

# 29

## Optimal Membrane Triangles with Drilling Freedoms

## **Source**

### **Technical details in expository paper:**

C. A. Felippa, A study of optimal membrane triangles with drilling freedoms,  
*Comp. Meth. Appl. Mech. Engrg.*,  
**192**, 2125-2168, 2003

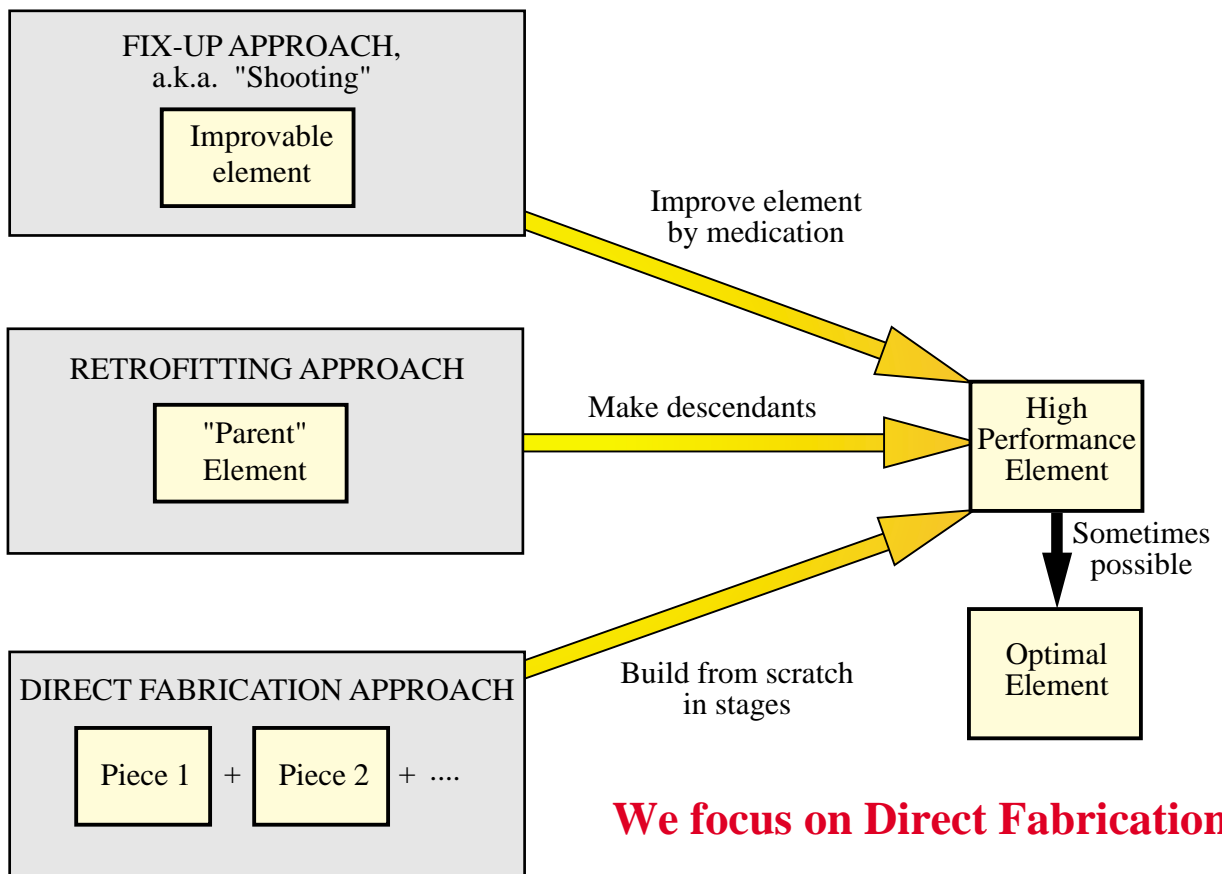
**This is reproduced as Chapter 29 of AFEM Notes**

**PowerPoint Slides** of USNCCM'03 presentation  
also available on web

# **Outline**

- 1 **Why drilling freedoms**
- 1 **Element development**
- 1 **Finding the best**
- 1 **Templates**
- 1 **Benchmarks & Conclusions**

# Three Approaches to Element Development



## **High Performance Elements**

**Simple elements that deliver  
results of engineering accuracy  
with arbitrary coarse meshes**

## **HP Elements: Preferences & Properties I**

only **corner** nodes

only **physical freedoms**

passes patch test on **any** plane mesh

**no condensation:** EAS, incompatible modes,  
considered waste of time

## HP Element: Preferences & Properties II

**do not assume** you can refine the mesh in  
real engineering systems

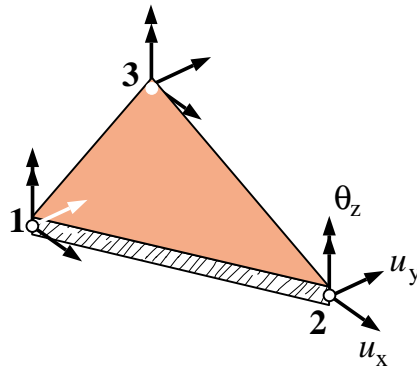
**robust** when used by inexperienced modelers

can be **customized** to do multiple duties

can be **optimized** for specific criteria

need to be developed by **symbolic computation**

## Why Drilling Freedoms



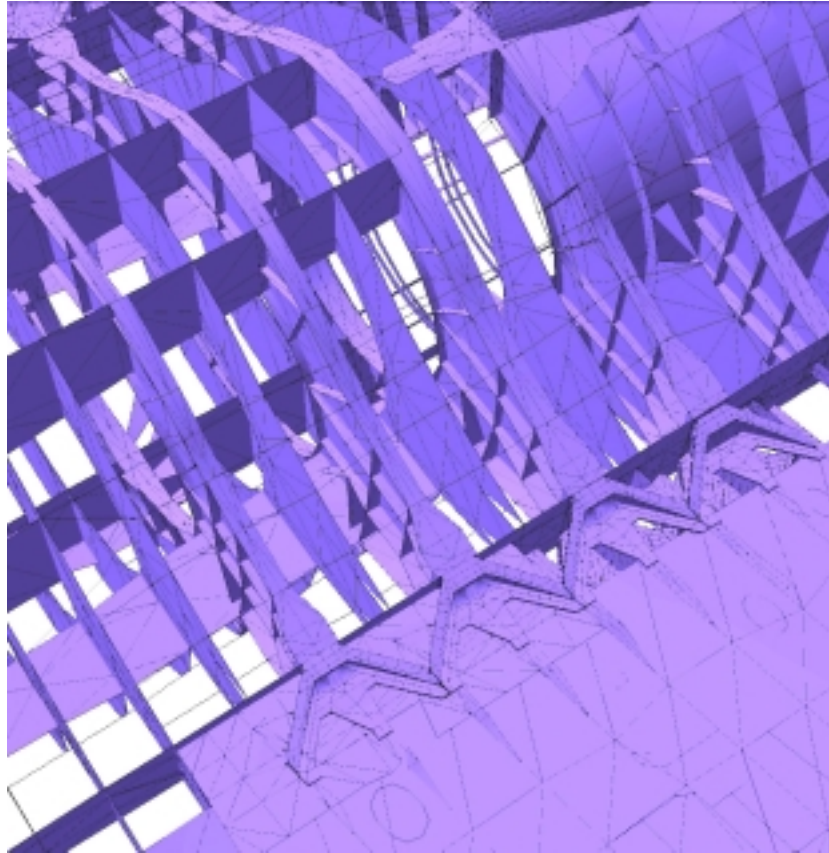
**Addition of 3 drilling DOFs at corners offers these advantages:**

