

Advanced Structural Geology, Fall 2022

# Force, Traction, Stress

Ramón Arrowsmith

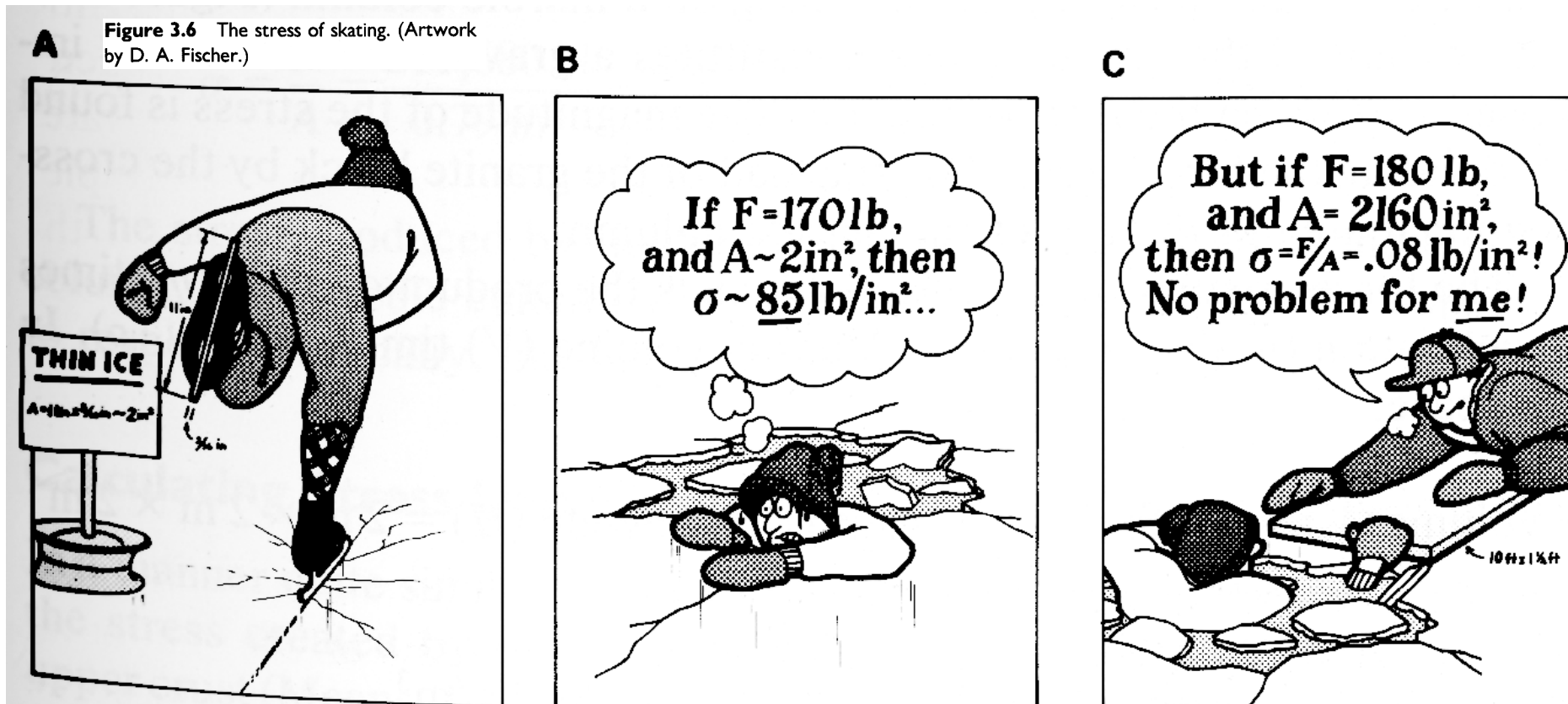
ramon.arrowsmith@asu.edu

Some from Davis, Reynolds, Kluth, Structural Geology of Rocks and Regions



# Stress simply

Simple definition of stress (for the moment) =  
pressure = Force/Area



# Stress simply

$$\text{Stress} = \text{Force}/\text{Area} = \text{N}/\text{m}^2 = \text{Pascal} = \text{Pa}$$



Blaise Pascal, was a French mathematician, physicist, inventor, writer and Christian philosopher. Pascal's earliest work was in the natural and applied sciences where he made important contributions to the study of fluids, and clarified the concepts of pressure and vacuum. Pascal also wrote in defense of the scientific method.

Born: June 19, 1623, Clermont-Ferrand

Died: August 19, 1662, Paris

(Wikipedia)

## Pascal aside

In his *Lettres Provinciales*, the French philosopher and mathematician Blaise Pascal famously wrote:

*I would have written a shorter letter, but I did not have the time.*

This sentiment, which also found expression by John Locke, Benjamin Franklin and Woodrow Wilson, among others, reflects both the value and the challenges of brevity. On the one hand, brevity forces us to cut excess — to distill a message to its core. On the other hand, being accurate, clear and concise can be hard, sometimes impossibly so.



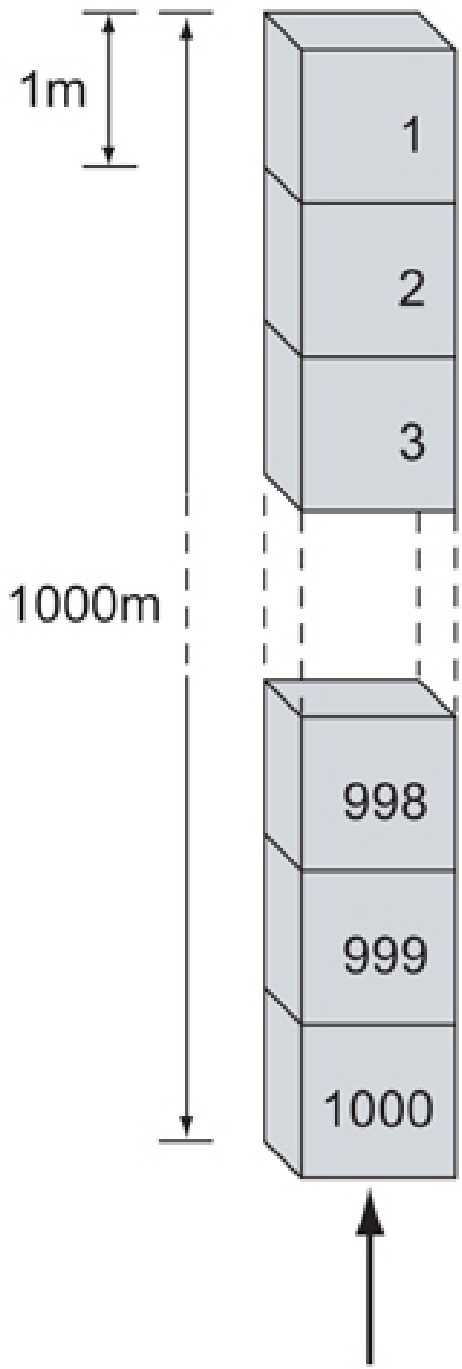




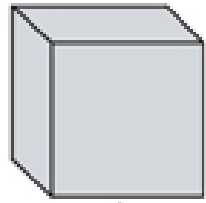
<https://www.azpm.org/s/5840-a-visit-to-the-ray-mine>

