

# Unit 10

## St. Venant Torsion Theory

### Readings:

Rivello            8.1, 8.2, 8.4

T & G            101, 104, 105, 106

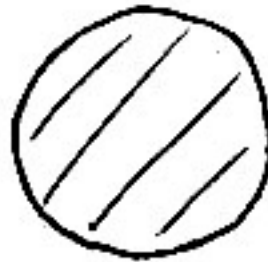
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# III. Torsion

We have looked at basic in-plane loading. Let's now consider a second "building block" of types of loading: basic torsion.

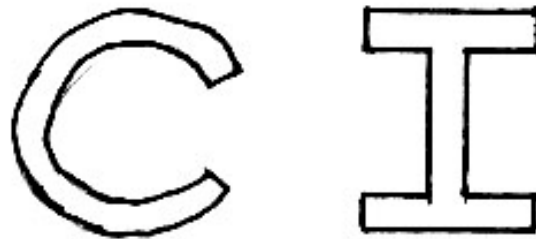
There are 3 basic types of behavior depending on the type of cross-section:

1. Solid cross-sections



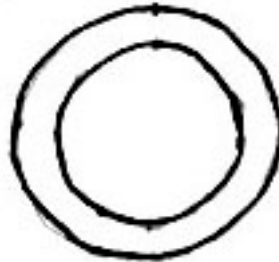
**"classical" solution technique  
via stress functions**

2. Open, thin-walled sections



**Membrane Analogy**

### 3. Closed, thin-walled sections



#### **Bredt's Formula**

In Unified you developed the basic equations based on some broad assumptions. Let's...

- Be a bit more rigorous
- Explore the limitations for the various approaches
- Better understand how a structure “resists” torsion and the resulting deformation
- Learn how to model general structures by these three basic approaches

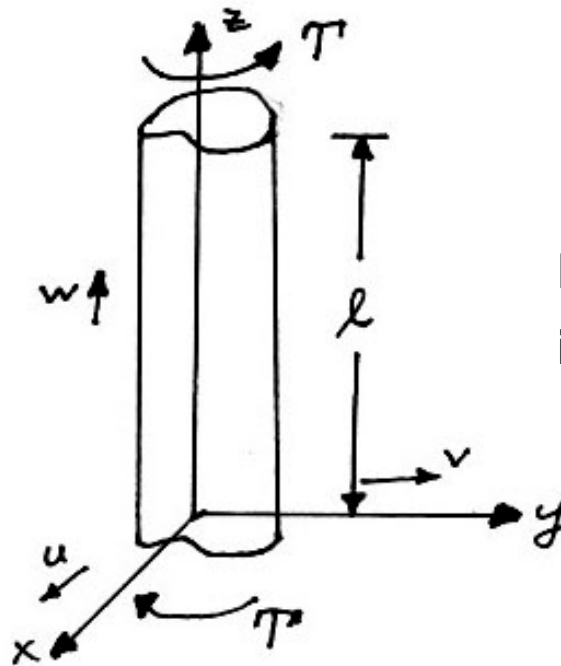
Look first at

# Classical (St. Venant's) Torsion Theory

Consider a long prismatic rod twisted by end torques:

$$T \text{ [in - lbs] } \quad [m - n]$$

**Figure 10.1 Representation of general long prismatic rod**



Do not consider *how* end torque is applied (St. Venant's principle)

Assume the following **geometrical behavior**:

- Each cross-section (@ each  $z$ ) rotates as a rigid body (No “distortion” of cross-section shape in  $x, y$ )
- Rate of twist,  $k = \text{constant}$
- Cross-sections are free to warp in the  $z$ -direction but the warping is the same for all cross-sections

↙ This is the “St. Venant Hypothesis”

“**warping**” = extensional deformation in the direction of the axis about which the torque is applied

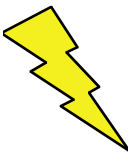
Given these assumptions, we see if we can satisfy the equations of elasticity and B.C.’s.