**Performance improved** without adding side DOFs

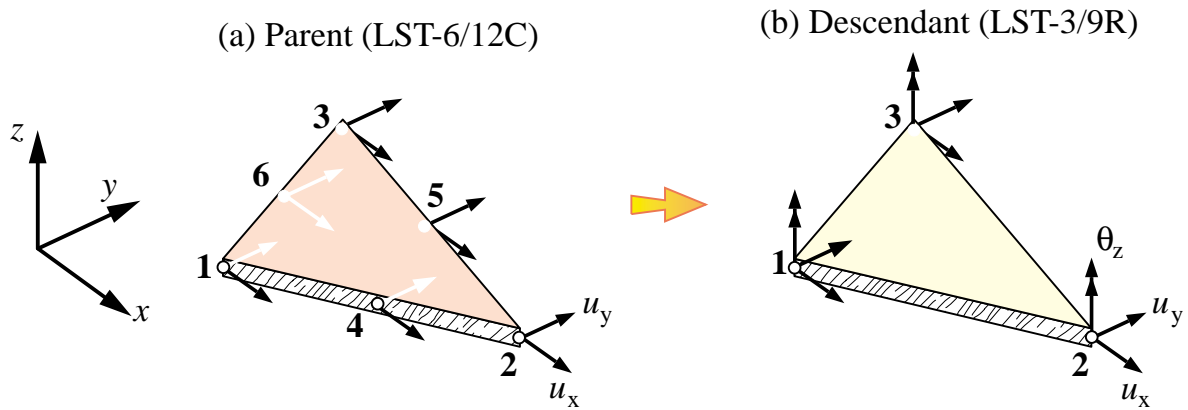
**Rotational DOF “free of charge”**

**Simplifies shell modeling:** intersections, stiffeners, ..

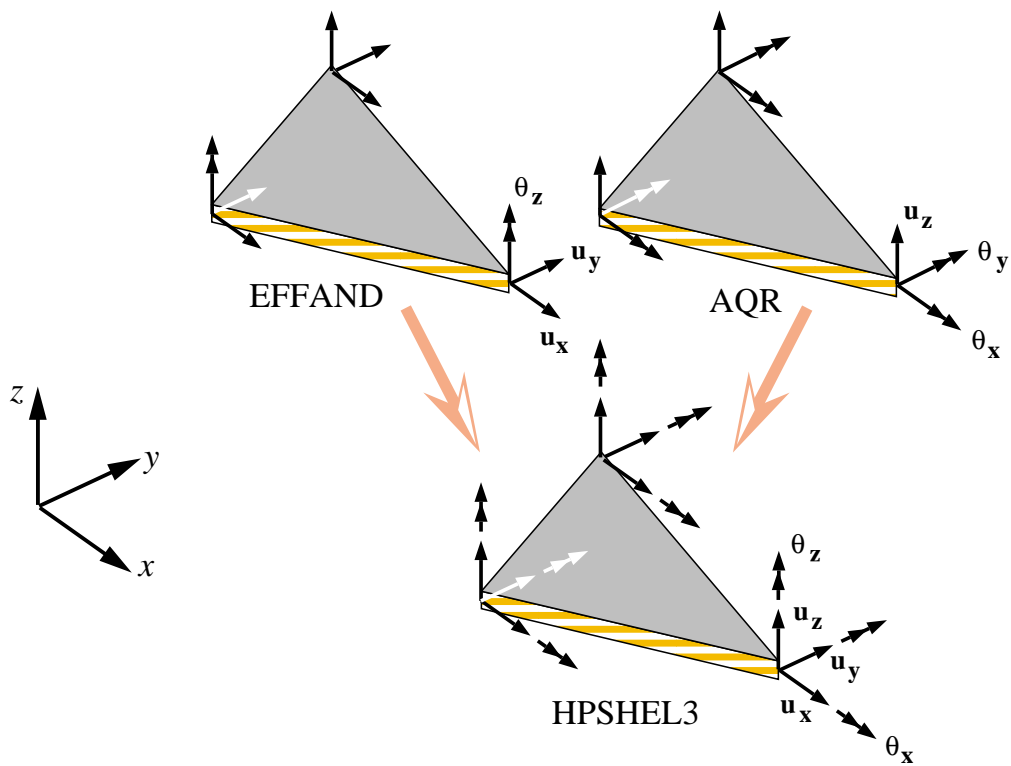
## **F-16 Fighter: Internal Structure**



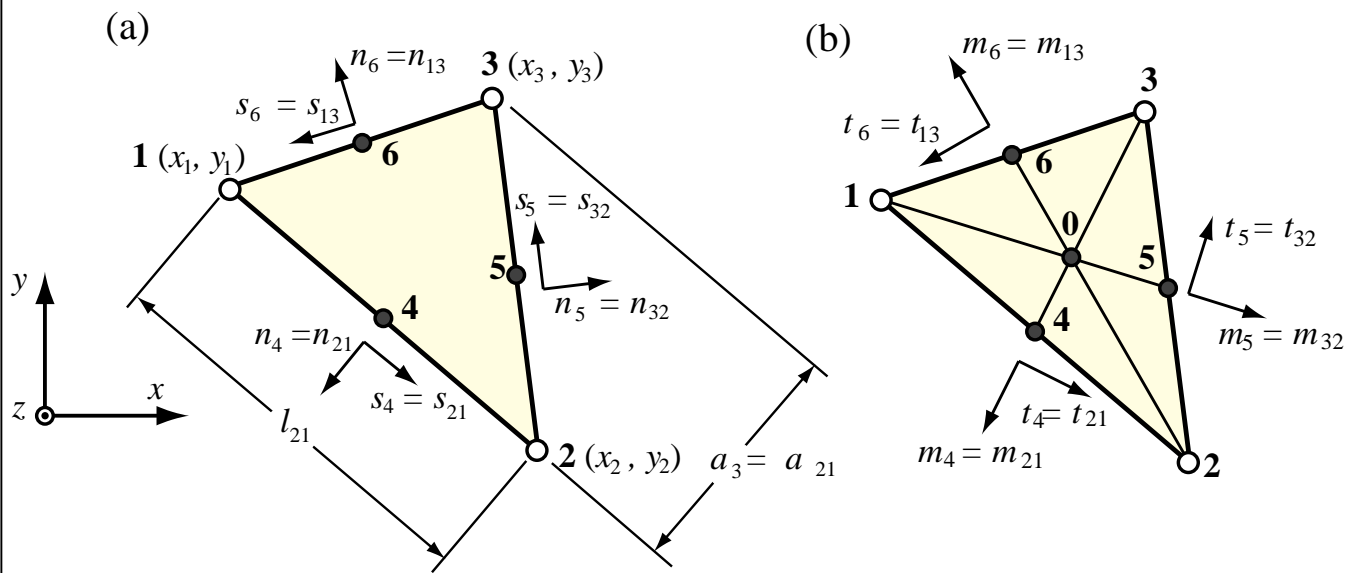
## Provenance of Drilling-Freedom Membrane Triangle



