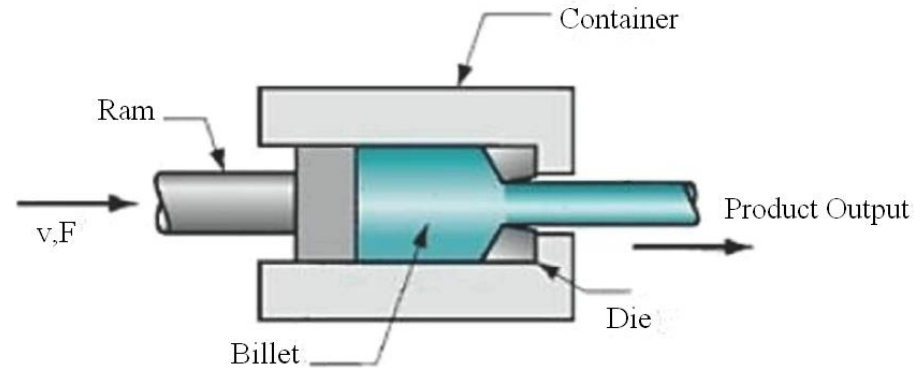


# Plasticity and Deformation Process

Extrusion

In extrusion process metal is compressed and forced to flow through a suitably shaped die to form a product with reduced but constant cross section



Hot extrusion is commonly used for many metals to reduce the forces required, eliminate cold working effects and reduce anisotropy

Cold extrusion is common for ductile metals and for simpler shapes

Extrusion is basically like squeezing toothpaste out of a tube

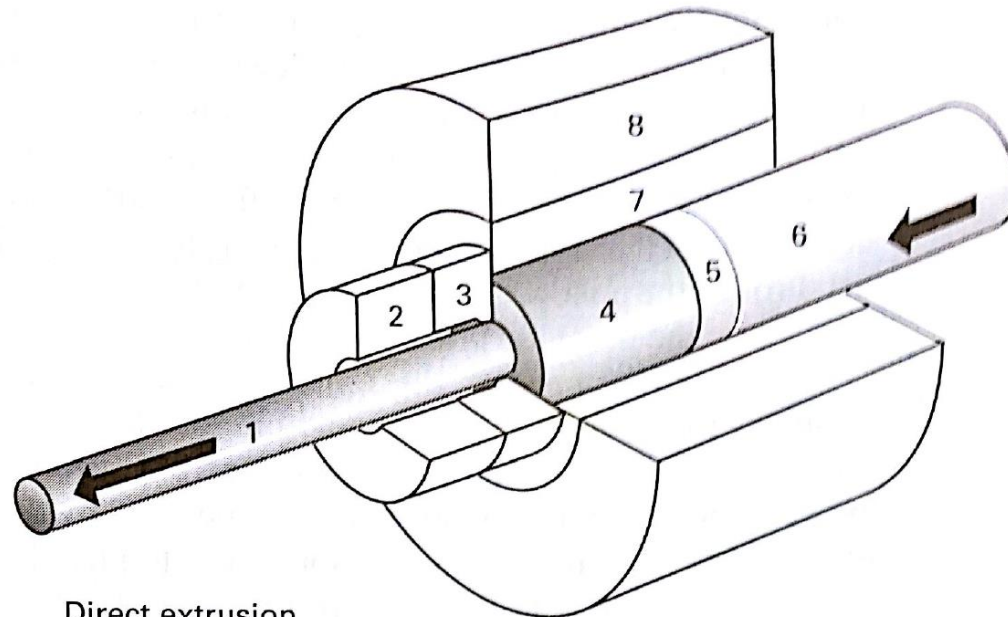


A common extrusion arrangement for metals is to have a heated billet placed inside a tubular chamber

A ram advances from one end, causing the billet to first upset and conform to the chamber

The pressure builds as the ram continues to advance

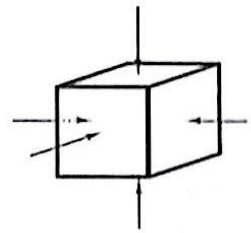
Metal both deforms and moves towards the die due to pressure and flows plastically through the die



