

# Airy Stress Functions

A function  $\Phi$  (phi) where the stresses in 2D are:

$$\sigma_x = \frac{d^2\Phi}{dy^2} \quad \sigma_y = \frac{d^2\Phi}{dx^2} \quad \sigma_{xy} = -\frac{d^2\Phi}{dxdy}$$

Notice that this is similar to the potential function in aerodynamics!

$$\nabla^4\Phi = 0$$

Remember from stress equilibrium equations that

$$\frac{d\sigma_x}{dx} + \frac{d\sigma_{xy}}{dy} + \cancel{X} = 0 \quad \text{plug in above} \quad \frac{d^3(\Phi)}{dxdy^2} + \frac{-d^3\Phi}{dy^2dx} = 0 \quad \checkmark_{\text{true}}$$

$$\frac{d\sigma_y}{dy} + \frac{d\sigma_{xy}}{dx} + \cancel{Y} = 0 \quad \frac{d}{dy}\left(\frac{d^2\Phi}{dx^2}\right) + \frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{-d^2\Phi}{dxdy}\right) = 0 \quad \checkmark_{\text{true}}$$

So the Airy definitions fit the stress equilibrium equations

Remember that we found earlier that

$\epsilon_x = \frac{du}{dx}$  the x-direction strain is how much x deflection occurs in the x direction.

$\epsilon_y = \frac{dv}{dy}$  and

$\epsilon_{xy} = \frac{du}{dy} + \frac{dv}{dx}$

Add a magic operation.

① Take the 2<sup>nd</sup> derivative of  $\epsilon_x$  wrt  $y$

② Add the 2<sup>nd</sup> derivative of  $\epsilon_y$  wrt  $x$   $\Rightarrow \frac{d^2\epsilon_x}{dy^2} + \frac{d^2\epsilon_y}{dx^2}$

③ Expand  $\frac{d^2\epsilon_x}{dy^2} = \frac{d^2}{dy^2}\left(\frac{du}{dx}\right)$  and  $\frac{d^2}{dx^2}\left(\frac{dv}{dy}\right)$ .

④ Take the 2<sup>nd</sup> derivatives of  $\epsilon_{xy}$  wrt  $x$  and  $y$ .

$$\frac{d^2}{dxdy}(\epsilon_{xy}) = \frac{d^2}{dxdy}\left(\frac{du}{dy} + \frac{dv}{dx}\right) = \frac{d^3u}{dx^2dy^2} + \frac{d^3v}{dx^2dy}$$

⑤ Notice that

① + ② = ④

$$\frac{d^2\epsilon_x}{dy^2} + \frac{d^2\epsilon_y}{dx^2} = \frac{d^3u}{dx^2dy^2} + \frac{d^3v}{dx^2dy} = \frac{d^2}{dxdy}(\epsilon_{xy})$$

The strain compatibility equation (2D) is

$$\boxed{\frac{d^2 \epsilon_x}{dy^2} + \frac{d^2 \epsilon_y}{dx^2} = \frac{d^2 \epsilon_{xy}}{dx dy}}$$

What is this telling us?  
No cracks or folds

But we have the 2D isotropic Hookes Law/material

$$\begin{pmatrix} \epsilon_{xx} \\ \epsilon_{yy} \\ \epsilon_{xy} \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{E} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -\nu \\ -\nu & 1 \\ & & 2(1+\nu) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_{xx} \\ \sigma_{yy} \\ \sigma_{xy} \end{pmatrix} \quad (\text{Lesson 8})$$