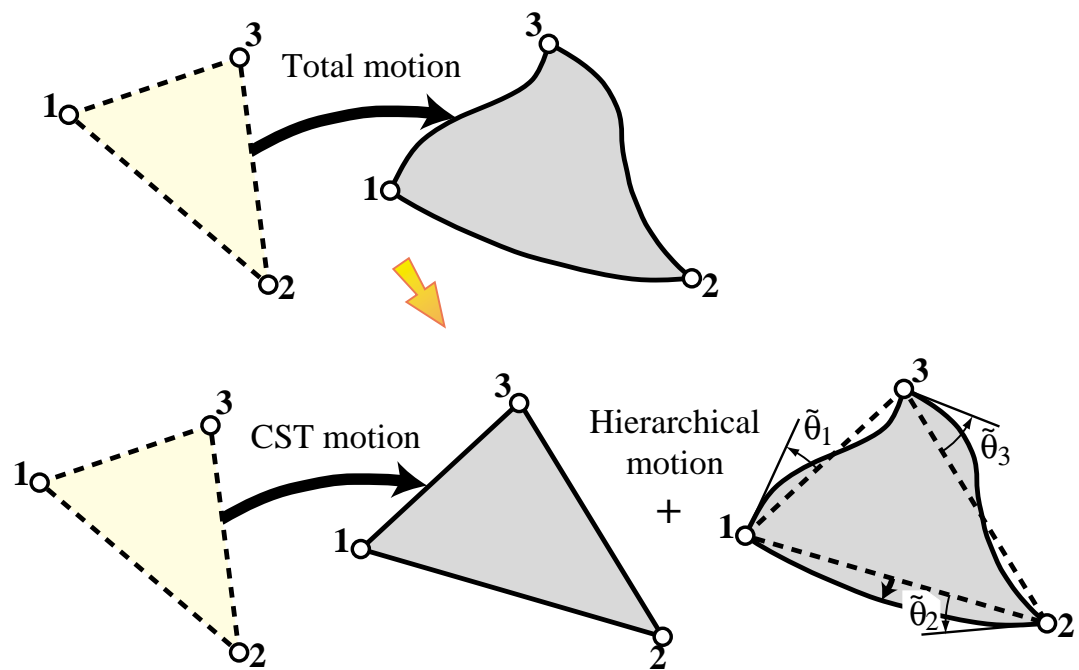
# Fabrication of 18 DOF Facet Shell Element



# Intrinsic Triangle Dimensions



## Decomposition of Element Kinematics



## Hierarchical Rotations

$$\tilde{\theta}_i = \theta_i - \theta_0$$

$$\theta_0 = \frac{1}{4A} (x_{23}u_{x1} + x_{31}u_{x2} + x_{12}u_{x3} + y_{23}u_{y1} + y_{31}u_{y2} + y_{12}u_{y3})$$

$$\tilde{\boldsymbol{\theta}} = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{\theta}_1 \\ \tilde{\theta}_2 \\ \tilde{\theta}_3 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{4A} \begin{bmatrix} x_{32} & y_{32} & 4A & x_{13} & y_{13} & 0 & x_{21} & y_{21} & 0 \\ x_{32} & y_{32} & 0 & x_{13} & y_{13} & 4A & x_{21} & y_{21} & 0 \\ x_{32} & y_{32} & 0 & x_{13} & y_{13} & 0 & x_{21} & y_{21} & 4A \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_{x1} \\ u_{y1} \\ \theta_1 \\ u_{x2} \\ u_{y2} \\ \theta_2 \\ u_{x3} \\ u_{y3} \\ \theta_3 \end{bmatrix} = \tilde{\mathbf{T}}_{\theta u} \mathbf{u}_R$$

## The Basic Stiffness

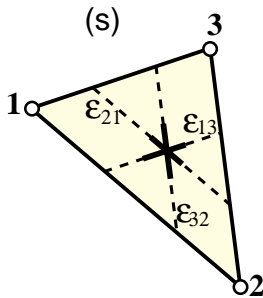
Discovered in 1984 by Pal Bergan and published the following year:

$$\mathbf{K}_b = V^{-1} \mathbf{L} \mathbf{E} \mathbf{L}^T .$$

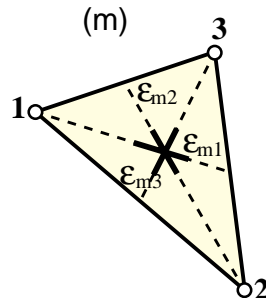
where  $V = A h$  is the element volume and  $\mathbf{L}$  is a  $3 \times 9$  matrix that contains a free parameter  $\alpha_b$

$$\mathbf{L} = \frac{1}{2} h \begin{bmatrix} y_{23} & 0 & x_{32} \\ 0 & x_{32} & y_{23} \\ \frac{1}{6} \alpha_b y_{23} (y_{13} - y_{21}) & \frac{1}{6} \alpha_b x_{32} (x_{31} - x_{12}) & \frac{1}{3} \alpha_b (x_{31} y_{13} - x_{12} y_{21}) \\ y_{31} & 0 & x_{13} \\ 0 & x_{13} & y_{31} \\ \frac{1}{6} \alpha_b y_{31} (y_{21} - y_{32}) & \frac{1}{6} \alpha_b x_{13} (x_{12} - x_{23}) & \frac{1}{3} \alpha_b (x_{12} y_{21} - x_{23} y_{32}) \\ y_{12} & 0 & x_{21} \\ 0 & x_{21} & y_{12} \\ \frac{1}{6} \alpha_b y_{12} (y_{32} - y_{13}) & \frac{1}{6} \alpha_b x_{21} (x_{23} - x_{31}) & \frac{1}{3} \alpha_b (x_{23} y_{32} - x_{31} y_{13}) \end{bmatrix}$$

