

# 6

## Plane Stress Transformations

## Plane Stress State

Recall that in a body in **plane stress**, the general 3D stress state with **9 components** (6 independent) reduces to **4 components** (3 independent):

$$\begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{xx} & \tau_{xy} & \tau_{xz} \\ \tau_{yx} & \sigma_{yy} & \tau_{yz} \\ \tau_{zx} & \tau_{zy} & \sigma_{zz} \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{plane stress}} \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{xx} & \tau_{xy} & 0 \\ \tau_{yx} & \sigma_{yy} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

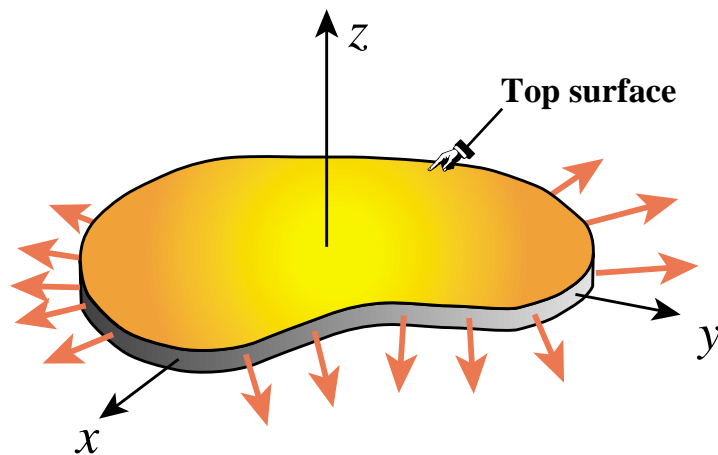
with  $\tau_{yx} = \tau_{xy}$

Plane stress occurs in thin plates and shells (e.g. aircraft & rocket skins, parachutes, balloon walls, boat sails, ...) as well as thin wall structural members in torsion.

In this Lecture we will focus on **thin flat plates** and associated two-dimensional **stress transformations**

