

# THE COMPONENTS OF THE STRAIN TENSOR IN SPHERICAL AND CYLINDRICAL COORDINATES

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

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It is often convenient to use the components of the strain tensor in spherical polar or cylindrical polar coordinates. We give here, for reference, the corresponding formulae.

In cylindrical polar coordinates  $r, \varphi, z$ :

$$\varepsilon_{rr} = \frac{\partial u_r}{\partial r}, \quad \varepsilon_{\varphi\varphi} = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u_\varphi}{\partial \varphi} + \frac{u_r}{r}, \quad \varepsilon_{zz} = \frac{\partial u_z}{\partial z}, \quad (1)$$

$$2\varepsilon_{\varphi z} = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u_z}{\partial \varphi} + \frac{\partial u_\varphi}{\partial z}, \quad 2\varepsilon_{rz} = \frac{\partial u_r}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial u_z}{\partial r}, \quad (2)$$

$$2\varepsilon_{r\varphi} = \frac{\partial u_\varphi}{\partial r} - \frac{u_\varphi}{r} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u_r}{\partial \varphi}. \quad (3)$$

In spherical polar coordinates  $r, \theta, \varphi$ :

$$\varepsilon_{rr} = \frac{\partial u_r}{\partial r}, \quad \varepsilon_{\theta\theta} = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u_\theta}{\partial \theta} + \frac{u_r}{r}, \quad (4)$$

$$\varepsilon_{\varphi\varphi} = \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial u_\varphi}{\partial \varphi} + \frac{u_\theta}{r} \cot \theta + \frac{u_r}{r}, \quad (5)$$

$$2\varepsilon_{\theta\varphi} = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u_\varphi}{\partial \theta} - \frac{u_\varphi}{r} \cot \theta + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial u_\theta}{\partial \varphi}, \quad (6)$$

$$2\varepsilon_{r\theta} = \frac{\partial u_\theta}{\partial r} - \frac{u_\theta}{r} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u_r}{\partial \theta}, \quad (7)$$

$$2\varepsilon_{\varphi r} = \frac{\partial u_\varphi}{\partial r} - \frac{u_\varphi}{r} + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial u_r}{\partial \varphi}. \quad (8)$$