Direct extrusion

- 1 Extrusion
- 2 Die backer
- 3 Die
- 4 Billet

- 5 Dummy block
- 6 Pressing ram
- 7 Container liner
- 8 Container body



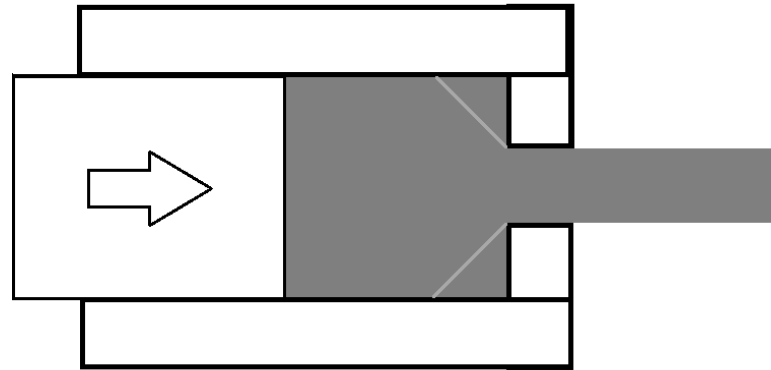
**Triaxial  
compression**

The stress state within the material is triaxial compression

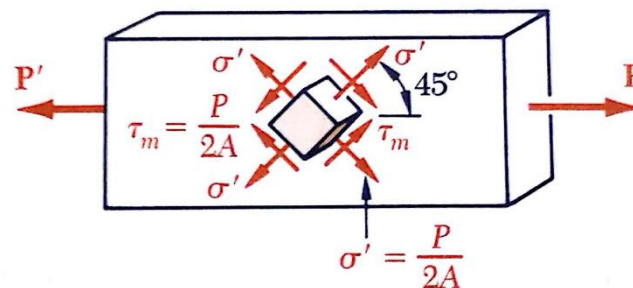
Metal billet is squeezed first in the longitudinal direction then in the radial directions

The radial compression causes friction as the billet moves in the chamber and heats

A stationary zone around the die-exit provides a cushion material which distributes the compressive stresses at an angle around 45 degrees from the chamber wall towards the die exit



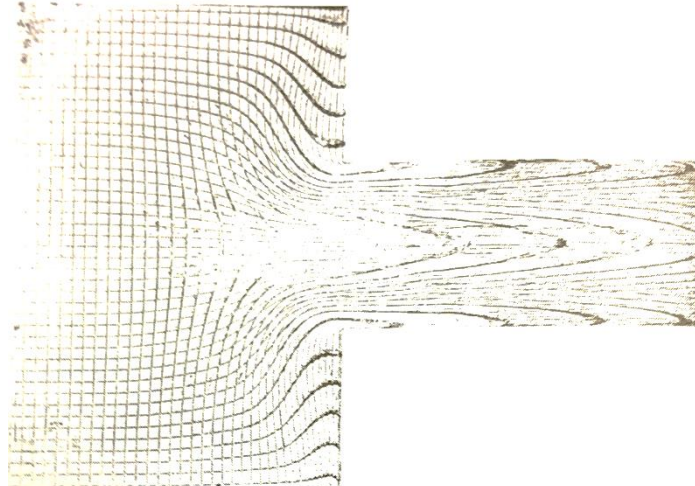
Hence some of the longitudinal stress is transformed into shear stress that causes the majority of the plastic deformation



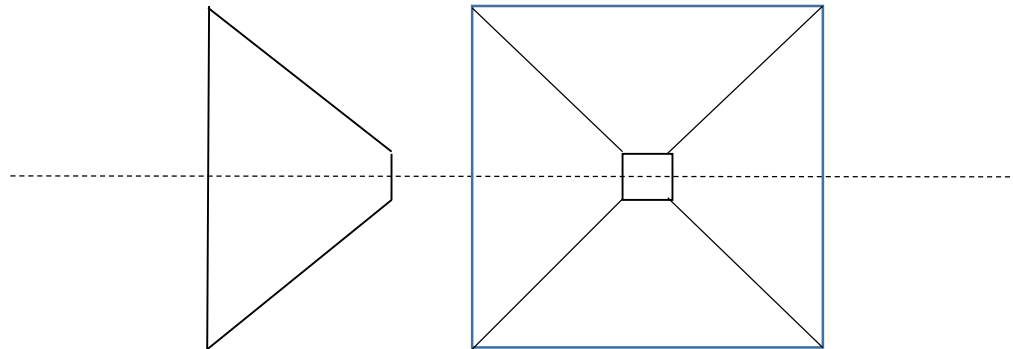
$$\sigma = \frac{F}{A_0} \cos^2 \theta$$

$$\tau = \frac{F}{A_0} \sin \theta \cos \theta$$

The deformation zone around the die exit has a symmetric rhomboid shape around the longitudinal axis



Stress analysis is done on a cube that deforms to an oblique element due to shear stresses



Plastic deformation results from shear stresses on the sloped sides which make an angle close to 45 degrees with longitudinal and transverse directions and originate from compressive stresses in these directions

Shear stresses exist in the  $xy$  and  $xz$  directions as elongation occurs only in the  $x$  direction

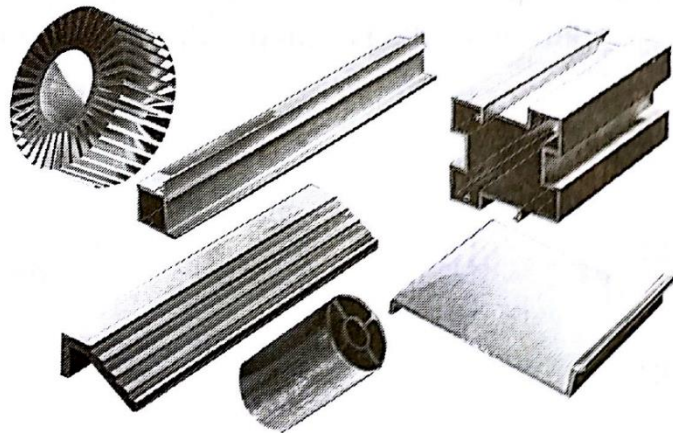
Aluminum, magnesium, copper, lead and alloys of these metals are commonly extruded, taking advantage of the relatively low yield strengths and low hot working temperatures

