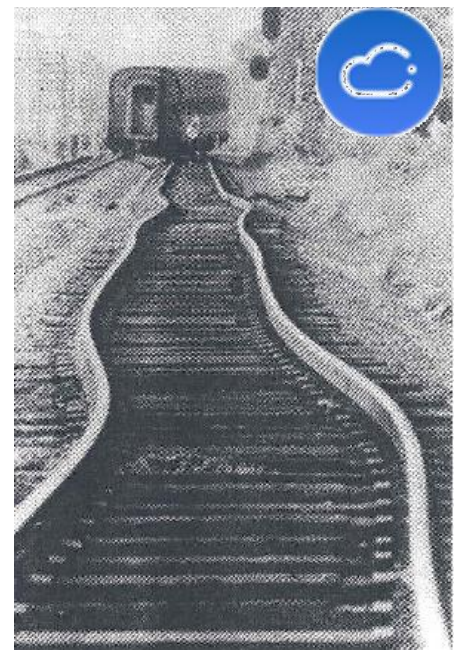


- Treat the change in length from thermal expansion and the change in length from the force increase separately.
- Total change in length is the sum of the change due to temperature and the change due to applied stress:  $\Delta L = \Delta L_T + \Delta L_F$
- Change in length under heating is:  $\Delta L_T = \alpha L \Delta T$
- Change in length due to applied stress:  $\frac{\Delta F}{A} = Y \frac{\Delta L_F}{L} \Rightarrow \Delta L_F = \frac{\Delta F}{A} \frac{L}{Y}$
- Total expansion:  $\Delta L = \Delta L_T + \Delta L_F = \alpha L \Delta T + \frac{L}{Y} \frac{\Delta F}{A}$ 
  - Note that  $\Delta L_F$  is due to  $\Delta F$ , not  $F + \Delta F$  (since it is  $\Delta F$  that causes this change)!

10 m long steel train rails are laid end to end on a winter day (0 °C). If the engineer forgot to leave gaps for thermal expansion, roughly how much force is generated at the ends of each rail due to thermal stress when the temperature reaches 30 °C?

- A. 700 N
- B. 7,000 N
- C. 70,000 N
- D. 700,000 N
- E. 7,000,000 N

- Cross-sectional area of the rail:  $0.01 \text{ m}^2$
- $Y_{\text{steel}} = 20 \times 10^{10} \text{ Pa}$
- $\alpha_{\text{steel}} = 1.2 \times 10^{-5} \text{ K}^{-1}$



**Extra:** How much gap should have been left?

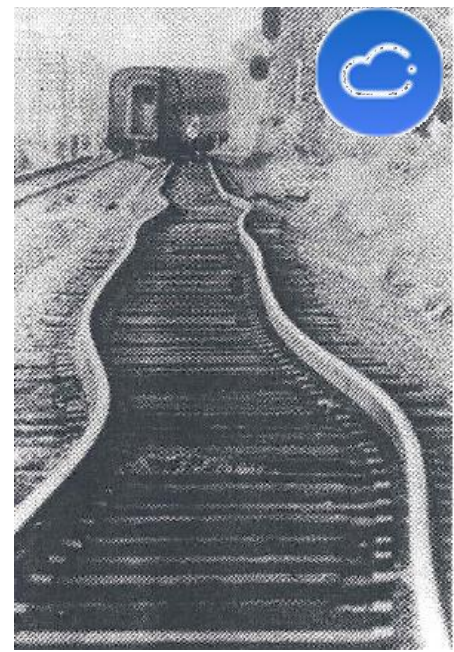
$$\Delta L_F = \frac{\Delta F}{A} \frac{L}{Y}$$

$$\Delta L_T = \alpha L \Delta T$$

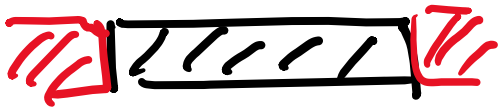
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- $\alpha_{\text{steel}} = 1.2 \times 10^{-5} \text{ K}^{-1}$



$$\Delta L_T = \alpha L_0 \Delta T \approx 3.6 \text{ mm} = \Delta L$$



$$\Delta F = A Y \frac{\Delta L}{L} = (10^{-2}) \times 20 \cdot 10^{10} \times \frac{3.6 \cdot 10^{-3}}{10} = 7.2 \times 10^5 \text{ N}$$

~ 70 tons of weight!!