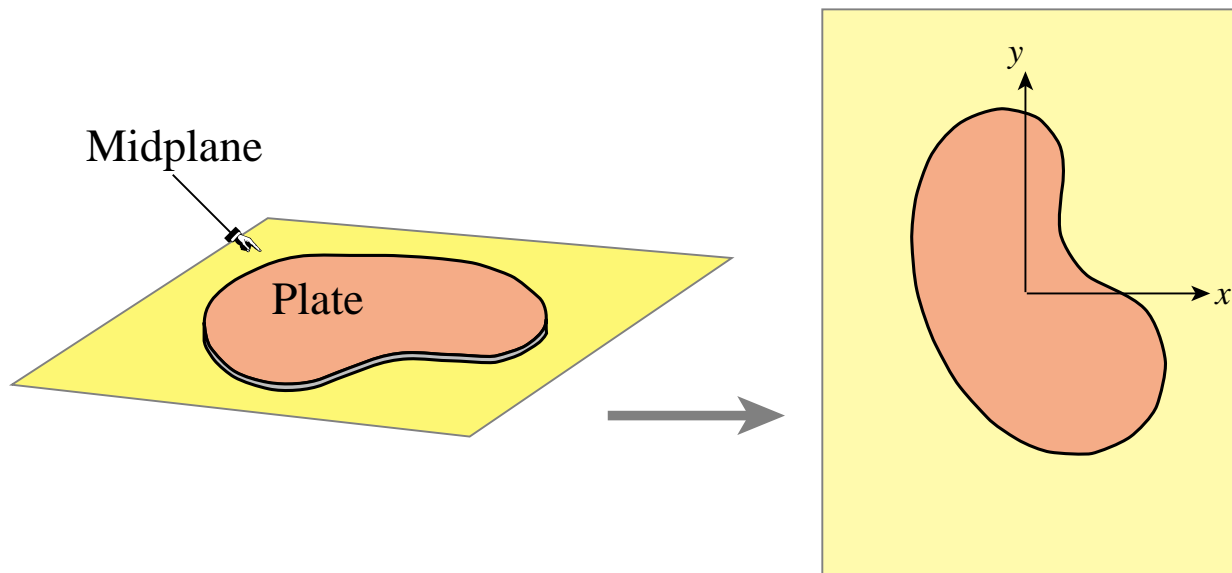
## Flat Plate in Plane Stress

Thickness dimension  
or transverse dimension

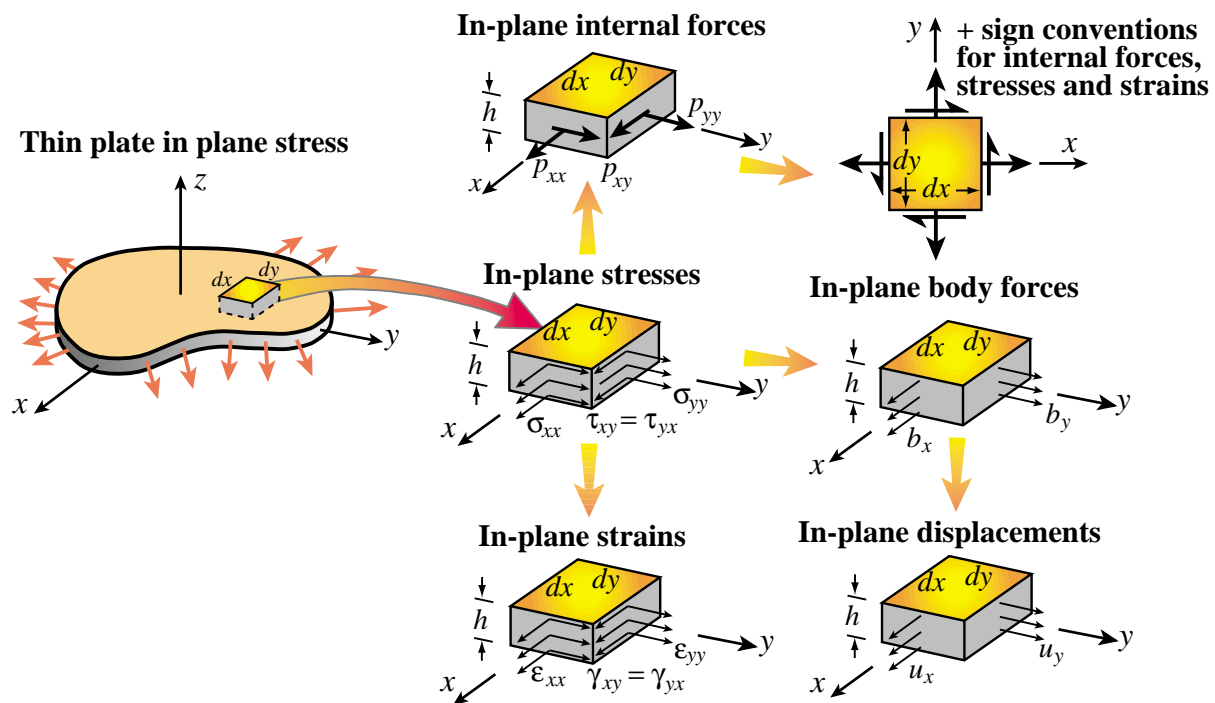


Inplane dimensions: in  $x,y$  plane

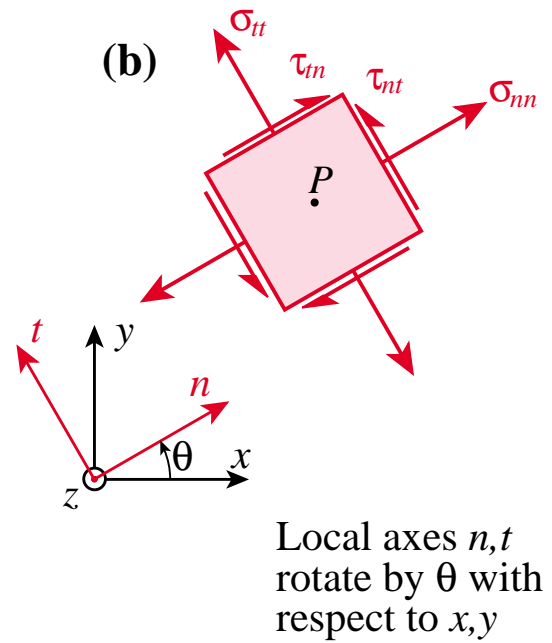
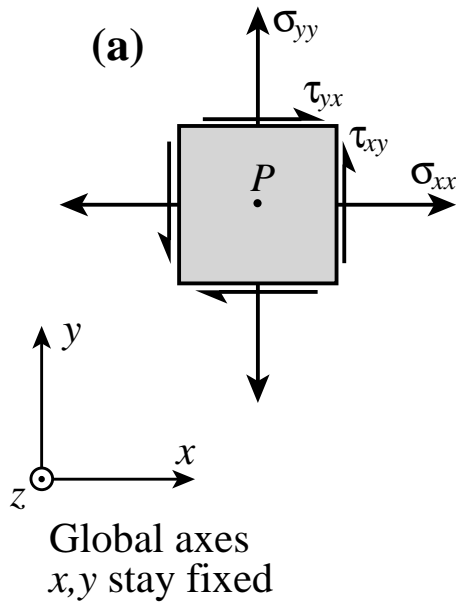
## Mathematical Idealization as a Two Dimensional Problem



# Internal Forces, Stresses, Strains



## Stress Transformation in 2D

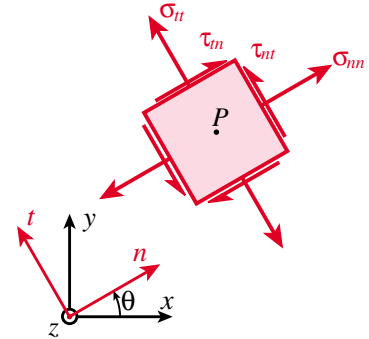


## Problem Statement

**Plane stress transformation problem:**

**given**  $\sigma_{xx}$ ,  $\sigma_{yy}$ ,  $\tau_{xy}$  and angle  $\theta$

**express**  $\sigma_{nn}$ ,  $\sigma_{tt}$  and  $\tau_{nt}$  in terms of the data



**This transformation has two major uses:**

**Find stresses along a given skew direction**

Here angle  $\theta$  is given as data

**Find max/min normal stresses, max in-plane shear and overall max shear**

Here finding angle  $\theta$  is part of the problem

## Analytical Solution

This is also called **method of equations** in Mechanics of Materials books. A derivation using the **wedge method** gives

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{nn} &= \sigma_{xx} \cos^2 \theta + \sigma_{yy} \sin^2 \theta + 2 \tau_{xy} \sin \theta \cos \theta \\ \sigma_{tt} &= \sigma_{xx} \sin^2 \theta + \sigma_{yy} \cos^2 \theta - 2 \tau_{xy} \sin \theta \cos \theta \\ \tau_{nt} &= -(\sigma_{xx} - \sigma_{yy}) \sin \theta \cos \theta + \tau_{xy} (\cos^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta)\end{aligned}$$

For quick checks when  $\theta$  is  $0^\circ$  or  $90^\circ$ , see Notes. The sum of the two transformed normal stresses

$$\sigma_{nn} + \sigma_{tt} = \sigma_{xx} + \sigma_{yy}$$

is *independent* of the angle  $\theta$ : it is called a **stress invariant** (mathematically, this is the trace of the stress tensor). A geometric interpretation using the Mohr's circle is immediate.