So that

$$\epsilon_{xx} = \frac{\sigma_{xx}}{E} - \frac{\nu \sigma_{yy}}{E} \quad \text{and} \quad \epsilon_{yy} = -\frac{\nu \sigma_{xx}}{E} + \frac{\sigma_{yy}}{E}$$

$$\epsilon_{xy} = 2(1+\nu) \sigma_{xy}$$

- plug these into the strain compatibility eqn (above)

$$\frac{d}{dy^2} \left( \frac{\sigma_{xx}}{E} - \frac{\nu \sigma_{yy}}{E} \right) + \frac{d}{dx^2} \left( -\frac{\nu \sigma_{xx}}{E} + \frac{\sigma_{yy}}{E} \right) = \frac{d^2}{dx dy} \left( \frac{2(1+\nu) \sigma_{xy}}{E} \right)$$

- pull out the E and substitute  $\sigma_x = \frac{d^2 \phi}{dy^2}$ ,  $\sigma_y = \frac{d^2 \phi}{dx^2}$ ,  $\sigma_{xy} = \frac{d^2 \phi}{dx dy}$

$$\frac{d^2}{dy^2} \left( \frac{d^2 \phi}{dy^2} - \nu \frac{d^2 \phi}{dx^2} \right) + \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \left( -\nu \frac{d^2 \phi}{dy^2} + \frac{d^2 \phi}{dx^2} \right) = \frac{d^2}{dx dy} \left( \frac{E 2(1+\nu)}{E} \frac{d^2 \phi}{dx dy} \right)$$

Recognize this?

$$G = \frac{1}{2} \frac{E}{1+\nu}$$

thus,

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

And

$$2(1+\nu)(\dots) = (1+\nu)(\dots + \dots)$$

• Expand out

$$\frac{d^4 \phi}{dy^4} - \frac{d^4 (v \phi)}{dx^2 dy^2} - v \frac{d^4 \phi}{dx^2 dy^2} + \frac{d^4 \phi}{dx^4} = (1+v) \left( -\frac{d^4 \phi}{dx^2 dy^2} + \frac{d^4 \phi}{dx^2 dy^2} \right)$$

cancel out

$$\boxed{\frac{d^4 \phi}{dy^4} + \frac{d^4 \phi}{dx^4} + 2 \frac{d^4 \phi}{dx^2 dy^2} = 0}$$

This is the biharmonic equation

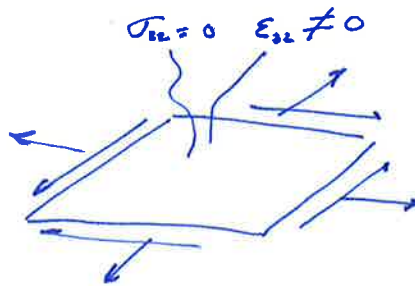
$$\boxed{\nabla^4 \phi = 0}$$

Alternatively,

$$\boxed{\nabla^2 (\sigma_x + \sigma_y) = 0}$$

$$\nabla^2 (\underbrace{\nabla^2 \phi}_{\sigma_x + \sigma_y}) = \nabla^4 \phi$$

Notice that this derivation is for plane stress.



Ex:  $\phi = A$

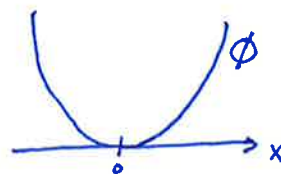
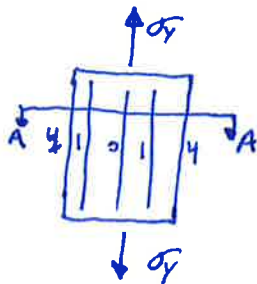
$$\sigma_x = \frac{d^2 \phi}{dy^2} = 0 \quad \sigma_y = 0 \text{ too} \quad \underline{\text{boring solution}}$$

Ex:  $\phi = Ax$

$$\sigma_x = \frac{d^2 \phi}{dy^2} = 0 \quad \sigma_y = \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{d}{dx} Ax \right) = \frac{d}{dx} A = 0 \quad \underline{\text{boring}}$$