Extra: How much gap should have been left?

$$\Delta L_F = \frac{\Delta F}{A} \frac{L}{Y}$$

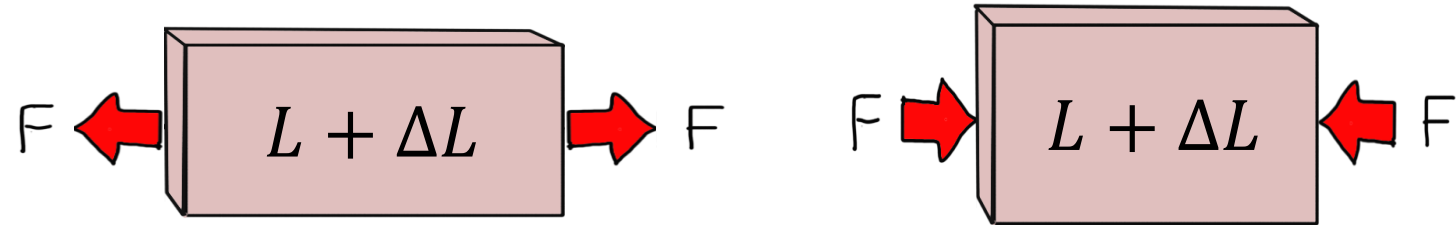
$$\Delta L_T = \alpha L \Delta T$$



## Handling signs of $F$ and $\Delta L$

- Strain:

$$\Delta L_{\text{F}} = \frac{F L}{A Y}$$



Two alternative approaches for handling signs of  $F$  and  $\Delta L$ :

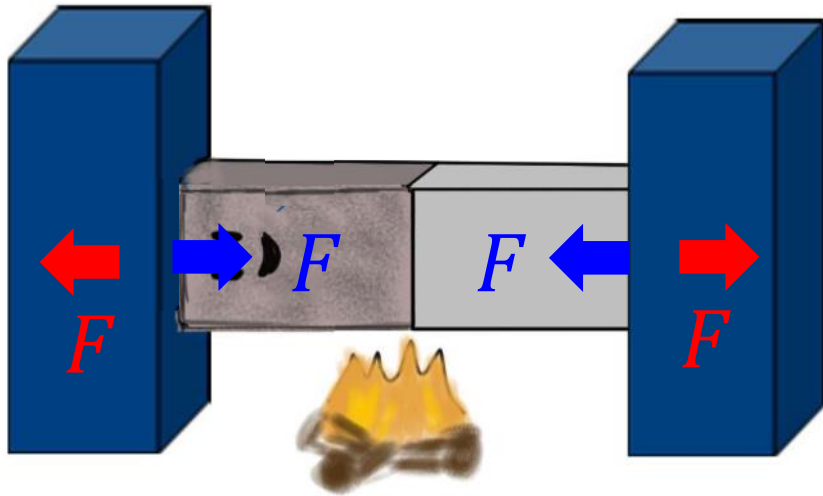
- Take tensile forces as positive, compressive forces as negative, and use  $\Delta L = \frac{F L}{A Y}$ , OR
- Take all forces as positive (regardless of direction) and use  $\Delta L = -\frac{F L}{A Y}$  for compressive forces and  $\Delta L = \frac{F L}{A Y}$  for tensile forces

- Thermal expansion:

$$\Delta L_{\text{T}} = \alpha L \Delta T$$

- Increasing temperature gives positive  $\Delta L$ , decreasing temperature gives negative  $\Delta L$

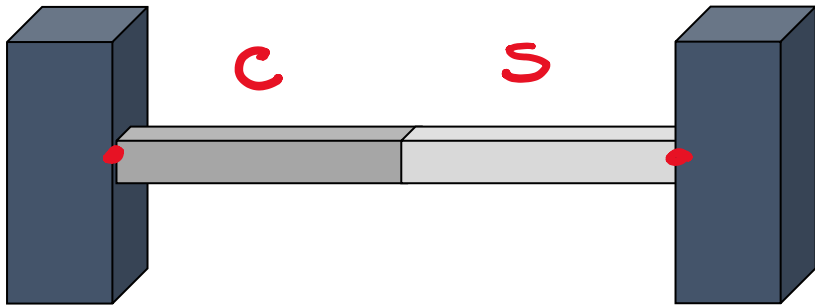
## Heating a restricted object



- An object is sitting between two rigid walls
- You start heating the object; it expands (thermal expansion)
- It starts pressing on the walls (exerts forces  $\vec{F}$ )
- The walls act back on the object and exert on it forces,  $\vec{F}$ , equal in magnitude and opposite in direction (Newton's 3<sup>rd</sup> law)

A compound bar consisting of a copper rod with a length of 1 m and cross-section area of  $2.00 \text{ cm}^2$  placed end to end with a steel rod with length 1 m and cross-sectional area  $2.00 \text{ cm}^2$ . The compound rod is placed between two rigid walls. Initially there is no stress in the bars at room temperature  $20^\circ\text{C}$ .