⇒ SEMI-INVERSE METHOD

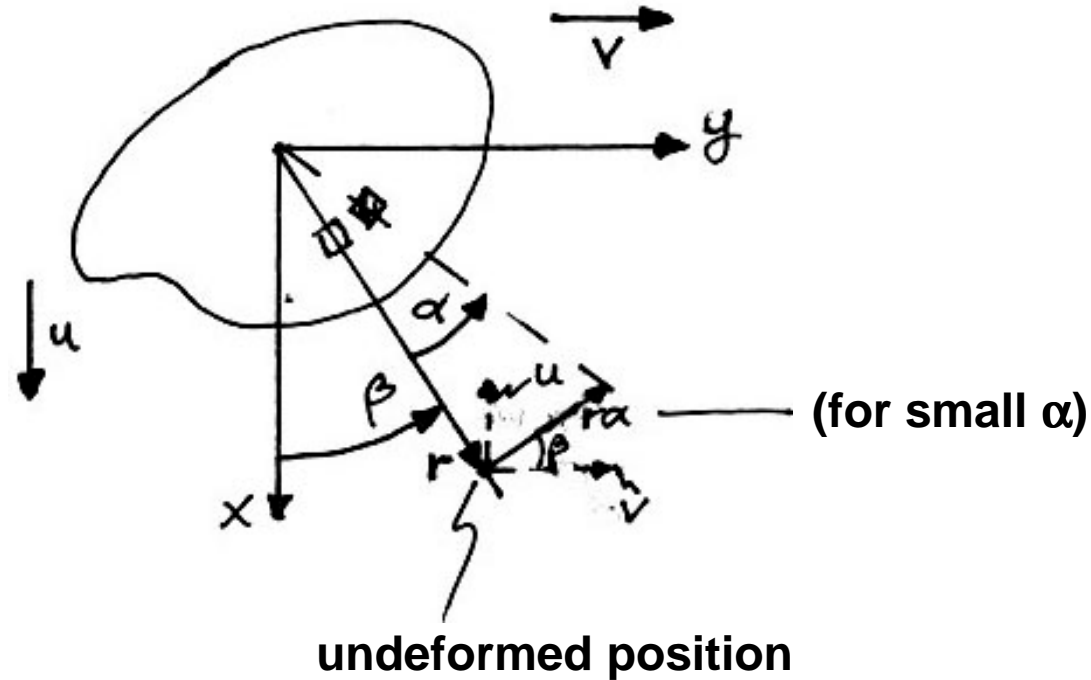
Consider the deflections:

Assumptions imply that at any cross-section location  $z$ :

$$\alpha = \left( \frac{d\alpha}{dz} \right) z = k z$$


 (careful! Rivello uses  $\phi$ !)      ↑      rate of twist      ↙ a constant      (define as 0 @  $z = 0$ )

**Figure 10.2 Representation of deformation of cross-section due to torsion**



This results in:

consider direction of + u

$$u(x, y, z) = r\alpha (-\sin \beta)$$

$$v(x, y, z) = r\alpha (\cos \beta)$$

$$w(x, y, z) = w(x, y)$$

**$\Rightarrow$  independent of z!**

We can see that:

$$r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$$

$$\sin\beta = \frac{y}{r}$$

$$\cos\beta = \frac{x}{r}$$

This gives:

$$u(x, y, z) = -y k z \quad (10 - 1)$$

$$v(x, y, z) = x k z \quad (10 - 2)$$

$$w(x, y, z) = w(x, y) \quad (10 - 3)$$



Next look at the Strain-Displacement equations:

$$\varepsilon_{xx} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = 0$$

$$\varepsilon_{yy} = \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = 0$$

$$\varepsilon_{zz} = \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} = 0$$

(**consider**:  $u$  exists, but  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = 0$   
 $v$  exists, but  $\frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = 0$ )

⇒ No extensional strains in torsion if cross-sections are free to warp

$$\varepsilon_{xy} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} = -z k + z k = 0$$

$\Rightarrow$  cross - section does not change shape (as assumed!)

$$\varepsilon_{yz} = \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} = k x + \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} \quad (10 - 4)$$

$$\varepsilon_{zx} = \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} = -k y + \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \quad (10 - 5)$$

Now the Stress-Strain equations:

let's first do *isotropic*

$$\varepsilon_{xx} = \frac{1}{E} \left[ \sigma_{xx} - \nu(\sigma_{yy} + \sigma_{zz}) \right] = 0$$

$$\varepsilon_{yy} = \frac{1}{E} \left[ \sigma_{yy} - \nu(\sigma_{xx} + \sigma_{zz}) \right] = 0$$

$$\varepsilon_{zz} = \frac{1}{E} \left[ \sigma_{zz} - \nu(\sigma_{xx} + \sigma_{yy}) \right] = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \sigma_{xx}, \sigma_{yy}, \sigma_{zz} = 0$$

$$\varepsilon_{xy} = \frac{2(1 + \nu)}{E} \sigma_{xy} = 0 \Rightarrow \sigma_{xy} = 0$$

$$\varepsilon_{yz} = \underbrace{\frac{2(1 + \nu)}{E}}_{1/G} \sigma_{yz} \quad (10 - 6)$$

$$\varepsilon_{xz} = \underbrace{\frac{2(1 + \nu)}{E}}_{1/G} \sigma_{xz} \quad (10 - 7)$$