Ray Mine AZ: rocks  
come from depth  
“overburden”



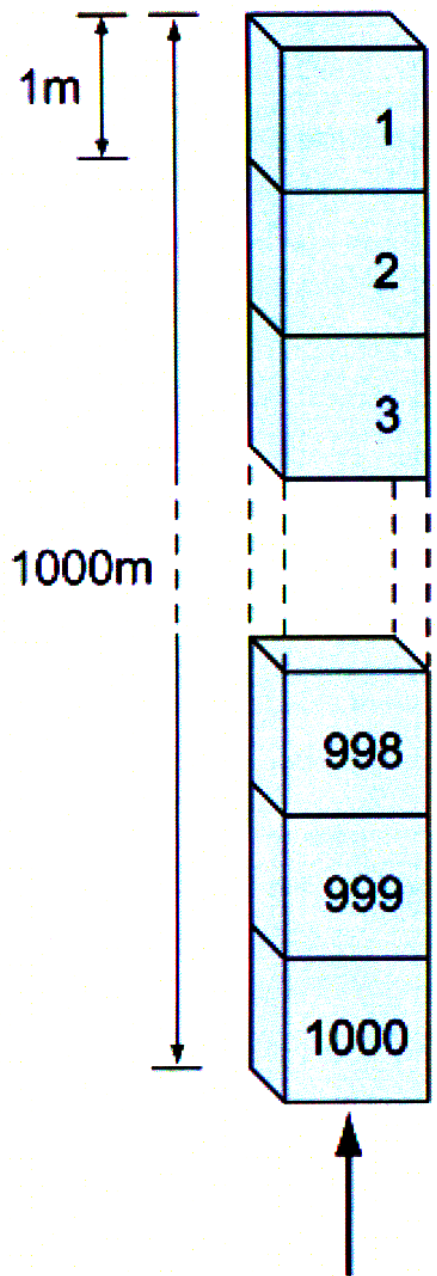


unit weight  
 $= 26,670 \text{ N/m}^3$



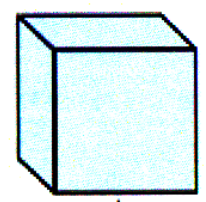
↑  
stress on base  
 $= 26,670 \text{ N/m}^2$

↑  
stress on base of column  
 $\sim 27 \text{ MN/m}^2 = 27 \text{ MPa}$



$V = \text{volume}$

unit weight  
 $= 26,670 \text{ N/m}^3$



stress on base  
 $= 26,670 \text{ N/m}^2$

$\vec{F} = m\vec{a}$  ;  $\vec{F} = m\vec{g}$

$\vec{g} = 9.81 \text{ m/s}^2 \approx 10 \text{ m/s}^2$

stress at base  $= \frac{\vec{F}}{A}$

rock density  $= 2667 \text{ kg/m}^3$

$\rho = \frac{m}{V} \Rightarrow m = \rho \cdot V$

$m = 2667 \text{ kg/m}^3 \cdot 1 \text{ m}^3 = 2667 \text{ kg}$

$\vec{F} = m\vec{g} = 2667 \text{ kg} \cdot 10 \text{ m/s}^2 = 2.667 \cdot 10^4 \text{ N}$

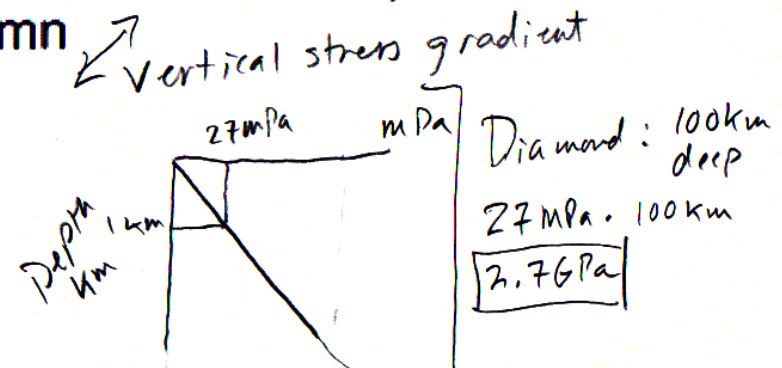
Area  $= 1 \text{ m}^2$

$\frac{\vec{F}}{A} = 2.667 \cdot 10^4 \text{ N/m}^2$   
 $= 2.667 \cdot 10^4 \text{ Pa}$

1km tall column of rock:

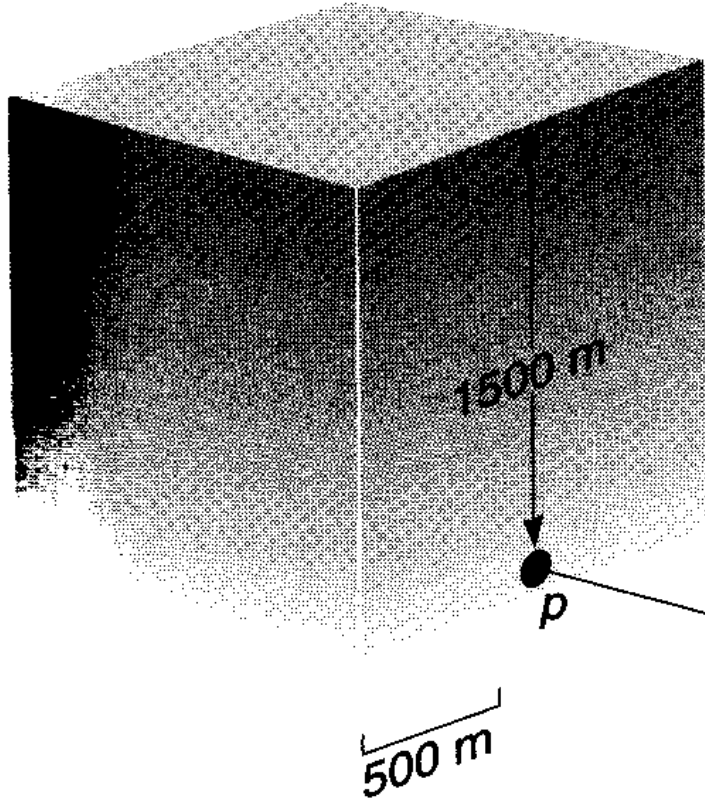
$2.667 \cdot 10^4 \text{ Pa} \cdot 1000 = 2.667 \cdot 10^7 \text{ Pa}$   
 $= 26.67 \text{ MPa/km}$

