

# **OCTOBER 2016**

DR. Z's CORNER

# Conquering the FE & PE exams Problems & Applications

# **This Month's Problem Topics**

- FE CIVIL Exam & Topics Number of Questions
- Types of Calculators / For FE and PE Exams
- Technology Usage / Imaginary Numbers
- Mathematics / Derivatives
- Statics / Plane Truss Analysis
- Dynamics / Rectilinear Motion
- Strength of Material / Deflections
- Strength of Material / Torsion
- Strength of Material / Determinate Frames
- Centroids & Moments of Inertia
- Structures / Shear and Moment Diagrams
- Transportation / Stopping Sight Distance (SSD)
- Geotechnical / Soil Classification (USCS)
- Geotechnical / Soil Classification (AASHTO)

# CIVIL EXAM TOPICS Computer-Based Test (CBT)

Total Number of Questions: 110
Time: 6 hours

The new Civil FE Computer-Based Test (CBT) consists of 110 multiple-choice questions (Each problem only one question) the examinee will have 6 hours to complete the test.

- Mathematics (Approx. 9 questions\*)
- Probability and Statistics (5 questions)
- Computational Tools (5 questions)
- Ethics and Professional Practice (5 questions)
- Engineering Economics (5 questions)
- Statics (9 questions)
- Dynamics (5 questions)
- Mechanics of Materials (9 questions)
- Civil Engineering Materials (5 questions)
- Fluid Mechanics (5 questions)
- Hydraulics and Hydrologic Systems (10 questions)
- Structural Analysis (8 questions)
- Structural Design (8 questions)
- Geotechnical Engineering (12 questions)
- Transportation Engineering ( 10 questions)
- Environmental Engineering (8 questions)
- \* Here the number of questions are the average values taken from the NCEES Reference Handbook (Version 9.3 / Computer-Based Test)

# **TYPES OF CALCULATORS**

# **ACCEPTABLE FOR USE IN FE / PE EXAMS**

To protect the integrity of FE/PE exams, NCEES limits the types of calculators you may bring to exam sites. The only calculator models acceptable for use during the 2016 exams are as follows:

Casio: All fx-115 models. Any Casio calculator must contain fx-115 in its model name. Examples of acceptable Casio fx-115 models include (but are not limited to):

- fx-115 MS
- fx-115 MS Plus
- fx-115 MS SR
- fx-115 ES
- fx-115 ES Plus

**Texas Instruments:** All TI-30X and TI-36X models. Any Texas Instruments calculator must contain either TI-30X or TI-36X in its model name. Examples of acceptable TI-30X and TI-36X models include (but are not limited to):

- TI-30Xa
- TI-30Xa SOLAR
- TI-30Xa SE
- TI-30XS Multiview
- TI-30X IIB
- TI-30X IIS
- TI-36X II
- TI-36X SOLAR
- TI-36X Pro

Hewlett Packard: The HP 33s and HP 35s models, but no others.

### **MATHEMATICS**

### **EXPRESSIONS W/IMAGINARY NUMBERS**

Problem-1

$$F = \frac{(1-i)^2}{(1+i)^2} \qquad i = \sqrt{-1}$$

For the expression given above the value of *F* is most nearly:

- (A)
- (B) 0
- F = ?
- (C) 1 *i*
- (D) 1 + i

Problem-2

$$F = \frac{(1-i)^3}{(1+i)} \qquad i = \sqrt{-1}$$

For the expression given above the value of *F* is most nearly:

- (A)
- (B) -1 F = ? (C) -2
- (D) 1 + i

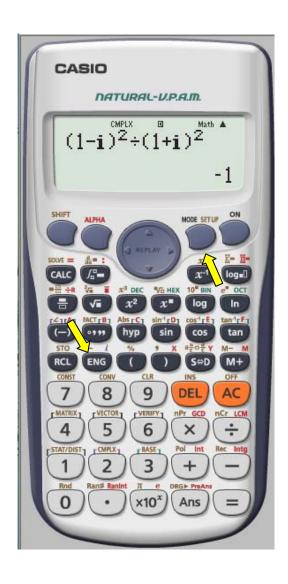
Problem-3

$$F = \frac{2i}{1+i} \qquad i = \sqrt{-1}$$

For the expression given above the value of *F* is most nearly:

- (A)
- (B) 2
- F = ?
- (C) 1 + i
- (D) 2-3i

# MATHEMATICS / IMAGINARY NUMBERS TECHNOLOGY USAGE



$$F = \frac{(1-i)^2}{(1+i)^2}$$

$$F = ?$$

1:COMP 2:CMPLX 3:STAT 4:BASE-N 5:EQN 6:MATRIX 7:TABLE 8:VECTOR

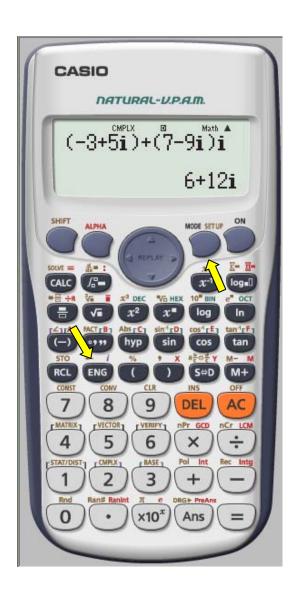
Make sure calculator is in the COMPLEX mode. How do you do that? Just hit MODE key as shown and then select 2.