$\Rightarrow$  only  $\sigma_{xz}$  and  $\sigma_{yz}$  stresses exist

Look at **orthotropic** case:

$$\varepsilon_{xx} = \frac{1}{E_{11}} [\sigma_{xx} - \nu_{12} \sigma_{yy} - \nu_{13} \sigma_{zz}] = 0$$

$$\varepsilon_{yy} = \frac{1}{E_{22}} [\sigma_{yy} - \nu_{21} \sigma_{xx} - \nu_{23} \sigma_{zz}] = 0$$

$$\varepsilon_{zz} = \frac{1}{E_{33}} [\sigma_{zz} - \nu_{31} \sigma_{xx} - \nu_{32} \sigma_{yy}] = 0$$

$\Rightarrow \sigma_{xx}, \sigma_{yy}, \sigma_{zz} = 0$  **still** equal zero

$$\varepsilon_{yz} = \frac{1}{G_{23}} \sigma_{yz}$$

$$\varepsilon_{xz} = \frac{1}{G_{13}} \sigma_{xz}$$

Differences are in  $\varepsilon_{yz}$  and  $\varepsilon_{xz}$  here as there are two different shear moduli ( $G_{23}$  and  $G_{13}$ ) which enter in here.

for ***anisotropic material***:

coefficients of mutual influence and Chentsov coefficients foul everything up (no longer “*simple*” torsion theory). [can’t separate torsion from extension]

Back to general case...

Look at the Equilibrium Equations:

$$\frac{\partial \sigma_{xz}}{\partial z} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \sigma_{xz} = \sigma_{xz}(x, y)$$

$$\frac{\partial \sigma_{yz}}{\partial z} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \sigma_{yz} = \sigma_{yz}(x, y)$$

So,  $\sigma_{xz}$  and  $\sigma_{yz}$  are only functions of  $x$  and  $y$

$$\frac{\partial \sigma_{xz}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \sigma_{yz}}{\partial y} = 0 \quad (10 - 8)$$

We satisfy equation (10 - 8) by introducing a Torsion (Prandtl) Stress Function  $\phi(x, y)$  where:

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} = -\sigma_{xz} \quad (10 - 9a)$$

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} = \sigma_{yz} \quad (10 - 9b)$$

Using these in equation (10 - 8) gives:

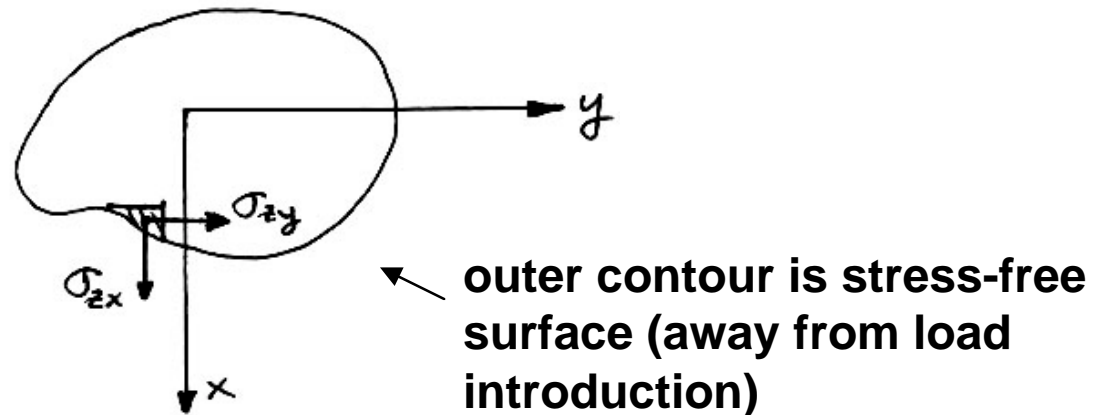
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( -\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left( \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \right) \equiv 0$$

$\Rightarrow$  Automatically satisfies equilibrium (as a stress function is supposed to do)