Steels, stainless steels, nickel based alloys and titanium are far more difficult to extrude because of their high yield strengths and because they have the tendency to weld (join) to the walls of the die and chamber under high temperatures and pressures

However molten glass lubricants enable hot extrusions from these metals as they are able to withstand the high temperatures and adhere to the billet, flowing and thinning in a way that prevents metal-metal contact

Almost any cross-sectional shape can be extruded from the non-ferrous metals

Extrusion presses can extrude any shape that can be enclosed within a 75 cm diameter circle



The shapes and sizes are a bit more limited for steels other high-strength metals

The advantages of extrusion compared to rolling and other deformation processes are:

- Many shapes can be produced only by extrusion (like angled sides and longitudinal holes)
- No draft is required (initial poorly formed material) so savings in both metal weight are possible
- Since the deformation is compressive, the amount of reduction in a single step is limited only by the capacity of the equipment
- Billet to product cross sectional area ratios can be more than 100 to 1 for weak metals
- Extrusion dies are relatively inexpensive and one die may be all that is required to produce a specific product
- Small quantities of a desired shape can be produced economically as the conversion of manufacturing from one product to another requires only a single die change

The major disadvantage of the process is that the cross section is uniform for the entire length of the product

Extruded products have good surface finish and dimensional precision

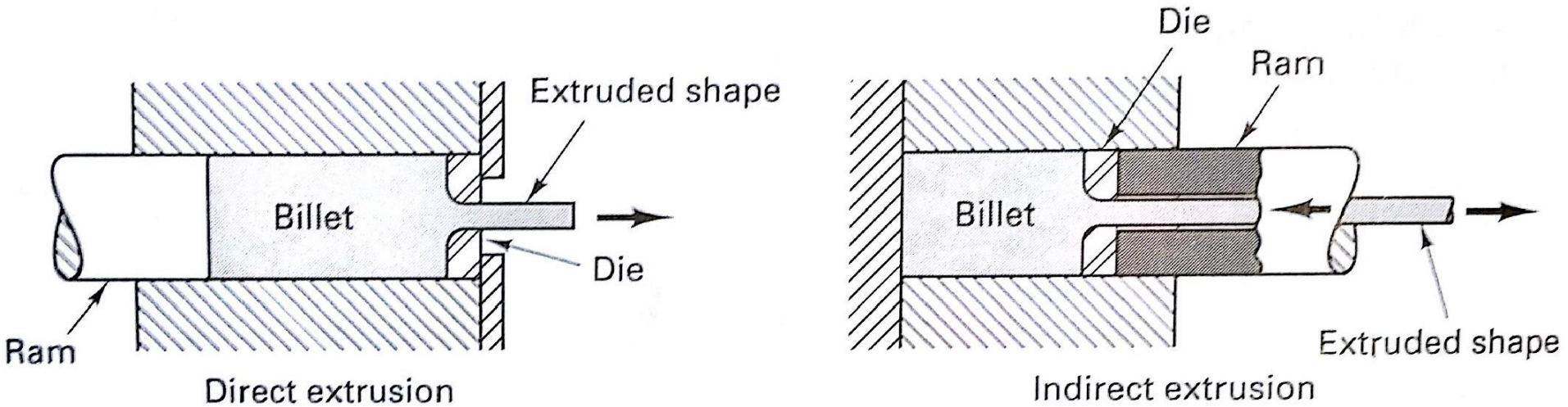
Commonly achievable tolerances are  $\pm 0.03$  mm/mm with a maximum of  $\pm 0.075$

Grain structure is typical of other hot-worked metals but strong directional properties in the longitudinal direction are commonly observed

Product lengths greater than 12 m have been produced

Hot extrusion is done by either the direct or indirect methods

In direct extrusion a solid ram drives the entire billet to and through a stationary die



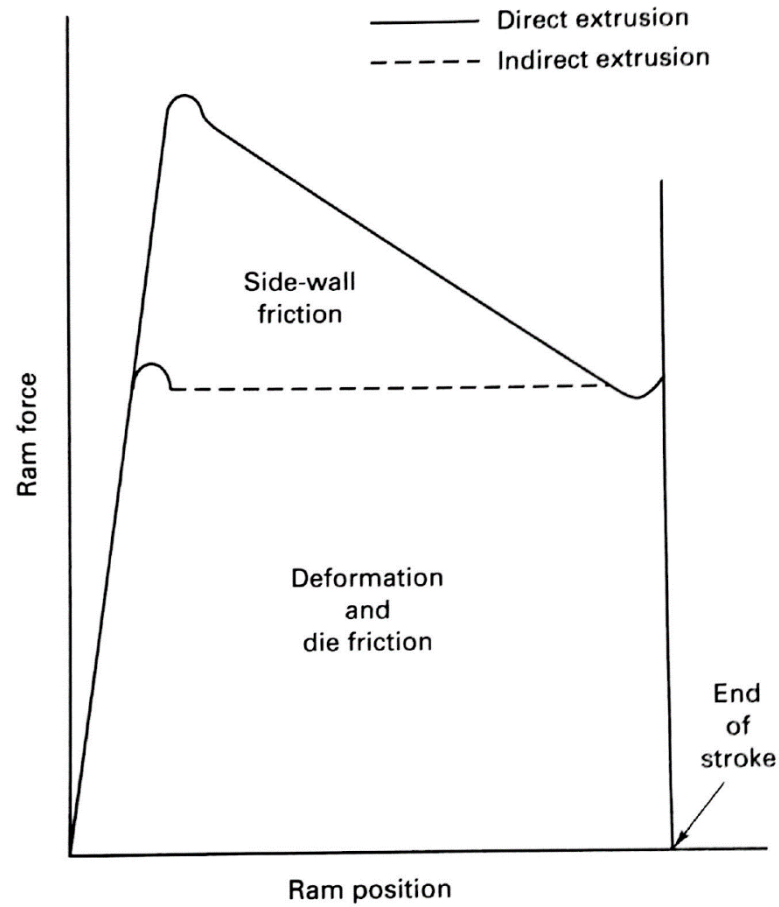
The ram must provide an additional power to overcome the frictional resistance between the surface of the moving billet and the wall of the chamber in addition to the force required to push the billet through a narrow exit