## Double Angle Version

Using double-angle trig relations such as  $\cos 2\theta = \cos^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta$  and  $\sin 2\theta = 2 \sin \theta \cos \theta$ , the transformation equations may be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{nn} &= \frac{\sigma_{xx} + \sigma_{yy}}{2} + \frac{\sigma_{xx} - \sigma_{yy}}{2} \cos 2\theta + \tau_{xy} \sin 2\theta \\ \tau_{nt} &= -\frac{\sigma_{xx} - \sigma_{yy}}{2} \sin 2\theta + \tau_{xy} \cos 2\theta\end{aligned}$$

Here  $\sigma_{tt}$  is omitted since it may be easily recovered as  $\sigma_{xx} + \sigma_{yy} - \sigma_{nn}$

## Principal Stresses: Terminology

The **max and min values** taken by the **in-plane normal stress**  $\sigma_{nn}$  when viewed as a function of the angle  $\theta$  are called **principal stresses** (more precisely, **principal in-plane normal stresses**, but qualifiers "in-plane" and "normal" are often omitted).

The **planes on which those stresses act** are the **principal planes**.

The **normals to the principal planes** are contained in the  $x,y$  plane. They are called the **principal directions**.

The  $\theta$  **angles formed by the principal directions and the  $x$  axis** are called the **principal angles**.

## Principal Angles

To find the **principal angles**, set the derivative of  $\sigma_{nn}$  with respect to  $\theta$  to zero. Using the double-angle version,

$$\frac{d \sigma_{nn}}{d \theta} = (\sigma_{yy} - \sigma_{xx}) \sin 2\theta + 2\tau \cos 2\theta = 0$$

This is satisfied for  $\theta = \theta_p$  if

$$\tan 2\theta_p = \frac{2 \tau_{xy}}{\sigma_{xx} - \sigma_{yy}} \quad (*)$$

It can be shown that (\*) provides two principal double angles,  $2\theta_{p1}$  and  $2\theta_{p2}$ , within the range of interest, which is  $[0, 360^\circ]$  or  $[-180^\circ, 180^\circ]$  (range conventions vary between textbooks).

The **two values differ by  $180^\circ$** . On dividing by 2 we get the principal angles  $\theta_{p1}$  and  $\theta_{p2}$  **that differ by  $90^\circ$** . Consequently the **two principal directions are orthogonal**.

## Principal Stress Values

Replacing the principal angles given by (\*) of the previous slide into the expression for  $\sigma_{nn}$  and using trig identities, we get

$$\sigma_{1,2} = \frac{\sigma_{xx} + \sigma_{yy}}{2} \pm \sqrt{\left(\frac{\sigma_{xx} - \sigma_{yy}}{2}\right)^2 + \tau_{xy}^2}$$

in which  $\sigma_{1,2}$  denote the principal normal stresses. Subscripts 1 and 2 correspond to taking the + and – signs, respectively, of the square root.

A staged procedure to compute these values is described in the next slide.

## Staged Procedure To Get Principal Stresses

1. Compute

$$\sigma_{av} = \frac{\sigma_{xx} + \sigma_{yy}}{2}, \quad R = +\sqrt{\left(\frac{\sigma_{xx} - \sigma_{yy}}{2}\right)^2 + \tau_{xy}^2}$$

Meaning:  $\sigma_{av}$  is the **average normal stress** (recall that  $\sigma_{xx} + \sigma_{yy}$  is an invariant and so is  $\sigma_{av}$ ), whereas  $R$  is the **radius of Mohr's circle** described later. This  $R$  also represents the **maximum in-plane shear** value, as discussed in the Lecture notes.