stress on base of column  
 $\sim 27 \text{ MN/m}^2 = 27 \text{ MPa}$



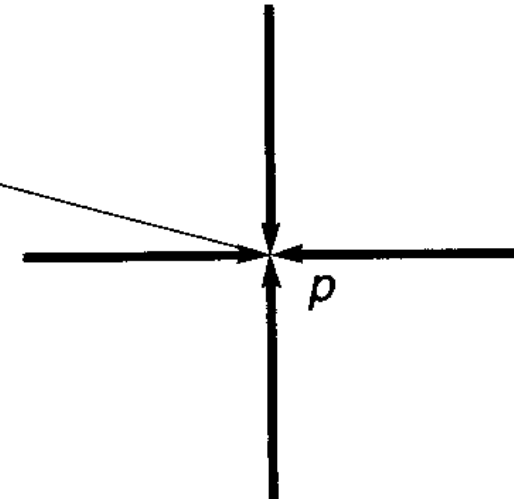


## Multiple sources of stress



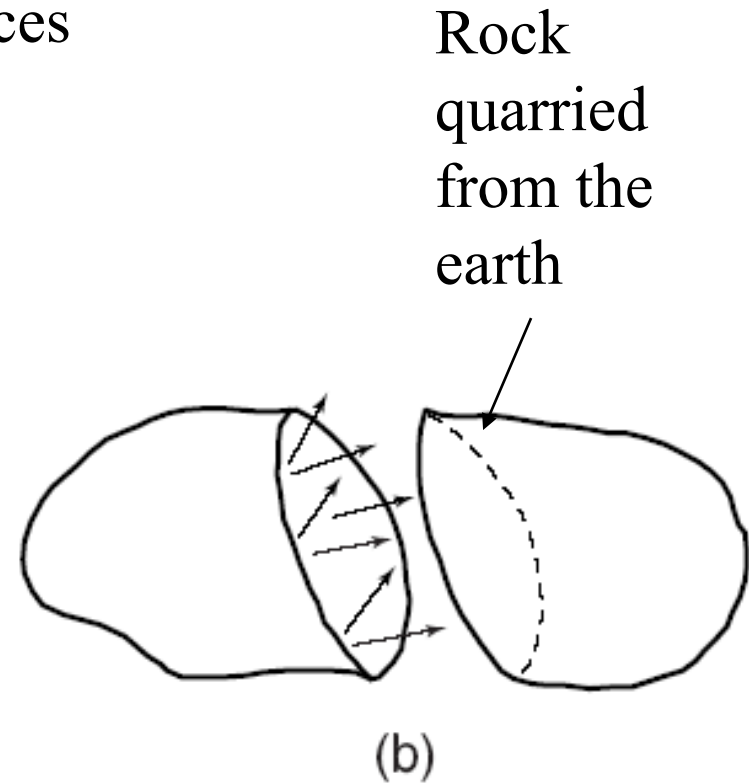
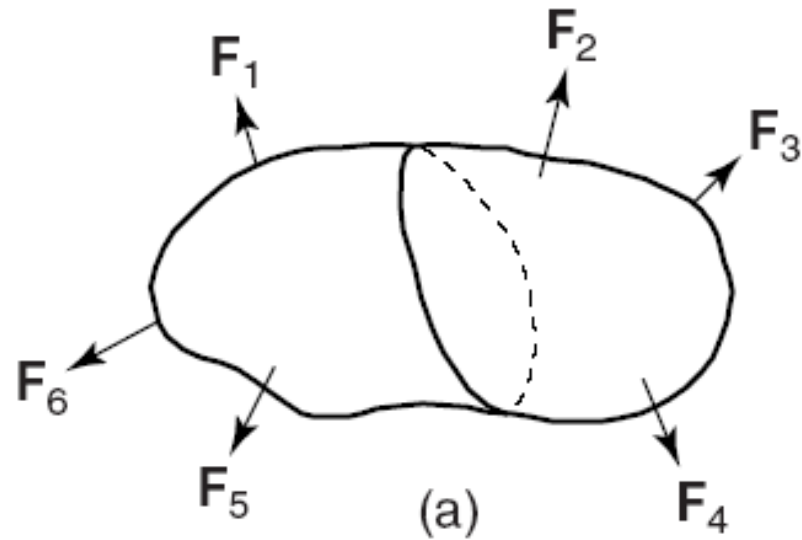
40MPa = Vertical Traction  
Due to Gravitational Loading

20MPa = Horizontal Traction  
Due to Tectonic Loading



# Tractions and stress

Replace effect of adjacent rocks with forces



Applied forces: (a) static equilibrium; (b) forces acting on a plane.

# Tractions and stress

A more strict definition of stress

- Traction is stress relative to a surface through a point  $p$ .
- Stress tensor is the field of tractions acting over a point  $p$ .
- Stress field is the entire collection of stress tensors in a body.

# Tractions and stress

- Start with equilibrium (Newton's 3<sup>rd</sup> Law):
- Resolve each into its components in the coordinate directions

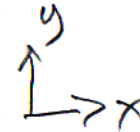
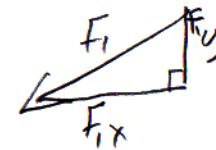
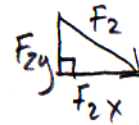
# Tractions and stress

- Start with equilibrium (Newton's 3<sup>rd</sup> Law):