The answer as shown: -1

MODE 2 ( 1 — ENG )  $x^2$   $\div$  ( 1 + ENG )  $x^2$  =

The answer is: (A)

# MATHEMATICS / IMAGINARY NUMBERS TECHNOLOGY USAGE

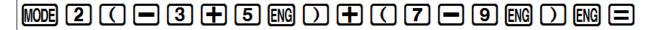


$$F = (-3 + 5i) + (7 - 9i)i$$
$$F = ?$$

1:COMP 2:CMPLX 3:STAT 4:BASE-N 5:EQN 6:MATRIX 7:TABLE 8:VECTOR

Make sure calculator is in the COMPLEX mode. How do you do that? Just hit MODE key as shown and then select 2.

The answer shown: 6+12i



Final answer is: 6+12i

# **SUPPLEMENTAL PROBLEMS**

	Function $y = f(x)$	Derivative $y' = f'(x)$
1	$x^3 e^x$	$x^2 e^x (x+3)$
2	$x^4 Ln(x)$	$x^{3}\left[1+4\ Ln\left(x\right)\right]$
3	$2 x^2 Ln(x) - x^2$	4 x Ln (x)
4	$Ln(x^5)$	$\frac{5}{x}$
5	$[Ln(x)]^2$	2 Ln (x) / x
6	$(4-5e^{x})^{3}$	$-15 e^{x} (4-5 e^{x})^{2}$
7	$\frac{Ln\left(x\right)}{x^4}$	$\frac{1-4Ln\left(x\right)}{x^{5}}$

### **DYNAMICS**

### **PROJECTILE & PARTICLE MOTION**

### Problem-1

Suppose that a projectile is fired vertically from ground level with an initial velocity of 88 ft/s. Knowing that the air resistance is neglected, the time (seconds) when the projectile is 96 ft. above the ground is most nearly:

- (A) 4.5 and 6
- (B) 3.5 and 6
- (C) 2.5 and 5
- (D) 1.5 and 4

#### Problem-2

Suppose that a projectile is fired vertically from 50 ft above ground level with an initial velocity of 88 ft/s. Knowing that the air resistance is neglected, the time (seconds) when the projectile is 162 ft. above the ground is most nearly:

- (A) 4.0 and 6.6
- (B) 3.5 and 5.0
- (C) 2.0 and 3.5
- (D) 1.5 and 3.0

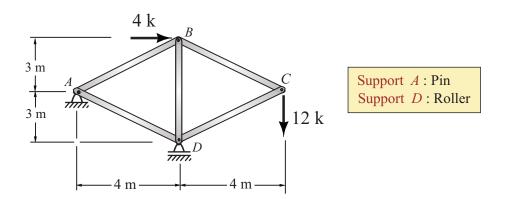
#### Problem-3

Suppose the velocity (ft/s) of a moving particle after t seconds have elapsed is given by the equation  $v(t) = 3t^2 + 2t$ . The distance traveled (ft.) by the particle over the interval  $3 \le t \le 6$  is most nearly:

- (A) 65.6
- (B) 85.5
- (C) 113
- (D) 216



# STATICS / PLANE TRUSSES



A plane truss system is loaded as shown. Using the listed data and the loads, determine:

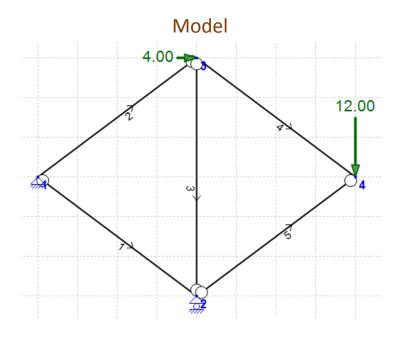
- (1) the magnitude of the member force (kN) in member *BD* is most nearly:
  - (A) 15.00 (C)
  - (B) 25.25 (T)
  - (C) 30.00 (C)
  - (D) 20.00 (T)

$$F_{BD} = ?$$

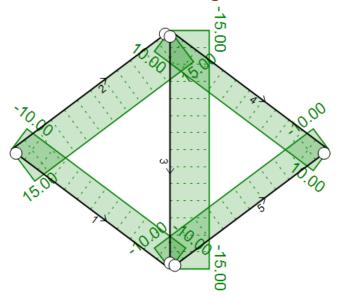
 $F_{BC} = ?$ 

- (2) the magnitude of the member force (kN) in member *BC* is most nearly:
  - (A) 35.00 (C)
  - (B) 25.25 (T)
  - (C) 22.00 (C)
  - (D) 10.00 (T)
- (3) the magnitude of the member force (kN) in member *AD* is most nearly:
  - (A) 35.00 (T)
  - (B) 25.25 (T)
  - (C) 22.00 (C)
  - (D) 10.00 (C)