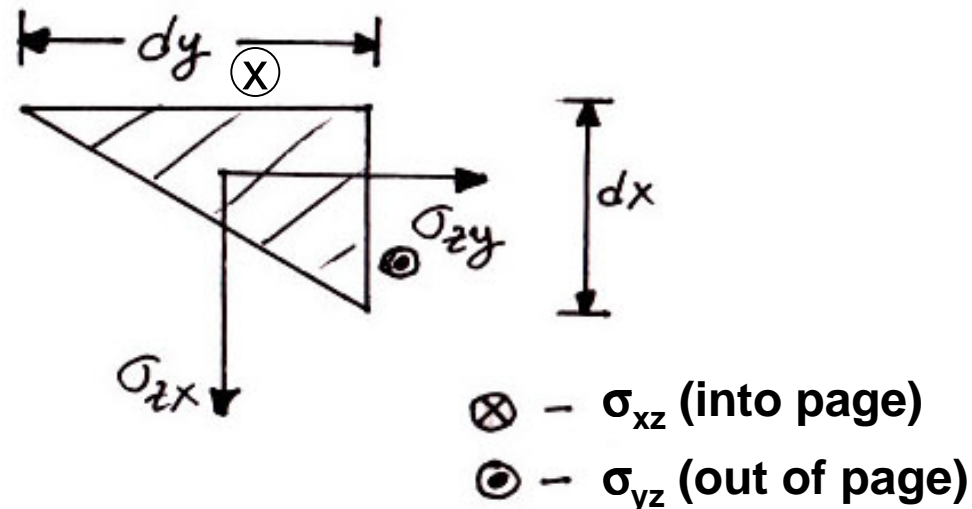
Now consider the Boundary Conditions:

(a) Along the contour of the cross-section

**Figure 10.3 Representation of stress state along edge of solid cross-section under torsion**



**Figure 10.4 Close-up view of edge element from Figure 10.3**



Using equilibrium:

$$\sum F_z = 0 \quad (\text{out of page is positive})$$

gives:

$$-\sigma_{xz} dydz + \sigma_{yz} dxdz = 0$$

Using equation (10 - 9) results in

$$-\left(-\frac{\partial\phi}{\partial y} dy\right) + \left(\frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x} dx\right) = 0$$

$$\left(\frac{\partial\phi}{\partial y} dy\right) + \left(\frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x} dx\right) = d\phi$$

And this means:

$$d\phi = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \phi = \text{constant}$$

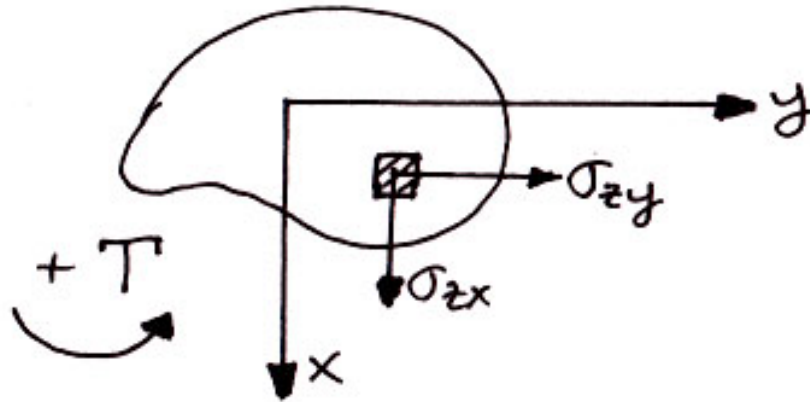
We take:

$$\boxed{\phi = 0} \text{ along contour} \quad (10 - 10)$$

→ Note: addition of an arbitrary constant does not affect the stresses, so choose a convenient one (0!)

Boundary condition (b) on edge  $z = l$

**Figure 10.5 Representation of stress state at top cross-section of rod under torsion**



Equilibrium tells us the force in each direction:

$$F_x = \iint \sigma_{zx} \, dx dy$$

using equation (10 - 9):

$$= \iint_{y_L}^{y_R} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} \, dx dy$$

where  $y_R$  and  $y_L$  are the geometrical limits of the cross-section in the  $y$  direction



$$= - \int [\phi]_{y_L}^{y_R} dx$$

and since  $\phi = 0$  on contour

$$F_x = 0 \quad \underline{\text{O.K.}} \quad (\text{since no force is applied in x-direction})$$

Similarly:

$$F_y = \iint \sigma_{zy} dx dy = 0 \quad \underline{\text{O.K.}}$$

Look at one more case via equilibrium:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Torque} = T &= \iint [x\sigma_{zy} - y\sigma_{zx}] dx dy \\ &= \iint_{x_T}^{x_B} x \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} dx dy + \iint_{y_L}^{y_R} y \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} dy dx \end{aligned}$$

where  $x_T$  and  $x_B$  are geometrical limits of the cross-section in the x-direction

