

# Elasticity & Discretization

Jan 11, 2016

# Logistics

- I've created and posted the schedule based on sign-ups.
- 1<sup>st</sup> review due Sunday at 5pm; pick one of the 4 rigid body papers from the schedule. Submit your review to the LEARN DropBox.
- Other?

Elasticity

# Elasticity

An elastic object is one that, when deformed, seeks to return to its original reference or rest configuration.

Previously: we saw discrete mass/spring models.

Today: more principled ***continuum mechanics*** approach.

Generalizes 1D elasticity (springs) to 3D objects.

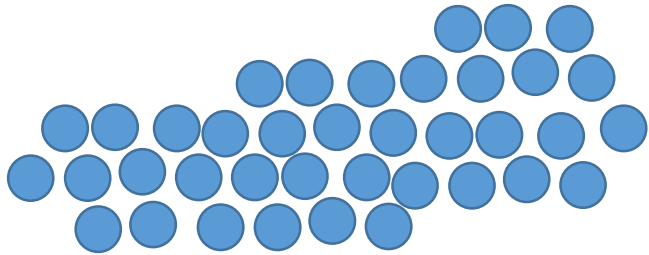
Will loosely follow Sifakis' SIGGRAPH course:

<http://run.usc.edu/femdefo/sifakis-courseNotes-TheoryAndDiscretization.pdf>

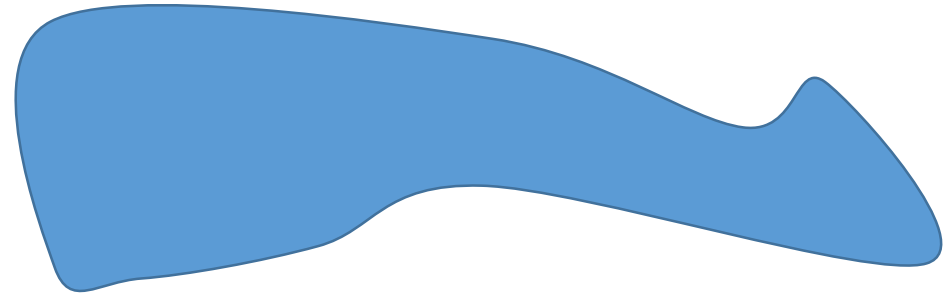


# Continuum Mechanics

View the material under consideration as a *continuous* mass, rather than a set of *discrete* particles/atoms.



v.s.



Useful for both solids and fluids.

Not always applicable: e.g., at small scales, during some kinds of fracture, for objects that are composed of large discrete elements, etc.

# Elasticity - Springs

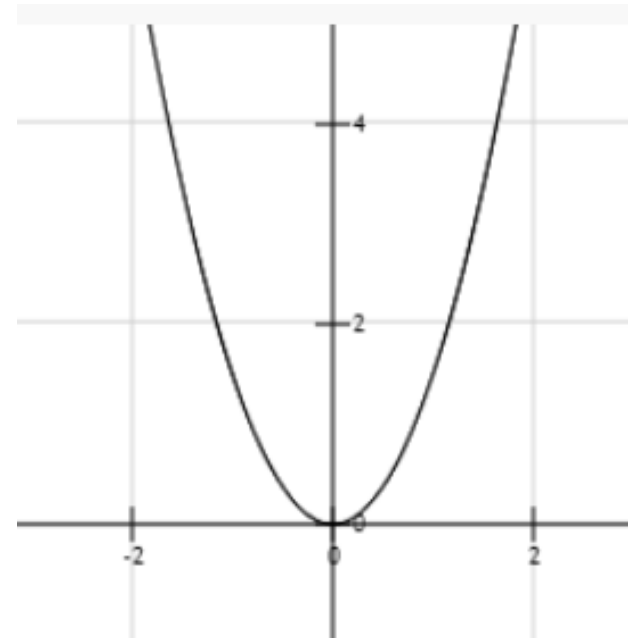
Recall: The linear spring force is dictated by displacement,  $\Delta x = L - L_0$ , away from rest length (Hooke's law):

$$F = -k\Delta x.$$

This force is related to the spring's potential energy:

$$U = \frac{1}{2}k(\Delta x)^2.$$

The force acts to drive potential energy towards zero, by reducing the displacement,  $\Delta x$ .



# Conservative Forces

The spring force is an example of a **conservative force** – it depends only on the *current state* (i.e., it is “path-independent”).

In this case, the force  $F$  is given by the gradient of a potential energy  $U$ :

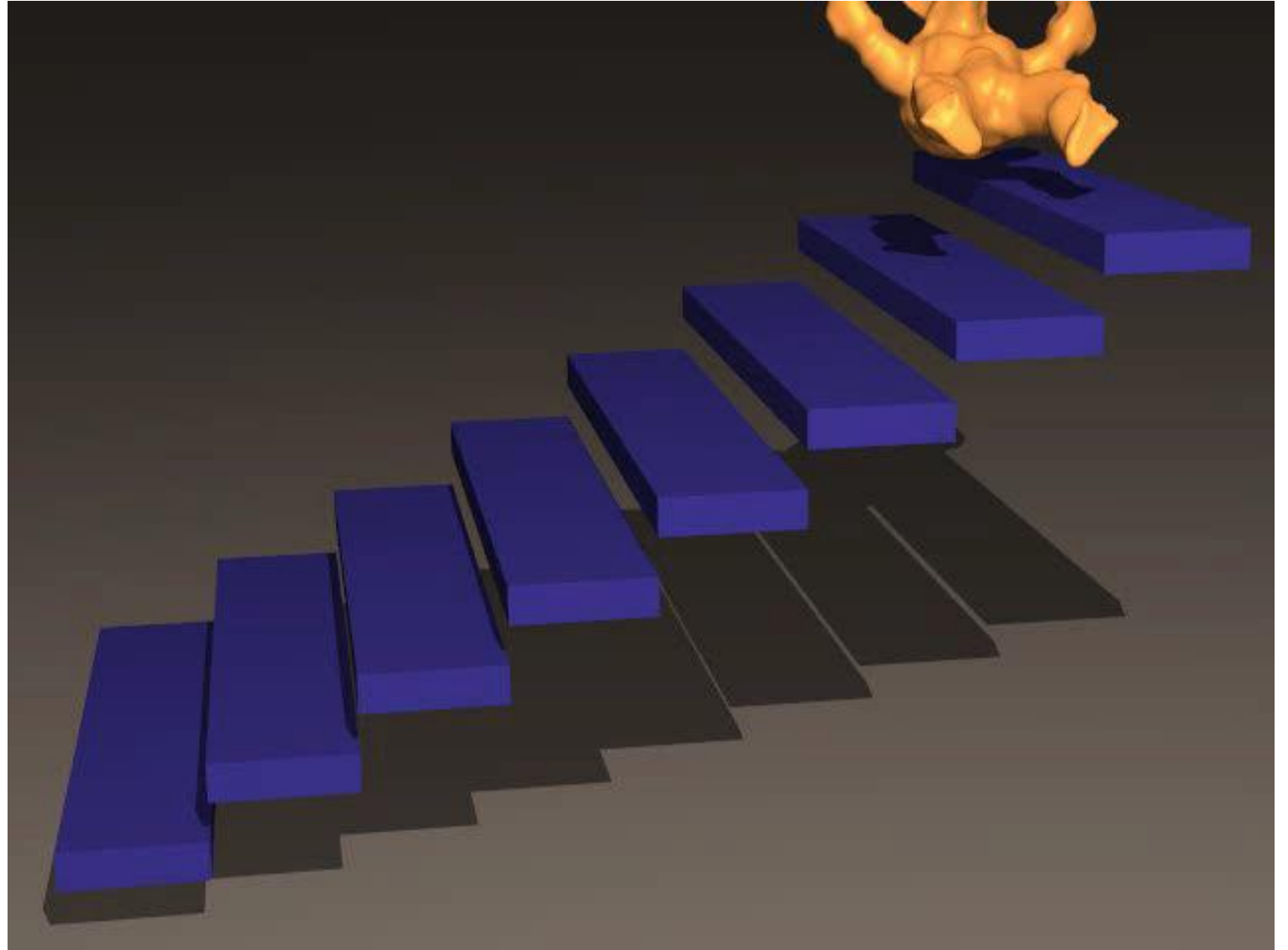
$$F = -\nabla U.$$

For our continuum elastic material, we seek a potential energy that is zero when our 3D object is undeformed.

# Elasticity – 3D

How can we generalize the spring to (three-dimensional) *volumes* of material?

First, we need a way to describe 3D deformations.