# Solution by Dr. Vagelis Plevris



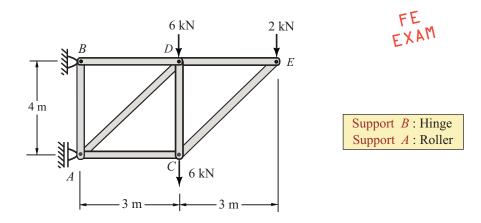
# **Axial Force Diagram**



## **Answers:**

- (1) A  $(F_{BD}=15.0 [C])$
- (2) D ( $F_{BC}$ =10.0 [T])
- (3) D  $(F_{AD}=10.0 [C])$

# STATICS / PLANE TRUSSES



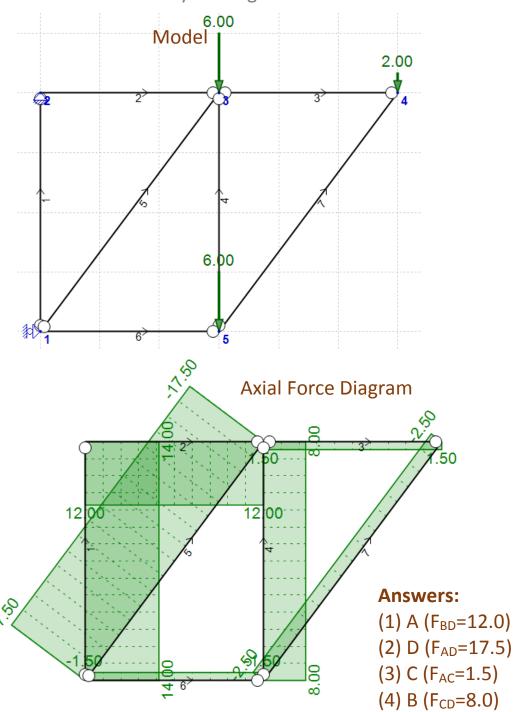
The plane truss is subjected to the loads as shown in the figure. Assuming the support A is a roller, answer the following questions:

- (1) the magnitude of the member force (kN) in BD is most nearly
  - (A) 12.0
  - (B) 14.5
  - (C) 16.0
  - (D) 18.5
- $F_{AB} = ?$
- (2) the magnitude of the member force (kN) in AD is most nearly
  - (A) 25.0
  - (B) 21.5
  - (C) 19.0
  - (D) 17.5
- (3) the magnitude of the member force (kN) in AC is most nearly

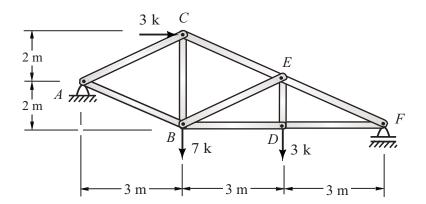
 $F_{AD} = ?$ 

- (A) 3.5
- (B) 2.0
- (C) 1.5
- (D) 0.5
- $F_{AC} = ?$
- (4) the magnitude of the member force (kN) in CD is most nearly
  - (A) 10.5
  - (B) 8.0
  - (C) 6.0
  - (D) 4.5

# Solution by Dr. Vagelis Plevris



# STATICS / PLANE TRUSSES



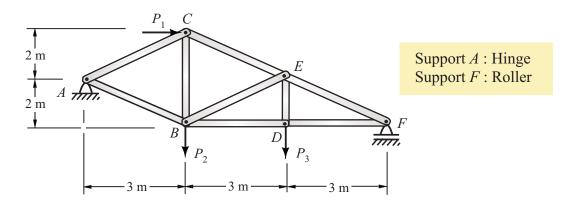
Support A: Pin Support F: Roller

A plane truss system is loaded as shown. Using the listed data and the loads, determine:

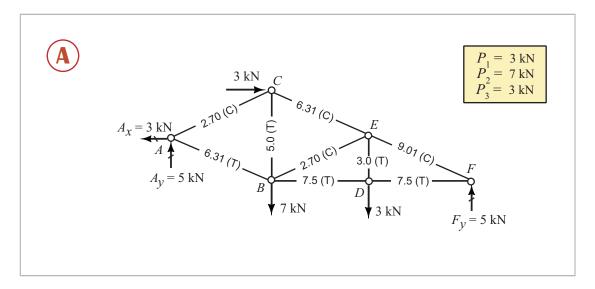
- (1) the magnitude of the member force (kN) in member *CE* is most nearly:
  - (A) 5.00 (C)
  - (B) 6.31 (C)
  - (C) 8.35 (C)
  - (D) 9.16 (T)
- $F_{CE} = ?$
- (2) the magnitude of the member force (kN) in member *BD* is most nearly:
  - (A) 9.00 (T)
  - (B) 8.25 (T)
  - (C) 7.50 (T)
  - (D) 6.00 (C)
- $F_{BD} = ?$
- (3) the magnitude of the member force (kN) in member *ED* is most nearly:
  - (A) 3.00 (T)
  - (B) 4.25 (T)
  - (C) 5.35 (T)
  - (D) 6.00 (T)

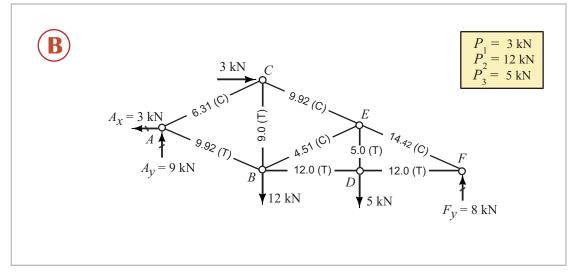
 $F_{ED} = ?$ 

# **DETERMINATE TRUSS ANALYSIS**



### **Support Reactions and Member Forces**



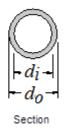


# **STRENGTH OF MATERIALS**

# TORSION BASIC FORMULAS



L



Solid Shaft

**Hollow Shaft** 

 $d_o$ : outside diameter

 $d_i$ : inside diameter

$$J = \frac{\pi d^4}{32}$$

$$J = \frac{\pi \left(d_o^4 - d_i^4\right)}{32}$$

$$\tau_{\max} = \frac{T \cdot r}{J}$$

$$T = \frac{\tau \cdot J}{r}$$

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T = torque, torsional moment