In indirect extrusion a hollow ram pushes the die back through a stationary, confined billet

The friction between the billet and the chamber wall is eliminated since there is no relative motion

The required force is lower and longer billets can be used due to increased efficiency





The areas below the lines in the figure have units of Newton-meters and are proportional to the work or power required to produce the part

Indirect extrusion is more efficient but also more expensive equipment is required because of the complexity of the process

Removal of the billet material at the stationary end also requires extra maintenance

Extruded products can emerge from both process equipment at rates up to 300 m/min

This high rate increases the temperature of the billet which may be beneficial in some cases where cooling occurs rapidly

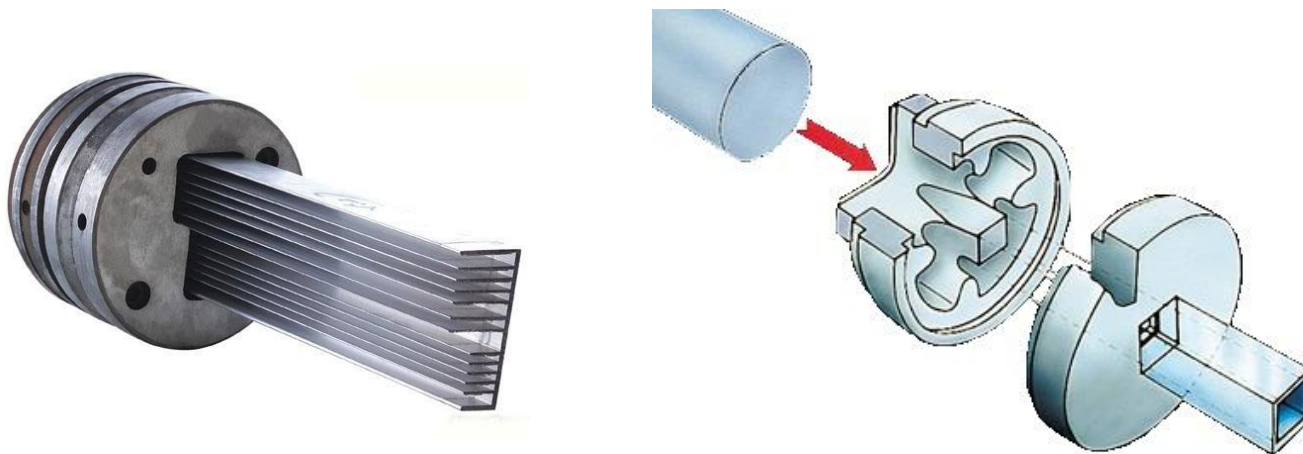
Temperature and the deformation rate should be controlled by a sensor feedback mechanism for extrusion of strong metals that produce massive deformation with excessive heat

Another possible problem arises from the friction between high surface area products and the die

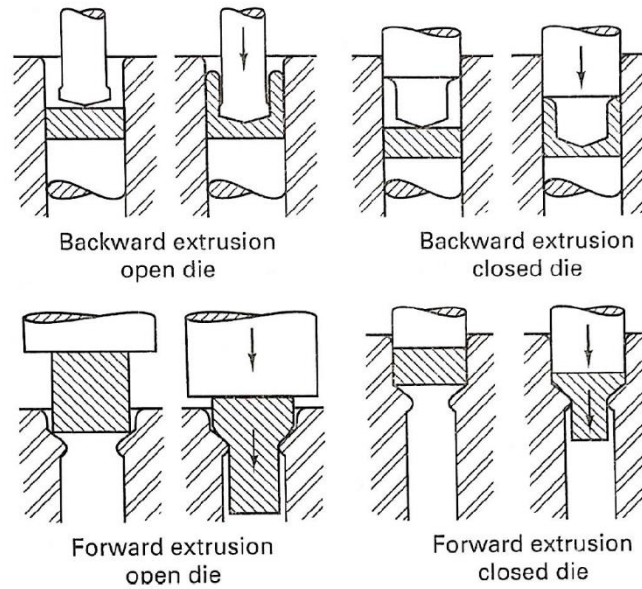
If the diameter reduction ratio is 100, the product will be 100 times longer than the starting billet

