

Slope Deflection Method

Lesson Objectives:

- 1) **Identify** the **formulation** and sign **conventions** associated with the Slope Deflection method.
- 2) **Derive** the **Slope Deflection Method equations** using mechanics and mathematics.
- 3) **Describe** the concept of fixed-end moments.
- 4) **Outline procedure** and **compute** the **structural response** using the Slope Deflection Method.

Background Reading:

- 1) **Read** _____

Slope Deflection Method Overview:

- 1) This method was first **introduced** in _____ by _____ for the analysis of _____.
- 2) This is the classical formulation of the _____.
- 3) Its formulation extends directly in the _____ analysis method that will be detailed at a later time.
- 4) This method only considers _____.
 - a. Therefore the assumption is made that _____ are negligible.
 - b. Reasonable? _____
- 5) In this method, the **primary unknowns** are _____ and they are solved initially using _____.
 - a. Afterwards _____ and _____.
- 6) First let's establish fundamental relationships needed to derive the slope deflection method.

Slope Deflection Fundamental Relationships:

- 1) When the structure of interest, (_____ or _____) is subjected to external loads, _____ develop at the individual member ends.
- 2) The **primary goal** of the slope deflection equation is to relate the _____ to the _____ and _____ at its ends along with the _____.
- 3) For **derivation**, let's consider a beam as illustrated in Figure 1, where _____ is a cut section from a continuous beam.

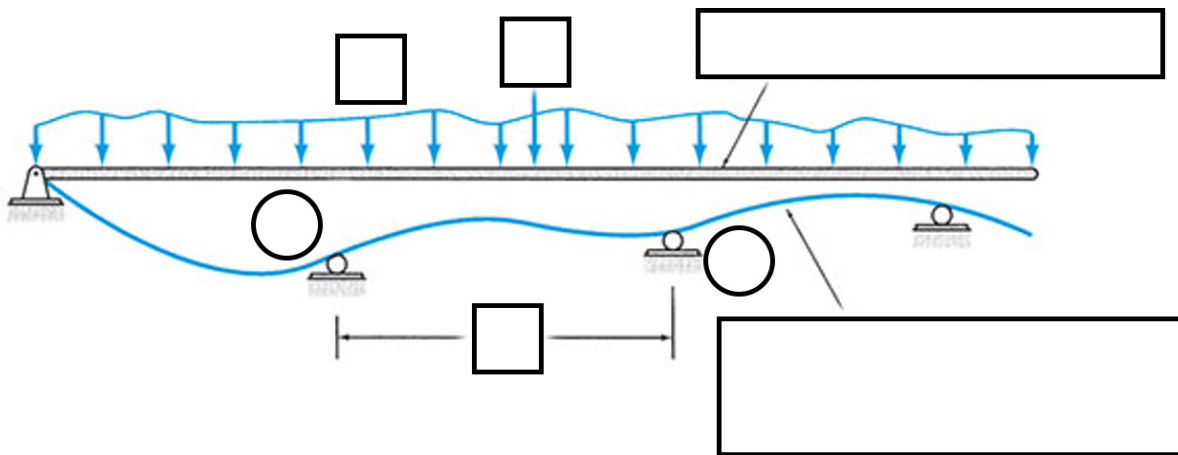


Figure 1. Example continuous beam¹.

- 4) A consistent **sign convention** is established where:
 - a. _____, _____, and _____ are positive when _____.
- 5) The continuous beam section, _____, deforms under _____ (Figure 2).
- 6) As the member deforms, _____ are induced at the member ends.

¹ All figures in Slope Deflection were modified from: Kassimali, Aslam. (2014). *Structural Analysis*. 5th edition. Cengage Learning.