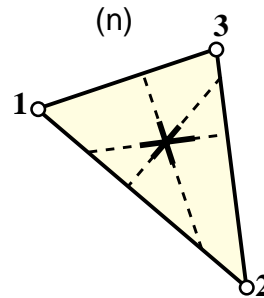
## Natural Strains: 4 Possibilities



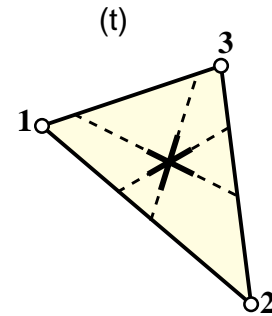
Along side directions



Along medians



Along normal to sides



Along normal to medians

For choice (s)

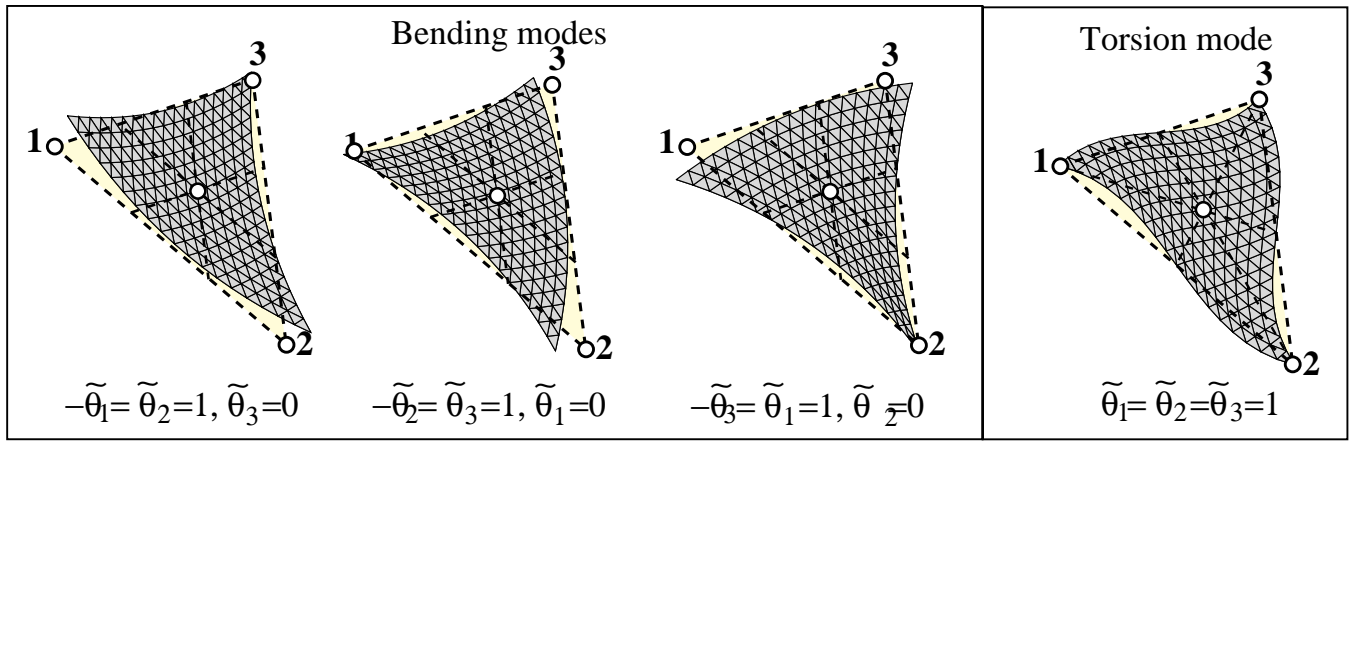
$$\epsilon = [\epsilon_{21} \quad \epsilon_{32} \quad \epsilon_{13}]^T$$

$$\epsilon = \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_{12} \\ \epsilon_{23} \\ \epsilon_{31} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_{21}^2/l_{21}^2 & y_{21}^2/l_{21}^2 & x_{21}y_{21}/l_{21}^2 \\ x_{32}^2/l_{32}^2 & y_{32}^2/l_{32}^2 & x_{32}y_{32}/l_{32}^2 \\ x_{13}^2/l_{13}^2 & y_{13}^2/l_{13}^2 & x_{13}y_{13}/l_{13}^2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} e_{xx} \\ e_{yy} \\ 2e_{xy} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{T}_e^{-1} \mathbf{e}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} e_{xx} \\ e_{yy} \\ 2e_{xy} \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{4A^2} \begin{bmatrix} y_{23}y_{13}l_{21}^2 & y_{31}y_{21}l_{32}^2 & y_{12}y_{32}l_{13}^2 \\ x_{23}x_{13}l_{21}^2 & x_{31}x_{21}l_{32}^2 & x_{12}x_{32}l_{13}^2 \\ \cdot y_{23}x_{31} + x_{32}y_{13}/l_{21}^2 & \cdot y_{31}x_{12} + x_{13}y_{21}/l_{32}^2 & \cdot y_{12}x_{23} + x_{21}y_{32}/l_{13}^2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_{12} \\ \epsilon_{23} \\ \epsilon_{31} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{E}_{nat} = \mathbf{T}_e^T \mathbf{E} \mathbf{T}_e$$

# Natural Higher Order Modes



## Higher Order Stiffness

**Relate corner natural strains to hierarchical rotations:**

$$\mathbf{Q}_1 = \frac{2A}{3} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\beta_1}{\ell_{21}^2} & \frac{\beta_2}{\ell_{21}^2} & \frac{\beta_3}{\ell_{21}^2} \\ \frac{\beta_4}{\ell_{32}^2} & \frac{\beta_5}{\ell_{32}^2} & \frac{\beta_6}{\ell_{32}^2} \\ \frac{\beta_7}{\ell_{13}^2} & \frac{\beta_8}{\ell_{13}^2} & \frac{\beta_9}{\ell_{13}^2} \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{Q}_2 = \frac{2A}{3} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\beta_9}{\ell_{21}^2} & \frac{\beta_7}{\ell_{21}^2} & \frac{\beta_8}{\ell_{21}^2} \\ \frac{\beta_3}{\ell_{32}^2} & \frac{\beta_1}{\ell_{32}^2} & \frac{\beta_2}{\ell_{32}^2} \\ \frac{\beta_6}{\ell_{13}^2} & \frac{\beta_4}{\ell_{13}^2} & \frac{\beta_5}{\ell_{13}^2} \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{Q}_3 = \frac{2A}{3} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\beta_5}{\ell_{21}^2} & \frac{\beta_6}{\ell_{21}^2} & \frac{\beta_4}{\ell_{21}^2} \\ \frac{\beta_8}{\ell_{32}^2} & \frac{\beta_9}{\ell_{32}^2} & \frac{\beta_7}{\ell_{32}^2} \\ \frac{\beta_3}{\ell_{13}^2} & \frac{\beta_1}{\ell_{13}^2} & \frac{\beta_2}{\ell_{13}^2} \end{bmatrix}$$