Also the perimeter of the product will be much greater than a circle with the same area if the product has a complex cross section

A lubricant that adheres to the material as it passes through the die can reduce friction and act as a barrier to heat transfer at all stages of the process



Great advances have been made in cold extrusion processes more commonly known as impact extrusion



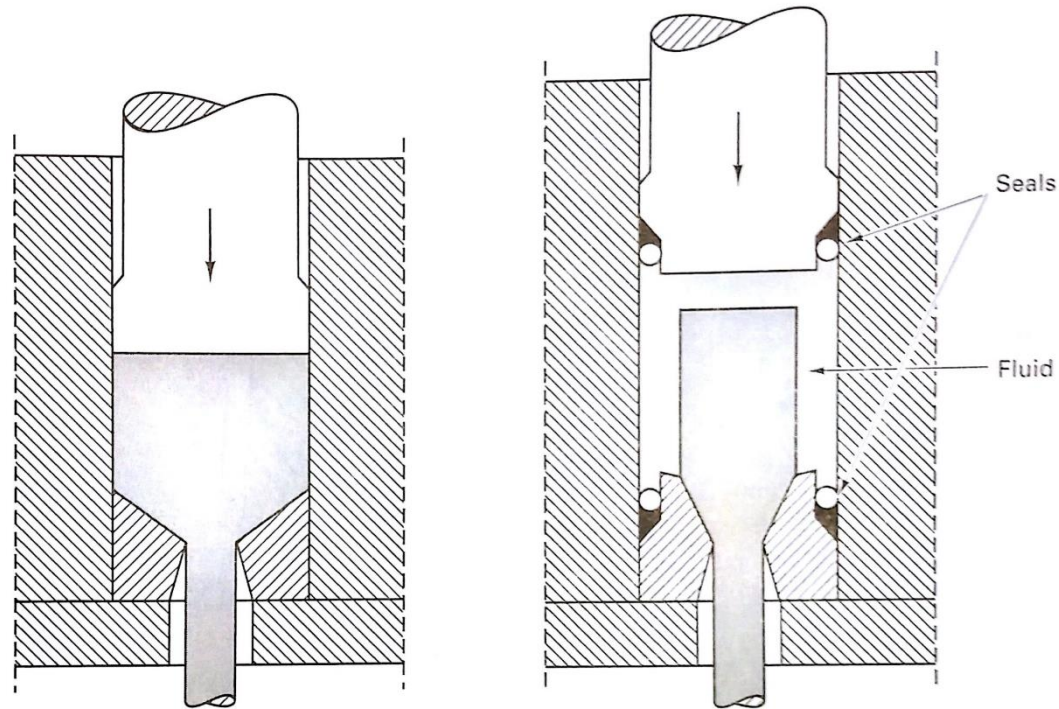
These processes were first used to shape low-strength metals like lead, tin, zinc and aluminum into products such as collapsible tubes for toothpastes and creams, cans for shielding electronic components, zinc cases for flashlight batteries, cans for food and drinks





## Hydrostatic extrusion

High pressure fluid surrounds the workpiece and applies the force necessary to extrude it through the die



The process is like direct extrusion but the fluid pressure surrounding the billet prevents any upsetting

The billet-chamber friction is eliminated since the billet does not contact the surrounding chamber

Pressurized fluid (light hydrocarbons and oils) acts as a lubricant between the billet and the die

While the process efficiency in hydrostatic extrusion is significantly greater than most other extrusion processes, there are problems related to the associated high fluid pressures which can be as high as 1700 MPa

Fluid leakage and ejection out of the die exit are common problems

Temperatures are limited since the fluid acts also as a heat sink and burns at relatively low temperatures

Hydrostatic extrusion is used when its unique advantages cannot be applied by other methods

One of these cases is pressure to pressure extrusion, a variant of hydrostatic extrusion

The product extrudates from one pressurized chamber to another high pressure chamber and the metal deformation is done in a highly compressed environment

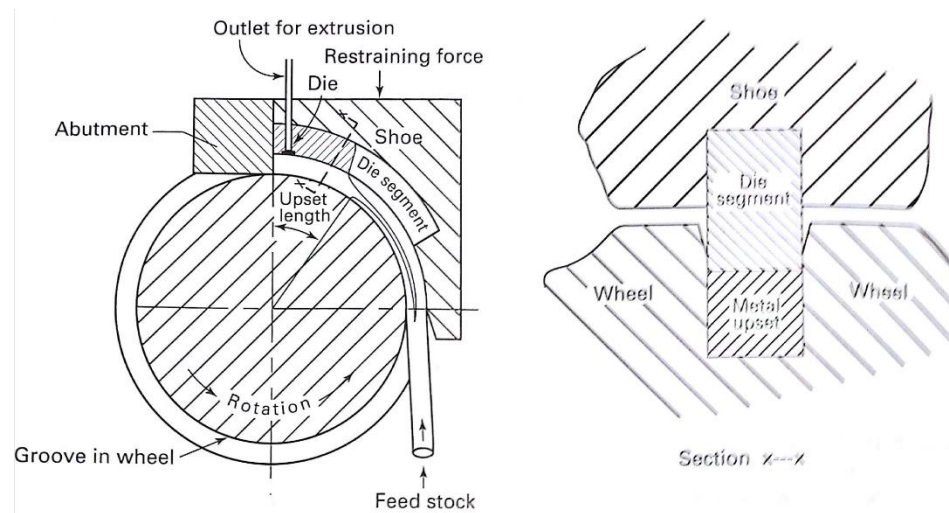
Voids and cracks are suppressed in a compressed environment, resulting in pressure induced ductility