# Deformation Map

A function  $\vec{\phi}$  that maps points from the reference configuration ( $\vec{X}$ ) to current position in world space ( $\vec{x}$ ).

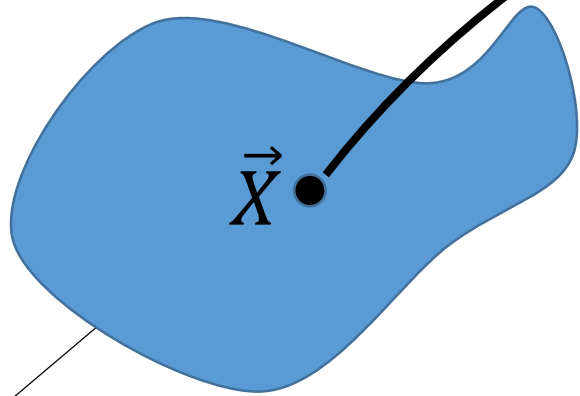
$$\vec{\phi}: \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$$

Purpose is similar to the state/transform of a rigid body.

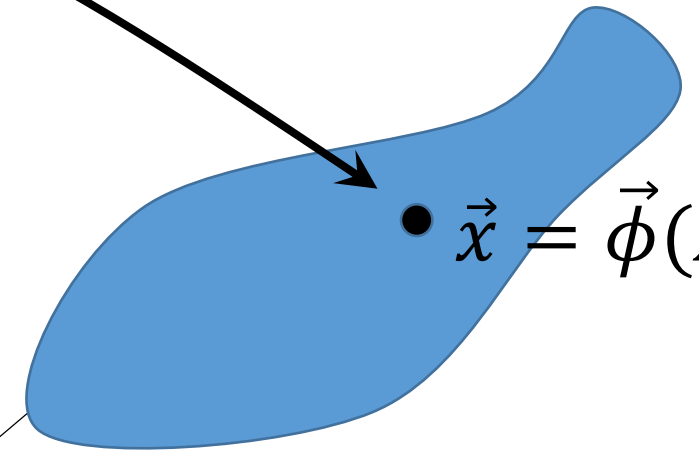
However, each (infinitesimal) point in the body can now have a *different* transformation.

# Deformation Map, $\vec{\phi}$

$$\vec{\phi}: \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$$



Reference/rest/undeformed configuration:



World/deformed configuration:

# Deformations

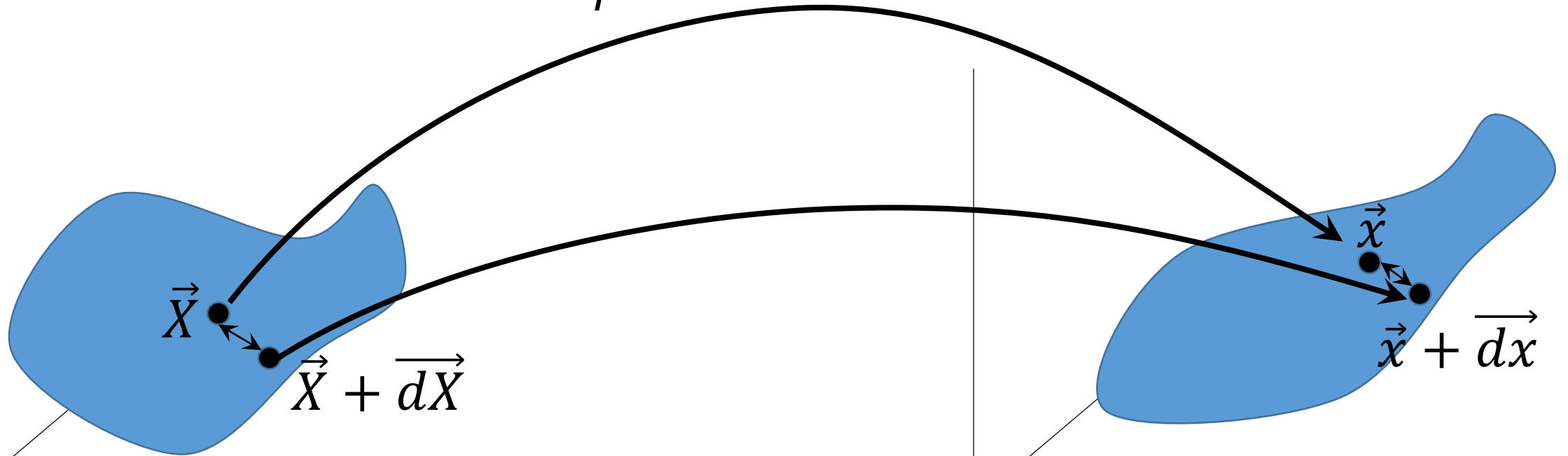
The deformation map says where points in the material have moved to.

However, to determine forces due to deformation, we need to know how nearby points have moved ***relative to one another***.

The tool we need is the *deformation gradient*.

Deformation Gradient,  $F = \frac{\partial \vec{\phi}}{\partial \vec{X}}$

$$\vec{\phi}: \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$$



Reference/rest/undeformed  
configuration:

World/deformed configuration:

# Deformation Gradient

For some offset position from  $\vec{X}$ , say  $\vec{X} + \overrightarrow{dX}$ , what is the corresponding world position?

$$\vec{x} + \overrightarrow{dx} = \vec{\phi}(\vec{X} + \overrightarrow{dX}) \approx \vec{\phi}(\vec{X}) + \frac{\partial \vec{\phi}}{\partial \vec{X}} \overrightarrow{dX} = \vec{x} + \mathbf{F} \overrightarrow{dX}$$

Offset in rest space

Taylor expand...

Deformation gradient

Deformation gradient,  $\mathbf{F} = \frac{\partial \vec{\phi}}{\partial \vec{X}}$ , describes how particle positions have changed relative to one another.

# Deformation Gradient

It is given by the  $3 \times 3$  matrix (tensor):

$$\mathbf{F} = \frac{\partial \vec{\phi}}{\partial \vec{X}} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial \phi_1}{\partial X_1} & \frac{\partial \phi_1}{\partial X_2} & \frac{\partial \phi_1}{\partial X_3} \\ \frac{\partial \phi_2}{\partial X_1} & \frac{\partial \phi_2}{\partial X_2} & \frac{\partial \phi_2}{\partial X_3} \\ \frac{\partial \phi_3}{\partial X_1} & \frac{\partial \phi_3}{\partial X_2} & \frac{\partial \phi_3}{\partial X_3} \end{pmatrix}$$

Deformation Gradient:  $\mathbf{F} = \frac{\partial \vec{\phi}}{\partial \vec{X}}$

Examples of simple deformations:

Translation:  $\vec{x} = \vec{\phi}(\vec{X}) = \vec{t} + \vec{X}$ , implies  $\mathbf{F} = I$ .

- World pos  $\vec{x}$  is rest pos  $\vec{X}$  plus a translation,  $\vec{t}$ . Zero *relative* motion between points.

Uniform Scaling:  $x = \phi(X) = sX$  implies  $\mathbf{F} = sI$ .

- World pos  $\vec{x}$  is rest pos  $\vec{X}$  times a constant,  $s$ .

Rotation:  $x = \phi(X) = RX$  implies  $\mathbf{F} = R$ .

- World pos  $\vec{x}$  is rest pos  $\vec{X}$  rotated by matrix  $R$ .

# One Possible Potential Energy

What if we use  $\mathbf{F}$  directly to construct a potential energy?

$$U(\mathbf{F}) = \frac{k}{2} \|\mathbf{F} - I\|_F^2$$

*Frobenius norm,  $\|\mathbf{A}\|_F = \sqrt{\sum_i \sum_j a_{i,j}^2}$*

Resulting forces ( $-\nabla U$ ) will drive  $\mathbf{F}$  towards  $I$ , i.e., a deformation that is (just) a translation.

What's wrong with this?



# Strain Measures

Want a deformation measure that *ignores* rotation (and translation), but captures other deformations.

Can we extract this from  $\mathbf{F}$ ?

Recall: Rotation matrices are *orthogonal*,  $R^T R = I$ .

A useful measure is the Green/Lagrange strain tensor,  $\mathbf{E} = \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{F}^T \mathbf{F} - I)$ .

Like  $\mathbf{F}$ , but ignores translation *and* rotation, while retaining shear/stretch/compression info.

# Strain Measures

But, Green strain is nonlinear (quadratic), so more costly.

For *small* deformations, can use small/infinitesimal/Cauchy strain:

$$\epsilon = \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{F}^T + \mathbf{F}) - \mathbf{I}$$

(A linearization of Green strain.)

Many other strain tensors exist (and these two have many names)...