**Evaluate at midpoints**

$$\mathbf{Q}_4 = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{Q}_1 + \mathbf{Q}_2), \quad \mathbf{Q}_5 = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{Q}_2 + \mathbf{Q}_3), \quad \mathbf{Q}_6 = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{Q}_3 + \mathbf{Q}_1)$$

**Integrate over triangle:**

$$\mathbf{K}_\theta = h (\mathbf{Q}_4^T \mathbf{E}_{nat} \mathbf{Q}_4 + \mathbf{Q}_5^T \mathbf{E}_{nat} \mathbf{Q}_5 + \mathbf{Q}_6^T \mathbf{E}_{nat} \mathbf{Q}_6)$$

**Finally:**

$$\mathbf{K}^e(\alpha_b, \beta_0, \beta_1, \dots, \beta_9) = \mathbf{K}_b + \frac{3}{4} \beta \tilde{\mathbf{T}}_{\theta u}^T \mathbf{K}_\theta \tilde{\mathbf{T}}_{\theta u}$$

**10 free parameters, reduced to 7 by observer invariance**

## Template "Genetics"

The set of free parameters is the template **signature**

The number of free parameters can be reduced by applying behavioral constraints to produce **element families**

Specific elements **instances** are obtained by assigning numerical values to the free parameters of a family

Elements with the same signature, possibly derived through different methods, are called **clones**

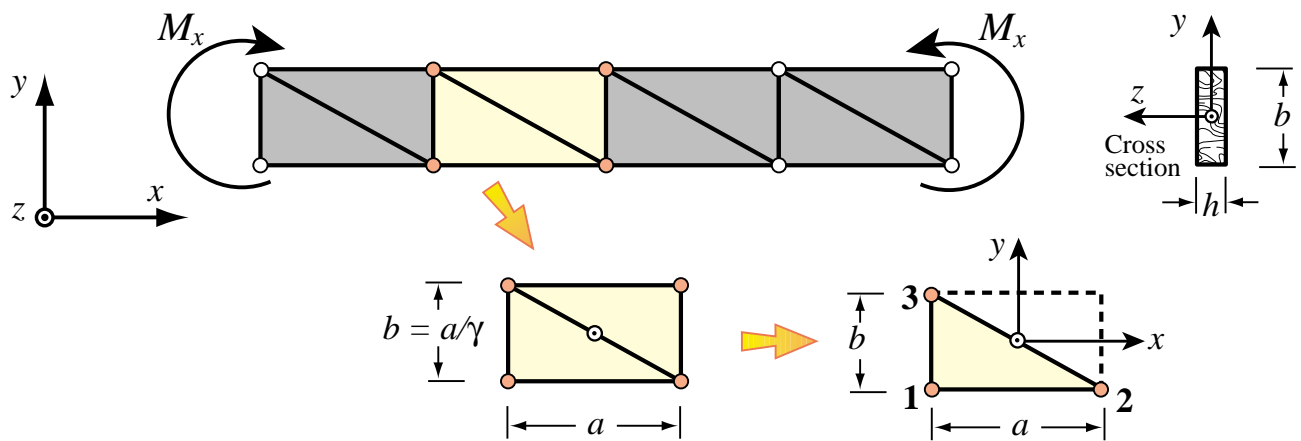
## Template Instance Identifiers

Name	Description	See
ALL-3I	Allman 88 element integrated by 3-point interior rule.	Section 8
ALL-3M	Allman 88 element integrated by 3-midpoint rule.	Section 8
ALL-EX	Allman 88 element, exactly integrated	Section 8
ALL-LS	Allman 88 element, least-square strain fit.	Section 8
CST	Constant strain triangle CST-3/6C.	Ref. [7]
FF84	1984 Free Formulation element of Bergan and Felippa.	Ref. [21]
LST-Ret	Retrofitted LST with $\alpha_b = 4/3$ .	Section 7
OPT	Optimal ANDES Template.	Sections 5.2 and 5.3

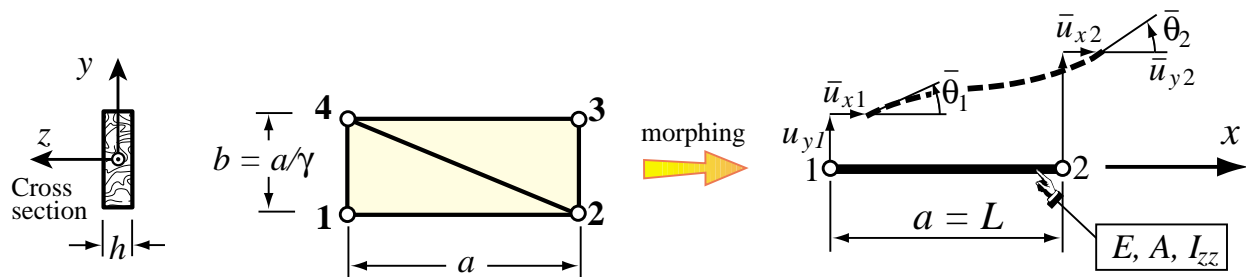
## Template Instance Signatures

Name	$\alpha_b$	$\beta_0$	$\beta_1$	$\beta_2$	$\beta_3$	$\beta_4$	$\beta_5$	$\beta_6$	$\beta_7$	$\beta_8$	$\beta_9$
ALL-3I	1	4/9	1/12	5/12	1/2	0	1/3	-1/3	-1/12	-1/2	-5/12
ALL-3M	1	4/9	1/4	5/4	3/2	0	1	-1	-1/4	-3/2	-5/4
ALL-EX	not an instance of ANDES template										
ALL-LS	1	4/9	3/20	3/4	9/10	0	3/5	-3/5	-3/20	-9/10	-3/4
CST	0	any	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FF84	not an instance of ANDES template										
LST-Ret	4/3	1/2	2/3	-2/3	0	0	-4/3	4/3	-2/3	0	2/3
OPT	3/2	see §5.2	1	2	1	0	1	-1	-1	-1	-2