Materials that are relatively brittle at room temperature and atmospheric pressure such as molybdenum, beryllium, tungsten, and their alloys can be plastically deformed without fracture

Conventional extrusion is a discontinuous process, converting billets of some length into separate products

A continuous metal feed can be converted into continuous product if the pushing force can be applied to the periphery of the material rather than the back

The most significant commercial continuous extrusion technique is the Conform process



Continuous feedstock is inserted into a grooved wheel and is driven by surface friction into a chamber created by a blocking die segment

The metal upsets upon hitting the abutment and conforms to the chamber and the increased wall contact further increases the driving friction

Upsetting continues until the pressure becomes high enough to extrude the material through the die opening

The rate of metal entering the machine equals the rate of product emerging, resulting in a steady state continuous process

Since surface friction is the propulsion force, the feedstock can be solid rod, metal powder, chips from machining, nonmetallic powders, polymeric powders

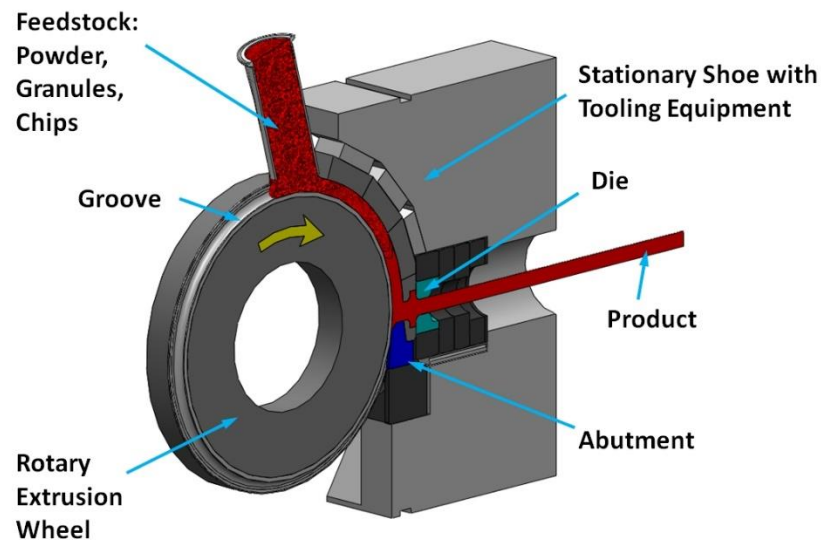
The process can be used to mix metallic and nonmetallic powders and coextrude them

Even fiber reinforced plastics have been extruded but the most common feed is coiled aluminum or copper rod

Continuous extrusion can be used in place of wire drawing and rolling to produce nonferrous products with small but uniform cross sections

