

Question

Suppose we know  $\underline{\underline{\epsilon}}(\underline{x})$  everywhere in an elastic solid. How do we find  $\underline{u}(\underline{x})$ ?

Solution

$\underline{\underline{\epsilon}}(\underline{x})$  implies  $\underline{\underline{\epsilon}}(\underline{x})$ , so we have the following equations for  $\underline{u}$ :  $u_{,ji} + u_{,ji} = 2\epsilon_{ij}$ .

Let's examine these in 2-D. They are

$$\frac{\partial u_x}{\partial x} = \epsilon_{xx}, \quad \frac{\partial u_x}{\partial x} \frac{\partial u_y}{\partial y} = \epsilon_{yy}, \quad \frac{\partial u_x}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial u_y}{\partial x} = 2\epsilon_{xy}$$

These are essentially equations for the gradient of  $\underline{u}$ .

But one equation is missing, the rotation equation,

$$\frac{\partial u_x}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial u_y}{\partial x} = 2\Omega_{xy}$$

If we knew it, then we could solve for the gradient

$$\nabla \underline{u} = \begin{bmatrix} \partial u_x / \partial x & \partial u_x / \partial y \\ \partial u_y / \partial x & \partial u_y / \partial y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_{xx} & (\epsilon_{xy} + \Omega_{xy}) \\ (\epsilon_{xy} - \Omega_{xy}) & \epsilon_{yy} \end{bmatrix}$$

Then we could use the fundamental Theorem of Calculus

$$\underline{u}(\underline{x}) = u_0 + \int_{\text{any path from } x_0 \text{ to } \underline{x}} \hat{t} \cdot \nabla u \, ds$$

Here  $u_0 = u(x_0)$  is an integration constant and  $\hat{t}$  is the tangent to the path. So the stress (or strain) alone is insufficient to specify the displacement.

You need the rotation everywhere ( $\Omega(\underline{x})$ ) and the displacement at one point (the integration constant,  $u(\underline{x}=0)$ )

Note that  $\Omega(\underline{x})$  can't be arbitrarily chosen, since there is a compatibility requirement  $2\Omega_{xy,xy} = \epsilon_{xx,yy} - \epsilon_{yy,xx}$