Find the force on each wall at  $40^\circ\text{C}$ . Solving strategy (might vary, so be creative!):



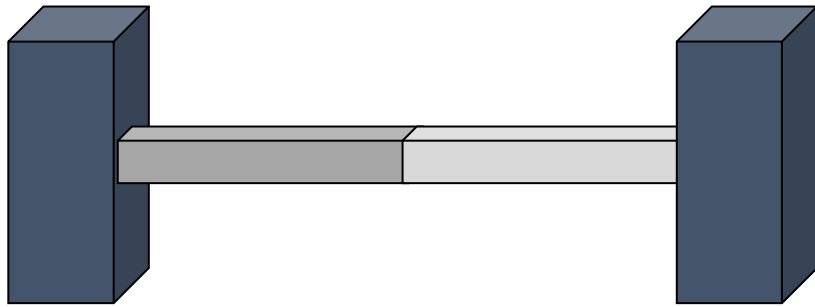
- Identify your system & sub-systems
- Visualize: draw a picture for your system and for each part of your system (each sub-system). If you want to describe changes, “before” and “after” pictures might be especially useful
- Introduce notations, identify relevant equations
- Write down relationships between variables within each system / sub-system, and the relationships connecting different parts of your systems

A harder problem



A compound bar consisting of a copper rod with a length of 1 m and cross-section area of  $2.00 \text{ cm}^2$  placed end to end with a steel rod with length 1 m and cross-sectional area  $2.00 \text{ cm}^2$ . The compound rod is placed between two rigid walls. Initially there is no stress in the bars at room temperature  $20^\circ \text{ C}$ .

As the system is heated, we expect that:

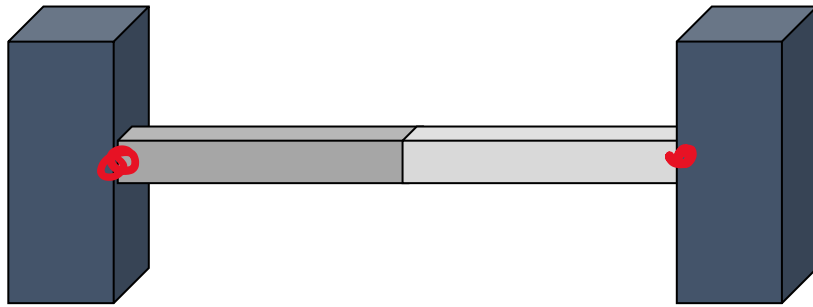


- A. Both rods will increase in length
- B. Both rods will decrease in length
- C. No change in rod's lengths
- D. One rod will get longer and the other rod will get shorter



A compound bar consisting of a copper rod with a length of 1 m and cross-section area of  $2.00 \text{ cm}^2$  placed end to end with a steel rod with length 1 m and cross-sectional area  $2.00 \text{ cm}^2$ . The compound rod is placed between two rigid walls. Initially there is no stress in the bars at room temperature  $20^\circ \text{ C}$ .

As the system is heated, we expect that:



Rigid walls  $\Rightarrow$  fixed total distance  $\Rightarrow$   
A and B are wrong.

C: possible, but to react identically they need to have the same  $\alpha$  and  $Y$ .

But they are different materials, so it is likely that  $\alpha$  and  $Y$  are different, and they will likely change relative length  $\Rightarrow$  D.

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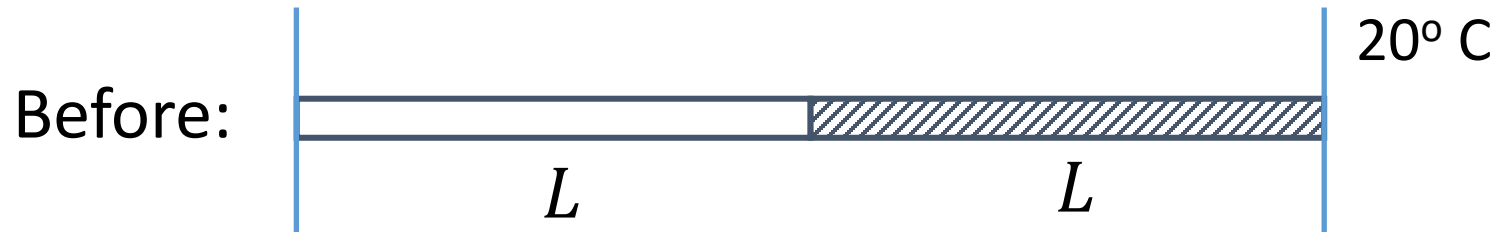
## Step 1: System