$$\vec{F}_1 + \vec{F}_2 + \vec{F}_3 + \dots = 0$$

- Resolve each into its components in the coordinate directions

$$\sum \vec{F}_x = 0 \quad \sum \vec{F}_y = 0 \quad \sum \vec{F}_z = 0$$





# Tractions and stress

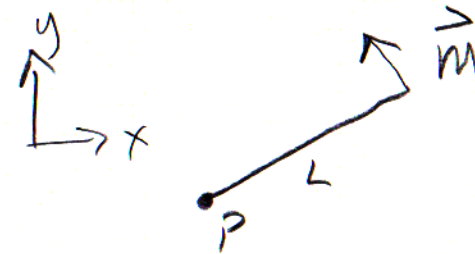
- Total torque must vanish

# Tractions and stress

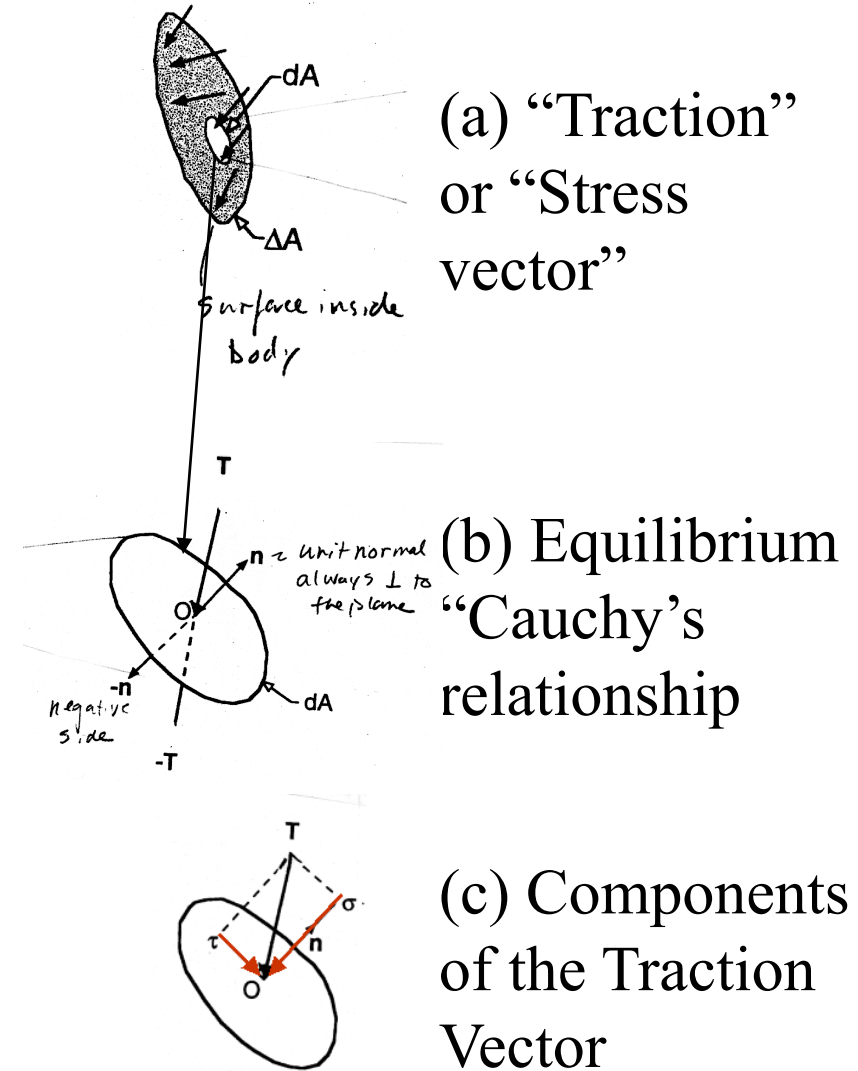
- Total torque must vanish

$$\vec{M}_1 + \vec{M}_2 + \vec{M}_3 + \dots = 0$$

$$\sum \vec{M}_x = 0 \quad \sum \vec{M}_y = 0 \quad \sum \vec{M}_z = 0$$



# Tractions and stress



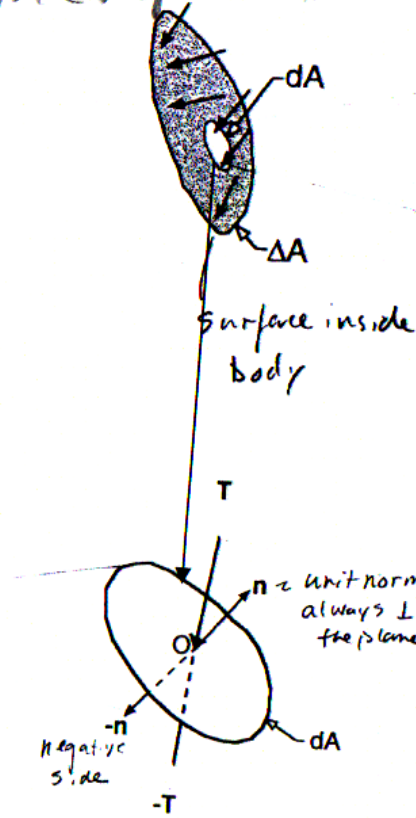
# Tractions and stress

traction as a function of orientation of surface defined by normal vector

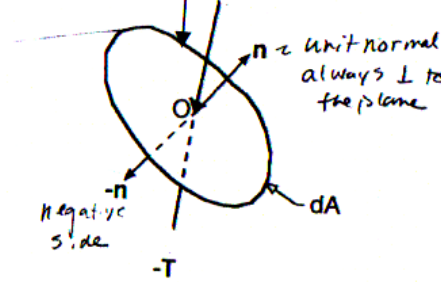
$$\vec{T}(\vec{n}) = \lim_{\Delta A \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta \vec{F}}{\Delta A} = \frac{d\vec{F}}{dA}$$

$$\vec{T}(\vec{n}) + \vec{T}(-\vec{n}) = 0$$

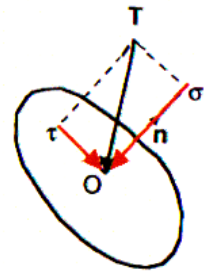
$\sigma_n$  or  $\sigma$  is normal component  
 $\sigma_s$  or  $\tau$  is shear component



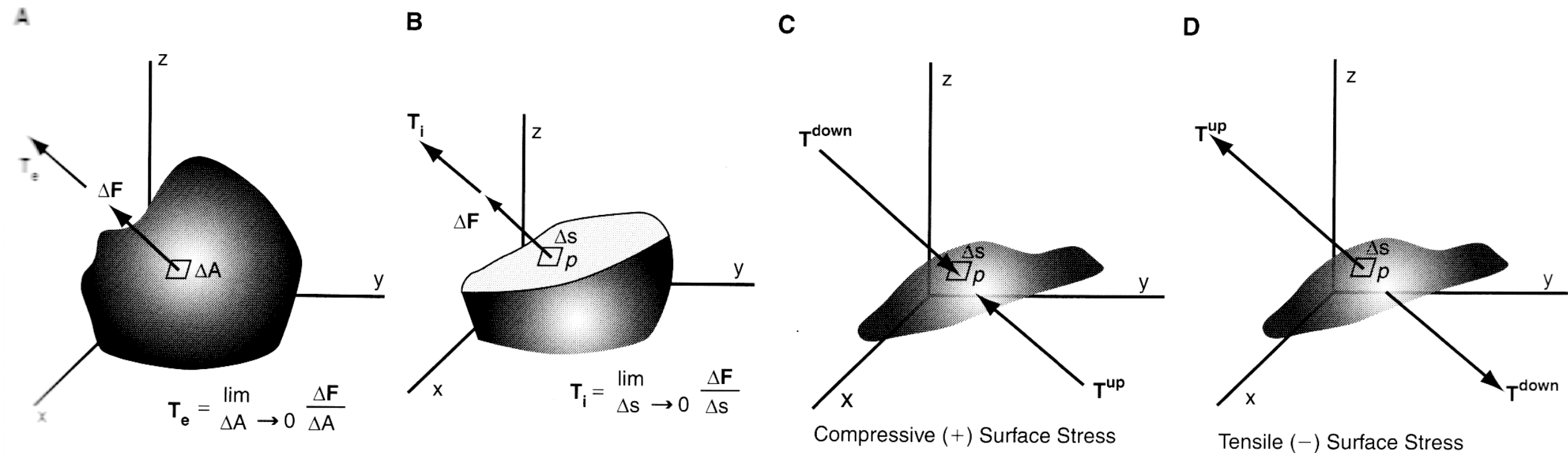
(a) "Traction" or "Stress vector"



(b) Equilibrium "Cauchy's relationship"



(c) Components of the Traction Vector



**Figure 3.17** (A) An external traction ( $T_e$ ) acting on the surface of a body, which we imagine to be a tiny grain of sand in a sandstone formation. Its value is the magnitude of the force ( $F$ ) divided by the area ( $A$ ) on which the force is acting. [Figure prepared courtesy of [www.efunda.com](http://www.efunda.com), in particular, [http://www.efunda.com/formulae/solid\\_mechanics/mat\\_mechanics/stress.cfm](http://www.efunda.com/formulae/solid_mechanics/mat_mechanics/stress.cfm), April 12, 2010]. (B) Internal traction ( $T_i$ ) acting on surface within a body. [Adapted from [efunda](http://www.efunda.com)] [Figure prepared courtesy of [www.efunda.com](http://www.efunda.com), in particular, [www.efunda.com/formulae/solid\\_mechanics/mat\\_mechanics/stress.cfm](http://www.efunda.com/formulae/solid_mechanics/mat_mechanics/stress.cfm), April 12, 2010]. (C) The surface stress at point  $p$  is the pair of equal and opposite tractions. In this case the surface stress is compressive (+). (D) Example of tensile surface stress at point  $p$ , composed of pair of equal and opposite tractions.