# Big Picture – So Far

- Deformation map  $\phi$  describes map from rest to world state.
- Deformation gradient  $\mathbf{F} = \frac{\partial \vec{\phi}}{\partial \vec{X}}$  describes deformation (minus translation).
- Strains  $\epsilon$  or  $E$  describe deformation (minus rotation).
- Then what...

Remaining questions:

- What are the equations of motion (" $F = ma$ ") for our continuous blob of material?
- How to get from strains to forces?

# Equations of Motion

Consider  $F = ma$  for a small, continuous “blob” of material.

$$\int_{\Omega} F_{body} dX + \int_{\partial\Omega} T dS = \int_{\Omega} \rho \ddot{x} dX$$

$F_{body}$ : “body” forces that act throughout the material (e.g. gravity, magnetism, etc.). i.e., force per unit *volume* (i.e., force density).

$T$ : tractions, i.e., force per unit *area* acting on a surface.

$\rho$ : density.

$\Omega$  is the material region being considered, with surface/boundary  $\partial\Omega$ .

# Traction

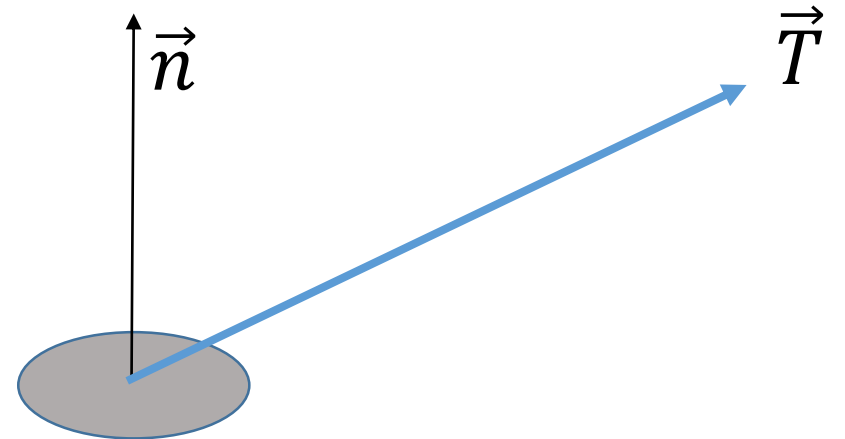
Traction  $T$  is a force (vector) per unit area on a small piece of surface.

$$\vec{T}(\vec{X}, \vec{n}) = \lim_{A \rightarrow 0} \frac{\vec{F}}{A}$$

## Cauchy's postulate:

Traction is a function of position  $\vec{X}$  and normal  $\vec{n}$ .

i.e., doesn't depend on curvature, area or other properties.



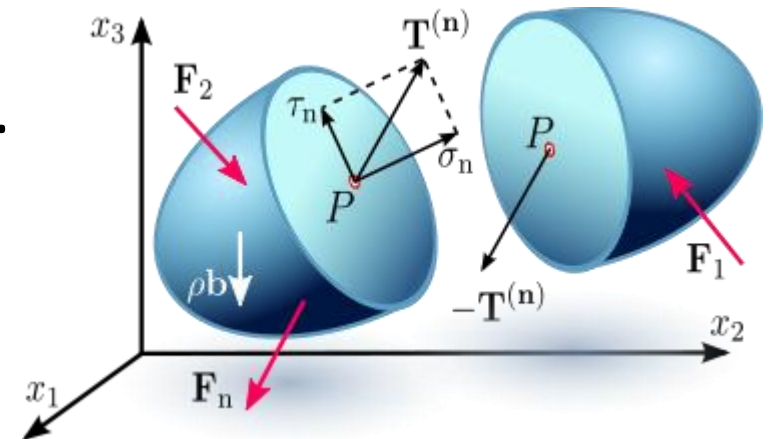
Consists of normal/pressure component along  $\vec{n}$ , and tangential/shear components perpendicular to it.

# Traction

Consider the *internal* traction on any slice through a volume of material.

This describes the forces acting on this plane between the two “sides”.

Note:  $T(x, n) = -T(x, -n)$  (by Newton's 3<sup>rd</sup>).



# Traction

We can characterize internal forces by considering tractions on 3 perpendicular slices (i.e., normals along  $x, y, z$ , directions).

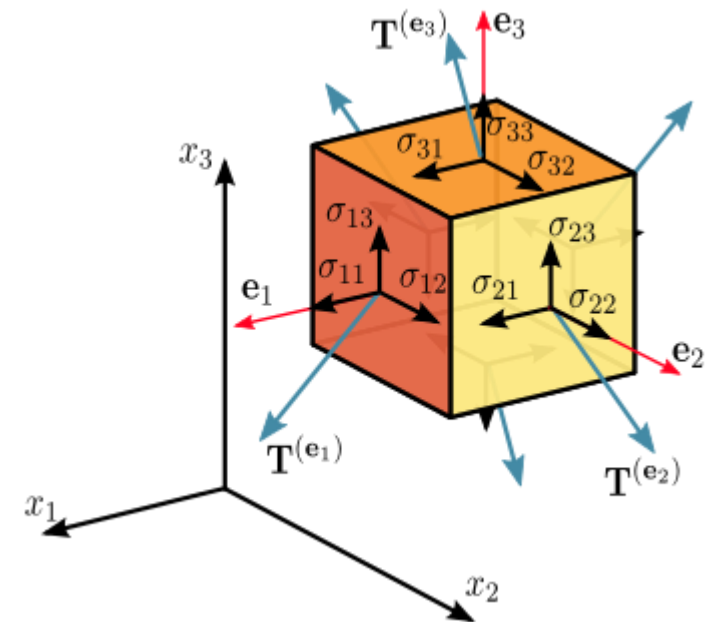
3 components per traction along 3 axes gives us 9 components.

This gives us the Cauchy stress tensor,  $\sigma$ .

Traction on any plane can be recovered via

$$T = \sigma n$$

where  $n$  is the normal of the plane.



# Stress

The  $3 \times 3$  stress tensor describes all the forces acting within a material (at a given point).

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

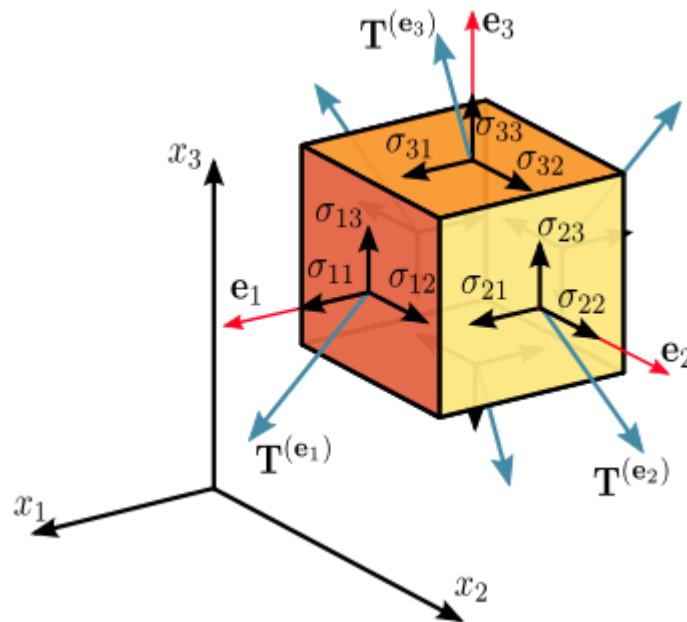
$\sigma$  can be shown to be symmetric, i.e.,  $\sigma_{yx} = \sigma_{xy}$ , etc. (from conservation of angular momentum.)



# Stress – Physical meaning?

Diagonal components correspond to compression/extension (normal) forces.

Off-diagonal components correspond to shear forces.



# Equations of motion

$$\int_{\Omega} F_{body} dX + \int_{\partial\Omega} T dS = \int_{\Omega} \rho \ddot{x} dX$$

- Plug in  $T = \sigma n \dots$


$$\int_{\Omega} F_{body} dX + \int_{\partial\Omega} \sigma n dS = \int_{\Omega} \rho \ddot{x} dX$$

- Integrate by parts (divergence theorem) to eliminate surface integral:

$$\int_{\Omega} F_{body} dX + \int_{\Omega} \nabla \cdot \sigma dX = \int_{\Omega} \rho \ddot{x} dX$$

In limit of small  $\Omega$ ,  $F_{body} + \nabla \cdot \sigma = \rho \ddot{x}$ , for every infinitesimal point.