- Visualize what will happen
- Draw a before/after picture
- Gives names to known & unknown quantities & label diagram
- Understand which quantities are changing and which are fixed

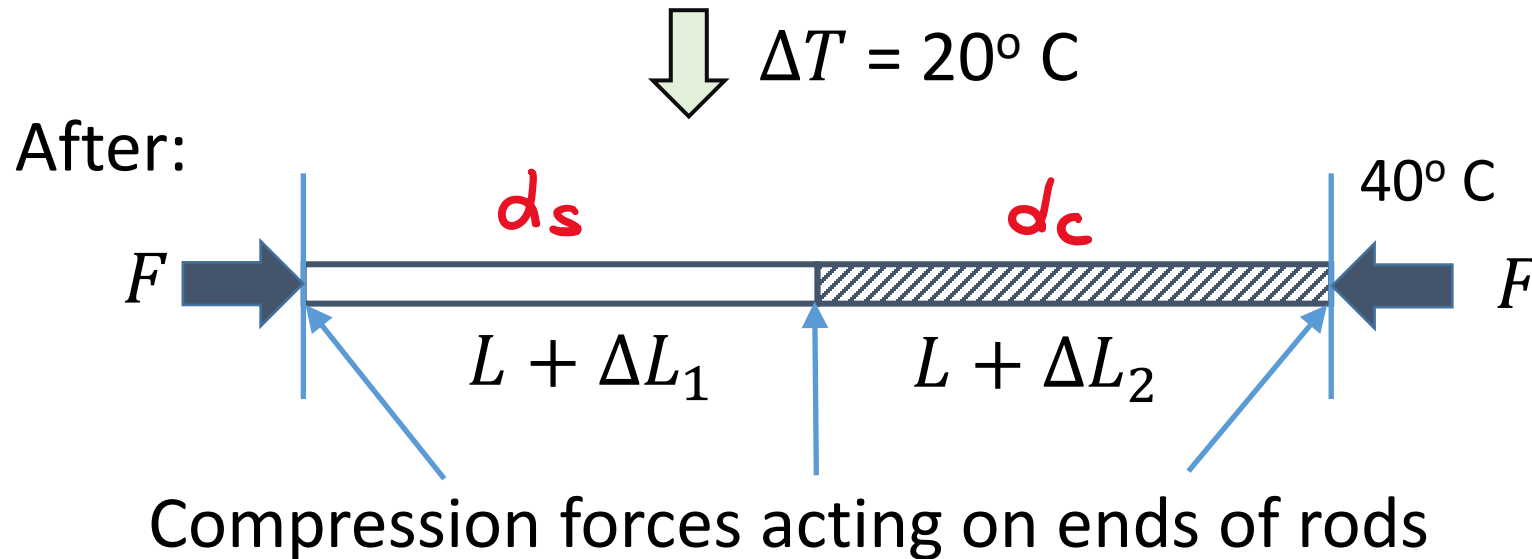
## Step 1: System

- Visualize what will happen
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- Gives names to known & unknown quantities & label diagram
- Understand which quantities are changing and which are fixed

