

1. Let \mathbb{T} denote the Cauchy stress tensor in \mathbb{R}^2 , $\mathbb{T} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbb{T}_{\hat{x}\hat{x}} & \mathbb{T}_{\hat{x}\hat{y}} \\ \mathbb{T}_{\hat{y}\hat{x}} & \mathbb{T}_{\hat{y}\hat{y}} \end{bmatrix}$, and let \mathbf{n} denote the normal to a given surface element, and let \mathbf{t} be any vector such that $\mathbf{t} \bullet \mathbf{n} = 0$. If the surface element is oriented in such a way that $\mathbb{T}\mathbf{n} = \tau\mathbf{n}$, where τ is a number, then we say that the surface element with the orientation \mathbf{n} experiences a *pure tension/compression*. (The direction of *traction* is parallel to the normal to the surface element.) If the surface element is oriented in such a way that $\mathbb{T}\mathbf{n} \bullet \mathbf{t} \neq 0$, then we say that the surface element with the orientation \mathbf{n} experiences a *shear stress*.

- Show that it is always possible to find a surface element with normal \mathbf{n} such that the element experiences the *pure tension/compression*.
- Find the orientation \mathbf{n} of the surface that is subject to the *maximal shear stress*. In other words, what is the value of \mathbf{n} that maximises

$$|(\mathbb{I} - \mathbf{n} \otimes \mathbf{n})\mathbb{T}\mathbf{n}| = |\mathbb{T}\mathbf{n} - ((\mathbb{T}\mathbf{n}) \bullet \mathbf{n})\mathbf{n}|.$$

(Try to guess what is the solution before you make the formal computation.)

- What is the relation between the maximal achievable tension/compression and the maximal achievable shear stress? (Try to guess what is the solution before you make the formal computation.)

It would be nice to get the answers in a coordinate free form, let us say by referring only to the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of the Cauchy stress tensor \mathbb{T} .