16.21 Techniques of Structural Analysis and Design Spring 2005 Unit #6 - Boundary value problems in linear elasticity

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Figure 1: Schematic of generic problem in linear elasticity

• Equations of equilibrium (3 equations, 6 unknowns):

$$\sigma_{ji,j} + f_i = 0 \tag{1}$$

• Compatibility (6 equations, 9 unknowns):

$$\epsilon_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_i} \right) \tag{2}$$

• Constitutive Law (6 equations, 0 unknowns) :

$$\sigma_{ij} = C_{ijkl}\epsilon_{kl} \tag{3}$$

- Boundary conditions of two types:
 - Traction or natural boundary conditions: For tractions $\overline{\mathbf{t}}$ imposed on the portion of the surface of the body ∂B_t :

$$n_i \sigma_{ij} = t_j = \bar{t}_j \tag{4}$$

- Displacement or essential boundary conditions: For displacements $\bar{\mathbf{u}}$ imposed on the portion of the surface of the body ∂B_u , this includes the supports for which we have $\bar{\mathbf{u}} = \mathbf{0}$:

$$u_i = \bar{u}_i \tag{5}$$

One can prove existence and uniqueness of the solution (the fields: $u_i(x_j)$, $\epsilon_{ij}(x_k)$, $\sigma_{ij}(x_k)$) in B.