# Big Picture – So Far

- Deformation map  $\phi$  describes map from rest to world state
  - Deformation gradient  $F$  describes deformations (minus translation)
  - Strains  $\epsilon$  or  $E$  describe deformation (minus rotation)
  - Stress  $\sigma$  describes forces in material
  - PDE  $F_{body} + \nabla \cdot \sigma = \rho \ddot{x}$  describes how to apply stress to get motion
  - (Later, will discretize the PDE to get discrete equations to solve.)
- 
- Last missing step!

# Constitutive models

Strain  $E/ \epsilon$  describes deformations of a body.

Stress  $\sigma$  describes (resulting) forces within a body.

*Constitutive models* dictate the stress-strain *relationship* in a material.

i.e., Given some deformation, what stresses (forces) does it induce?

e.g., Explains why rubber responds differently than concrete.



# Linear Elasticity - simplest *isotropic* model

Hooke's law in 3D, for small strain,  $\epsilon$ .

Potential Energy:

$$U(F) = \mu \epsilon : \epsilon + \frac{\lambda}{2} \text{tr}^2(\epsilon)$$

Stress:

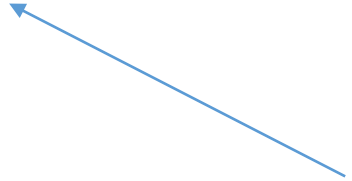
$$\sigma = 2\mu\epsilon + \lambda \text{tr}(\epsilon)I$$

$\mu$ ,  $\lambda$  are the *Lamé parameters*, loosely analogous to 1D spring stiffness  $k$ .

“tr” is the trace operator (sum of diagonals of tensor/matrix)

“:” is a tensor double dot product, where  $A : B = \text{tr}(A^T B)$

(i.e., behaves the same in all directions.)



# Linear Elasticity

Derives from the simplest possible linear relationship between  $\sigma$  and  $\epsilon$ .

- Flatten the 3x3 tensors  $\epsilon$  and  $\sigma$  into vectors.
- Isotropy and symmetry of  $\epsilon/\sigma$  reduce 81 coeffs down to 2 independent parameters (e.g.,  $\mu$  and  $\lambda$ ).

$$\begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{xx} \\ \sigma_{xy} \\ \sigma_{xz} \\ \sigma_{yx} \\ \sigma_{yy} \\ \sigma_{yz} \\ \sigma_{zx} \\ \sigma_{zy} \\ \sigma_{zz} \end{bmatrix} = [9 \times 9 \text{ coefficient matrix}] \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_{xx} \\ \epsilon_{xy} \\ \epsilon_{xz} \\ \epsilon_{yx} \\ \epsilon_{yy} \\ \epsilon_{yz} \\ \epsilon_{zx} \\ \epsilon_{zy} \\ \epsilon_{zz} \end{bmatrix}$$

# Other Elastic moduli

A more common/intuitive (but interconvertible) parameter pair is *Poisson's ratio*,  $\nu$ , and *Young's modulus*,  $E$ , or  $Y$ . (Careful overloading  $E$ ).

$$\mu = \frac{Y}{2(1 + \nu)}$$

and...

$$\lambda = \frac{Y\nu}{(1 + \nu)(1 - 2\nu)}$$

# Elastic Moduli – Young's modulus

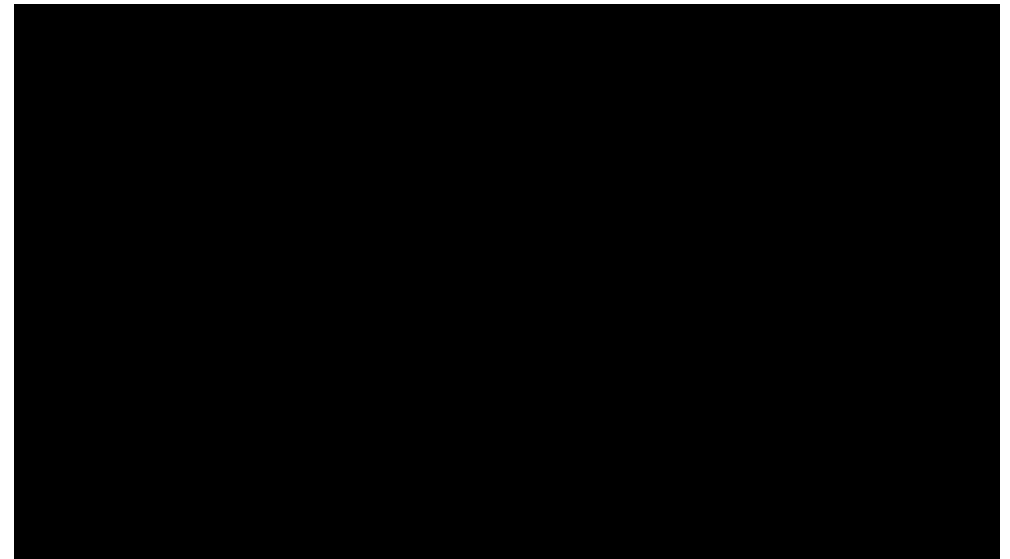
Young's modulus:

- Ratio of stress-to-strain along an axis.
- Should be consistent with linear spring.



# Elastic Moduli – Poisson's ratio

- Poisson's ratio is negative ratio of transverse to axial strain
  - If stretched in one direction, how much does it compress in the others?
  - Expresses tendency to preserve volume.
  - Lies in range  $[-1, 0.5]$ .
- 0.5 = incompressible (e.g., rubber)
- 0 = no compression (e.g., cork)
- $< 0$  is possible, though weird...
- Called *auxetic* materials.



# The “linear” in linear elasticity

- Describes the stress-strain relationship.
- But, strain itself could still be either linear (small strain,  $\epsilon$ ) or nonlinear (Green strain,  $E$ ) in the deformation.

Use  $E$  instead of  $\epsilon$  with the same equations gives:

$$U(F) = \mu E : E + \frac{\lambda}{2} \text{tr}^2(E)$$

Better for larger deformations/rotations. (AKA St. Venant Kirchhoff model.)

# Other common models

- Corotational linear elasticity:
  - Try to pre-factor out the rotational part of strain in a different way; treat the remainder with linear elasticity.
  - We'll see this idea in the "Interactive Virtual Materials" paper.
- Neo-Hookean elasticity:
  - St.V-K breaks down under large compression (stops resisting).
  - Neo-Hookean is a nonlinear model that corrects this.

# A Taste of Common Discretization Methods

# Discretization

Need to turn our continuous model describing infinitesimal points...

$$F_{body} + \nabla \cdot \sigma = \rho \ddot{x}$$

...into a discrete model that approximates it (and can be computed!)

Standard choices: Finite difference (FDM), finite volume (FVM), and finite element methods (FEM).

I'll give a brief flavour, but... there's a vast literature & theory. (See e.g. Numerical PDE course, CS778.)

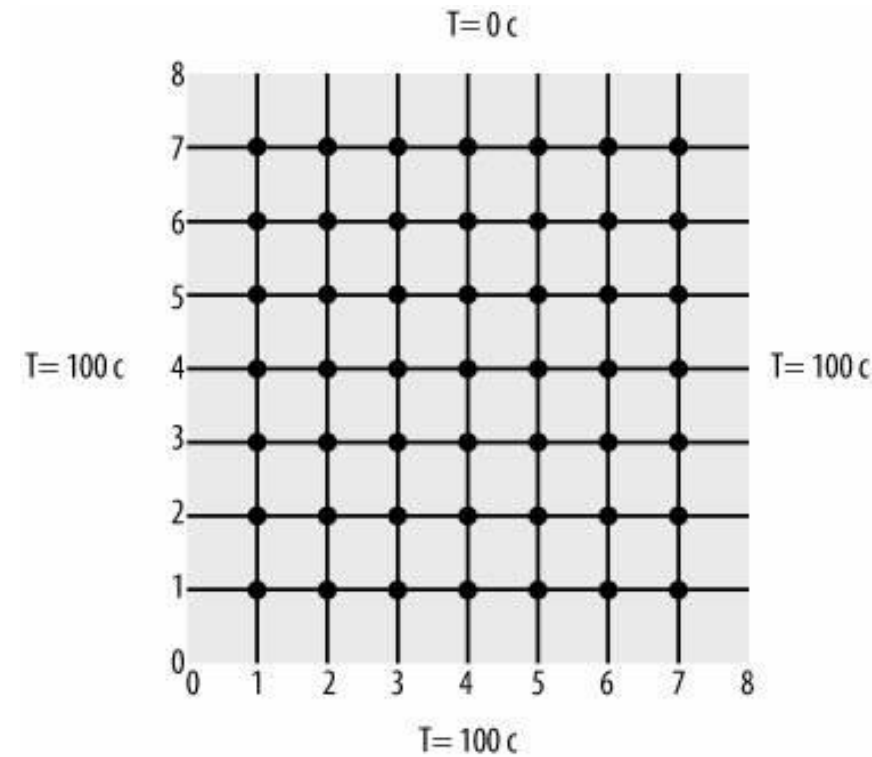
# Finite differences

Dice the material/domain into a grid of points holding the relevant data.

