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Two successive displacements take place, which are denoted

$$i) \underline{x}' = \underline{x} + \underline{u}(\underline{x})$$

$$ii) \underline{x}'' = \underline{x}' + \underline{u}'(\underline{x} + \underline{u}(\underline{x})) = \underline{x}' + \underline{u}'(\underline{x}')$$

We know that both displacements give rise to small strains, telling us that Cauchy's strain tensor is sufficient.

We now express $\underline{u}'(\underline{x} + \underline{u}(\underline{x}))$ using a first-order Taylor expansion:

$$\underline{u}'(\underline{x} + \underline{u}(\underline{x})) \approx \underline{u}'(\underline{x}) + (\nabla \underline{u}'(\underline{x}))^T \cdot \underline{u}(\underline{x})$$

We know that the second term is much smaller than the first, because $(\nabla \underline{u}'(\underline{x}))^T$ is small. Thus:

$$\nabla \underline{u}'(\underline{x}') \approx \nabla \left[\underline{u}'(\underline{x}) + (\nabla \underline{u}'(\underline{x}))^T \cdot \underline{u}(\underline{x}) \right] \approx \nabla \underline{u}'(\underline{x})$$

We define the total displacement \underline{u}'' by

$$\underline{x}'' = \underline{x} + \underline{u}''(\underline{x})$$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{u}''(\underline{x}) = \underline{u}(\underline{x}) + \underline{u}'(\underline{x}') \approx \underline{u}(\underline{x}) + \underline{u}'(\underline{x})$$

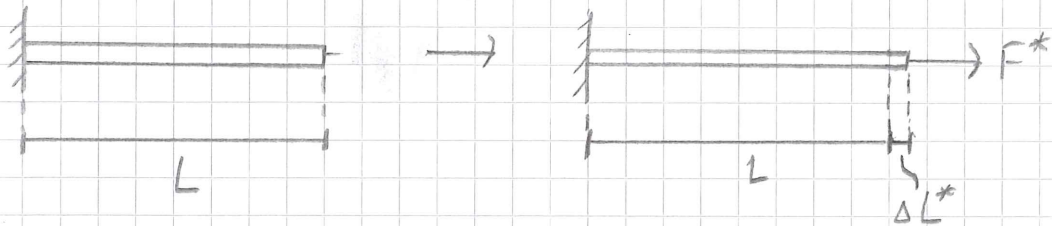
The final strain tensor then becomes

$$\underline{\varepsilon} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\nabla \underline{u}'' + \nabla \underline{u}''^T \right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left(\nabla (\underline{u} + \underline{u}') + \nabla (\underline{u} + \underline{u}')^T \right)$$

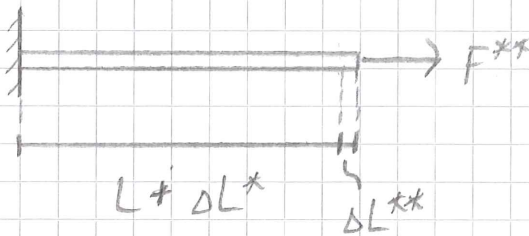
Physical motivation in one dimension:

Let us assume we have a rod of length L , which is subjected to a force F^* , giving the rod an extension ΔL^* .



We know that $\epsilon^* = \frac{\Delta L^*}{L}$

We then increase the applied force, to get an additional extension ΔL^{**}



with strain $\epsilon^{**} = \frac{\Delta L^{**}}{L + \Delta L^*} = \frac{\Delta L^{**}}{L} \cdot \frac{1}{1 + \frac{\Delta L^*}{L}}$

$$\approx \frac{\Delta L^{**}}{L} \left(1 - \frac{\Delta L^*}{L}\right)$$
$$\approx \frac{\Delta L^{**}}{L}$$

So the total strain becomes

$$\epsilon = \epsilon^* + \epsilon^{**} \approx \frac{\Delta L^* + \Delta L^{**}}{L}$$