$$\Delta L_T = \alpha L_0 \Delta T$$



Total length  
is fixed:  
 $\Delta L_1 + \Delta L_2 = 0$



We want  
to find  $F$

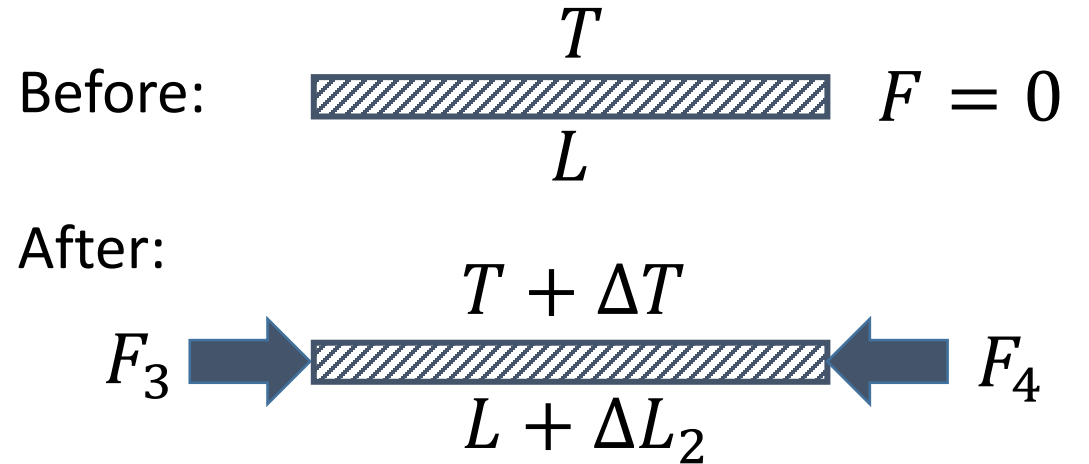
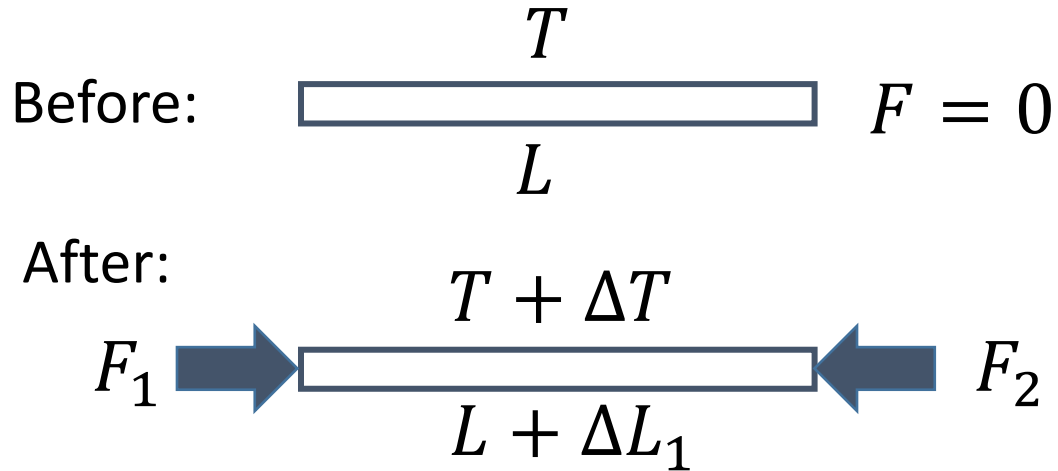
## Step 2: Parts of the system

- Isolate the parts of the system
- For each part, draw a before/after free body diagrams, making use of Newton's Laws to relate forces

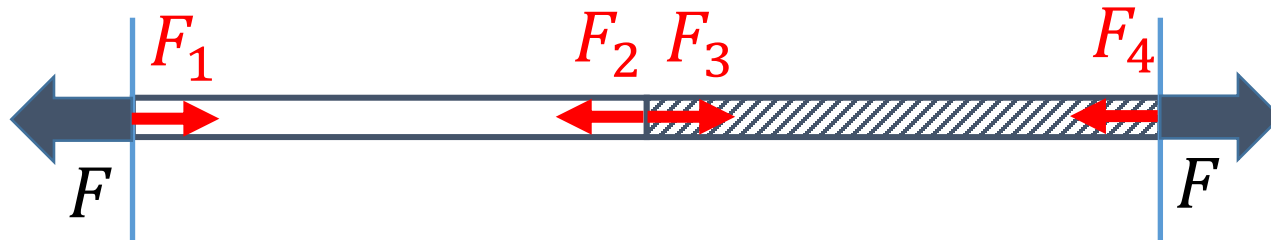


## Step 2: Parts of the system

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- Question: What are  $F_1$ ,  $F_2$ ,  $F_3$ , and  $F_4$  in terms of  $F$ , the magnitude of the forces on the two walls, and why?



$F_1 = F$  Newton's 3<sup>rd</sup> law

$F_2 = F_1$  left bar not accelerating

$F_3 = F_2$  Newton's 3<sup>rd</sup> law

$F_4 = F_3$  right bar not accelerating


$F_4 = F$  Newton's 3<sup>rd</sup> law


### Step 3: Equations


- For each part, write an equation relating the change in length to the changes in temperature and forces


### Step 3: Equations

- For each part, write an equation relating the change in length to the changes in temperature and forces

Before:   $F = 0$

After:   $\alpha_1, Y_1$

Before:   $F = 0$

After:   $\alpha_2, Y_2$

One of them is positive, one negative

$$\Delta L_1 = \alpha_1 L \Delta T - \frac{F L}{A Y_1}$$

$$\Delta L_2 = \alpha_2 L \Delta T - \frac{F L}{A Y_2}$$

$F$  is positive, the signs express compression