Replace all (continuous, spatial) derivatives with (discrete) finite difference approximations.

e.g.,

$$\frac{dy}{dx} \approx \frac{y(x + \Delta x) - y(x)}{\Delta x}$$



# Time Discretization

- Notice: Time integration schemes (FE, RK2, BE, etc.) are discretizations of time derivatives, along the 1D time axis.
- E.g., Forward Euler uses a 1<sup>st</sup> order (one-sided) finite difference:
$$\frac{dx}{dt} \approx \frac{x_{i+1} - x_i}{\Delta t}$$
- We distinguish time discretization and spatial discretization, and focus on the latter now.

# e.g. 1D Heat equation

Continuous equation:

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} - \alpha \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} = 0$$

Discretize time derivative (w/ forward Euler):

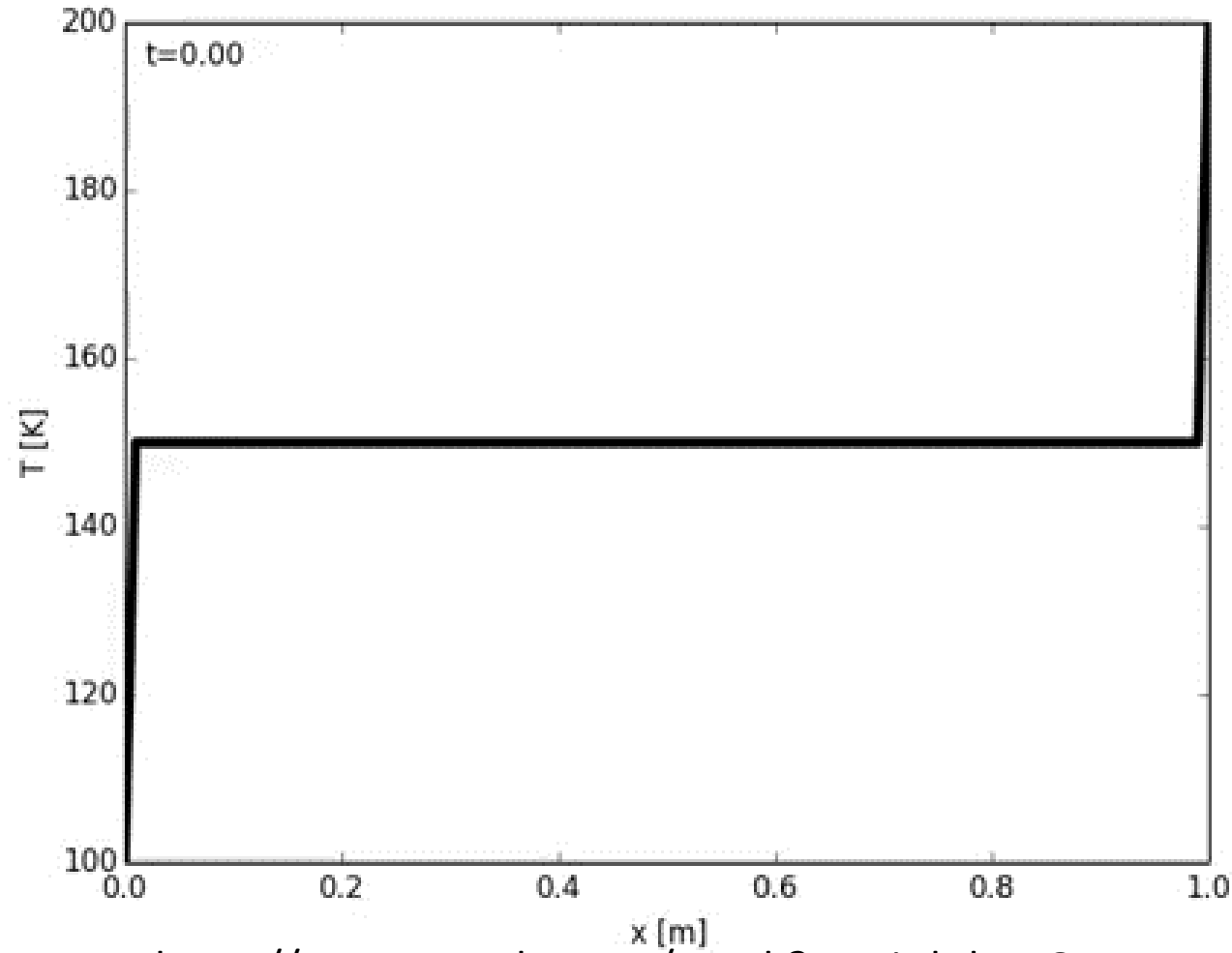
$$\phi_{t+\Delta t} = \phi_t + \Delta t \alpha \frac{\partial^2 \phi_t}{\partial x^2}$$

Discretize spatial derivatives with F.D.:

$$\phi_{t+\Delta t} = \phi_t + \Delta t \alpha \frac{\left( \frac{\phi_t^{i+1} - \phi_t^i}{\Delta x} - \frac{\phi_t^i - \phi_t^{i-1}}{\Delta x} \right)}{\Delta x}$$



e.g. 1D Heat(diffusion) equation



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjDhdyxnOwo>

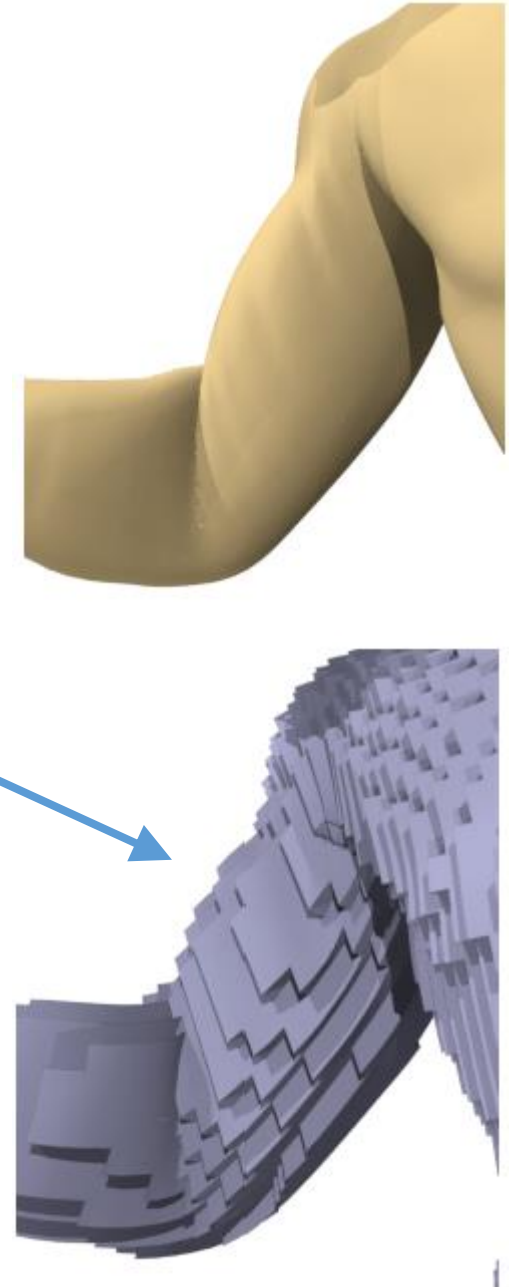
# Finite differences

Very common for fluids... less so for solids.

Few graphics papers use FDM for solids: e.g.,  
“An efficient multigrid method for the  
simulation of high-resolution elastic solids”

Advantages: often simpler to implement, nice  
grid structure offers various optimizations,  
cache coherent memory accesses...

Disadvantages: trickier for irregular shapes and  
boundaries not aligned with axes



# Finite volume

- Divide the physical domain up into a set of non-overlapping “control volumes.”
- Could be irregular, tetrahedra, hexahedra, general polyhedral, etc.
- Approximate the *integrated/average* value of quantities within the cell (rather than point values like F.D.).
- Consider the exchange of data between adjacent cells.