Integrate each term by parts:

$$\int AdB = AB - \int BdA$$

Set:

$$A = x \Rightarrow dA = dx$$

$$dB = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} dx \Rightarrow B = \phi$$

and similarly for y

$$T = \int \left[ \underbrace{x\phi}_{x_T}^{x_B} - \int \phi dx \right] dy + \int \left[ \underbrace{y\phi}_{y_L}^{y_R} - \int \phi dy \right] dx$$

$= 0$   $= 0$   
 since  $\phi = 0$  in contour since  $\phi = 0$  in contour

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{T = -2 \iint \phi \, dx dy} \quad (10 - 11)$$

Up to this point, all the equations [with the slight difference in stress-strain of equations (10 - 6) and (10 - 7)] are also valid for orthotropic materials.

## Summarizing

- Long, prismatic bar under torsion
- Rate of twist,  $k = \text{constant}$
- $\epsilon_{yz} = kx + \frac{\partial w}{\partial y}$
- $\epsilon_{xz} = -ky + \frac{\partial w}{\partial x}$
- $\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} = -\sigma_{xz}$        $\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} = \sigma_{yz}$
- Boundary conditions

$\phi = 0$  on contour (free boundary)

$$T = -2 \iint \phi \, dx dy$$

## Solution of Equations

(now let's go back to isotropic)

Place equations (10 - 4) and (10 - 5) into equations (10 - 6) and (10 - 7) to get:

$$\sigma_{yz} = G\varepsilon_{yz} = G \left( kx + \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} \right) \quad (10 - 12)$$

$$\sigma_{xz} = G\varepsilon_{xz} = G \left( -ky + \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \right) \quad (10 - 13)$$

We want to eliminate  $w$ . We do this via:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \{ \text{Eq. (10 - 12)} \} - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \{ \text{Eq. (10 - 13)} \}$$

to get:

$$\frac{\partial \sigma_{yz}}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial \sigma_{xz}}{\partial y} = G \left( k + \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x \partial y} + k - \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y \partial x} \right)$$

and using the definition of the stress function of equation (10 - 9) we get:

$$\frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial y^2} = 2Gk \quad (10 - 14)$$

### Poisson's Equation for $\phi$

(Nonhomogeneous Laplace Equation)

#### Note for orthotropic material

We do **not** have a common shear modulus, so we would get:

$$\frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial y^2} = (G_{xz} + G_{yz}) k + (G_{yz} - G_{xz}) \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x \partial y}$$

⇒ We cannot eliminate  $w$  unless  $G_{xz}$  and  $G_{yz}$  are virtually the same

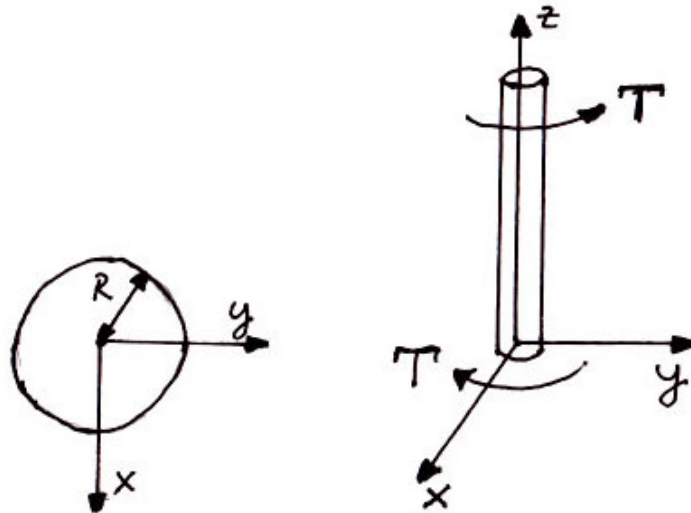
## Overall solution procedure:

- Solve Poisson equation (10 - 14) subject to the boundary condition of  $\phi = 0$  on the contour
- Get  $T - k$  relation from equation (10 - 11)
- Get stresses ( $\sigma_{xz}$ ,  $\sigma_{yz}$ ) from equation (10 - 9)
- Get  $w$  from equations (10 - 12) and (10 - 13)
- Get  $u$ ,  $v$  from equations (10 - 1) and (10 - 2)
- Can also get  $\varepsilon_{xz}$ ,  $\varepsilon_{yz}$  from equations (10 - 6) and (10 - 7)