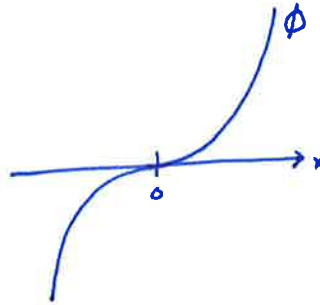
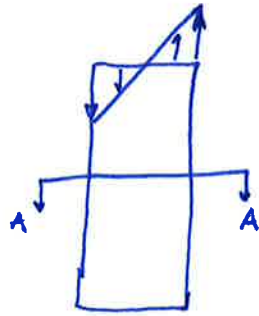
Ex:  $\phi = Ax^2$

$$\sigma_x = 0 \quad \sigma_y = \frac{d^2}{dx^2} (Ax^2) = 2A$$



Ex:  $\phi = Ax^3$

$\sigma_x = 0$      $\sigma_y = \frac{d^2}{dx^2}(Ax^3) = 6Ax$      $\sigma_{xy} = 0$



Ex:  $\phi = Ax^4$

$\sigma_x = 0$      $\sigma_y = 12Ax^2$      $\sigma_{xy} = 0$

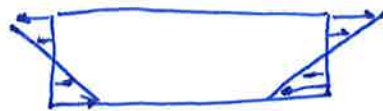
But, is  $\nabla^4 \phi$  satisfied?

$\nabla^4 \phi = \frac{d^4 \phi}{dy^4} + \frac{d^4 \phi}{dx^4} + 2 \frac{d^4 \phi}{dx^2 dy^2} = 12A \neq 0$

Ex:  $\phi = Ay^3$

Verify  $\nabla^4 \phi = 0$  ✓ by inspection

$\sigma_x = \frac{d^2}{dy^2}(Ay^3) = 6Ay$  ,  $\sigma_y = 0$  ,  $\sigma_{xy} = 0$



$\sigma_x = 6Ay$     Beam bending!

Ex:

If any two solutions fit the Boundary Conditions and Airy stress  $\nabla^4 \phi = 0$  requirements then any combination does too

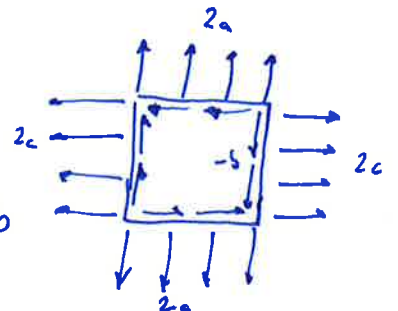
$\phi = ax^2 + bxy + cy^2$

$\nabla^4 \phi = 0$  ✓

$\sigma_x = \frac{d^2}{dy^2}(\phi) = 2c$

$\sigma_y = 2a$

$\sigma_{xy} = -b$



Ex: Cantilever Beam

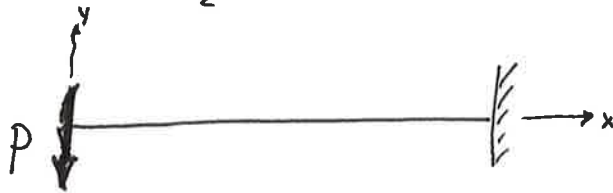
$$\phi = A(xy^3 - \frac{3}{4}xyh^2)$$

$$\sigma_x = \frac{d^2}{dy^2} \phi = 6Axy$$

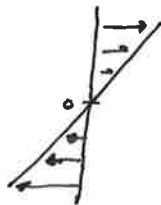
$$\sigma_y = \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \phi = 0$$

$$\sigma_{xy} = -\frac{d^2}{dx dy} \phi = 3A\left(\frac{h^2}{4} - y^2\right)$$

This is exactly a cantilever beam of height  $h$  and width  $b$  loaded by a force  $P = \frac{Abh^3}{2}$