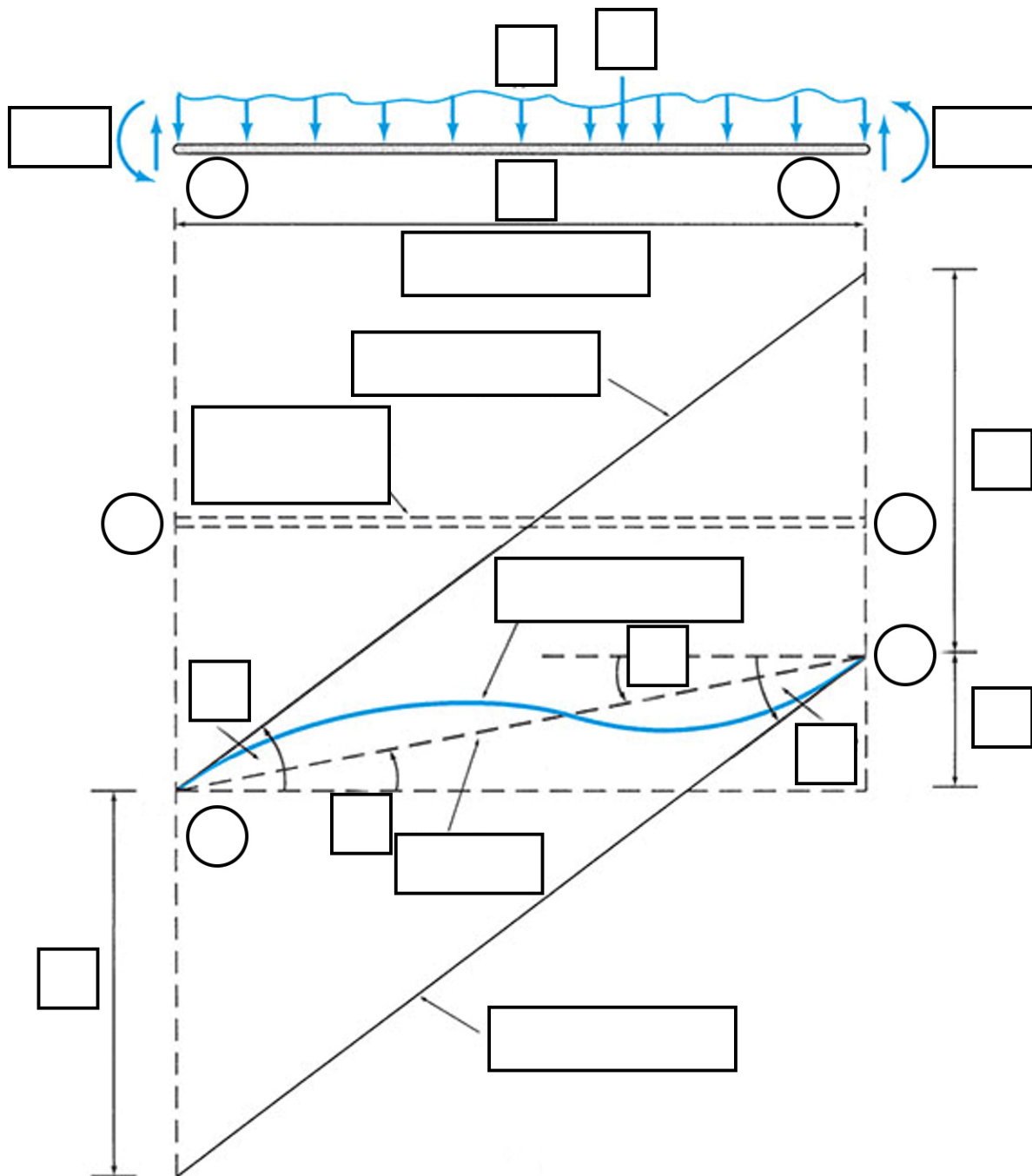


Figure 2. Deformed shape of the continuous beam section.

Notation within the Slope-Deflection Method:

- 1) The typical **notation** used within the slope deflection method to denote an **end moment**:
 - a. M_{AB} = moment at the end of _____ of member _____.
 - b. Alternatively: A can refer to _____, while B denotes the _____.
- 2) The **rotation** at end _____ of a member with respect to the undeformed position is denoted as: _____. This **undeformed position** for a continuous beam is _____.
- 3) The **relative** _____ between two ends of the member in a _____ of the undeformed member axis is denoted as: _____.
- 4) The **rotation of the member's chord** is denoted as: _____ (pronounced as _____).
 - a. A chord is the _____ that connects the _____ due to relative translation (_____).
 - b. If small deformations are assumed, geometrically this can be expressed as:

Slope-Deflection Derivation:

- 1) **Derivation** of the slope-deflection equations can be performed using the _____.
- 2) This equation can be written as:

3) From the geometry shown in Figure 2, **two equations** can be written for the rotation at each end:

4) **Substitution** in the known relationship of _____

5) Recall that the **tangential deviations** are specifically detailed as:

- a. _____ denotes the tangential deviation of end _____ from the tangent to the elastic curve at end _____.
- b. _____ denotes the tangential deviation of end _____ from the tangent to the elastic curve at end _____.

6) These **tangential deviations** can be found using the _____
_____.

- a. How? _____.

7) To construct the required bending moment diagram, apply _____, _____, and the _____ separately over the beam section with _____.

- a. This will create a _____ simple bending moment diagram as illustrated in Figure 3.

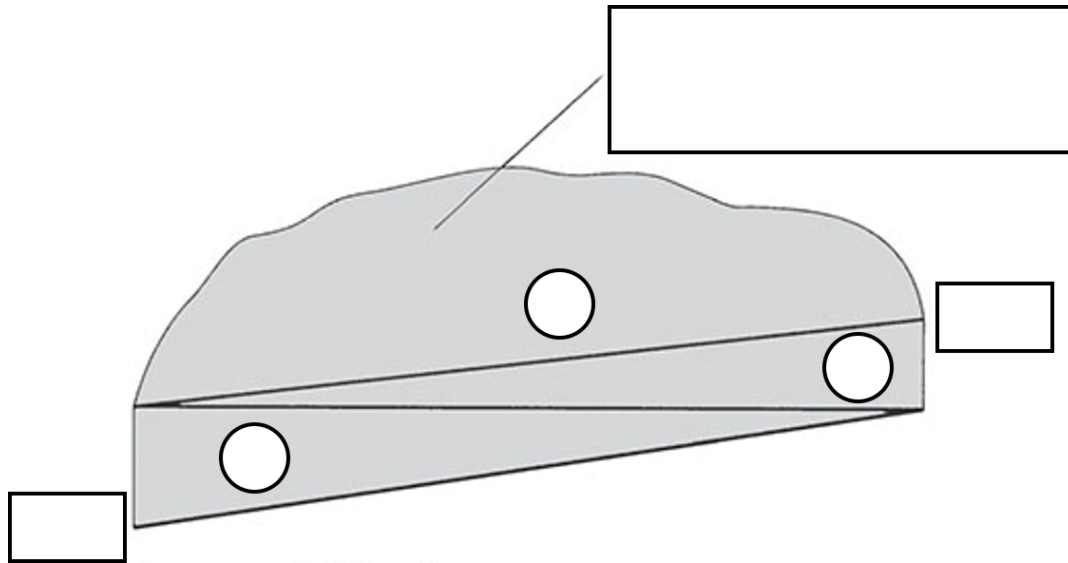


Figure 3. Illustration of the bending moment diagram along the continuous beam section.