This is “*St. Venant Theory of Torsion*”

## Application to a Circular Rod

**Figure 10.6 Representation of circular rod under torsion cross-section**



“Let”:

$$\phi = C_1 (x^2 + y^2 - R^2)$$

This satisfies  $\phi = 0$  on contour since  $x^2 + y^2 = R^2$  on contour

This gives:

$$\frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} = 2C_1 \qquad \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial y^2} = 2C_1$$

Place these into equation (10-14):

$$2C_1 + 2C_1 = 2Gk$$

$$\Rightarrow C_1 = \frac{Gk}{2}$$

Note: (10-14) is satisfied exactly

Thus:

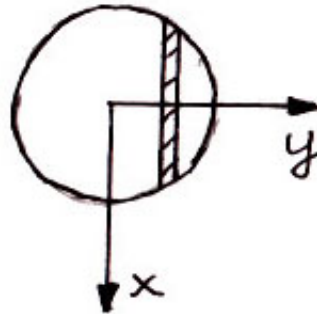
$$\phi = \frac{Gk}{2} (x^2 + y^2 - R^2)$$

Satisfies boundary conditions and partial differential equation exactly

Now place this into equation (10-11):

$$T = -2 \iint \phi \, dx dy$$

**Figure 10.7 Representation of integration strip for circular cross-section**



$$T = Gk \int_{-R}^R \int_{-\sqrt{R^2 - y^2}}^{+\sqrt{R^2 - y^2}} (R^2 - y^2 - x^2) \, dx dy$$



$$\begin{aligned}
 T &= Gk \int_{-R}^R \left[ (R^2 - y^2) x - \frac{x^3}{3} \right]_{-\sqrt{R^2 - y^2}}^{+\sqrt{R^2 - y^2}} dy \\
 &= Gk \frac{4}{3} \int_{-R}^R (R^2 - y^2)^{3/2} dy \\
 &= Gk \frac{4}{3} \frac{1}{4} \left[ \underbrace{y(R^2 - y^2)^{3/2}}_{=0} + \frac{3}{2} R^2 \underbrace{y \sqrt{R^2 - y^2}}_{=0} + \frac{3}{2} R^4 \underbrace{\sin^{-1} \frac{y}{R}}_{= \frac{3}{2} R^4 \pi} \right]_{-R}^{+R} \\
 &= \frac{3}{2} R^4 \pi
 \end{aligned}$$

This finally results in

$$T = Gk \frac{\pi R^4}{2}$$

Since  $k$  is the rate of twist:  $k = \frac{d\alpha}{dz}$ , we can rewrite this as:

$$\frac{d\alpha}{dz} = \frac{T}{GJ}$$

where:

$$J = \text{torsion constant} \left( = \frac{\pi R^4}{2} \text{ for a circle} \right)$$

$\alpha$  = amount of twist

and:

**$GJ$  = torsional rigidity**

Note similarity to:

$$\frac{d^2w}{dx^2} = \frac{M}{EI}$$

where:  $EI$  = bending rigidity

(I)  $J$  - geometric part

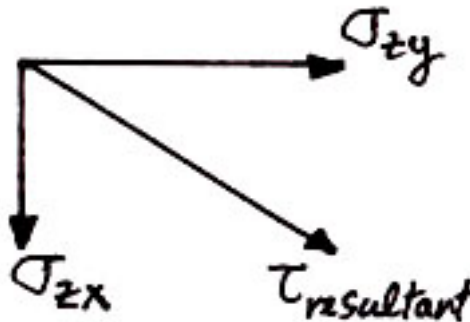
(E)  $G$  - material part

To get the stresses, use equation (10 - 9):

$$\sigma_{yz} = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} = Gkx = \frac{T}{J}x$$

$$\sigma_{xz} = -\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} = -Gky = -\frac{T}{J}y$$

**Figure 10.8 Representation of resultant shear stress,  $\tau_{res}$ , as defined**



**Define** a resultant stress:

$$\begin{aligned} \tau &= \sqrt{\sigma_{zx}^2 + \sigma_{zy}^2} \\ &= \frac{T}{J} \underbrace{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}_{= r} \end{aligned}$$

