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**Lecture 4**

# Tensor analysis

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# Orthogonal tensors

A tensor  $\mathbf{Q}$  of order two is said to be *orthogonal* if it satisfies the equality

$$\mathbf{Q} \cdot \mathbf{Q}^T = \mathbf{Q}^T \cdot \mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{E}.$$

We see that  $\mathbf{Q}^T = \mathbf{Q}^{-1}$  for an orthogonal tensor

Furthermore,  $\det \mathbf{Q} = \pm 1$ .

We call  $\mathbf{Q}$  a *proper* orthogonal tensor if  $\det \mathbf{Q} = +1$ ; we call  $\mathbf{Q}$  an *improper* orthogonal tensor if  $\det \mathbf{Q} = -1$ .

*The operator defined by the orthogonal tensor  $\mathbf{Q}$  preserves the magnitudes of vectors and the angles between them.*

It can be shown that the proper orthogonal tensor has the representation

$$\mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{E} \cos \omega + (1 - \cos \omega) \mathbf{e} \mathbf{e} - \mathbf{e} \times \mathbf{E} \sin \omega.$$

# ***Polar decomposition***

A symmetric tensor is said to be *positive definite* if its eigenvalues are all positive.

*Any nonsingular tensor **A** of order two may be written as a product of an orthogonal tensor and a positive definite symmetric tensor. The decomposition may be done in two ways: as a **left polar decomposition***

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{Q}$$

*or as a **right polar decomposition***

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{Q} \cdot \mathbf{S}'.$$

*Here **Q** is an orthogonal tensor of order two, and **S** and **S'** are positive definite and symmetric.*

# *Deviator and ball tensor representation*

For  $\mathbf{A}$  we can introduce the representation

$$\mathbf{A} = \frac{1}{3}I_1(\mathbf{A})\mathbf{E} + \text{dev } \mathbf{A}.$$

Such a representation is found useful in the theory of elasticity. Moreover, it is used to formulate constitutive equations in the theories of plasticity, creep, and viscoelasticity.

The tensor  $\text{dev}\mathbf{A}$  is defined by the above equality. It has the same eigenvectors as  $\mathbf{A}$ , but eigenvalues that differ from the eigenvalues of  $\mathbf{A}$  by  $(1/3)I_1(\mathbf{A})$

$$\tilde{\lambda}_i = \lambda_i - \frac{1}{3} \text{tr } \mathbf{A}.$$