- 8) Within the derivation, another **assumption** is made that the member section is _____ (where _____ is constant). This allows for a simple application of the _____.
- a. Note the required tangential deviations are illustrated in Figure 4.
- 9) In Figure 4, _____ and _____ denote moments about the ends _____ and _____, respectively, of the area under the simple beam bending moment diagram.
- 10) In this same figure, _____ denote an arbitrary _____.

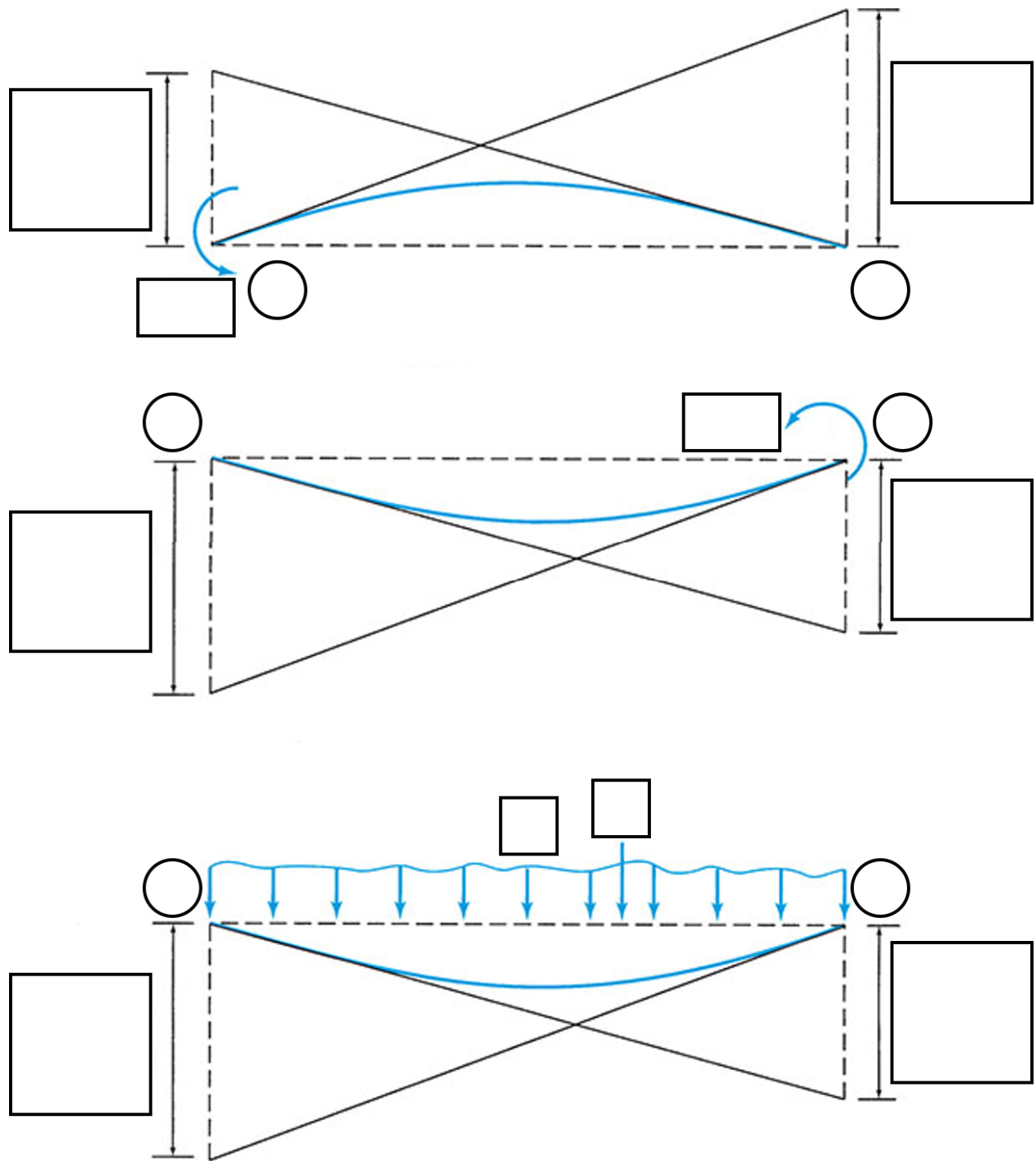


Figure 4. Tangential deviations for various moments.

Slope-Deflection Derivation Continued:

- 1) Using the second moment area theorem, **expressions** for each of the tangential deviation can be written as:

- 2) Note the tangential deviations due to _____, _____, and _____ are indicated on Figure 4.

- 3) In this figure, the **negative terms** indicate tangential deviations in the _____ to the elastic curve.

- 4) **Substitution** of second set of equations (_____ and _____) into the first set of equations (_____ and _____), produces:

- 5) To **solve** these two equations (_____ and _____) **simultaneously** to compute _____ and _____, it is ideal to rewrite equation _____ as:

6) **Substitution** of equation _____ into _____, allows one to find _____:

7) **Substitution** of equation _____ into _____, allows one to find _____:

8) These two previous equations (_____ and _____) indicate that the moments that develop at the member ends depend on:

- a. _____ of the member ends.
- b. _____ of the member ends.
- c. _____ between member ends.

9) Now let's assume that the member considered is part of a larger structure, where the **isolated beam** has _____.

- a. Illustrated in Figure 5.
- b. Note that the _____ and _____ of each end is _____.