# Tractions and stress

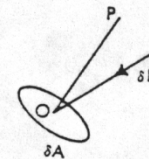
- Sign Conventions: compression positive most of the time

It is now necessary to introduce a convention of sign, and the one which will be used here is that forces are reckoned positive when compressive, that is, in the direction shown by  $\delta F$  in Fig. 2.2 (a). This is opposite to the convention adopted in works on the theory of elasticity and continuum

mechanics in which stresses are usually reckoned positive when tensile. In rock mechanics, however, it is more convenient to have compressive stresses positive for the following reasons: (i) the environmental stresses, such as stress due to depth of burial, confining pressure in apparatus, and fluid pressure in pores, are always compressive; (ii) this convention is universal in the closely related subject of soil mechanics, cf. Scott (1963), and has been much used in structural geology; (iii) many problems in rock mechanics involve friction over surfaces, and in this case the normal stress across the surfaces is necessarily compressive. This change of convention leaves all formulae unaltered, but when using results from works on the theory of elasticity (which use the convention that stresses are positive when tensile) it has to be remembered that all signs have to be changed.

-Fundamentals of Rock Mechanics by Jaeger and Cook (3<sup>rd</sup> ed., p. 10)

In many engineering situations, we consider tension as positive and compression negative. This is not usually the case in structural geology.

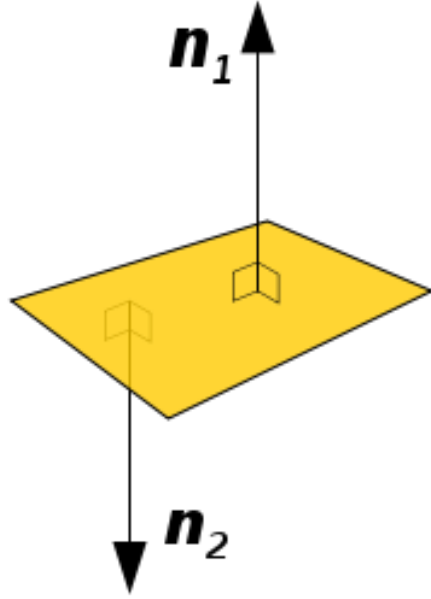


(a)

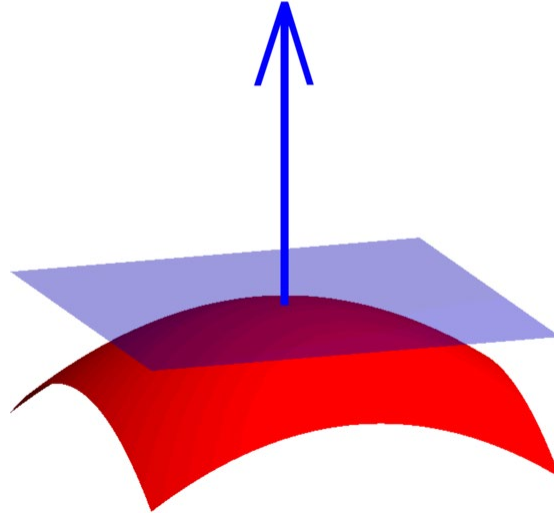
Traction vector

Fig. 2.2

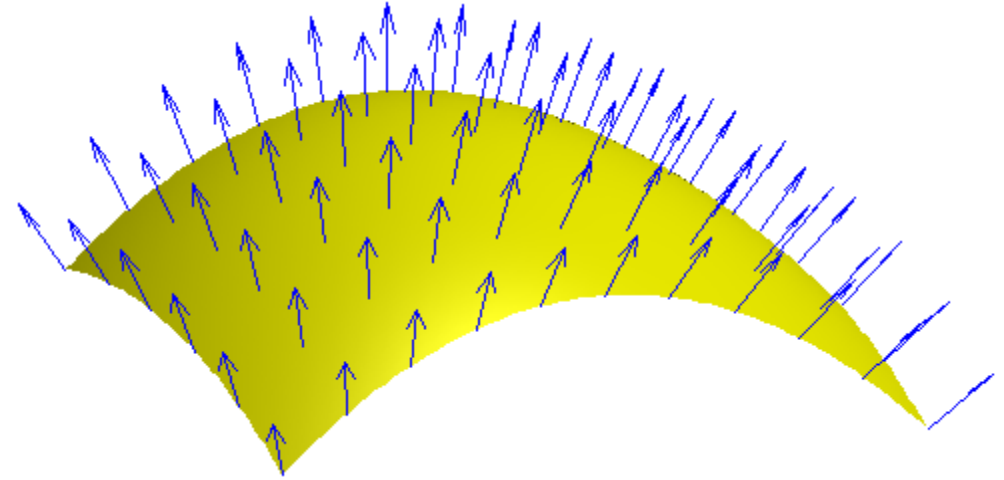
Normal vector: unit length, perpendicular to plane



A polygon and two of its normal vectors



A normal to a surface at a point is the same as a normal to the tangent plane to that surface at that point.