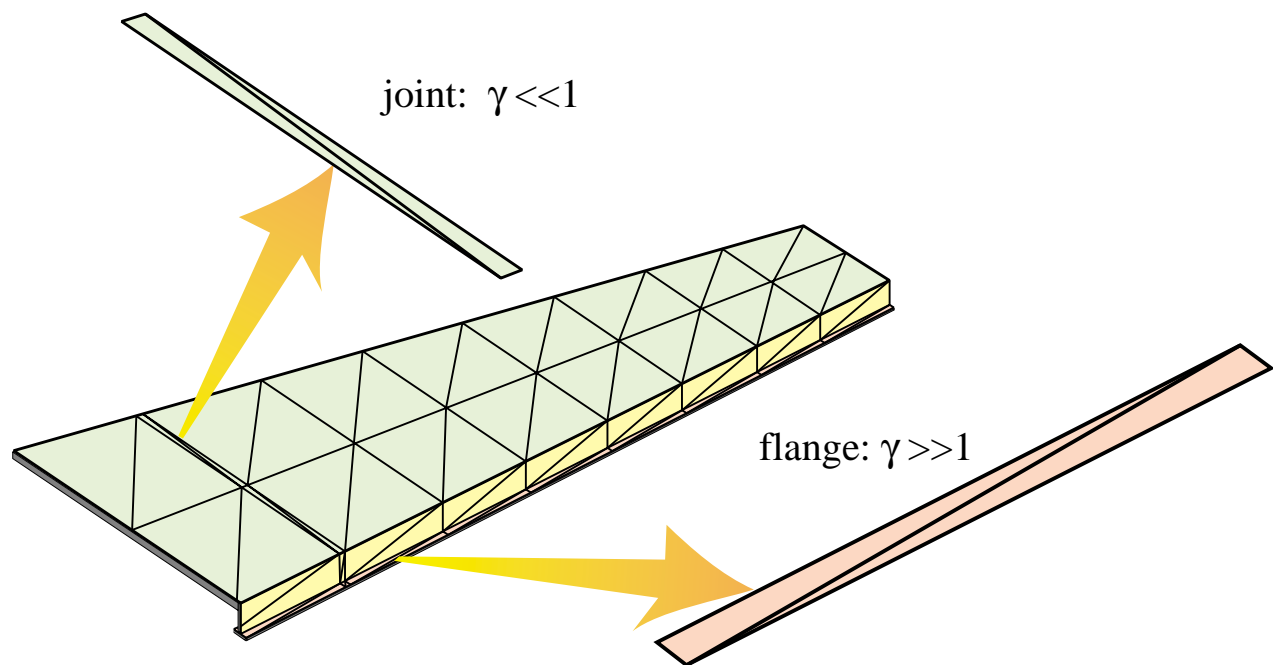
## In-Plane Bending Optimality Test (a Higher Order Patch Test)



# Optimality Confirmed by Morphing Macroelement to Beam



## Motivation for Bending Test: Avoiding In-Plane Bending Locking as Aspect Ratio Increases



## Bending Energy Ratio Test Results

Instance	Bending ratio $r$ for isotropic material	$\gamma = 0$ $\nu = \frac{1}{4}$	$\gamma = 1$ $\nu = \frac{1}{4}$	$\gamma = 4$ $\nu = \frac{1}{4}$	$\gamma = 16$ $\nu = \frac{1}{4}$
ALL-3I	$\frac{584 + (79 - 91\nu)\gamma^2 + 6\gamma^4}{432(1 - \nu^2)}$	1.442	1.595	7.457	1007.901
ALL-3M	$\frac{24 + (5 - 9\nu)\gamma^2 + 2\gamma^4}{16(1 - \nu^2)}$	1.600	1.916	38.667	8786.667
ALL-EX	$\frac{84 + (15 - 19\nu)\gamma^2 + 2\gamma^4}{60(1 - \nu^2)}$	1.493	1.711	13.511	2378.311
ALL-LS	$\frac{1672 + (263 - 371\nu)\gamma^2 + 54\gamma^4}{1200(1 - \nu^2)}$	1.486	1.686	16.196	3185.956
CST	$\frac{6 + 3(1 - \nu)\gamma^2}{2(1 - \nu^2)}$	3.200	4.400	22.400	310.400
FF84	$\frac{3}{4} + \frac{13}{96(1 - \nu)} + \frac{13 + 54\gamma^2 + 119\gamma^4 + 70\gamma^6 + 13\gamma^8}{96(1 + 3\gamma^2 + \gamma^4)^2(1 + \nu)}$	1.039	1.020	1.035	1.039
LST-Ret	$\frac{34 + 5(1 - \nu)\gamma^2}{27(1 - \nu^2)}$	1.343	1.491	3.714	39.269
OPT	1	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000

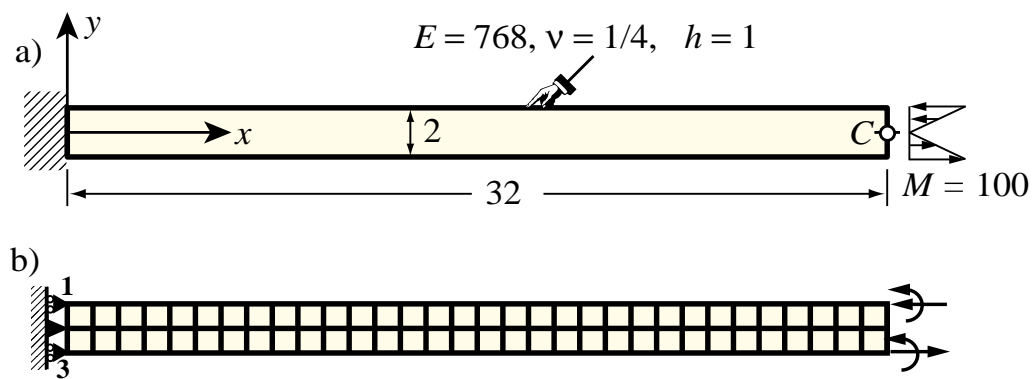
# Stiffness Template Module

```

LST39RMembTemplateStiffness [xycoor_,Emat_,h_,fpars_]:=Module[
{x1,y1,x2,y2,x3,y3,x12,y12,x21,y21,x23,y23,x32,y32,x31,y31,
x13,y13,A,A4,V,LL21,LL32,LL13,αb,β0,β1,β2,β3,β4,β5,β6,β7,β8,β9,
Te,Tθu,Q1,Q2,Q3,Q4,Q5,Q6,c,L,Enat,Kθ,Kh,Kb,Ke},
{{x1,y1},{x2,y2},{x3,y3}}=xycoor;
{αb,β0,β1,β2,β3,β4,β5,β6,β7,β8,β9}=fpars;
x12=x1-x2; x23=x2-x3; x31=x3-x1; x21=-x12; x32=-x23; x13=-x31;
y12=y1-y2; y23=y2-y3; y31=y3-y1; y21=-y12; y32=-y23; y13=-y31;
A=(y21*x13-x21*y13)/2; A2=2*A; A4=4*A;
L= {{y23,0,x32},{0,x32,y23},
{y23*(y13-y21),x32*(x31-x12),(x31*y13-x12*y21)*2}*αb/6,
{y31,0,x13},{0,x13,y31},
{y31*(y21-y32),x13*(x12-x23),(x12*y21-x23*y32)*2}*αb/6,
{y12,0,x21},{0,x21,y12},
{y12*(y32-y13),x21*(x23-x31),(x23*y32-x31*y13)*2}*αb/6}*h/2;
Kb=(L.Emat.Transpose[L])/(h*A);
Tθu={{x32,y32,A4,x13,y13,0,x21,y21,0},
{x32,y32,0,x13,y13,A4,x21,y21,0},
{x32,y32,0,x13,y13,0,x21,y21,A4}}/A4;
LL21=x21^2+y21^2; LL32=x32^2+y32^2; LL13=x13^2+y13^2;
Te={{y23*y13*LL21,y31*y21*LL32,y12*y32*LL13},
{x23*x13*LL21,x31*x21*LL32,x12*x32*LL13},
{(y23*x31+x32*y13)*LL21,(y31*x12+x13*y21)*LL32,
(y12*x23+x21*y32)*LL13}}/(A*A4);
Q1={{β1,β2,β3}/LL21,{β4,β5,β6}/LL32,{β7,β8,β9}/LL13}*A2/3;
Q2={{β9,β7,β8}/LL21,{β3,β1,β2}/LL32,{β6,β4,β5}/LL13}*A2/3;
Q3={{β5,β6,β4}/LL21,{β8,β9,β7}/LL32,{β2,β3,β1}/LL13}*A2/3;
Q4=(Q1+Q2)/2; Q5=(Q2+Q3)/2; Q6=(Q3+Q1)/2;
Enat=Transpose[Te].Emat.Te;
Kθ=(3/4)*β0*h*A*(Transpose[Q4].Enat.Q4+Transpose[Q5].Enat.Q5+
Transpose[Q6].Enat.Q6);
Kh=Transpose[Tθu].Kθ.Tθu;
Return[{Kb,Kh}];