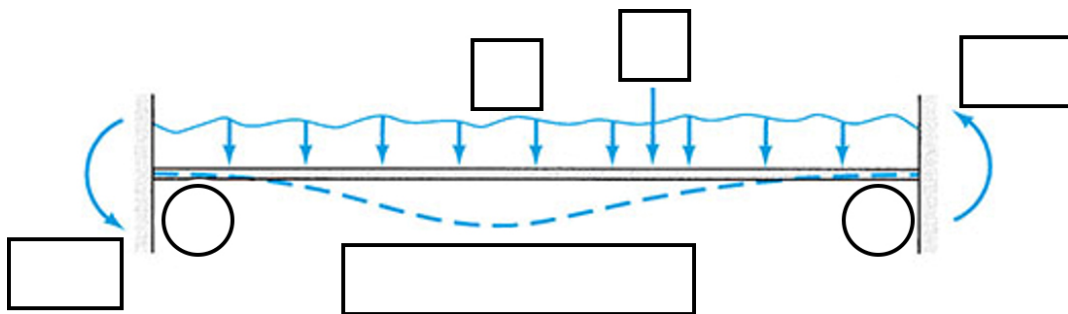


Figure 5. Fixed-end moments (FEM)

10) Using equations _____ and _____ as well as through setting _____, _____, and _____ to _____, **expressions** can be written for the _____ as:

11) Where _____ = the fixed-end moment due to _____.

12) These equations (_____ and _____) appear in the previous set after the simultaneous solution was found (equations _____ and _____).

13) **Substitution** of FEM equation set (_____ and _____) into the previous equation set (_____ and _____):

14) These equations above (_____ and _____) express the moment of the member ends in terms of _____ and _____ for specified _____.

15) The aforementioned equations (_____ and _____) represent the _____. They are **only valid when**:

- a. The member considered is _____.
- b. The member does not contain a _____.
- c. The material behavior is _____.
- d. Deformations are _____.
- e. Characterize deformation only under _____, therefore _____ are neglected.

16) This can be written in a single **generalized equation** as:

Fixed-End Moments:

- 1) Expressions for **fixed-end moments** can be derived.
- 2) However, it is very common to find FEM expressions in a **tabular form**.
- 3) **Resources** typically include:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
- 4) Two example tables (for simplistic externally applied loads) that identify moment diagrams, maximum deflections, and fixed-end moments are included here for reference.

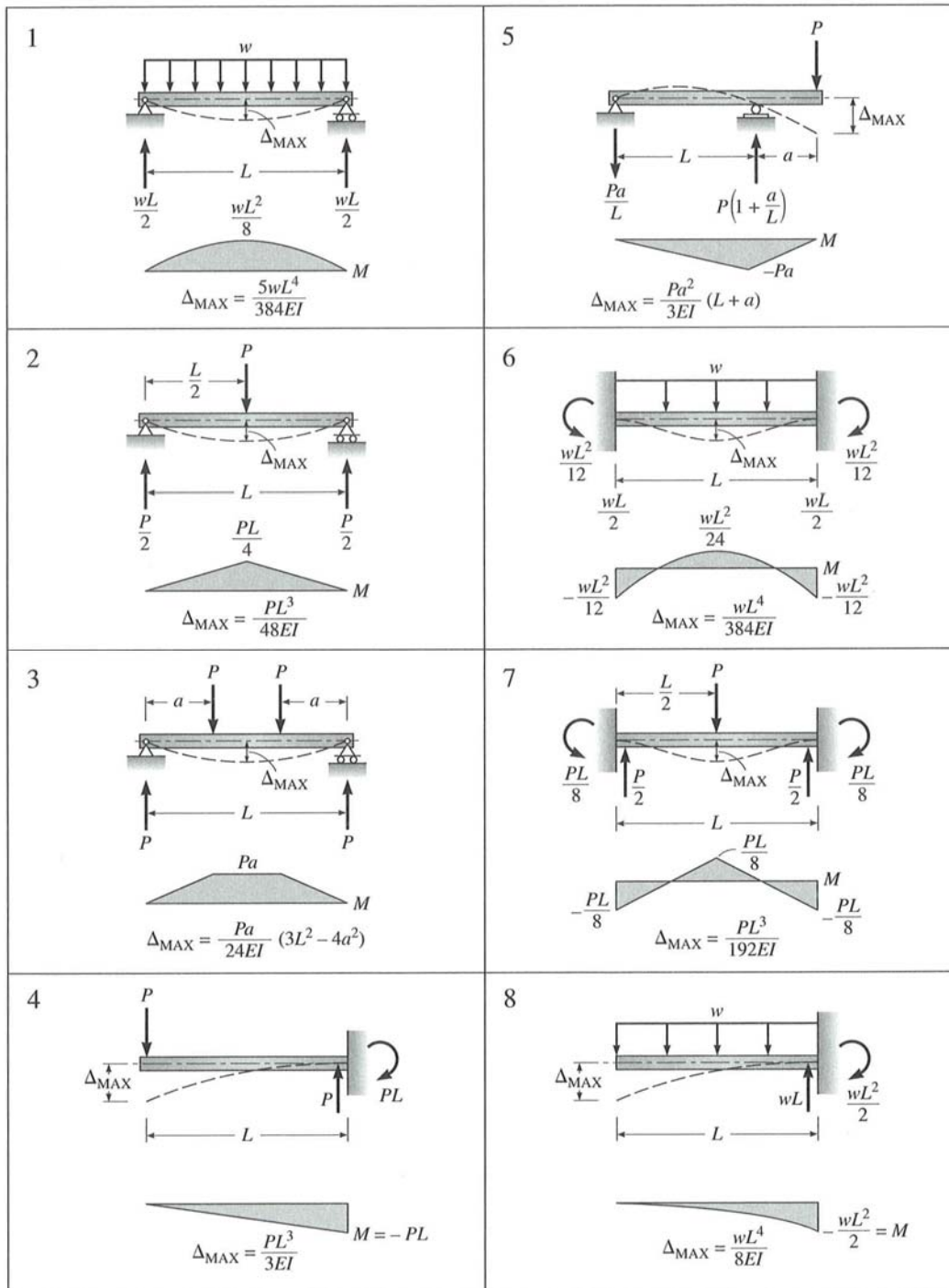


Figure 6. Moment diagrams and equations for the maximum deflection. (Obtained from: Leet, K.M., Uang, C.M., and Gilbert, A.M. (2011) *Fundamentals of Structural Analysis*. 4th Edition. McGraw Hill, New York).