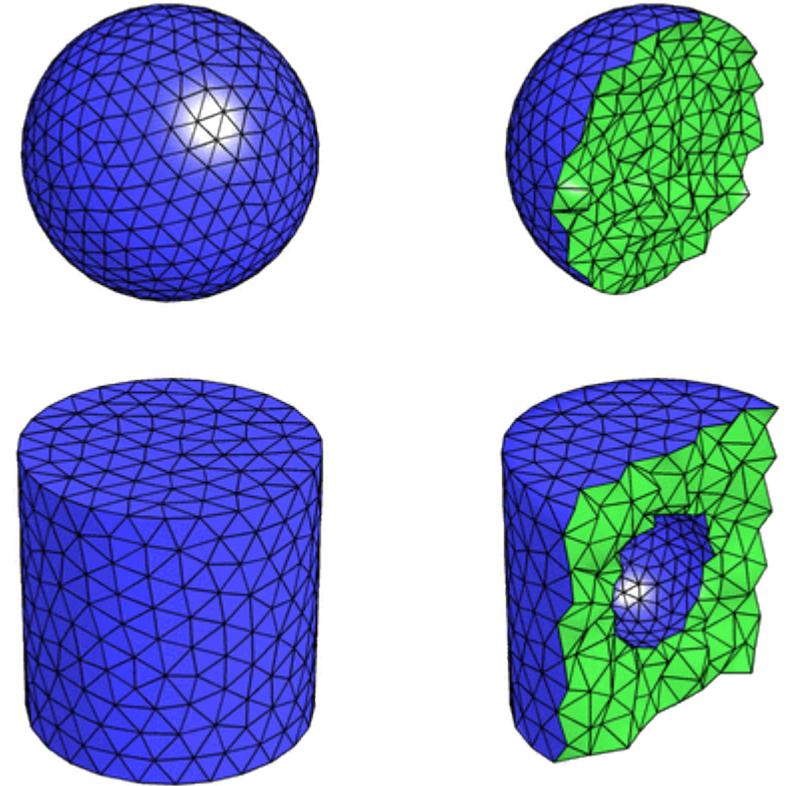


Figure from the *DistMesh* gallery:  
[http://persson.berkeley.edu/distmesh/gallery\\_images.html](http://persson.berkeley.edu/distmesh/gallery_images.html)

# Finite volume – Conservation laws

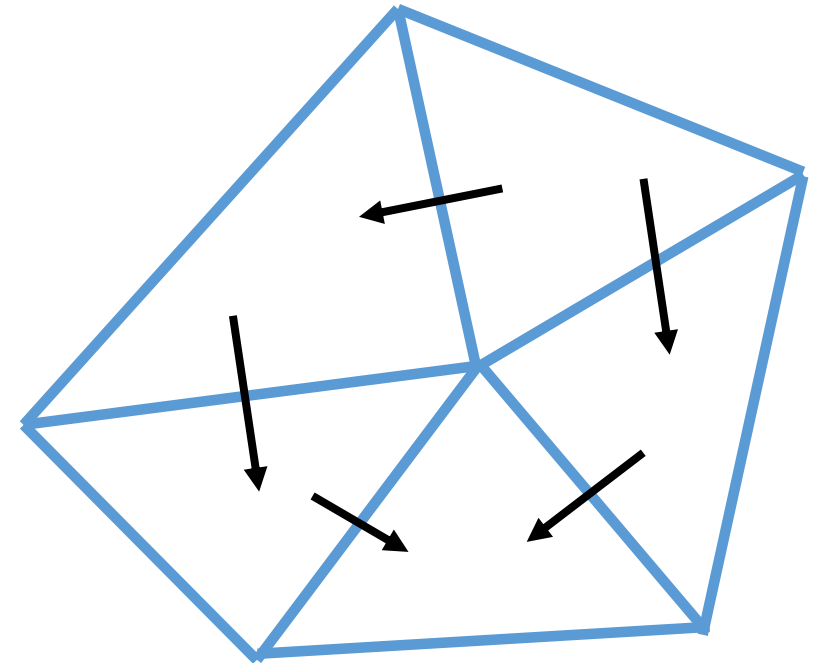
Useful for conserved quantities; ensures the exact “flow” leaving one cell enters the next.

- E.g. mass, heat, momentum, etc.

Applies to equations in “conservation form”:

$$\frac{d\phi}{dt} + \nabla \cdot f(\phi) = 0$$

Particularly common for fluids.



# Reminder: Divergence operator, $\nabla \cdot$

For vector field  $\vec{u}(\vec{x})$ , divergence is a signed scalar measuring net flow out of a point.

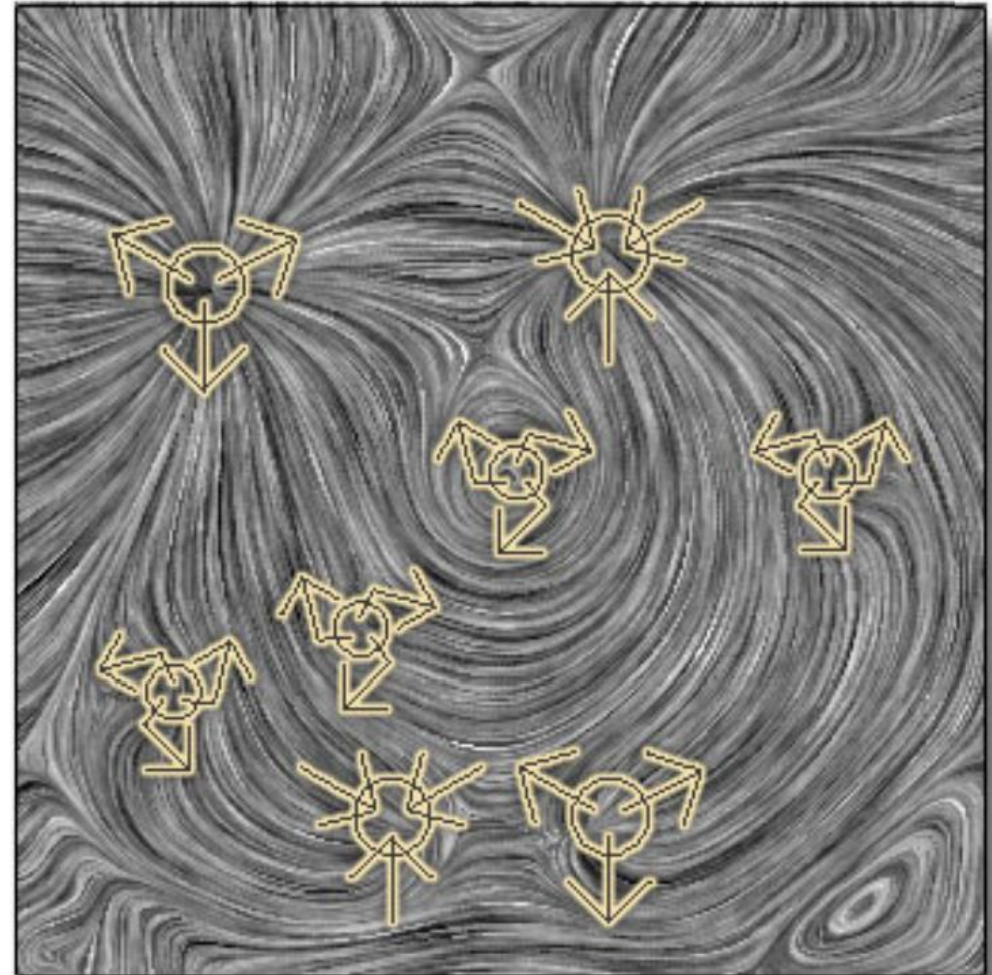
i.e. to what degree that point is a source (v.s. a sink) for the vector field.

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{u} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z}$$

Flowing out: positive

Flowing in: negative

Neither: zero (“divergence-free”)

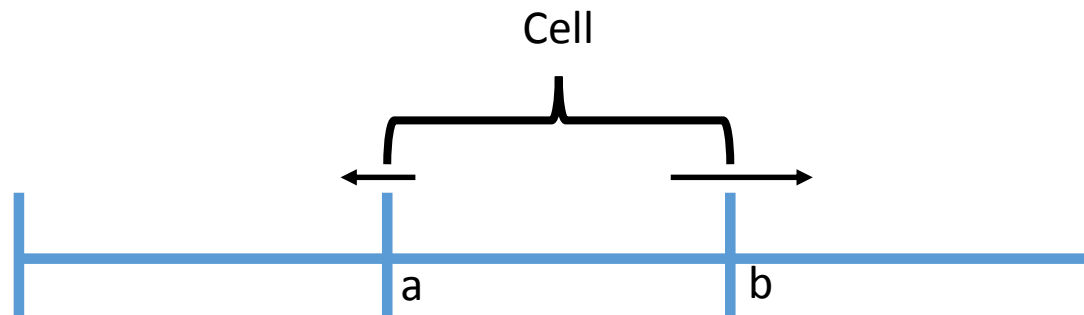


e.g. 1D Heat equation

Instead of differential form, use an *integral* form of the governing equations over a cell.

$$\left( \frac{d}{dt} \int \phi \right) - \int \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \alpha \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \right) = 0$$

The amount of a quantity ( $\phi$ ) in a cell changes due to the amount flowing across its boundaries (sides).