```

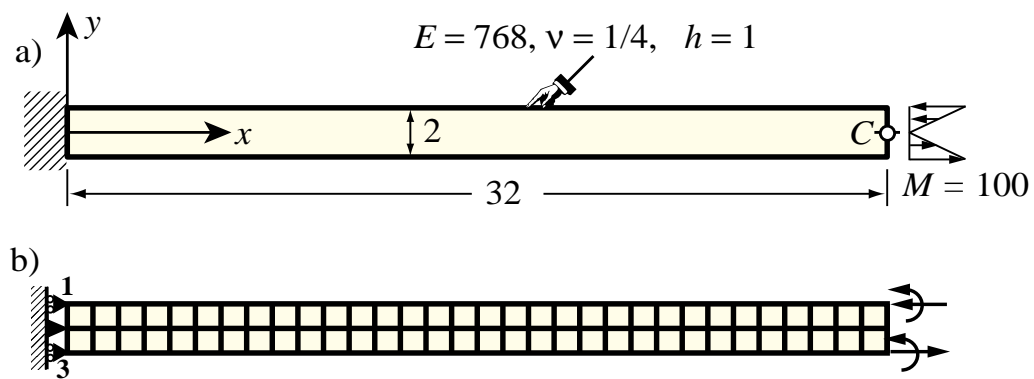
## End-Moment-Loaded Thin Cantilever Beam Benchmark



## Sample Element Generation

```
xycoor=N[{{0,0},{102/25,-86/25},{85/25,285/250}}];  
Print["xycoor=",xycoor];  
Em=120; v=1/4; h=1/8;  
Emat=Em/(1-v^2)*{{1,v,0},{v,1,0},{0,0,(1-v)/2}};  
fpars= LST39RANDESTemplateSignature["OPT", Emat];  
{Kb,Kh}=LST39RMembTemplateStiffness [xycoor,Emat,h,fpars];  
Print["Kb=",SetPrecision[N[Kb],5]//MatrixForm];  
Print["Kh=",SetPrecision[N[Kh],5]//MatrixForm];  
Print["Ke=",SetPrecision[N[Kb+Kh],5]//MatrixForm];  
Print["eigs of Ke=",Chop[Eigenvalues[N[Kb+Kh]]]]];
```

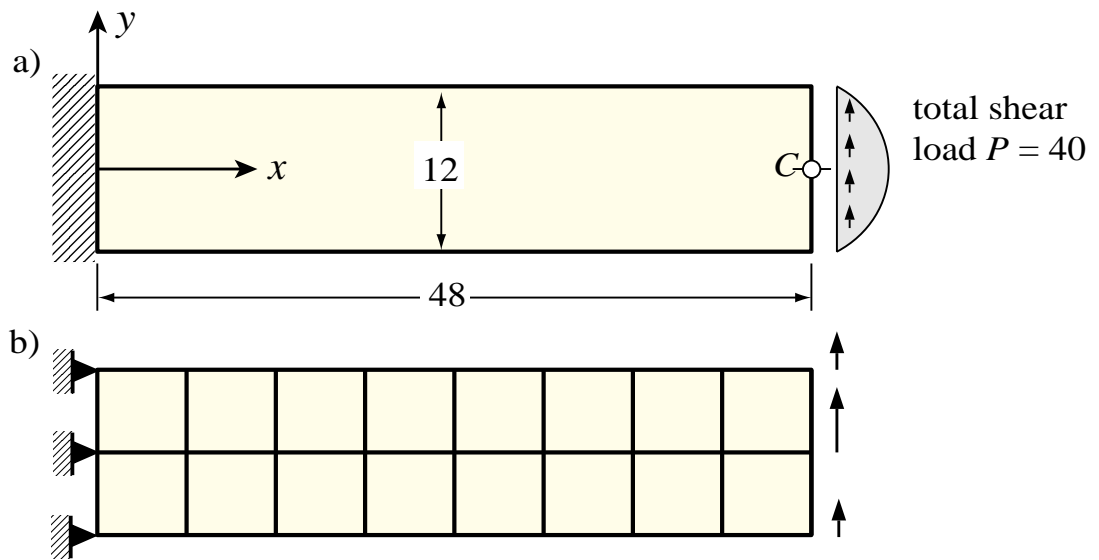
## End-Moment-Loaded Thin Cantilever Beam Benchmark



## Tip Deflections (Exact =100) for Thin Cantilever Beam under End Moment

Element	Load Lumping	Mesh: $x$ -subdivisions $\times$ $y$ -subdivisions				
		$32 \times 2$ ( $\gamma = 1$ )	$16 \times 2$ ( $\gamma = 2$ )	$8 \times 2$ ( $\gamma = 4$ )	$4 \times 2$ ( $\gamma = 8$ )	$2 \times 2$ ( $\gamma = 16$ )
ALL-3I	EBQ	87.08	76.48	38.32	5.42	0.39
ALL-3M	EBQ	81.36	53.57	9.59	0.71	0.04
ALL-EX	EBQ	84.90	69.09	24.23	2.47	0.16
ALL-LS	EBQ	85.36	68.25	20.83	1.89	0.12
CST	LI	54.05	36.36	15.75	4.82	1.28
FF84	EBQ	98.36	97.17	96.58	96.34	96.27
LST-Ret	EBQ	89.05	81.04	59.58	28.93	9.46
OPT	EBQ	99.99	99.99	99.99	99.96	100.07