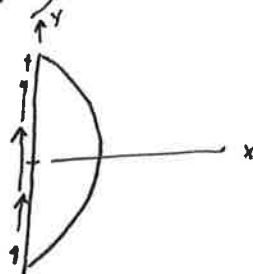


The x stress  $\sigma_x = 6Axy$



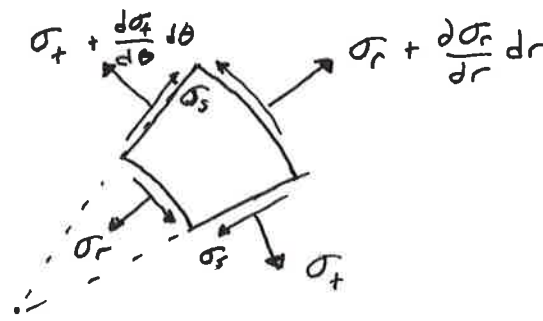
The shear stress

$$\sigma_{xy} = 3A\left(\frac{h^2}{4} - y^2\right)$$



parabolic distribution of shear stress

# Polar Coordinates



Summation of forces in radial and tangential direction

$$\frac{d\sigma_\theta}{d\theta} + 2\sigma_\theta + r \frac{d\sigma_r}{dr} = 0$$

$$\sigma_r - \sigma_\theta + r \frac{d\sigma_r}{dr} + \frac{d\sigma_\theta}{d\theta} = 0$$

In this case, the Airy stress function still exists

$$\nabla^4 \phi = 0$$

But  $\nabla^2 \phi$  is more complicated =  $\frac{d^2 \phi}{dr^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{d\phi}{dr} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{d^2 \phi}{d\theta^2} = 0$

And  $\nabla^4 \phi$  is  $\nabla^2(\nabla^2 \phi)$  is much more complicated

$$\phi = \phi(r, \theta) \text{ in 2D}$$

Ex:  $\phi = r^2 \theta^2$

$$\nabla^2 \phi = \frac{d^2(r^2 \theta^2)}{dr^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{d(r^2 \theta^2)}{dr} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{d^2(r^2 \theta^2)}{d\theta^2}$$

$$2\theta^2 + \frac{1}{r} 2r\theta^2 + \frac{1}{r^2} 2r^2 = 2\theta^2 + 2\theta^2 + 2$$

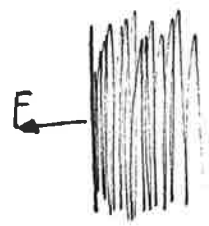
$$\nabla^2(\nabla^2 \phi) = \frac{d^2}{dr^2}(2\theta^2 + 2\theta^2 + 2) + \frac{1}{r} \frac{d(\dots)}{dr} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{d^2}{d\theta^2}(4\theta^2 + 2) = \frac{8}{r^2} \neq 0$$

Not an ASF

Concentrated Load on the edge of a plate

$$\phi = Cr\theta \sin\theta$$

$$\nabla^2 \phi = 0 \quad \checkmark$$



$$\sigma_r = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial \theta^2}$$

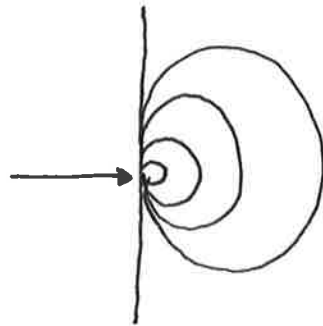
$$\sigma_t = \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial r^2}$$

$$\sigma_s = -\frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( \frac{\partial \phi}{r \partial \theta} \right)$$

Applied to  $\phi = Cr\theta \sin\theta$

$$\sigma_r = 2C \frac{\cos\theta}{r} \quad \sigma_t = 0 \quad \sigma_s = 0$$

The point load on the edge of a plate gives only radial stresses!



Clearly, the stress at  $r=0 \rightarrow \infty$  since  $\sigma_r(0) = 2C \frac{\cos\theta}{0}$

So there is plastic deformation near the point load, but this quickly goes to the far field equation of

$$\sigma_r(r) = 2C \frac{\cos\theta}{r}$$

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intentionally blank.

Good luck on the exam.

I will send the formula  
sheet soon (via email).