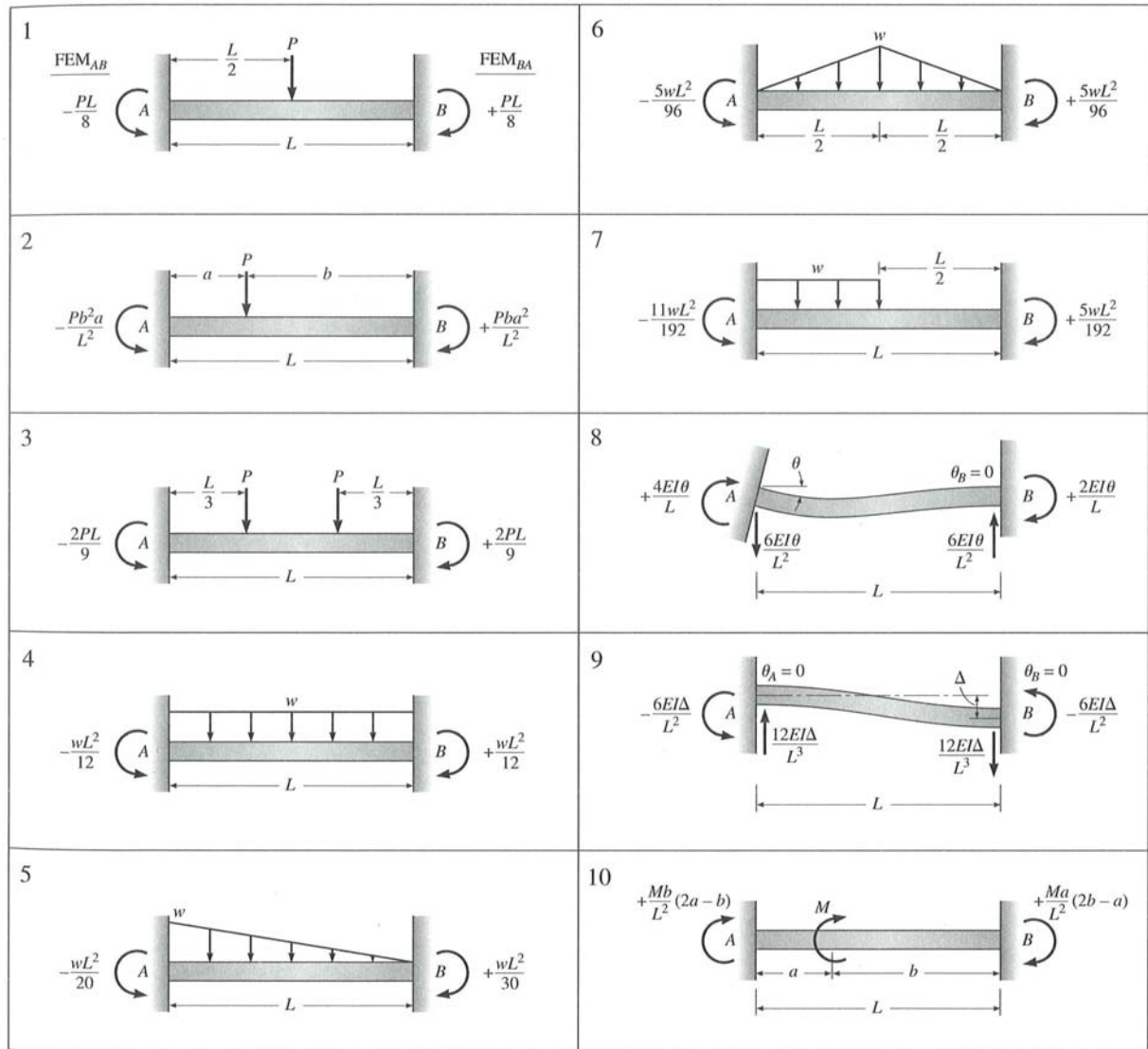


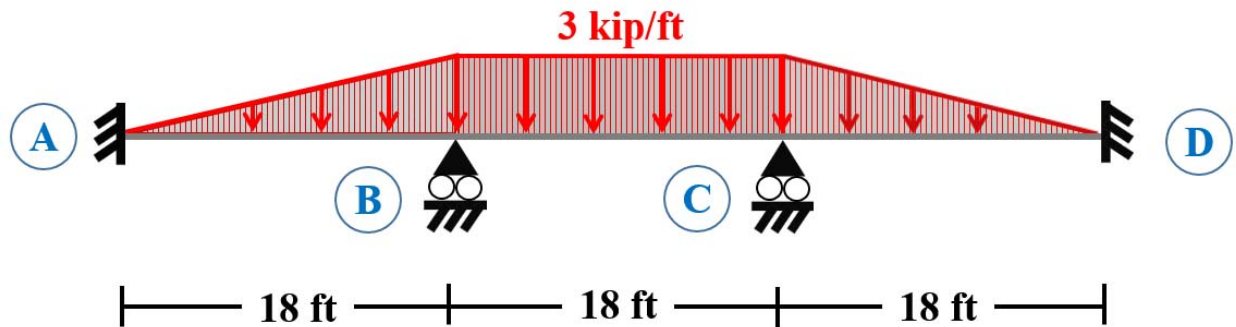
Figure 7. Fixed-End Moments. (Obtained from: Leet, K.M., Uang, C.M., and Gilbert, A.M. (2011) *Fundamentals of Structural Analysis*. 4th Edition. McGraw Hill, New York).