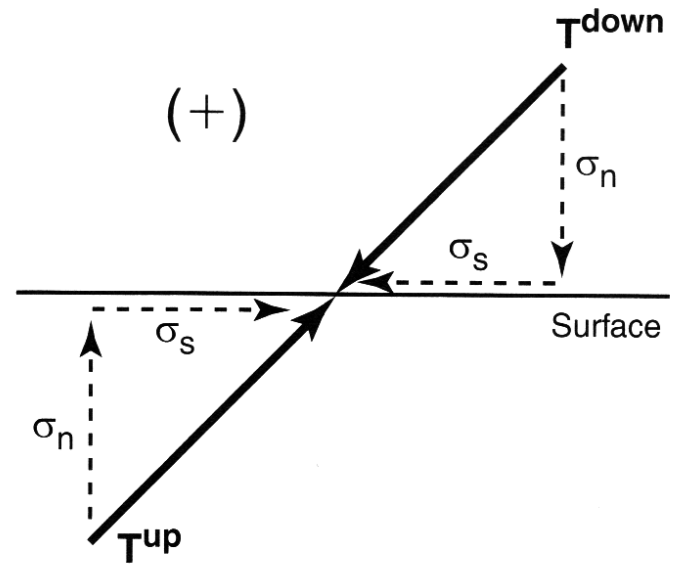


A vector field of normals to a surface



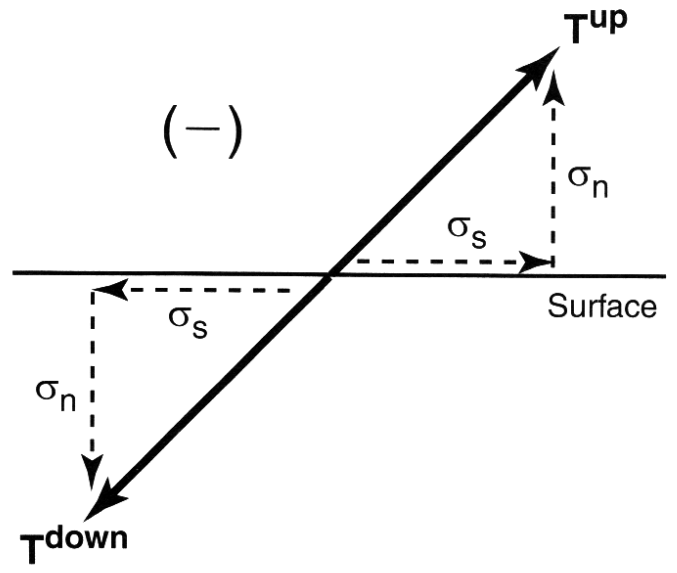
Baron Augustin-Louis Cauchy (21 August 1789 – 23 May 1857) was a French mathematician who was an early pioneer of analysis. He started the project of formulating and proving the theorems of infinitesimal calculus in a rigorous manner. A profound mathematician, Cauchy exercised a great influence over his contemporaries and successors. His writings cover the entire range of mathematics and mathematical physics. More concepts and theorems have been named for Cauchy than for any other mathematician (in elasticity alone there are sixteen concepts and theorems named for Cauchy).

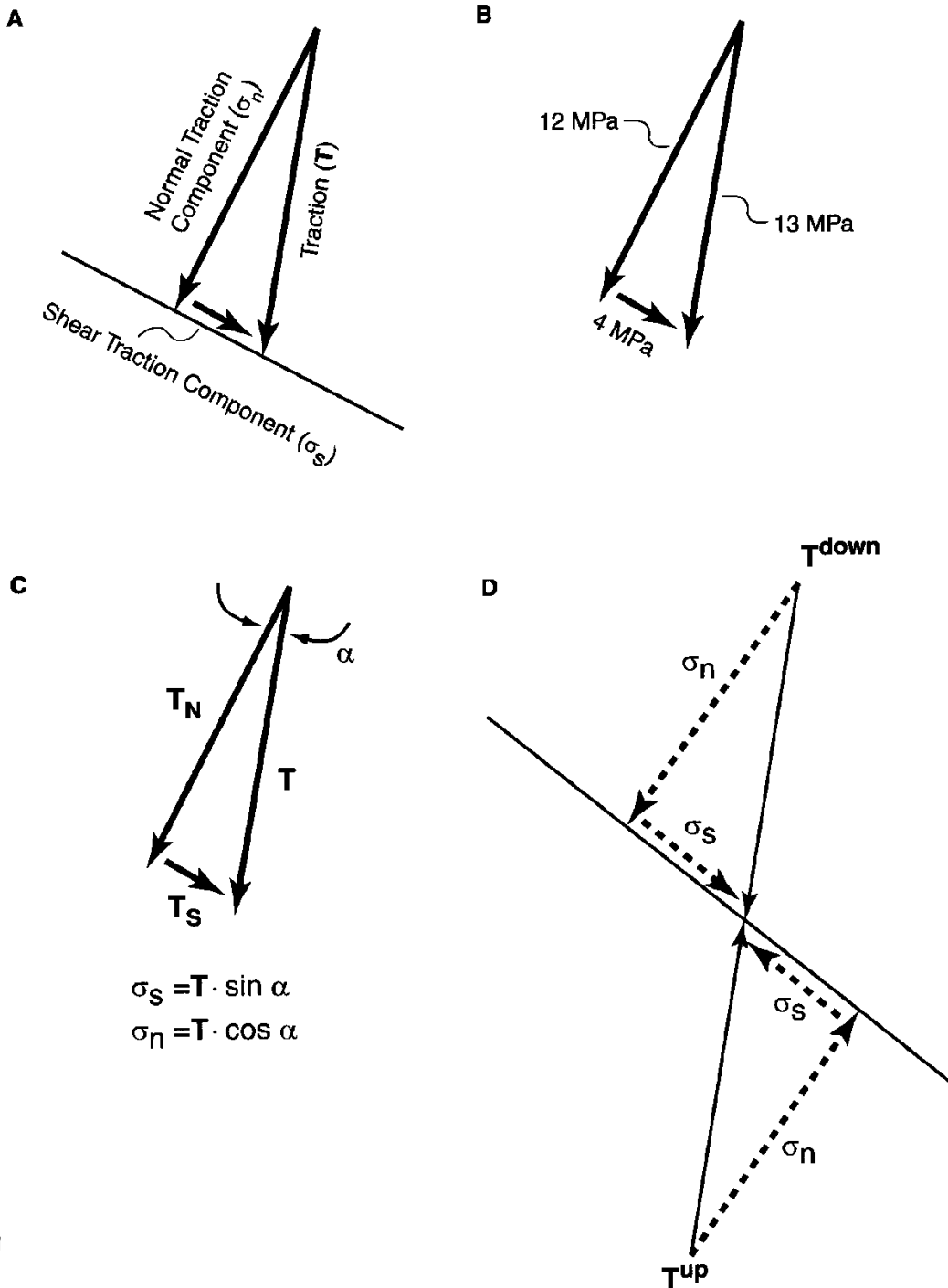
A



Equilibrium

B





**Figure 3.21** Two-dimensional approach to resolving traction ( $\mathbf{T}$ ) into normal traction component ( $\sigma_n$ ) and shear traction component ( $\sigma_s$ ). (A) The traction ( $\mathbf{T}$ ) in this example is not perpendicular to the surface on which it acts, and thus can be resolved into a normal traction component ( $\sigma_n$ ) and shear traction component ( $\sigma_s$ ). (B) Scaled-drawing solution. (C) Trigonometric solution. (D) Full surface stress showing resolution of traction.