2. The principal stresses are

$$\sigma_1 = \sigma_{av} + R, \quad \sigma_2 = \sigma_{av} - R$$

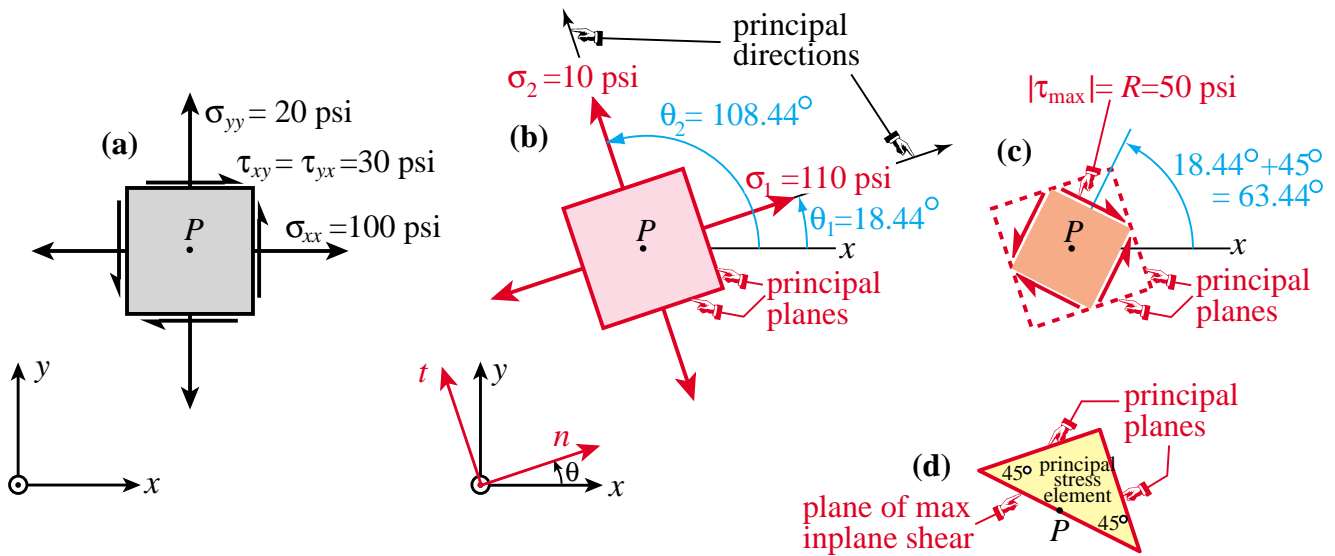
3. The above procedure **bypasses the computation of principal angles**. Should these be required to find principal directions, use equation (\*) of the **Principal Angles** slide.

## Additional Properties

1. The in-plane shear stresses on the principal planes **vanish**
2. The **maximum and minimum in-plane shears** are  $+R$  and  $-R$ , respectively
3. The max/min in-plane shears act on planes located at  $+45^\circ$  and  $-45^\circ$  from the principal planes. These are the **principal shear planes**
4. A **principal stress element** (used in some textbooks) is obtained by drawing a triangle with two sides parallel to the principal planes and one side parallel to a principal shear plane