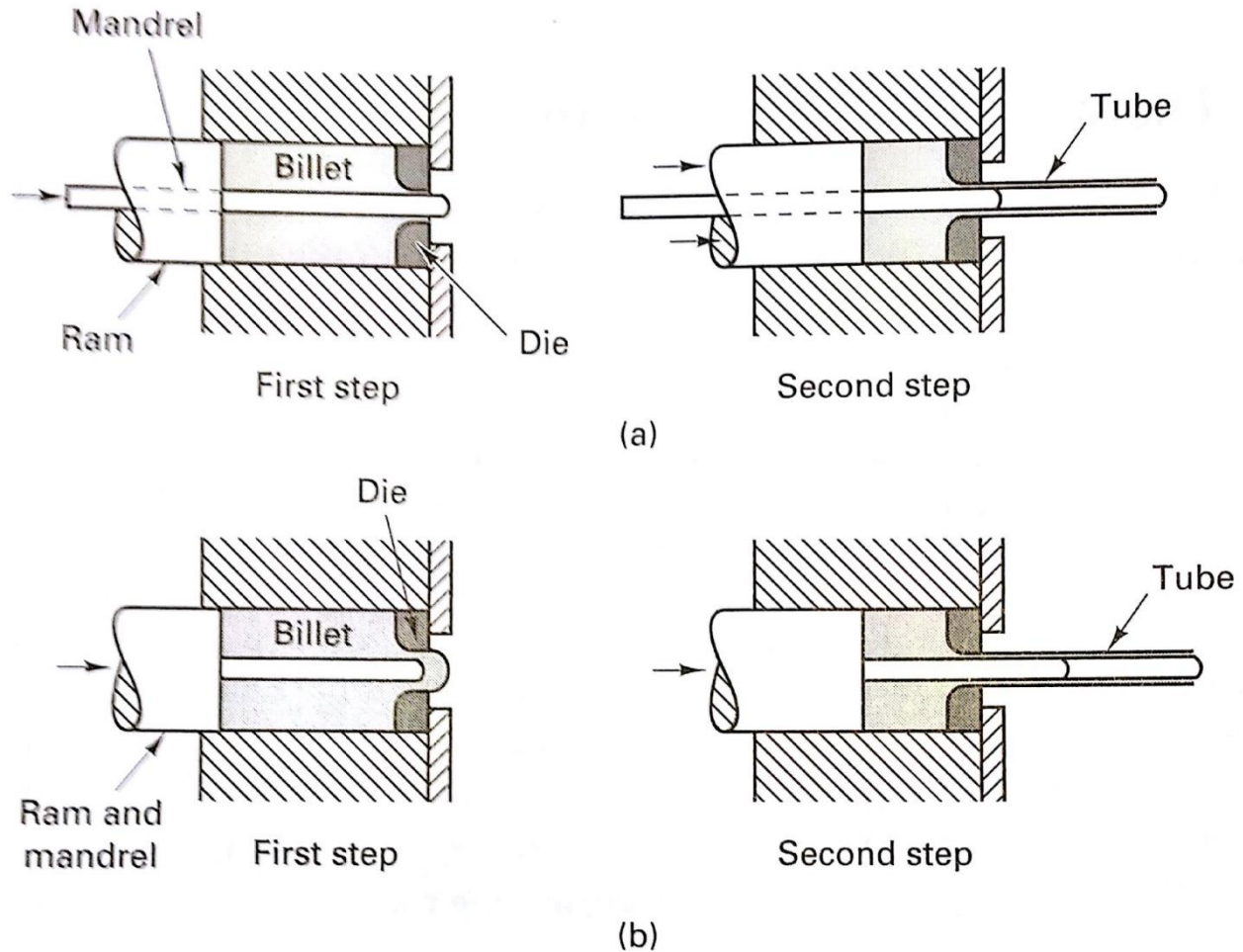
A conform operation can produce an amount of deformation equivalent to ten drawing or cold-rolling passes since extrusion operations perform massive reduction through a single die

In addition, sufficient heat can be generated by the deformation that the product will emerge in an annealed condition that enables further processing without intermediate heat treatment

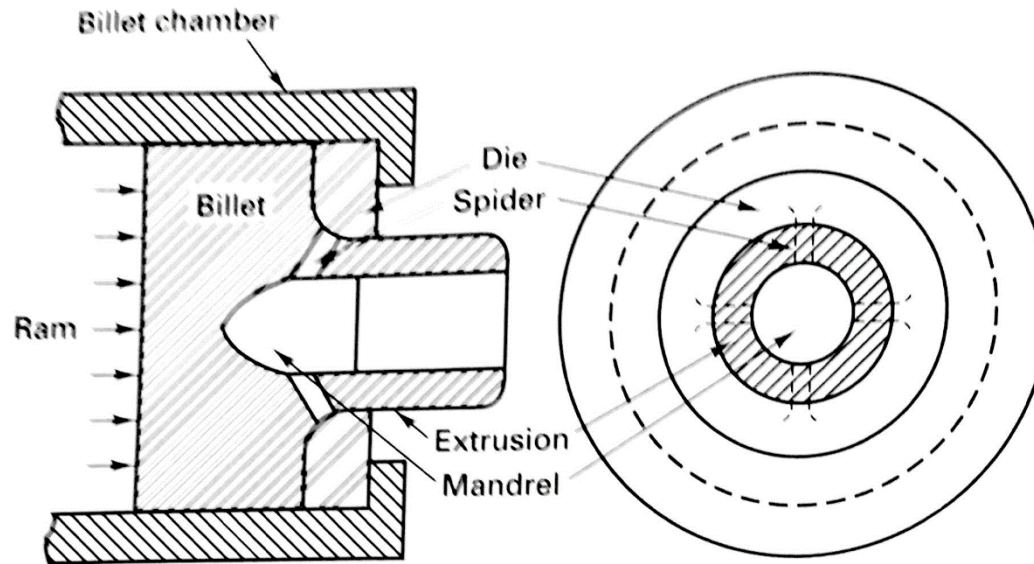




Hollow shapes like tubes and shapes with more than one longitudinal cavity can be extruded by several methods. The stationary and moving mandrel processes are common for tubular products.



A spider-leg mandrel die is used for products with multiple or more complex cavities



**FIGURE 18-27** Hot extrusion of a hollow shape using a spider-mandrel die. Note the four arms connecting the die and the mandrel.