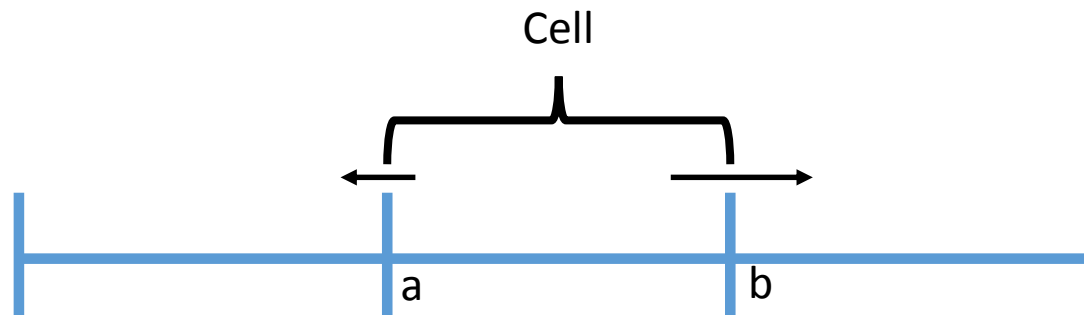


e.g. 1D Heat equation

$$\left( \frac{d}{dt} \int_a^b \phi dx \right) - \int_a^b \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \alpha \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \right) dx = 0 \quad \xrightarrow{\text{By FTOC}} \quad \left( \frac{d}{dt} \int_a^b \phi dx \right) - \left[ \alpha \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \right]_a^b = 0$$

We estimate the difference in “flux”  $\alpha \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x}$  at the right and left side of the cell.

This tells us how much the total  $\phi$  in the cell,  $\int_a^b \phi dx$ , changes per unit time.



# Finite volume – Equations of motion

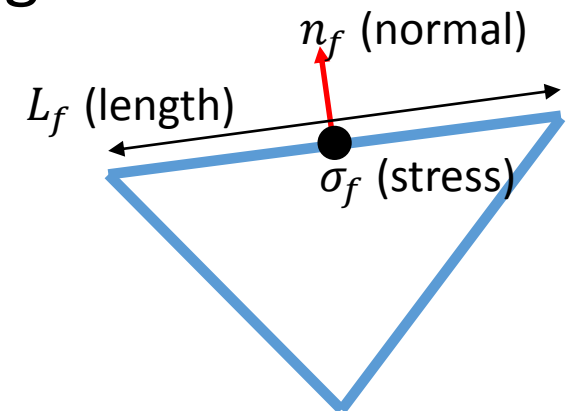
Return to the *integral* form of our equations of motion...

$$\int_{\Omega} F_{body} dX + \int_{\Omega} \nabla \cdot \sigma dX = \int_{\Omega} \rho \ddot{x} dX$$

Convert divergence term into *surface* integrals by divergence th'm.

e.g.

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} \nabla \cdot \sigma dX &= \int_{\partial\Omega} \sigma \cdot n dS \\ &\approx \sum_{faces\ f} (\sigma_f \cdot n_f) L_f \end{aligned}$$



Integrate remaining terms to get volume-averaged quantities per cell.



# Finite volume – Elasticity

We'll see details of FV applied to elastic objects in the paper:  
“Finite Volume Methods for the Simulation of Skeletal Muscle”



# Finite element methods

Core idea:

We can't really solve the *infinite dimensional*, continuous problem describing all points in the material!

Instead find a solution that we *can* represent, in some ***finite*** dimensional subspace.

Concretely:

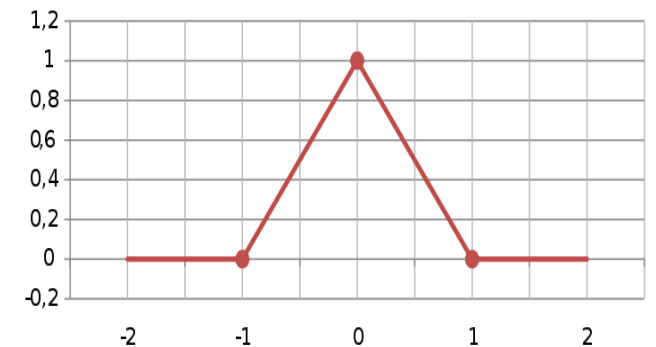
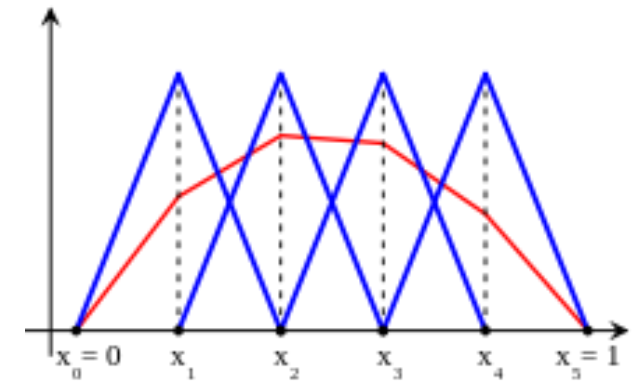
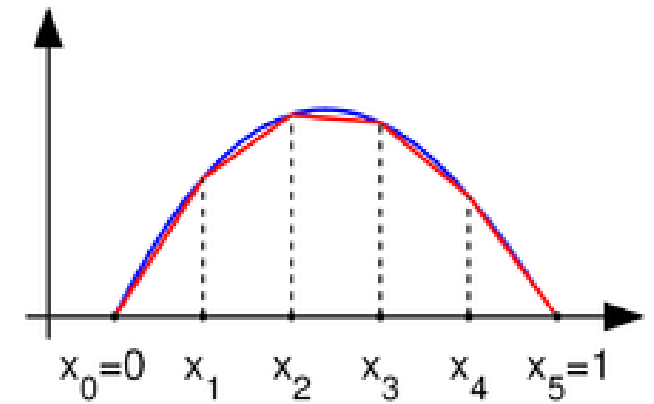
1. choose an approximate representation of continuous functions on a discrete mesh.
2. find the “best” solution possible among all functions that representation can describe.

# Finite elements – basis functions

In 1D, consider the space of functions representable by (piecewise) linear interpolation on a set of grid points.

Just a linear combination of scaled and translated “hat” functions at each gridpoint, called a *basis function*.

Many others bases are possible (e.g. higher order polynomials).



# Finite elements

Then, any function  $u$  in this space can be described by:

$$u(x) = \sum_{k=1}^n u_k v_k(x)$$

where  $u_i$  are the coefficients, and  $v_k(x)$  are the basis functions, (“hats” in our case.)

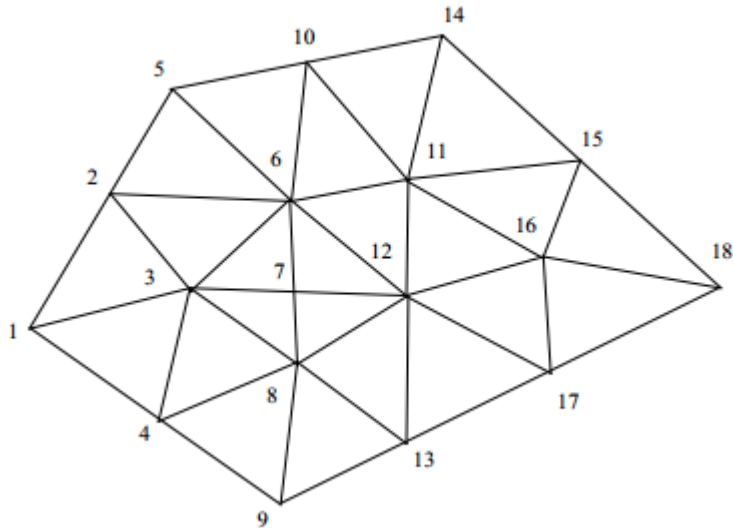
To find a solution to a problem, we want to find the discrete coefficients,  $u_k$ .

The approximated continuous solution is recovered by interpolation.