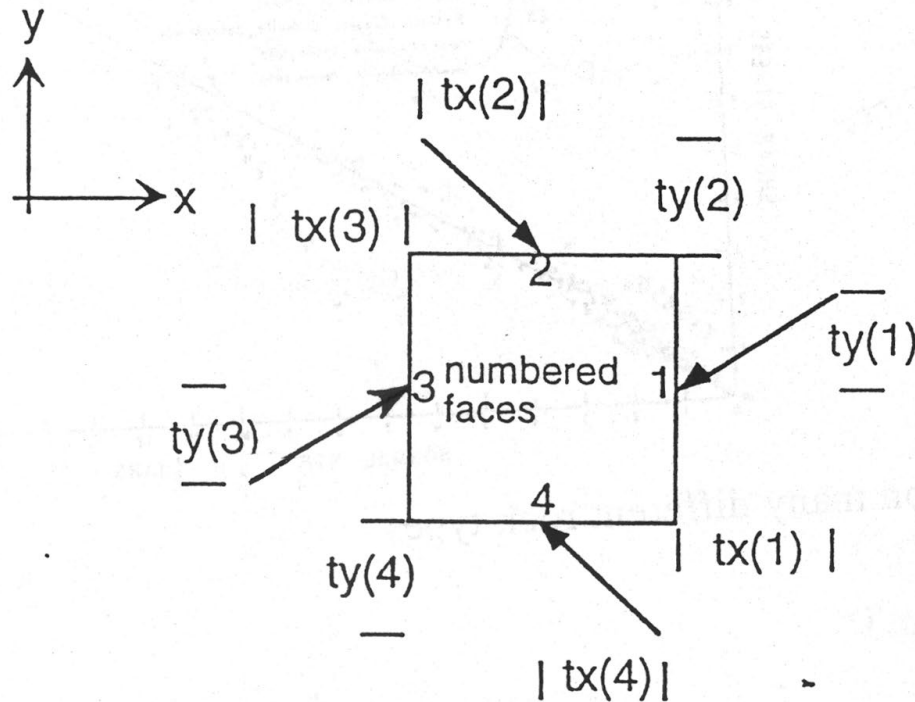
# Stress tensor

Start with Cauchy's relationship

$$\vec{t}(\vec{n}) + \vec{t}(-\vec{n}) = 0$$

Consider a cubic element of rock, quarried from the earth with the appropriate boundary tractions replacing the actions of the earth:

Resolve the tractions on the sides into x and y components



# Stress tensor

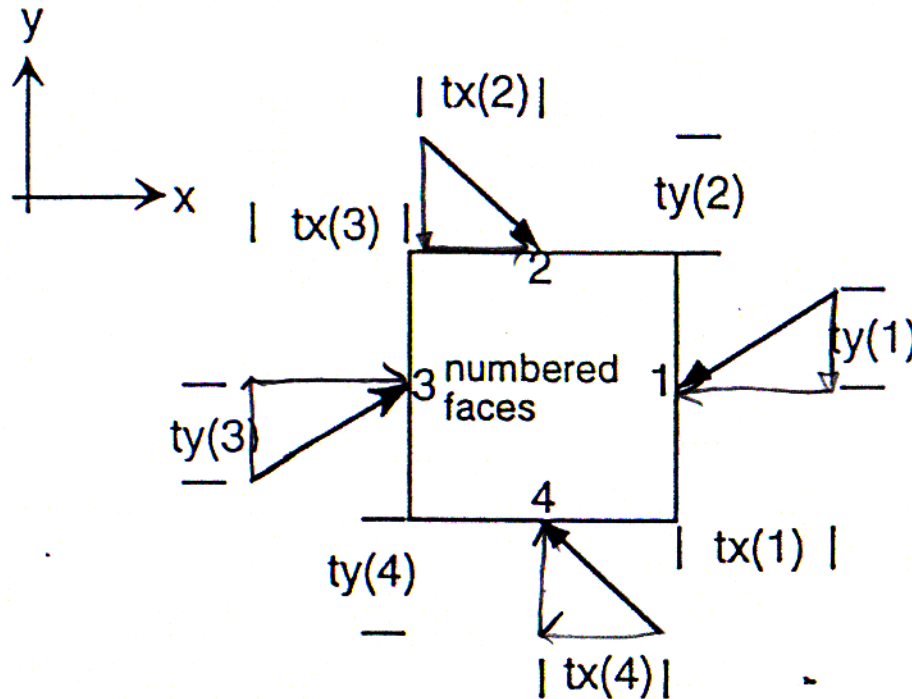
Start with Cauchy's relationship

$$\vec{t}(\vec{n}) + \vec{t}(-\vec{n}) = 0$$

*equilibrium*

Consider a cubic element of rock, quarried from the earth with the appropriate boundary tractions replacing the actions of the earth:

Resolve the tractions on the sides into x and y components :



# Stress tensor

If the element is small enough, Cauchy's relationship will hold and the respective components will be equal in magnitude and opposite in sign.

$$t_x(3) = -t_x(1)$$

Normal component

$$t_y(3) = -t_y(1)$$

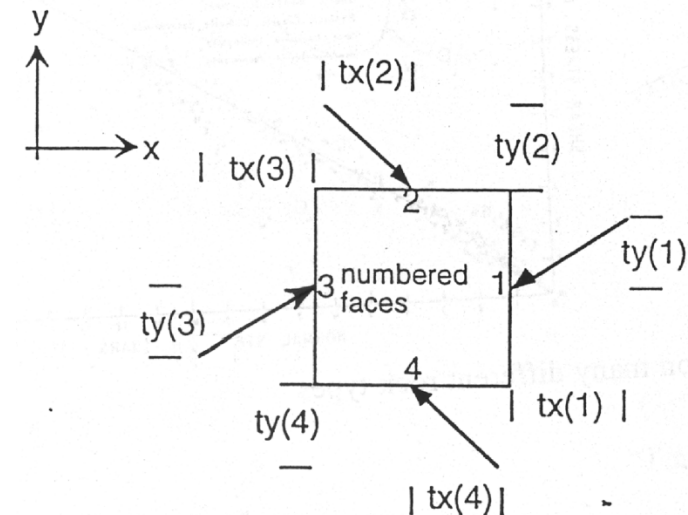
Shear component

$$t_x(4) = -t_x(2)$$

Shear component

$$t_y(4) = -t_y(2)$$

Normal component



# Stress tensor

If the element is small enough, Cauchy's relationship will hold and the respective components will be equal in magnitude and opposite in sign.

$$t_x(3) = -t_x(1) \rightarrow \sigma_{xx}$$

Normal component

$$t_y(3) = -t_y(1) \rightarrow \sigma_{xy}$$

Shear component

$$t_x(4) = -t_x(2) \rightarrow \sigma_{yx}$$

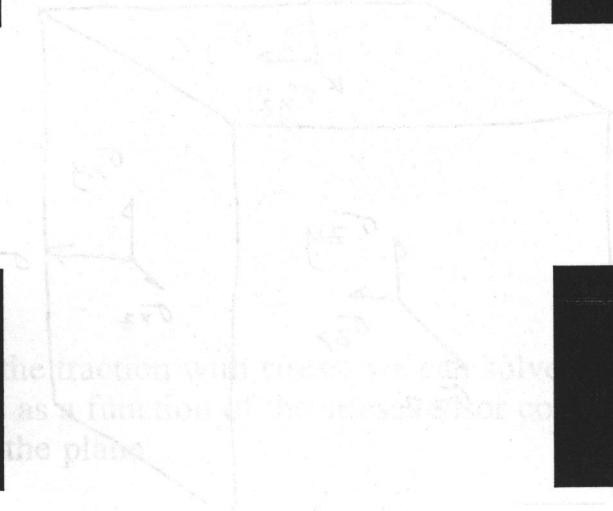
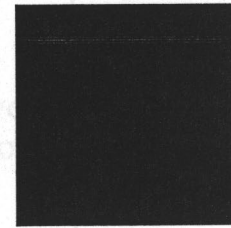
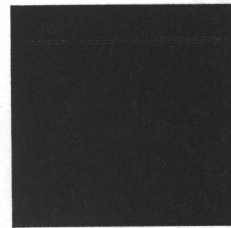
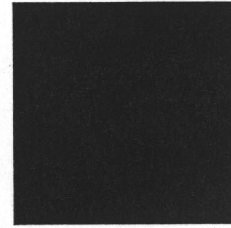
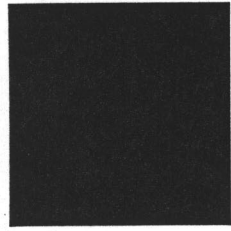
Shear component

$$t_y(4) = -t_y(2) \rightarrow \sigma_{yy}$$

Normal component

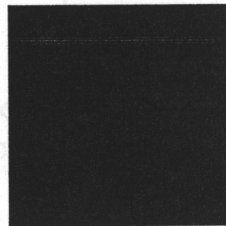
✓ "on-in" convention  
on a face  
in a coordinate direction