J = polar moment of inertia

L = length of shaft

d= diameter

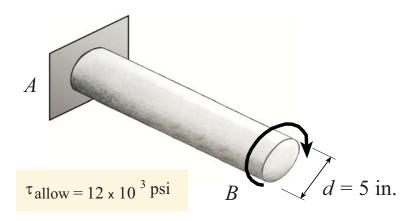
r = radius

# **MECHANICS OF SOLIDS**

# **TORSION**

## STRENGTH REDUCTION

**Problem: (Torsion)** 



- (1) A 5-in diameter solid steel shaft is given as shown. Using the listed max. allowable shearing stress, the loss of strength (%) by boring a 2.5-in. axial hole would be most nearly:
  - (A) 3.45 %
  - (B) 4.50 %
  - (C) 5.12 %
  - (D) 6.25 %
- (2) After 2.5-in. diameter hole is bored axially in the shaft, the percentage of reduction (%) in weight would be most nearly:
  - (A) 15 %
  - (B) 18 %
  - (C) 25 %
  - (D) 32 %

 $\Delta T = ?$ 



# SOLUTION (TOR-65) $J = \frac{\pi cd^4}{32} = \frac{\pi (5^4)}{32} = 61.36 \text{ in}$ As= Ttd= 152)= 19.63 in? di=2.5" do=5" Jh=? Jh= 1 (dot-dit) = 1 (54-2.54) = 57.52 it, An= = (do-di) = = (532.5) = 14.73 in. SOLID SHAFT: Max. allowable torque T= Gmax. Js = (12ksi)(61.36 in.5) = 294.52 in-kips HOLLOW SHAFT; Max. allowable torque To Gmax Jh = (12KSi)(57.52W)=276.12 in-kips Percentage of reduction in strength: (AT) AT= Ts-Th x100 = 294.52-276.12 x100=6.25% Percentage of reduction in weight: (AW) AW= As-Ah x100= 19.63-14.73 x100= 25%

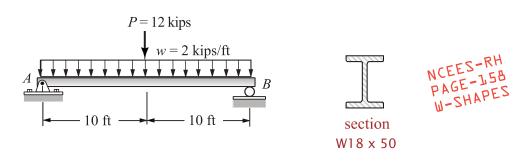
**Answers:** (1) The correct answer is (D)

(2) The correct answer is (C)

# MECHANICS OF SOLIDS

## **DESIGN OF STEEL STRUCTURES**

### **BEAM DEFLECTIONS**



E = 29,000 ksi

A determinate beam is loaded as shown. Knowing that the beam weight is included in the uniform load, answer the following questions:

- (1) The maximum moment (ft.kips) in the beam is most nearly:
  - (A) 160
  - (B) 180
  - (C) 200
  - (D) 150
- (2) The maximum deflection (inches) is most nearly:

 $M_{\text{max}} = ?$ 

- (A) 0.38
- (B) 0.46
- (C) 0.62
- (D) 1.02

$$\delta_{\text{max}} = ?$$

(3) The slope (degrees) at the left support is most nearly

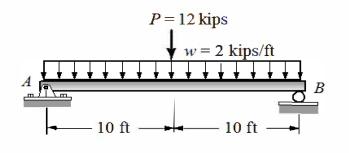
 $\theta_A = ?$ 

- (A) 0.344
- (B) 0.241
- (C) 0.512
- (D) 0.112



# MECHANICS OF SOLIDS DESIGN OF STEEL STRUCTURES BEAM DEFLECTIONS

Problem: DEF-380 Solution in MS Excel





SECTION:	W18X50	
E =	29000	ksi
<i>P</i> =	12	kips
w =	2	kips/ft
L =	20	ft

ID	Quantity	Symbol	Value	Unit
37	x - Moment of Inertia	l <sub>x</sub>	800.00	in⁴

kips/in

$$L = 240$$
 in

 $M_P = 60$  ft·kips

 $M_w = 100$  ft·kips

 $M_{max} = 160$  ft·kips

0.166666667

w =

$$M_P = \frac{PL}{4} M_w = \frac{wL^2}{8}$$

$$\delta_P = 0.149$$
 in  $\delta_w = 0.310$  in  $\delta_{max} = 0.46$  in

$$\delta_P = \frac{1}{48} \frac{PL^3}{EI} \quad \delta_w = \frac{5}{384} \frac{wL^4}{EI}$$

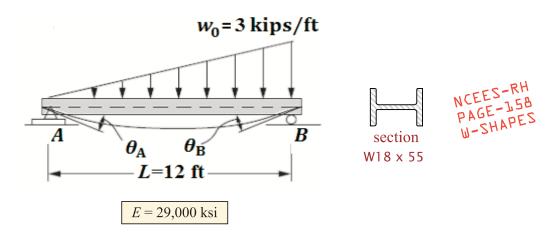
$$\theta_{P} = 0.00186$$
 rad  $\theta_{w} = 0.00414$  rad  $\theta_{A} = 0.0060$  rad  $\theta_{A} = 0.344$  deg

$$\theta_P = \frac{1}{16} \frac{PL^2}{EI} \quad \theta_w = \frac{1}{24} \frac{wL^3}{EI}$$

# **MECHANICS OF SOLIDS**

# **DESIGN OF STEEL STRUCTURES**

**BEAM DEFLECTIONS** 



A determinate beam is loaded as shown. Knowing that the beam weight is included in the uniform load, answer the following questions:

(1) The maximum deflection (inches) is most nearly:

 $\delta_{\text{max}} = ?$ 

 $\theta_A = ?$ 

- (A) 0.81
- (B) 0.54
- (C) 0.69
- (D) 0.99
- (2) The slope (degrees) at the left support (A) is most nearly:
  - (A) -0.705
  - (B) -0.639
  - (C) -0.525
  - (D) -0.312

(3) The slope (degrees) at the right support (B) is most nearly:

 $\theta_B = ?$ 

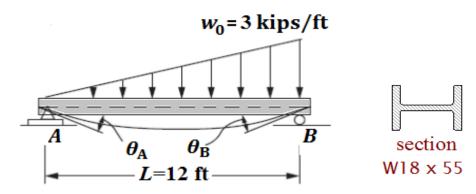
- (A) 0.730
- (B) 0.632
- (C) 0.916
- (D) 0.881



# MECHANICS OF SOLIDS DESIGN OF STEEL STRUCTURES BEAM DEFLECTIONS

**Problem:** 

**DEF-382** Solution in MS Excel



SECTION:	W18X55	
E =	29000	ksi
$w_0 =$	3	kips/ft
<i>L</i> =	12	ft

ID	Quantity	Symbol	Value	Unit
41	y - Moment of Inertia	l <sub>y</sub>	44.90	in⁴

$$w_0 = 0.25$$
 kips/in   
  $L = 144$  in

$$\delta_{\text{max}} = 0.54$$
 in

at 
$$x = 6.23$$
 ft

$$\theta_{A} = -0.01115$$
 rad  $\theta_{A} = -0.639$  deg

$$\theta_B = 0.01274$$
 rad  $\theta_B = 0.730$  rad

$$\delta_{\text{max}} = 0.00652 \frac{w_0 L^4}{EI}$$

at 
$$x = 0.5193L$$

$$\theta_A = \frac{-7w_0L^3}{360EI}$$

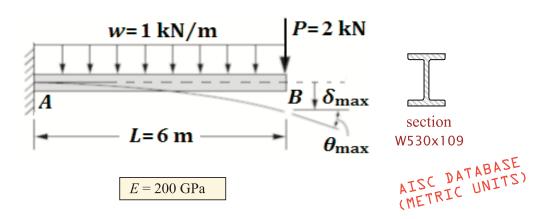
$$\theta_B = \frac{w_0 L^3}{45EI}$$

DEF-382 VPLEVRIS OCT. 2016

# **MECHANICS OF SOLIDS**

## **DESIGN OF STEEL STRUCTURES**

### **BEAM DEFLECTIONS**



A determinate beam is loaded as shown. Knowing that the beam weight is included in the uniform load, answer the following questions:

- (1) The maximum moment (kN.m) in the beam is most nearly:
  - (A) 22
  - (B) 40
  - (C) 30
  - (D) 62
- (2) The maximum deflection (mm) is most nearly:
  - (A) 2.3
  - (B) 1.8
  - (C) 2.8
  - (D) 1.5
- $\delta_{\text{max}} = ?$

 $M_{\text{max}} = ?$ 

- NCEES-RA PAGE-BH DEFLECTIONS
- (3) The slope (degrees) at the right edge is most nearly

 $\theta_{\text{max}} = ?$ 

- (A) 0.031
- (B) 0.026
- (C) 0.021
- (D) 0.042

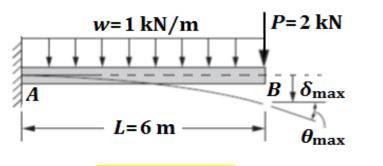


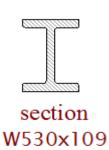
**ANSWERS** 

# MECHANICS OF SOLIDS DESIGN OF STEEL STRUCTURES BEAM DEFLECTIONS

### **Problem:**

**DEF-384** Solution in MS Excel





# **SECTION: W530X109**

$$E = 200$$
 GPa  
 $P = 2$  kN  
 $w = 1$  kN/m  
 $L = 6$  m

ID	Quantity	Symbol	Value	Unit
36	x - Moment of Inertia	l <sub>x</sub>	66600.00	cm <sup>4</sup>

$$E = 200000000 \text{ kPa}$$
  
 $I_x = 0.000666 \text{ m}^4$ 

$$M_{P} = 12$$
 kN·m  
 $M_{w} = 18$  kN·m  
 $M_{max} = 30$  kN·m

$$M_P = PL$$

$$M_{w} = \frac{wL^{2}}{2}$$

$$\delta_{P} = 0.00108 \quad m$$
 $\delta_{w} = 0.00122 \quad m$ 
 $\delta_{max} = 0.00230 \quad m$ 
 $\delta_{max} = 2.3 \quad mm$ 

$$\delta_P = \frac{PL^3}{3EI}$$

$$\delta_{w} = \frac{wL^{4}}{8EI}$$

$$\theta_{P}$$
 = 0.00027 rad  $\theta_{w}$  = 0.00027 rad  $\theta_{max}$  = 0.00054 rad  $\theta_{max}$  = 0.031 deg

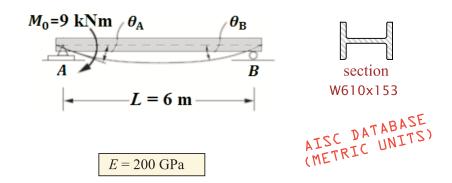
$$\theta_P = \frac{PL^2}{2EI}$$

$$\theta_{w} = \frac{wL^{3}}{6EI}$$

# MECHANICS OF SOLIDS

# **BEAM DEFLECTIONS**

**DESIGN OF STEEL STRUCTURES** 



A determinate beam is loaded as shown. Without taking into account the beam weight, answer the following questions:

 $\delta_{\text{max}} = ?$ 

 $\theta_A = ?$ 

- (1) The maximum deflection (mm) is most nearly:
  - (A) 2.1
  - (B) 2.5
  - (C) 2.7
  - (D) 1.7
- (2) The slope (degrees) at the left support (A) is most nearly:
  - (A) -0.092
  - (B) -0.130
  - (C) -0.122
  - (D) -0.104



(3) The slope (degrees) at the right support (B) is most nearly:

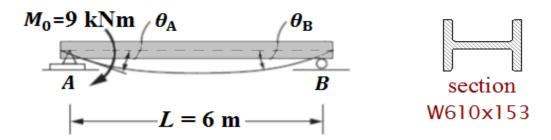
 $\theta_B = ?$ 

- (A) 0.032
- (B) 0.043
- (C) 0.052
- (D) 0.065



# MECHANICS OF SOLIDS DESIGN OF STEEL STRUCTURES BEAM DEFLECTIONS

Problem: DEF-386 Solution in MS Excel



$$E = 200$$
 GPa  
 $M_0 = 9$  kNm (clockwise)  
 $L = 6$  m

ID	Quantity	Symbol	Value	Unit
40	y - Moment of Inertia	l <sub>y</sub>	4950.00	cm <sup>4</sup>

$$E = 200000000 \text{ kPa}$$
  
 $I_y = 0.0000495 \text{ m}^4$ 

$$\delta_{\text{max}} = 0.00210 \quad \text{m}$$
 $\delta_{\text{max}} = 2.1 \quad \text{mm}$ 

$$\theta_{A} = -0.00182$$
 rad  $\theta_{A} = -0.104$  deg

$$\theta_{\rm B} = 0.00091$$
 rad  $\theta_{\rm B} = 0.052$  deg

$$\delta_{\text{max}} = \frac{M_0 L^2}{\sqrt{243}EI}$$

$$\theta_A = \frac{-M_0 L}{3EI}$$

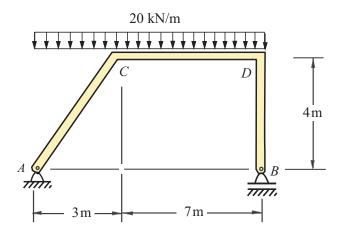
$$\theta_B = \frac{M_0 L}{6EI}$$

DEF-386 VPLEVRIS OCT. 2016

## STRENGTH OF MATERIALS

### Internal Forces in Determinate Frames

#### **Problem:**

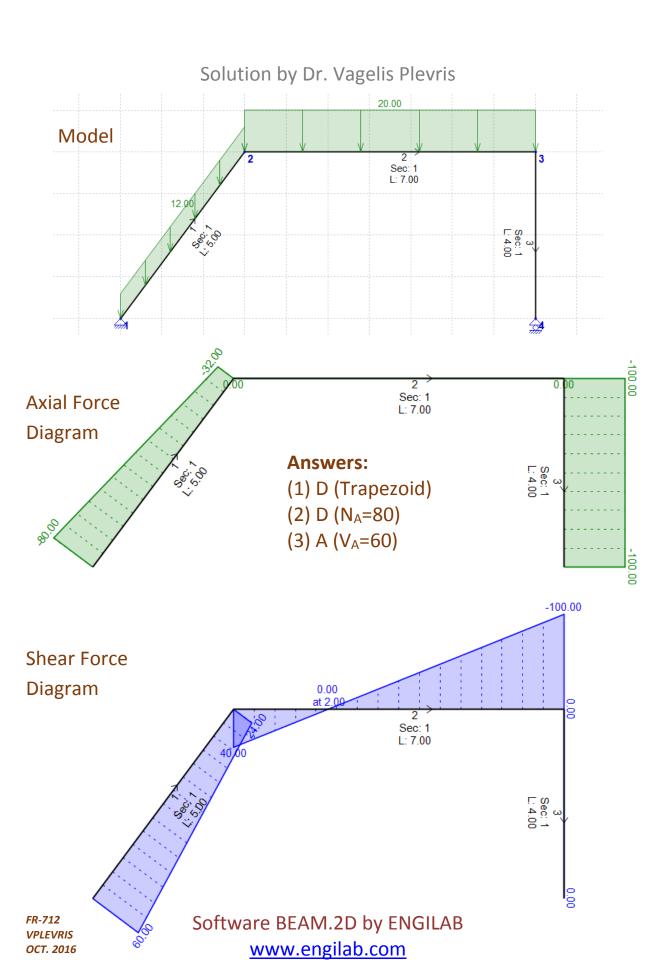


Support A: Pin Support B: Roller

The dimensions, loading and support conditions of a determinate frame are given as shown in the figure:

- (1) the axial load diagram in AC is most nearly
  - (A) Parabola
  - (B) Rectangle
  - (C) Triangle
  - (D) Trapezoid
- (2) the magnitude of the axial force (kips) at A is most nearly
  - (A) 30
  - (B) 40
  - (C) 60
  - (D) 80
- $N_A = ?$
- (3) the magnitude of the shear force (kips) at A is most nearly
  - (A) 60
  - (B) 50
  - (C) 40
  - (D) 30