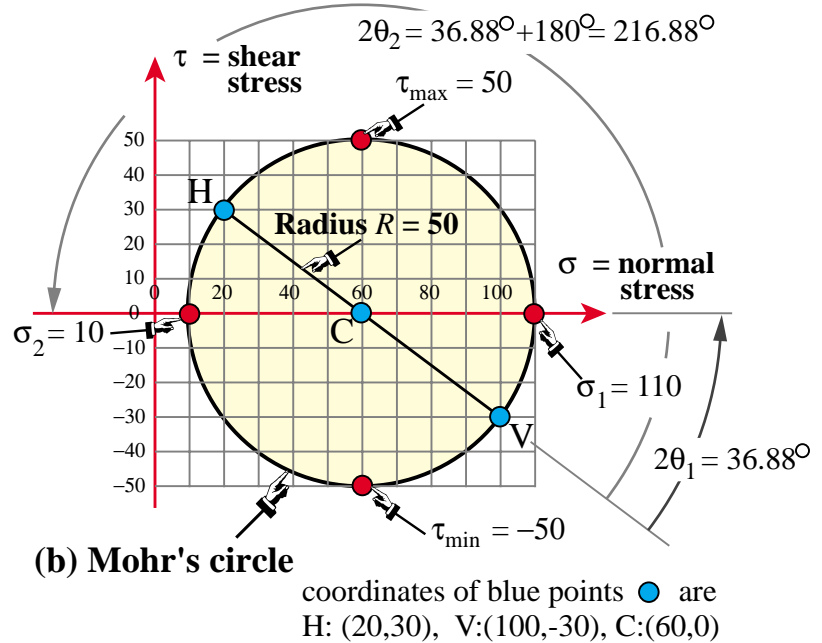
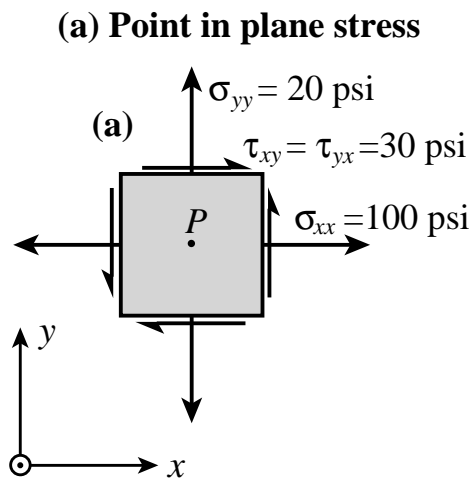
For further details, see Lecture notes. Some of these properties can be visualized more easily using the **Mohr's circle**, which provides a **graphical solution** to the plane stress transformation problem

## Numeric Example



For computation details see Lecture notes

# Graphical Solution of Example Using Mohr's Circle





# What Happens in 3D?

**This topic be briefly covered in class if time allows, using the following slides.**

**If not enough time, ask students to read Lecture notes (Sec 7.3), with particular emphasis on the computation of the **overall maximum shear****

## General 3D Stress State

$$\begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{xx} & \tau_{xy} & \tau_{xz} \\ \tau_{yx} & \sigma_{yy} & \tau_{yz} \\ \tau_{zx} & \tau_{zy} & \sigma_{zz} \end{bmatrix}$$

There are **three (3)** principal stresses, identified as

$$\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3$$

## Principal Stresses in 3D (2)

The  $\sigma_i$  turn out to be the **eigenvalues** of the stress matrix. They are the roots of a **cubic** polynomial (the so-called characteristic polynomial)

