1 Introduction of Finite Element Method

- 1.1 Development process of finite element method
- 1.2 Computation procedure of finite element method
- 1.3 Main contents of the book
- **1.4 Exercises**







1.2 Computation procedure of finite element method

- 1. Define the problem to be solved by the governing <u>differential equations</u>. Based on the differential equations in the analysis of continuous systems, the equivalent integration form of the problem is constructed as virtual work, variational or weak form.
- **2.** <u>Select the type and order of the finite element.</u> These elements and corresponding shape functions will be used in the analysis of discrete systems, which will be substituted into the equivalent integral form.
- **3. Define a set of mesh for the problem.** This involves the description of the distribution of nodes and elements and the description of the boundary conditions.

32



4. <u>Compute and assemble the matrixes from</u> <u>elements.</u> The relationships in all elements are defined and assembled by the equivalent integral form of the problem; for example, the global stiffness matrix and load vector are set from each element using the element location vector. In this way, the continuous system is meshed and discretized to form an approximate discrete system. In this way, the differential equations representing continuous systems are transformed into algebraic equations of discrete systems.

33

1.2 Computation procedure of finite element method

- 5. Solve the system of algebraic equations. For widespread static problems, the algebraic equations are especially linear, which could be solved effectively by some well-developed mathematical techniques or specialized solvers. The solutions of the system of algebraic equations are solutions on all nodes.
- Derive the solutions of variables in the global <u>domain</u>. Using the solutions on the nodes and the solutions of displacement, stress, and strain (derivatives of displacement) in each element domain can be obtained by further applying the interpolation of shape functions.

34









