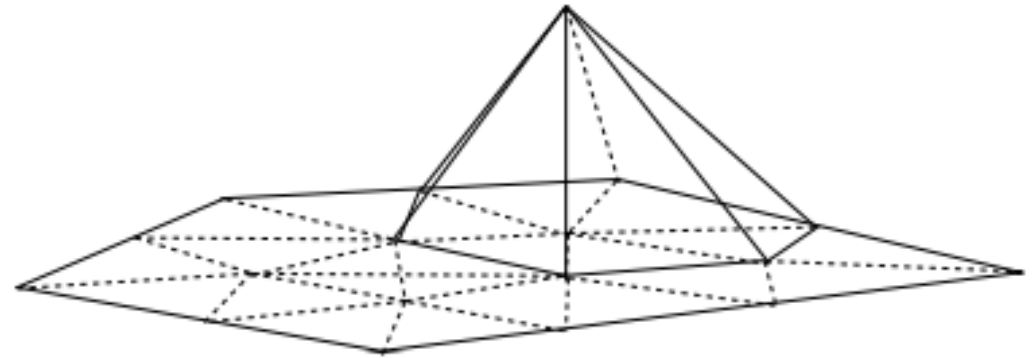
# Higher dimensional functions

This generalizes to higher dimensions, where our scalar function  $u$  depends on multiple variables (e.g.  $x, y, z$ )

e.g., two dimensions:



2D mesh with numbered nodes.



A single linear "hat" basis function in 2D.

# Finite elements

Take a 1D model problem:  $\frac{d^2u}{dx^2} = f$  on  $[0,1]$ , with  $u(0) = 0, u(1) = 0$ .

For given  $f$ , find  $u$ .

For a proper solution, it will also be true that

$$\int \frac{d^2u}{dx^2} v dx = \int f v dx$$

for all “test functions”  $v$  (that are smooth and satisfy the BC).

We require this, rather than pointwise satisfaction of original equation.

# Finite elements

Integrate LHS by parts (with zero boundaries) to get:

$$\int \frac{du}{dx} \frac{dv}{dx} dx = \int f v dx$$

This is called the *weak form* of the PDE.

Now, we will replace  $u$ ,  $f$ , and  $v$  with our space of discrete, piecewise linear functions.

# Finite elements

Specifically, we insert:

- $u(x) = \sum_{k=1}^n u_k v_k(x)$
- $f(x) = \sum_{k=1}^n f_k v_k(x)$
- $v(x) = v_j(x)$  for  $j = 1$  to  $n$  (i.e. a set of functions spanning the space)

From our (linear/hat) basis functions, we can work out derivatives of  $u(x)$  and  $v(x)$ .

We can also *exactly* find the following inner products:

$$\langle v_j, v_k \rangle = \int v_j v_k dx$$

$$\phi(v_j v_k) = \int \frac{dv_j}{dx} \frac{dv_k}{dx} dx$$



# Finite elements

After plugging into  $\int \frac{du}{dx} \frac{dv}{dx} = \int f v$  and rearranging, this yields a set of  $n$  *discrete equations* of the form:

$$\sum_{k=1}^n u_k \underbrace{\phi(v_j, v_k)}_{\text{Known inner products}} = \sum_{k=1}^n f_k \underbrace{\langle v_j, v_k \rangle}_{\text{Known inner products}}$$

Unknown coefficients

Known input data

# Final system

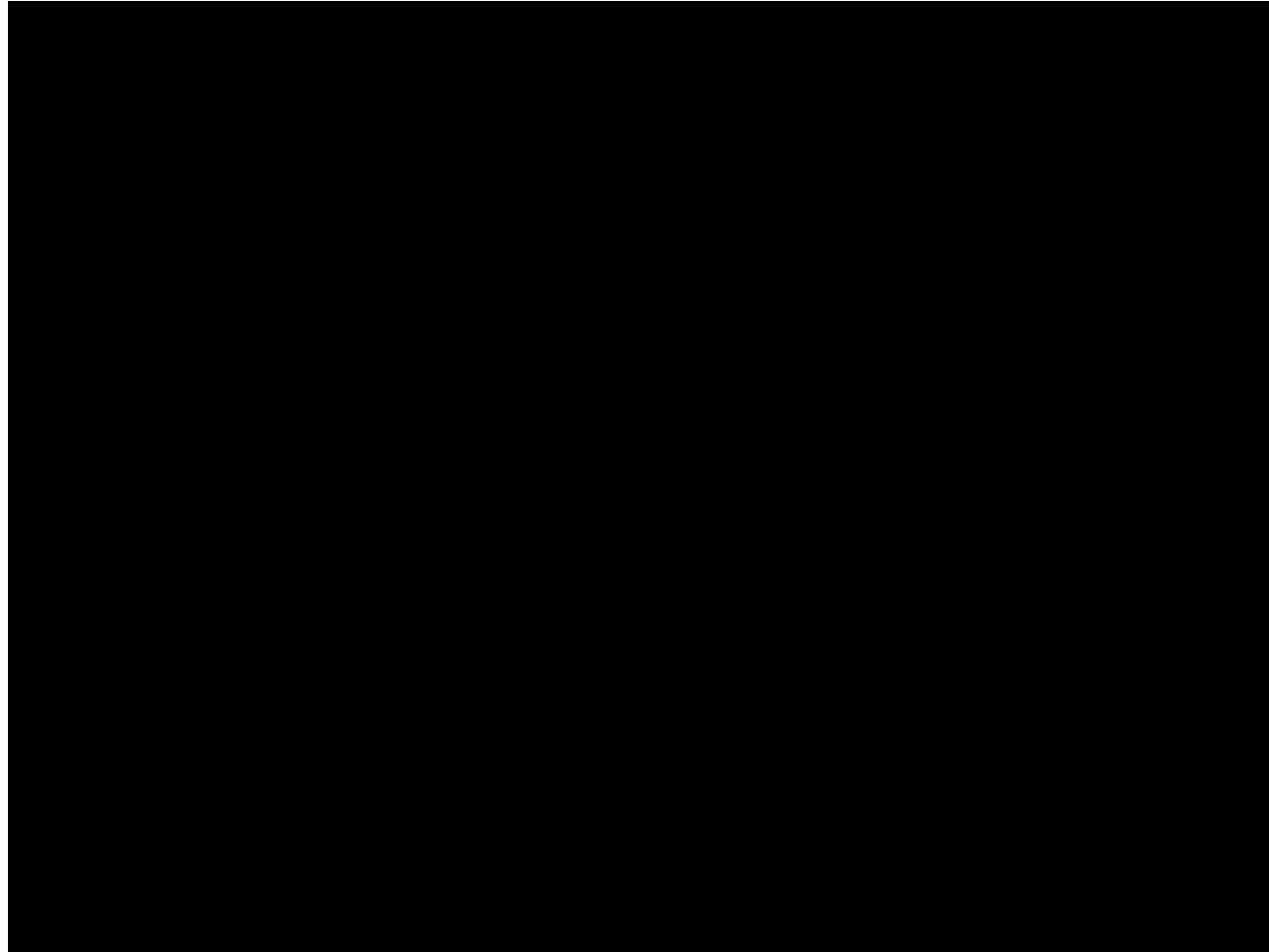
Letting  $\mathbf{u}$  be the vector of unknown coefficients, and  $\mathbf{b}$  the RHS vector, this becomes a matrix equation:

$$\mathbf{L}\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{b}$$

where the entries of  $L$  are just the  $\phi(v_j, v_k)$ 's we defined.

See paper “Graphical Modeling and Animation of Brittle Fracture” for details of an early application of FEM to elasticity in graphics.

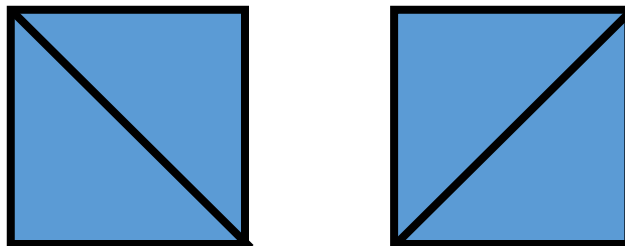
# Example – FEM with fracture



“Graphical modeling and animation of brittle fracture”, O’Brien et al. 1999

# FD/FV/FE elasticity v.s. mass-spring

- In all cases (w/ implicit time integration) we get a possibly nonlinear system of equations to solve for data stored on a discrete mesh/grid.
- However, for FD/FV/FE:
  - we can use physically meaningful/measurable parameters.
  - as the mesh resolution is increased, we approach true/real analytical solutions.
  - behaviour becomes independent of the mesh structure (under refinement!)
    - E.g. eliminates bias due to triangle edge directions. With springs, the mesh structures below behave differently regardless of how fine the mesh is.



# Summary

- The equations of elasticity give us a more consistent and principled approach to evolving continuous deformable bodies.
- The most common approaches to **discretizing** the resulting PDE are the finite difference, volume, and element methods.