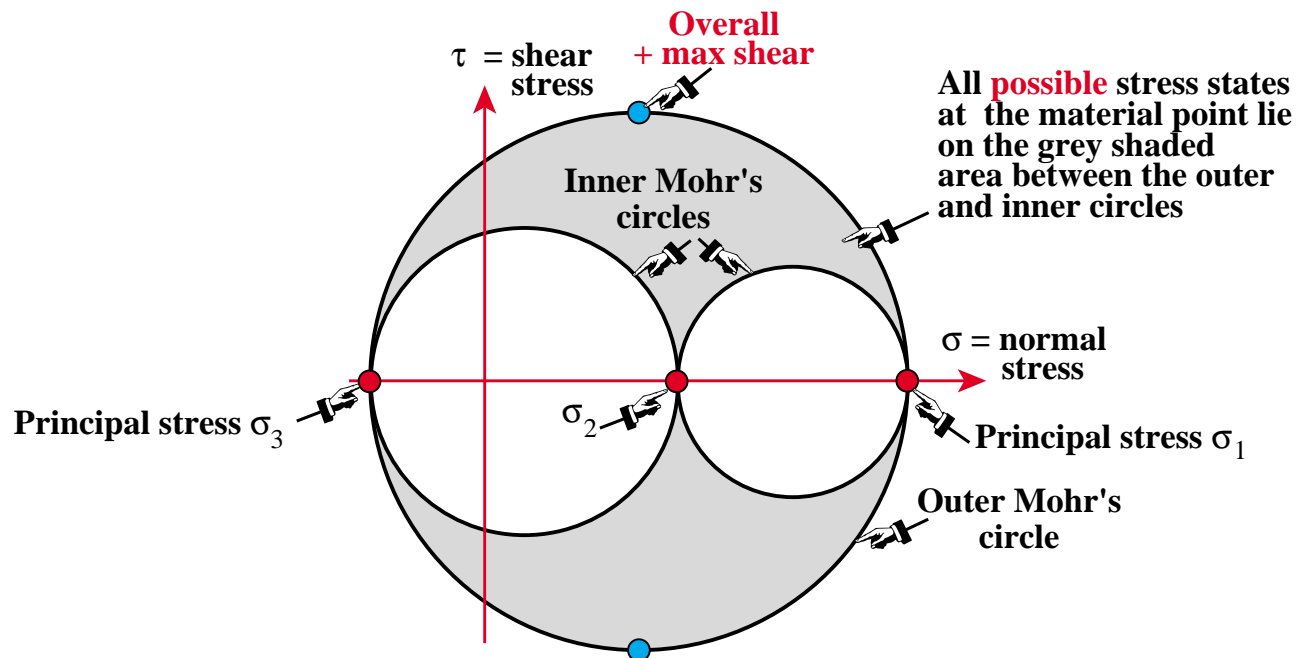
$$C(\sigma) = \det \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{xx} - \sigma & \tau_{xy} & \tau_{xz} \\ \tau_{yx} & \sigma_{yy} - \sigma & \tau_{yz} \\ \tau_{zx} & \tau_{zy} & \sigma_{zz} - \sigma \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= -\sigma^3 + I_1 \sigma^2 - I_2 \sigma + I_3 = 0$$

The **principal directions** are given by the **eigenvectors** of the stress matrix.

Both eigenvalues and eigenvectors can be numerically computed by the Matlab function `eig(.)`

## 3D Mohr Circles (Yes, There Is More Than One)



The **overall maximum shear**, which is the **radius of the outer Mohr's circle**, is important for assessing **strength safety of ductile materials**

## The Overall Maximum Shear is the Radius of the Outer Mohr's Circle

If the principal stresses are **algebraically ordered** as

then

$$\sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq \sigma_3$$

$$\tau_{max}^{overall} = R_{outer} = \frac{\sigma_1 - \sigma_3}{2}$$

Note that the intermediate principal stress  $\sigma_2$  **does not appear**.

If they are **not ordered** it is necessary to use the max function in a more complicated formula that picks up the largest of the three radii:

$$\tau_{max}^{overall} = \max \left( \left| \frac{\sigma_1 - \sigma_2}{2} \right|, \left| \frac{\sigma_2 - \sigma_3}{2} \right|, \left| \frac{\sigma_3 - \sigma_1}{2} \right| \right)$$

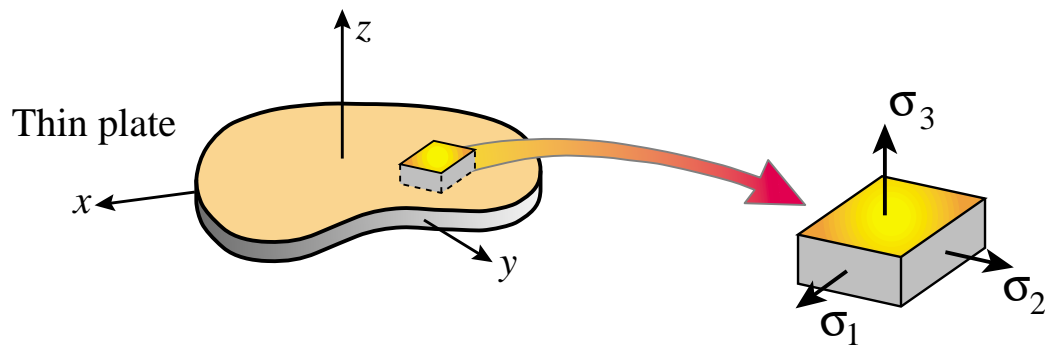
## Plane Stress in 3D: The 3rd Principal Stress

Consider plane stress but now account for the third dimension. One of the principal stresses, call it for the moment  $\sigma_3$ , is **zero**:

$$\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3 = 0$$

where  $\sigma_1$  and  $\sigma_2$  are the **inplane principal stresses** obtained as described earlier in Lecture 6.