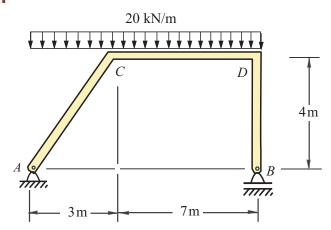




## STRENGTH OF MATERIALS

## Internal Forces in Determinate Frames

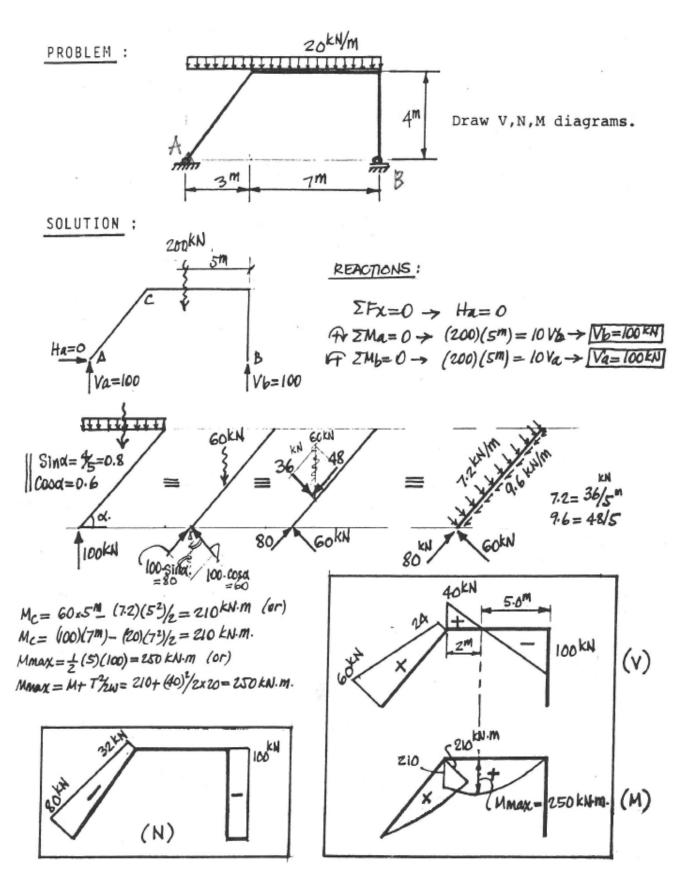
### **Problem:**



Support *A* : Pin Support *B* : Roller

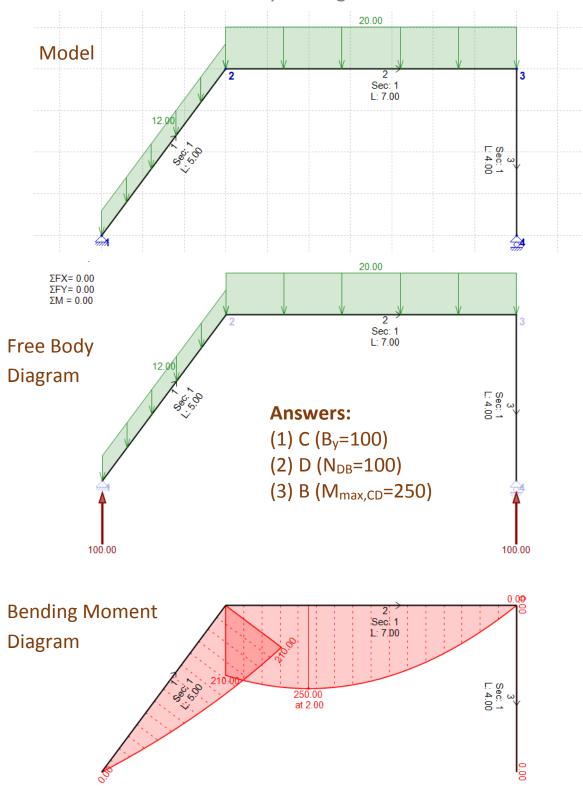
The dimensions, loading and support conditions of a determinate frame are given as shown in the figure:

- (1) the support reaction (kN) at support B is most nearly
  - (A) 80
  - (B) 90
  - (C) 100
  - (D) 110
- $B_y = ?$
- (2) the magnitude of the axial force (kips) in DB is most nearly
  - (A) 130
  - (B) 125
  - (C) 115
  - (D) 100
- $N_{DB} = ?$
- (3) the magnitude of the max. moment (ft-kips) in CD is most nearly
  - (A) 360
  - (B) 250
  - (C) 140
  - (D) 130
- $M_{\text{max}} = ?$



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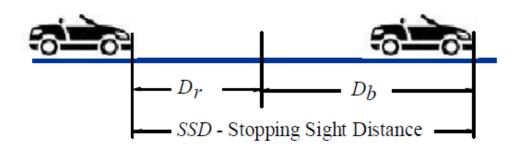
# Solution by Dr. Vagelis Plevris



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# (FE/PE) AFTERNOON SESSION TRANSPORTATION

PERCEPTION-REACTION DISTANCE  $(D_r)$ BREAKING DISTANCE  $(D_b)$ STOPPING SIGHT DISTANCE (SSD)



# Perception-Reaction Distance (Dr)

$$D_r = 1.47 Vt$$

# Braking Distance ( $D_b$ )

$$D_b = \frac{V^2}{30\{(\frac{a}{g}) \pm G\}}$$

NCEES Ref. Handbook 9.4 Page-169

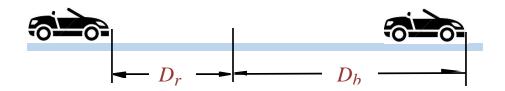
# Perception-Reaction Distance (Dr)

$$SSD = 1.47 Vt + \frac{V^2}{30\{(\frac{a}{g}) \pm G\}}$$

# (FE) AFTERNOON SESSION

### **TRANSPORTATION**

# **STOPPING SIGHT DISTANCE (SSD)**



# NCEES Reference Handbook, Page 169

$$SSD = 1.47 Vt + \frac{V^2}{30\{(\frac{a}{g}) \pm G\}}$$

SSD = Total stopping sight distance (ft)

V = Design speed (mph)

*t* = Perception- reaction time (seconds)

f = friction coefficient (f = a/g)

a = Deceleration rate (ft/s<sup>2</sup>)

g = Acceleration due to gravity (32.2 ft/s<sup>2</sup>)