Hot metal flows around the legs of the spider and welds together back around the legs

Perfect welds result since the metal is never exposed to contaminating atmosphere

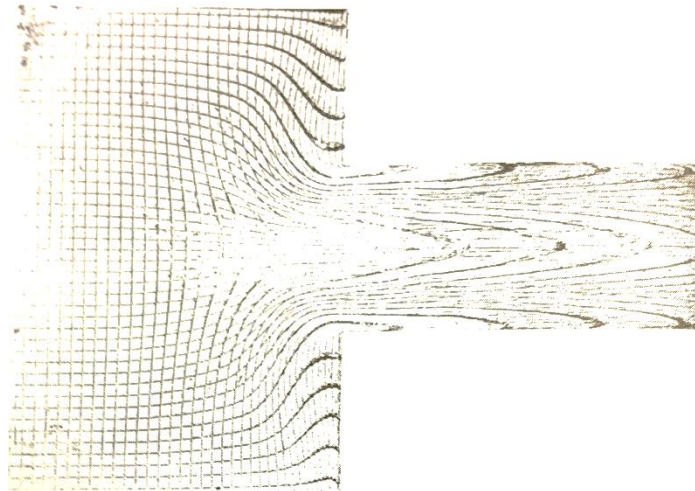
Lubricants cannot be used with spider-leg mandrels because they will contaminate the surfaces to be welded

Hollow extrusion tools enable a wide variety of continuous cross-section shapes that cannot be economically made by any other process

The flow of metal during extrusion is complex and care must be exercised to prevent surface cracks, interior cracks and other flow-related defects

Metal near the center of the chamber often passes through the die with little distortion while metal near the surface undergoes considerable shearing

In direct extrusion, friction between the forward-moving billet and the stationary chamber and die roughens the surface flow resulting in the grid flow pattern in the figure is observed

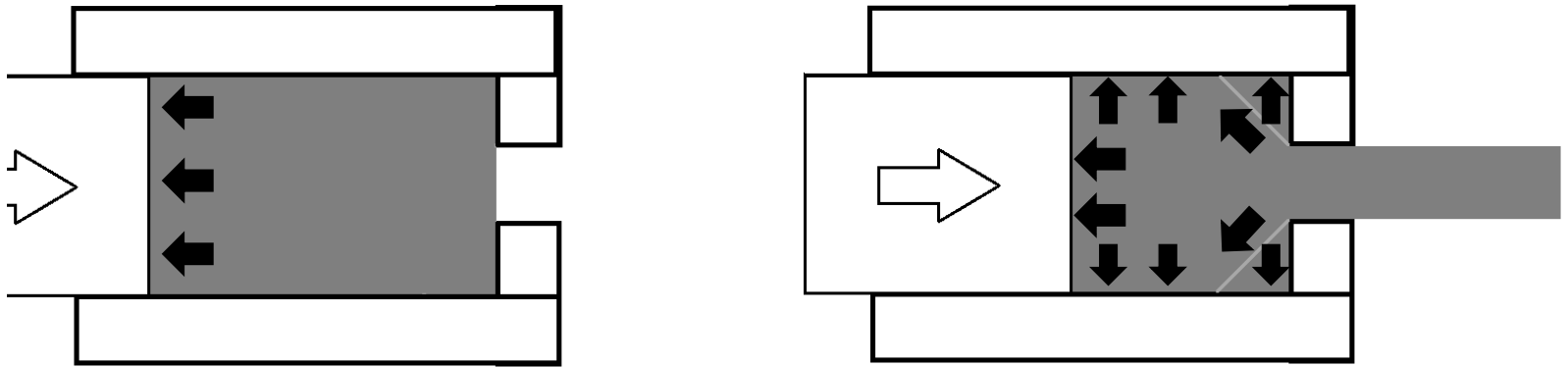


If the surface regions of the billet undergo excessive cooling, deformation becomes even harder and cracks may form on the product surface

Process control on design, lubrication, extrusion speed and temperature are required for acceptable extrude quality

## Process analysis

The stress distribution in a metal billet inside an extrusion chamber is different in the initial pushing stage and in the extrusion stage



Deformation analysis is done by first considering the pushing stress in the x direction and then calculating the stresses in the lateral directions and the shear stresses

Lateral strains originate from squeezing force and the response of the walls to the strains in the metal  
The metal is not treated like a fluid obeying hydrostatic condition

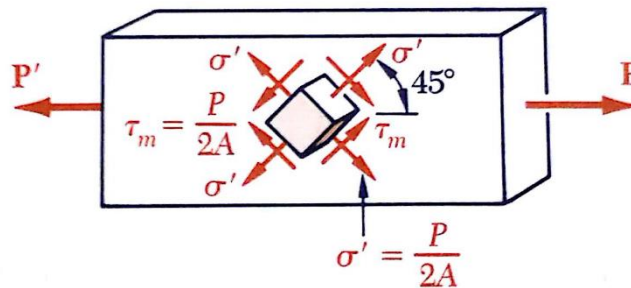
It is a viscoelastic material that behaves both as a fluid and a solid. It behaves like a fluid above the recrystallization temperature

Strains occur by dislocation motion and shearing in the crystal structure. So stresses are transferred by deformation especially in the shearing planes at 45 degrees to the die plane

This deformation mode involves unproportional stresses and cannot be analyzed using deformation theory

As the billet and extrusion chamber have similar dimensions and the gravitational force can be neglected, there will not be significant friction as the billet moves until the die exit  
 So there will not be any deformation at this stage

Metal will start to deform once it contacts the die exit  
 Some stress will be transferred to the walls and back as a result of elastic expansion in the lateral direction due to Poisson's ratio  
 Also shear stresses exist in the planes positioned 45 degrees to the x direction due to the longitudinal stress:



$$\sigma = \frac{F}{A_0} \cos^2 \theta$$

$$\tau = \frac{F}{A_0} \sin \theta \cos \theta$$