The final result is:

$$\tau = \frac{Tr}{J}$$

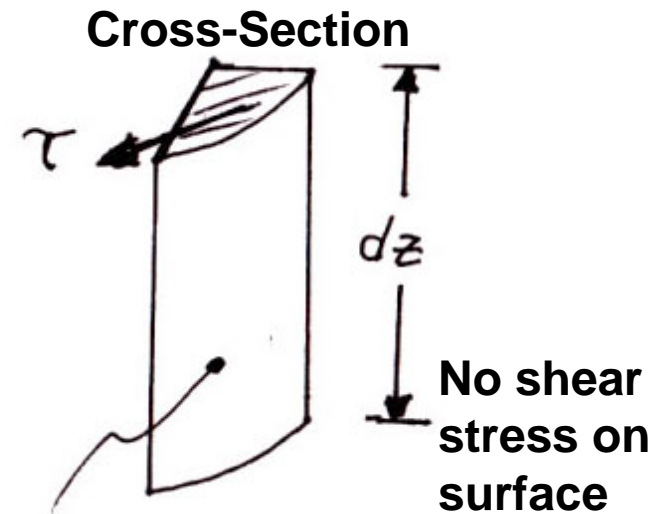
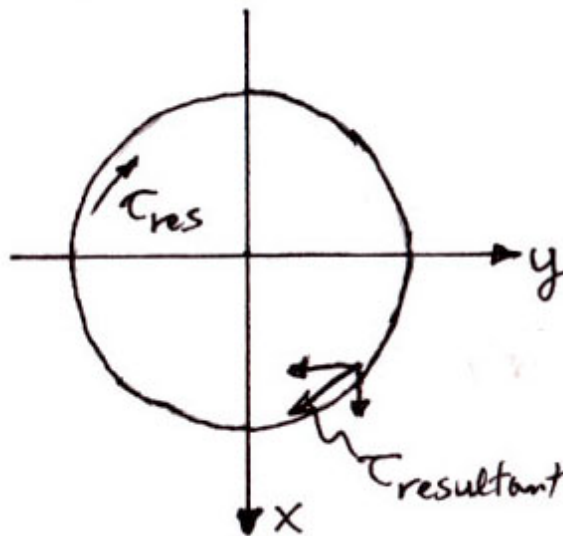
for a circle

**Note:** similarity to  $\left(\sigma_x = -\frac{Mz}{I}\right)$

$\tau$  **always** acts along the contour (shape)

↑  
resultant

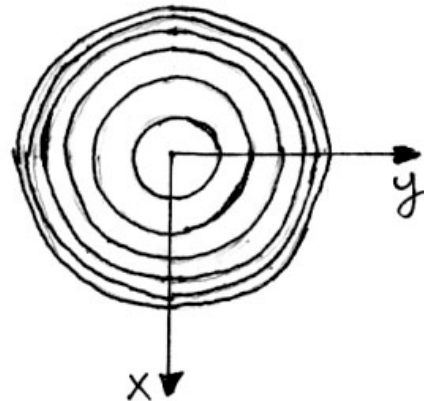
**Figure 10.9 Representation of shear resultant stress for circular cross-section**



Also note:

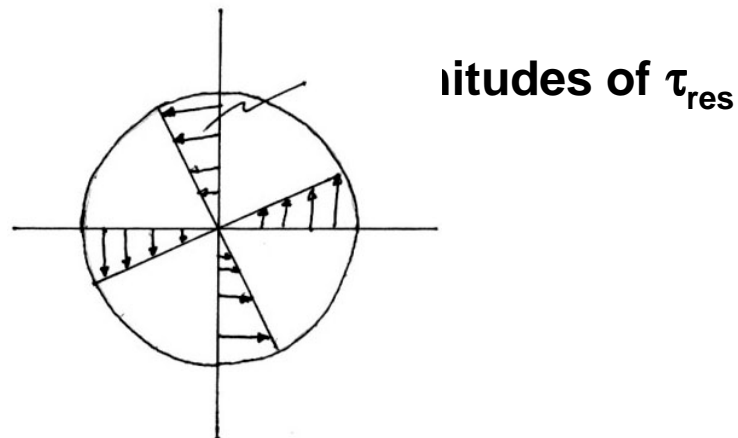
1. Contours of  $\phi$ : close together near edge  $\Rightarrow$  higher  $\tau$