G = The grade of the road

# **Problem-1** (Perception-Reaction Distance, $d_r$ )

A driver traveling at 50 mph sees a blocked road ahead. Assuming the reaction time is 2.0 seconds, determine the perception-reaction distance (ft) that the vehicle travels between the time the driver notices the sign and the time brakes are applied:

$$D r = ?$$

### **Problem-2** (Braking Distance- $D_b$ )

Consider a highway with a straight alignment sloping down -1.8% to a stop sign. Using the data from the problem given above and knowing that the driver is traveling at 50 mph with a deceleration rate of 11.2 ft/s<sup>2</sup> and reaction time of 2 seconds, the braking distance (ft) that the vehicle travels between the time the driver notices the sign and the time brakes are applied is most nearly:

- (A) 253
- (B) 380
- (C) 420
- (D) 540

$$D_{b} = ?$$

( D hreaking )

### Problem-3 (Stopping Sight Distance-SSD)

While descending a -2.5% grade at a speed of 65 mph, George notices a large object in the roadway ahead of him. Without thinking about any alternatives, he stabs his brakes and begins to slow down. Knowing that his reaction time is 2.5 seconds and the deceleration rate is  $11.2 \text{ ft/s}^2$  the stopping sight distance (ft) is most nearly:

- (A) 375
- (B) 400
- (C) 525
- (D) 675

SSD = ?

## **PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING**

# GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING SIEVE ANALYSIS / ATTERBERG LIMITS

(1) For a soil sampleThe following laboratory results were obtained for a soil sample:

# Sieve analysis:

Sieve size	Percentage passing
No. 4	100
No. 10	92
No. 40	68
No. 100	40
No. 200	13

# **Atterberg Limits:**

Liquid Limit	NP
Plastic Limit	NP

Note: NP denotes non-plastic.

Classify this soil according to the AASHTO system:

- (A) A-1-b
- (B) A-2-4
- (C) A-2-6
- (D) A-4

- (2) Based on the laboratory results obtained from Problem 1, please classify the soil according to the Unified Soil Classification System (USCS):
  - (A) SW-SM
  - (B) SC
  - (C) SM
  - (D) ML
- Using the data presented for the given inorganic soil sample, determine the soil classification according to the AASHTO system:

## Sieve analysis:

Sieve size	Percentage passing
No. 4	100
No. 10	100
No. 40	92
No. 100	77
No. 200	55

# **Atterberg Limits:**

Liquid Limit	41
Plastic Limit	29

Note: Liquid limit and plastic limit are determined based on the minus No. 40 fraction.

- (A) A-2-7
- (B) A-6
- (C) A-7-5
- (D) A-7-6

- (4) Based on the laboratory results obtained from Problem 3, classify the soil according to the Unified Soil Classification System (USCS):
  - (A) ML
  - (B) CL
  - (C) CL-ML
  - (D) MH
- (5) The sieve analysis and Atterberg Limit tests on a soil sample were performed. Using the data presented below, determine the soil classification according to the AASHTO system:

### **Sieve analysis:**

Sieve size	Percentage passing
No. 4	100
No. 10	98
No. 40	82
No. 100	28
No. 200	5

Note: The coefficient of uniformity and coefficient of gradation determined from the particle size distribution curve are  $C_u$  = 4,  $C_c$  =0.9, respectively.

# **Atterberg Limits:**

Liquid Limit	NP
Plastic Limit	NP

Note: NP denotes non-plastic.

- (A) A-2-4
- (B) A-2-6
- (C) A-3
- (D) A-5

(6) Based on the laboratory results obtained from Problem 5, please classify the soil according to the Unified Soil Classification System (USCS):

(A) SP

(B) SW

(C) SP-SM

(D) SM

### **SOLUTIONS:**

### Solution: #1

The percentage passing No. 200 sieve is 13%, less than 35%, so it is a granular material. Based on the percentage passing for No. 10, No. 40 and No. 200 sieves, it is an A-2 soil. It is a non-plastic soil based on Atterberg Limits, so the symbol can only be A-2-4.

The answer is (B)

#### Solution: #2

The percentage passing No. 200 sieve is 13%, less than 50%, so it is a coarse grained soil. The percentage of sand (87%, percentage passing No. 4 minus No. 200) is greater than gravel (0%, 100%-percentage passing No. 4), so it is a sandy soil. The fines content (13%, percentage passing No. 200) is greater than 12%, so it is sand with fines. Based on PI=0 (non-plastic), it is a silty sand, SM.

The answer is (C)

#### Solution: #3

The percentage passing No. 200 sieve is 55%, greater than 35%, so it is a silt-clay material, can only be A-4 to A-7. Based on the LL=41, PI=LL-PL=41-29=12, it is an A-7 soil. PI>LL-30, so it is A-7-6.

The answer is (D)

#### Solution: #4

The percentage passing No. 200 sieve is 55%, greater than 50%, so it is a fined grained soil. LL<50 and inorganic, it can either be CL or ML. Because LL = 41 and PI = 12 are plotted below A line in Plasticity Chart, it is a ML, sandy silt.

The answer is (A)

### Solution: #5

The percentage passing No. 200 sieve is 5%, less than 35%, so it is a granular material. Based on the percentage passing for No. 10, No. 40 and No. 200 sieves, it is an A-3 soil.

The answer is (C)

### Solution: #6

The percentage passing No. 200 sieve is 5%, less than 50%, so it is a coarse grained soil. The percentage of sand (95%, percentage passing No. 4 minus No. 200) is greater than gravel (0%, 100%-percentage passing No. 4), so it is a sandy soil. The fines content (5%, percentage passing No. 200) is less than 52%, so it is clean sand, can either be SW or SP. Based on  $C_u$  = 4<6 and  $C_c$ =0.9<1, it can only be SP, poorly graded sand.

The answer is (A)

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