The zero principal stress  $\sigma_3$  is aligned with the  $z$  axis (**the thickness direction**) while  $\sigma_1$  and  $\sigma_2$  act in the  $x,y$  plane:



## Plane Stress in 3D: Overall Max Shear

Let us now **(re)order** the principal stresses by **algebraic** value as

$$\sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq \sigma_3$$

To compute the **overall maximum shear** 2 cases are considered:

(A) Inplane principal stresses have **opposite** signs. Then the zero stress is the intermediate one:  $\sigma_2$ , and

$$\tau_{max}^{overall} = \tau_{max}^{inplane} = \frac{\sigma_1 - \sigma_3}{2}$$

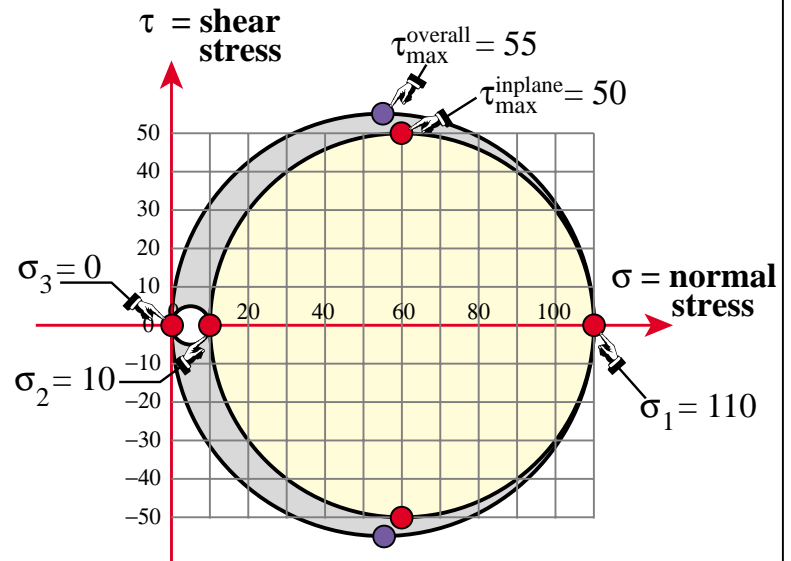
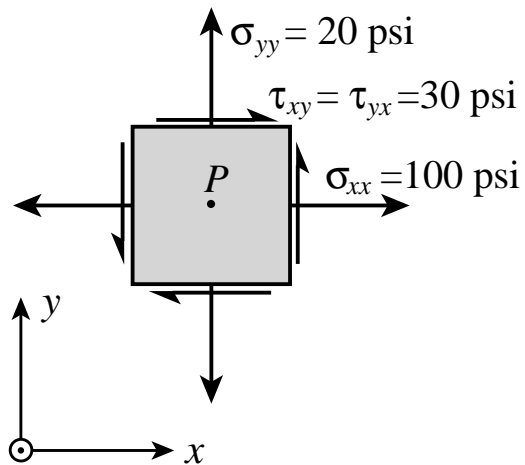
(B) Inplane principal stresses have the **same** sign. Then

$$\text{If } \sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq 0 \text{ and } \sigma_3 = 0, \tau_{max}^{overall} = \frac{\sigma_1}{2}$$

$$\text{If } \sigma_3 \geq \sigma_2 \geq 0 \text{ and } \sigma_1 = 0, \tau_{max}^{overall} = -\frac{\sigma_3}{2}$$

## Plane Stress in 3D: Example

Plane stress example  
treated earlier:



Yellow-filled circle is the in-plane Mohr's circle