Procedure for Slope-Deflection:

- 1) Identify the **degrees of freedom** (DOFs).
 - a. For a continuous beam, this is only _____.
 - b. For a frame structure, this may include _____ and _____.
- 2) Compute the **fixed-end moment** (FEM) for each member.
 - a. Use handout or other available resources.
- 3) If **support settlement exists**, compute the _____
or _____.
 - a. Preferences? _____
- 4) Write the **slope-deflection equations** for each member.
- 5) Write the **equilibrium equations**.
- 6) Determine the **deformation at the joints** (or member ends) by _____.
- 7) Calculate the **member end moments**.
- 8) **Check** for **equilibrium** equations.
 - a. Equations written in step _____.
- 9) Compute the **member end shears** by _____.
- 10) Compute the **support reactions** at joints using _____.
- 11) **Check** the calculations of the end shears and support reactions using **equilibrium**.
- 12) Draw the shear and bending moment diagrams, if required.

Slope Deflection Method: Example #1

Compute the reactions and draw the moment and shear diagrams for the three-span continuous beam as illustrated. Use the slope-deflection method.



- 1) Identify the **degrees of freedom**:

- 2) Calculate the **fixed-end moments** and **chord rotations**:

3) Substitute into the **slope-deflection equations**:

a. The slope-deflection equation is:

b. Note the sign conventions of where: _____,
_____, and _____ are
positive when _____.

4) Write the **equilibrium equations**:

5) Solve for the **joint deformations**:

- a. Substitute slope-deflection equations for M_{BA} , M_{BC} , M_{CB} , and M_{CD} into the equilibrium equations.

6) Compute the **member end moments**:

- a. Substitute known values of _____ and _____ into the slope-deflection equations.

7) **Check equilibrium** at joints:

- 8) Find the member end shears and support reactions using equilibrium and draw the moment and shear diagrams as needed.

Additional Slope-Deflection Insights:

- 1) From the slope deflection method, a few aspects often reappear in other topics
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
- 2) One common structural system is a fixed-pinned beam that is rotated at the pinned end. A sketch is illustrated here:
- 3) The moment applied at the pinned end is:
- 4) Therefore the moment at the other end (_____) is:
- 5) This leads to a key observations, the moment applied at one end _____ to _____ at the other end.
- 6) This is known as the carry-over moment:
- 7) The carry-over moment is a fundamental relationship used within the _____.

Modified Slope Deflection Equation:

- 1) Previously the slope deflection equation was **only valid if** the both of the member ends are _____.
- 2) A **modified equation** can be used to account for members that are _____.
- 3) Sketch of member:

4) The slope deflection equations can be written and then **modified** as:

5) Solve for _____ in equation _____ and then **substitute** into equation _____:

6) Likewise, can do the same derivation for an **alternative** _____ structure:

7) This equation would be written as:

8) Expressing this in a **generalized form**:

Slope Deflection Method: Example #2

Determine the member end moments and reactions for the frame structure shown below using the slope-deflection method.

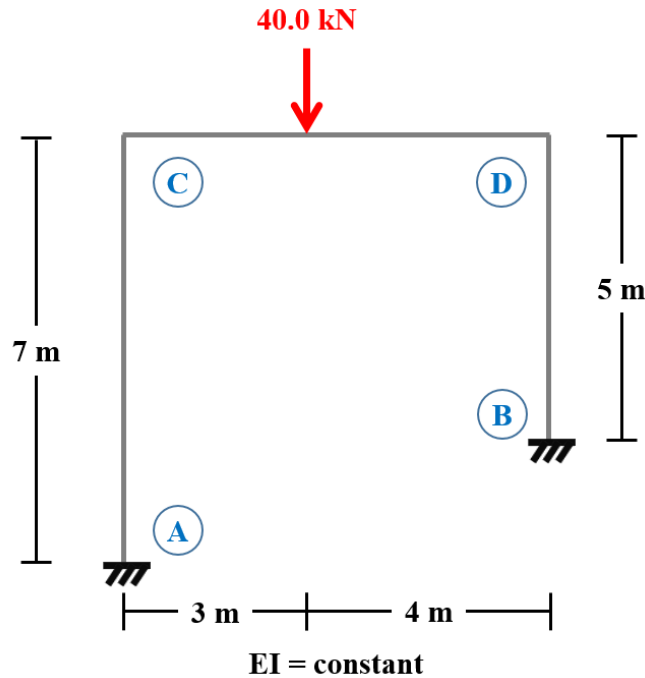


Figure 8. Three member frame for example 2².

1) In this structure, the analyst must account for the following:

2) Identify the degrees of freedom:

² Example from: Kassimali, Aslam (2014). *Structural Analysis*, 5th Edition. Cengage Learning.