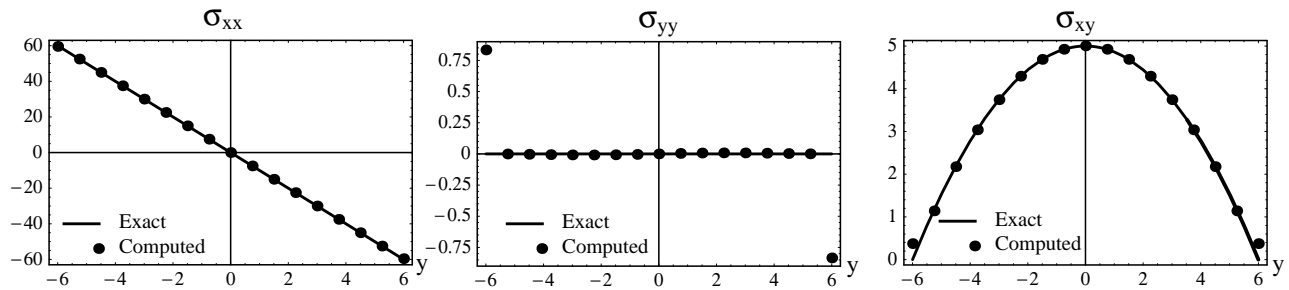
## Berkeley Cantilever Benchmark



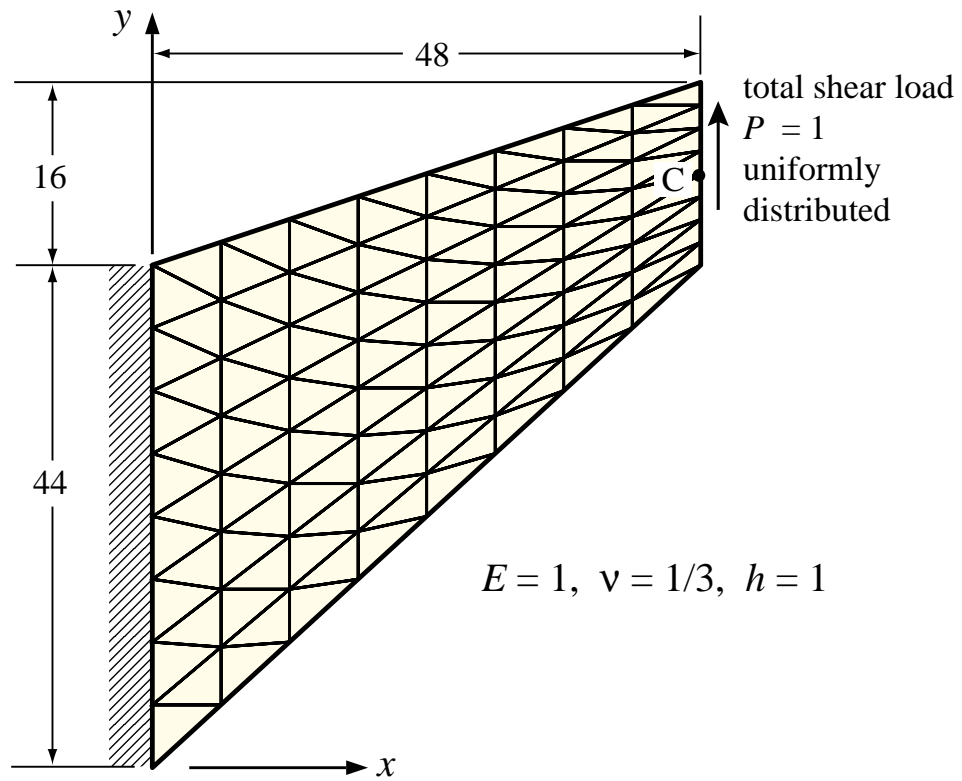
# Berkeley Cantilever: Stress Results

## Using Optimal Triangle

(for deflection results see paper)



## Cook's Trapezoidal Plate Benchmark

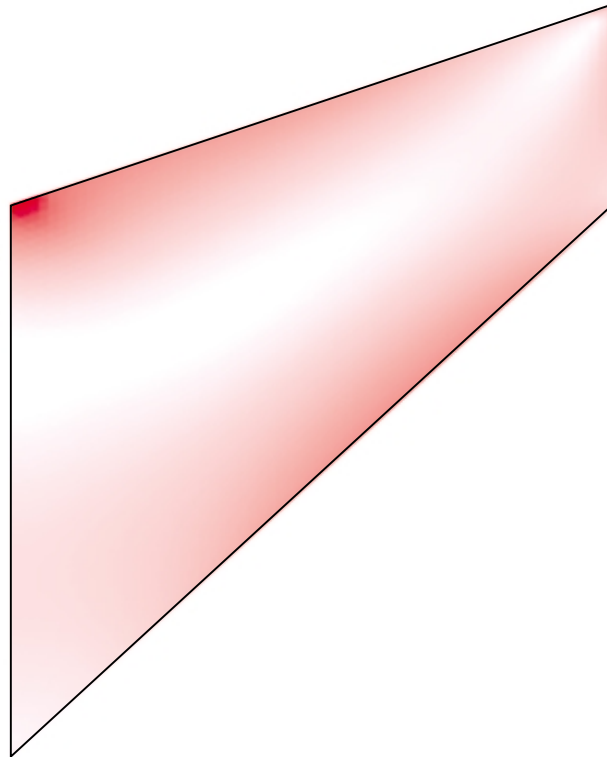


## Results for Cook's Benchmark Problem

<i>Element</i>	<i>Vertical deflection at C for subdivision</i>					
	$2 \times 2$	$4 \times 4$	$8 \times 8$	$16 \times 16$	$32 \times 32$	$64 \times 64$
ALL-3I	21.61	23.00	23.66	23.88	23.94	
ALL-3M	16.61	21.05	23.02	23.69	23.87	
ALL-EX	19.01	21.83	23.43	23.81	23.91	
ALL-LS	19.43	22.32	23.44	23.82	23.92	
CST	11.99	18.28	22.02	23.41		
FF84	20.36	22.42	23.41	23.79	23.91	
LST-Ret <sup>†</sup>	19.82	22.62	23.58	23.86	23.94	
OPT	20.56	22.45	23.43	23.80	23.91	23.95
FFQ	21.66	23.11	23.79	23.88	23.94	
HL	18.17	22.03		23.81		
HG	22.32	23.23		23.91		
Q4	11.85	18.30		23.43		
Q6	22.94	23.48				
QM6	21.05	23.02				

<sup>†</sup> Requires one drilling DOF to be fixed, else stiffness is singular

## **Cook's Problem: von Mises Stress**



## **Conclusions: Template Advantages**

**One form generates an **infinite** # of instances**

**Instances **are not necessarily obtainable**  
**by conventional** (variational based) **formulations****

**Unified implementation** (input: signature)  
**weeds out clones, simplifies benchmarking**

**Can be **customized**, or **optimized**,**  
**for specific configurations or needs**