Those fixed relationships let us define the stress tensor components:

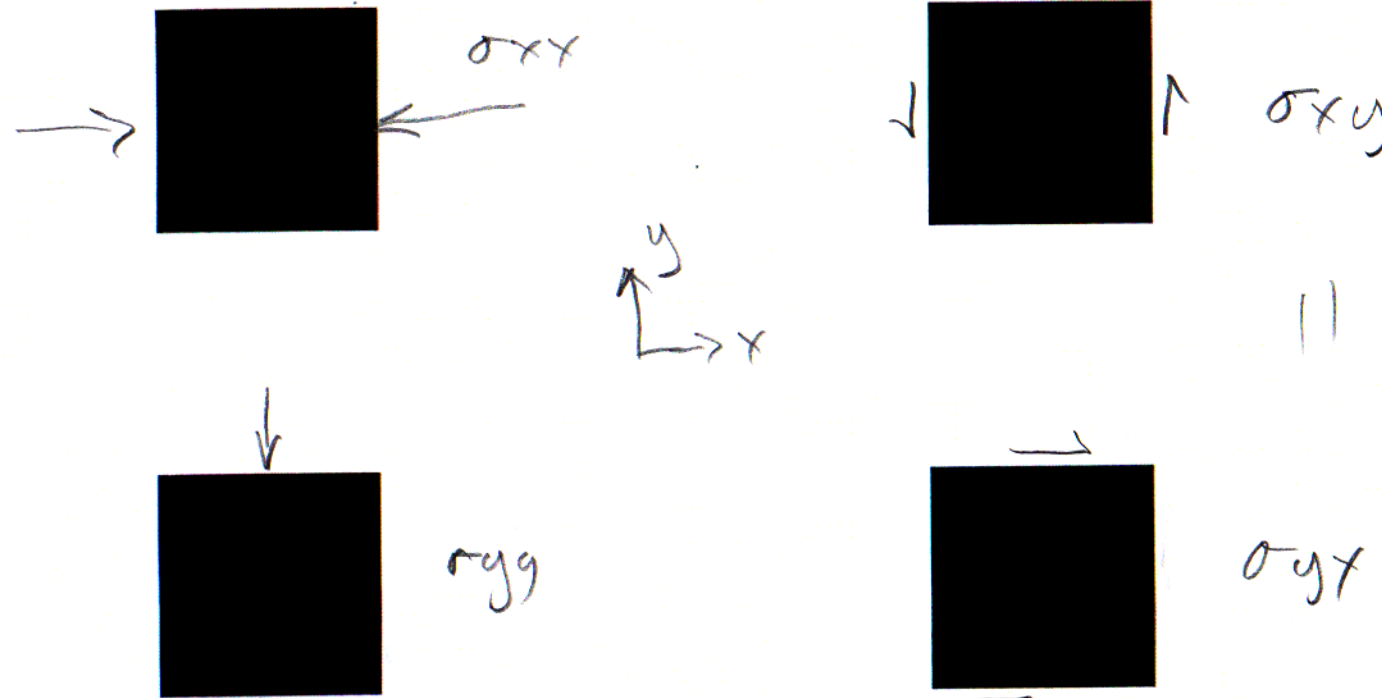


$\sigma_{xy} = \sigma_{yx}$  (because torques must sum to zero), so we really only need 3 independent stress components in 2 dimensions:

$$\sigma_{xx}, \sigma_{yy}, \sigma_{xy} = \text{STATE OF STRESS}$$



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$\sigma_{xy} = \sigma_{yx}$  (because torques must sum to zero), so we really only need 3 independent stress components in 2 dimensions:

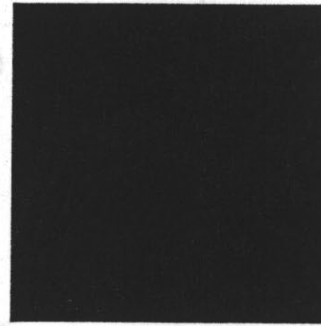
$\sigma_{xx}, \sigma_{yy}, \sigma_{xy} = \text{STATE OF STRESS}$



# Stress tensor

## ***Principal stresses***

We can always find orientations of a cubic element such that the shear stress components are zero on all sides and in that case, the normal stress components are called the principal stresses.

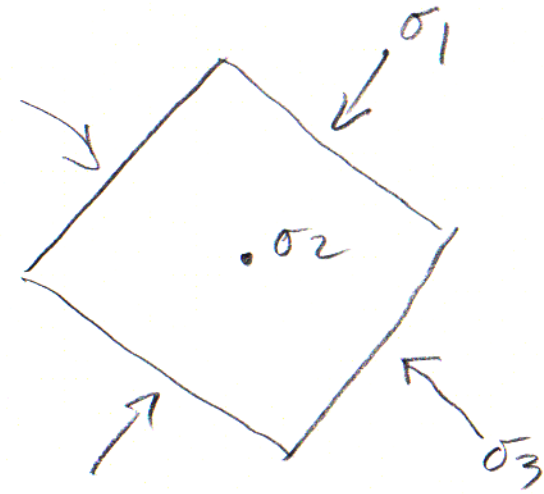
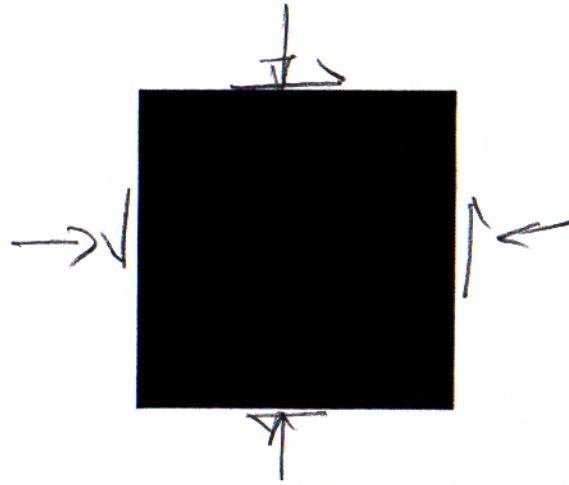




# Stress tensor

## ***Principal stresses***

We can always find orientations of a cubic element such that the shear stress components are zero on all sides and in that case, the normal stress components are called the principal stresses.



$$\sigma_1 > \sigma_2 > \sigma_3$$

$$\sigma_1 = \text{max compression}$$

$$\sigma_3 = \text{min compression}$$