**Figure 10.10 Representation of contours of torsional shear function**



2. Stress pattern ( $\tau$ ) creates twisting

**Figure 10.11 Representation of shear stresses acting perpendicular to radial lines**



To get the deflections, first find  $\alpha$ :

$$\frac{d\alpha}{dz} = \frac{T}{GJ}$$

(pure rotation of cross-section)

integration yields:

$$\alpha = \frac{Tz}{GJ} + C_1$$

Let  $C_1 = 0$  by saying  $\alpha = 0$  @  $z = 0$

Use equations (10 - 1) and (10 - 2) to get:

$$u = -yzk = -y \frac{Tz}{GJ}$$

$$v = xzk = x \frac{Tz}{GJ}$$

Go to equations (10 - 12) and (10 - 13) to find  $w(x, y)$ :

Equation (10 - 12) gives:

$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial y} = \frac{\sigma_{yz}}{G} - kx$$

using the result for  $\sigma_{yz}$ :

$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial y} = \frac{Gkx}{G} - kx = 0$$

integration of this says

$$w(x, y) = g_1(x) \quad (\text{not a function of } y)$$

In a similar manner...

Equation (10 -13) gives:

$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial x} = \frac{\sigma_{xz}}{G} + ky$$

Using  $\sigma_{xz} = -Gky$  gives:

$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial x} = -\frac{Gky}{G} + ky = 0$$

integration tells us that:

$$w(x, y) = g_2(y) \quad (\text{not a function of } x)$$

Using these two results we see that if  $w(x, y)$  is neither a function of  $x$  nor  $y$ , then it must be a constant. Might as well take this as **zero**

(other constants just show a rigid displacement in  $z$  which is trivial)

$$\Rightarrow w(x, y) = 0$$

**No warping for circular cross-sections**

(this is the only cross-section that has no warping)

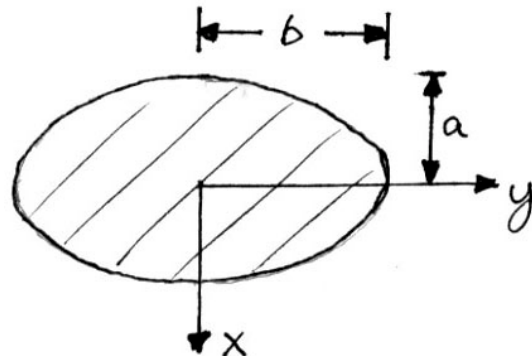
### Other Cross-Sections

In other cross-sections, warping is “the ability of the cross-section to resist torsion by differential bending”.

2 parts for torsional rigidity

- Rotation
- Warping

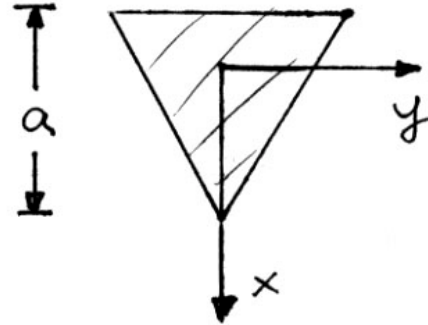
### **Ellipse**





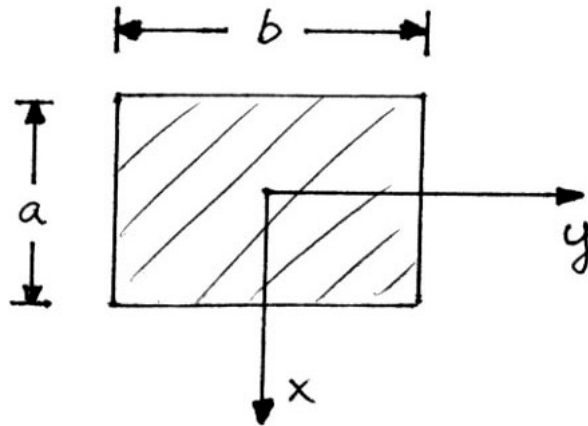
$$\phi = C_1 \left( \frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} - 1 \right)$$

### Equilateral Triangle



$$\phi = C_1 \left( x - \sqrt{3}y + \frac{2}{3}a \right) \left( x + \sqrt{3}y - \frac{2}{3}a \right) \left( x + \frac{1}{3}a \right)$$

### Rectangle



$$\phi = \sum_{n \text{ odd}} \left( C_n + D_n \cosh \frac{n\pi y}{b} \right) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{a}$$

Series: (the more terms you take, the better the solution)

These all give solutions to  $\nabla^2 \phi = 2GK$  subject to  $\phi = 0$  on the boundary. In general, there will be warping

*see Timoshenko for other relations (Ch. 11)*

Note: there are also solutions via “warping functions”. This is a displacement formulation

*see Rivello 8.4*

Next we'll look at an analogy used to “solve” the general torsion problem