- 3) Draw the **deflected shape** (qualitatively):

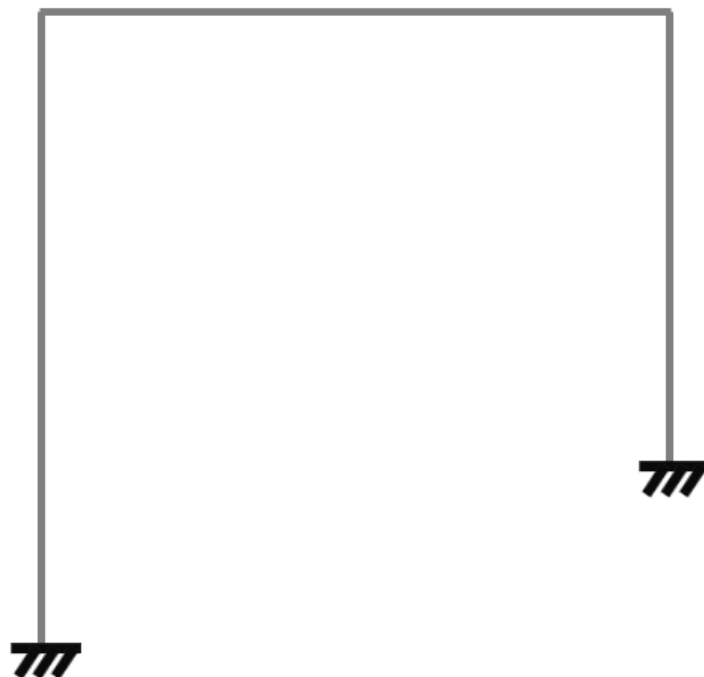


Figure 9. Deflected shaped of frame structure.

- 4) Calculate the **fixed-end moments** and chord **rotations**:

5) Substitute into the **slope-deflection equations**:

6) Write the **equilibrium equations**:

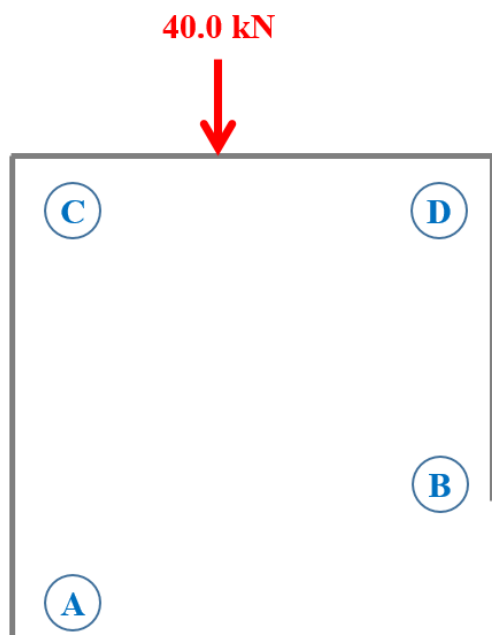


Figure 10. Free body diagram of entire frame structure.

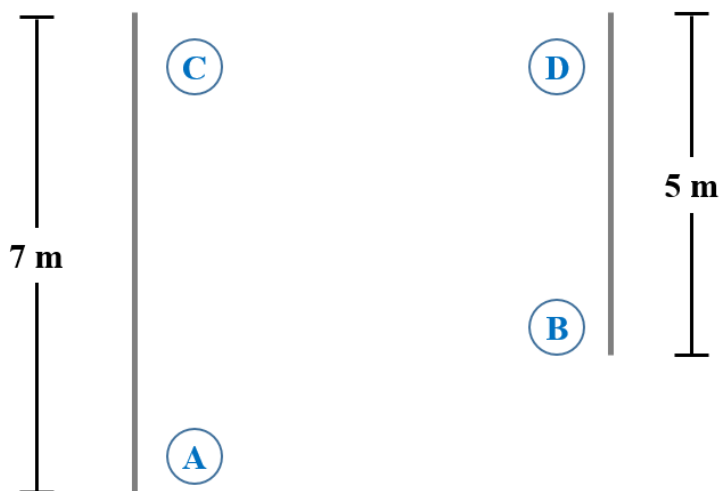


Figure 11. Free body diagrams of the two vertical columns.

7) Solve for **the joint deformations**:

- a. We now have 3 equations and 3 unknowns, therefore solve the system of equations.

Joint Displacements. To determine the unknown joint displacements θ_C , θ_D , and Δ , we substitute the slope-deflection equations (Eqs. (1) through (6)) into the equilibrium equations (Eqs. (7) through (9)) to obtain

$$1.142EI\theta_C + 0.286EI\theta_D + 0.122EI\Delta = -39.2 \quad (10)$$

$$0.286EI\theta_C + 1.371EI\theta_D + 0.24EI\Delta = 29.4 \quad (11)$$

$$4.285EI\theta_C + 8.4EI\theta_D + 4.58EI\Delta = 0 \quad (12)$$

Solving Eqs. (10) through (12) simultaneously yields

$$EI\theta_C = -40.211 \text{ kN} \cdot \text{m}^2$$

$$EI\theta_D = 34.24 \text{ kN} \cdot \text{m}^2$$

$$EI\Delta = -25.177 \text{ kN} \cdot \text{m}^3$$

8) Compute the **member end moments** and complete the problem:

Member End Moments. By substituting the numerical values of $EI\theta_C$, $EI\theta_D$, and $EI\Delta$ into the slope-deflection equations (Eqs. (1) through (6)), we obtain

$$M_{AC} = -14.6 \text{ kN} \cdot \text{m} \quad \text{or} \quad 14.6 \text{ kN} \cdot \text{m} \curvearrowright \quad \text{Ans.}$$

$$M_{CA} = -26 \text{ kN} \cdot \text{m} \quad \text{or} \quad 26 \text{ kN} \cdot \text{m} \curvearrowright \quad \text{Ans.}$$

$$M_{BD} = 7.7 \text{ kN} \cdot \text{m} \curvearrowleft \quad \text{Ans.}$$

$$M_{DB} = 21.3 \text{ kN} \cdot \text{m} \curvearrowleft \quad \text{Ans.}$$

$$M_{CD} = 26 \text{ kN} \cdot \text{m} \curvearrowleft \quad \text{Ans.}$$

$$M_{DC} = -21.3 \text{ kN} \cdot \text{m} \quad \text{or} \quad 21.3 \text{ kN} \cdot \text{m} \curvearrowright \quad \text{Ans.}$$

To check that the solution of the simultaneous equations (Eqs. (10) through (12)) has been carried out correctly, we substitute the numerical values of member end moments back into the equilibrium equations (Eqs. (7) through (9)):

$$M_{CA} + M_{CD} = -26 + 26 = 0 \quad \text{Checks}$$

$$M_{DB} + M_{DC} = 21.3 - 21.3 = 0 \quad \text{Checks}$$

$$5(M_{AC} + M_{CA}) + 7(M_{BD} + M_{DB}) = 5(-14.6 - 26) + 7(7.7 + 21.3) = 0 \quad \text{Checks}$$

Member End Shears. The member end shears, obtained by considering the equilibrium of each member, are shown in Fig. 15.17(e).

Member Axial Forces. With end shears known, member axial forces can now be evaluated by considering the equilibrium of joints *C* and *D*. The axial forces thus obtained are shown in Fig. 15.17(e).

Support Reactions. See Fig. 15.17(f). Ans.

Equilibrium Check. The equilibrium equations check.

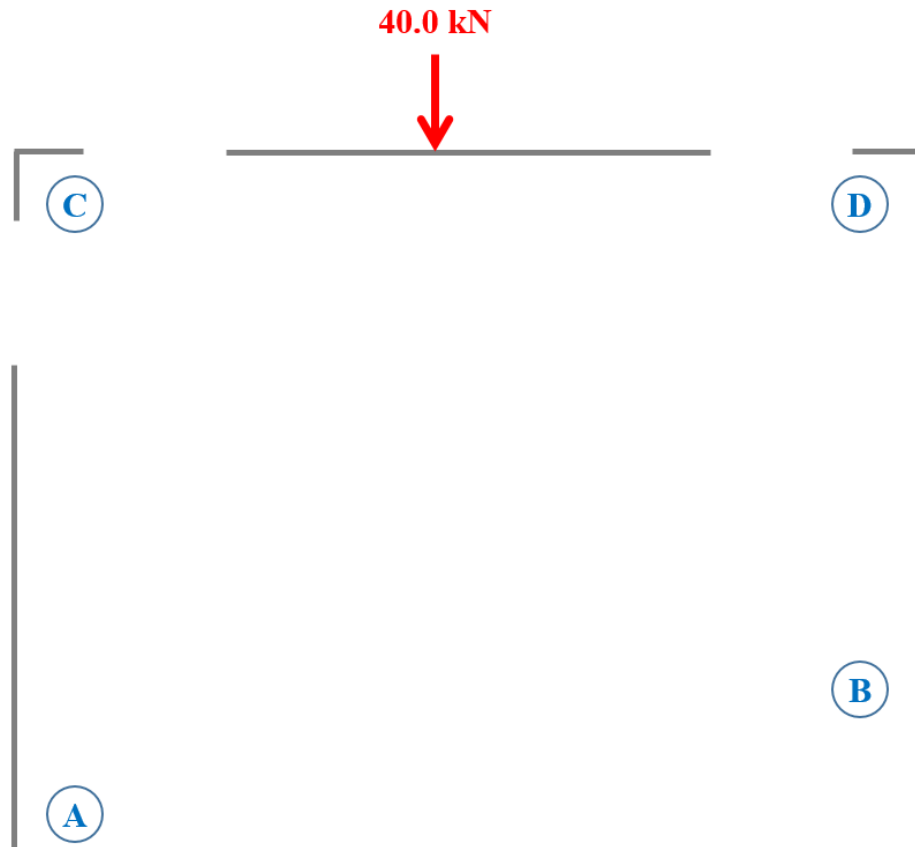


Figure 12. Frame structure: member end moments, shears, and axial forces.

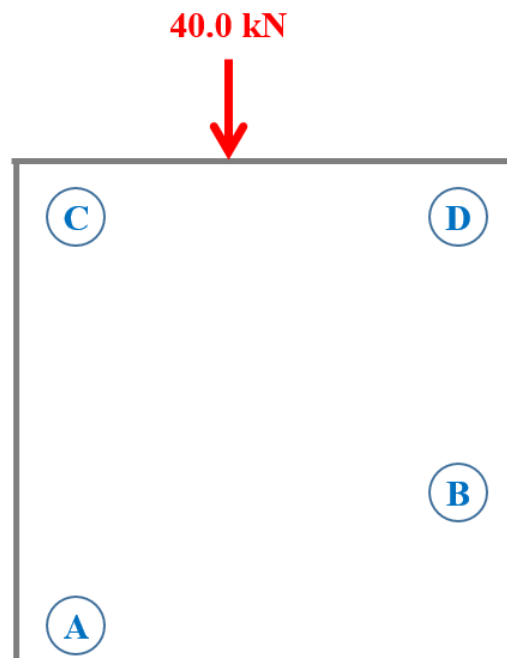


Figure 13. Frame structure: support reactions.