

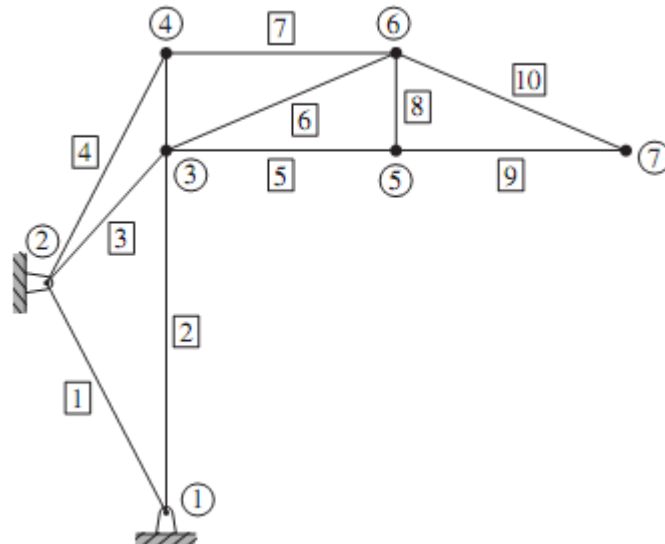
Finite Element Method

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Homework #4	Truss Structures	
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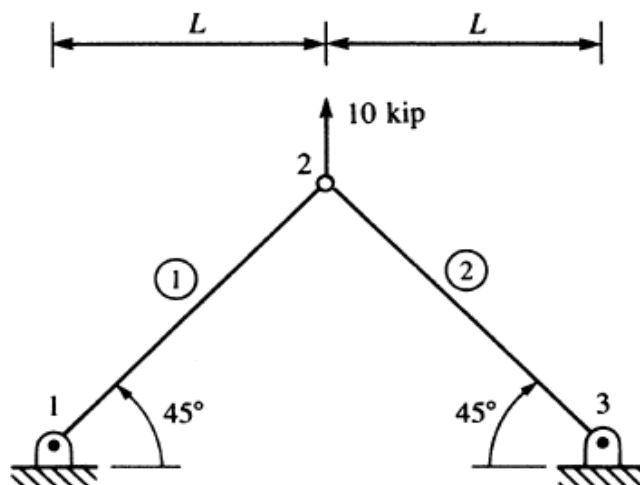
- 1- For the truss structure shown in Figure P3.7, construct an element-to-global displacement correspondence table.

Ref: Fundamentals of Finite Element Analysis, David V. Hutton, 2004

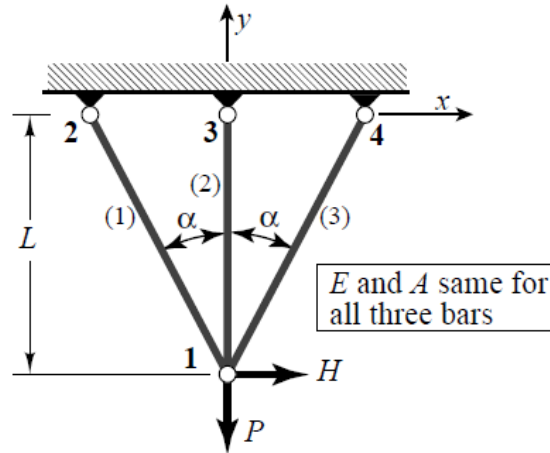


- 2- For the plane truss structure shown in the figure, determine the displacement of node 2 using the stiffness method. Also determine the stress in element 1. Let $A = 5 \text{ in}^2$, $E = 1 \times 10^6 \text{ psi}$, and $L = 100 \text{ in}$.

Ref: The First Course in the Finite Element, Logan, 4th Edition



3-Consider the truss problem defined in Figure below. All geometric and material properties: L , α , E and A , as well as the applied forces P and H , are to be kept as variables. This truss has 8 degrees of freedom, with six of them removable by the fixed-displacement conditions at nodes 2, 3 and 4. This structure is statically indeterminate as long as $\alpha \neq 0$.



a) Show that the master stiffness equations are:

$$\frac{EA}{L} \begin{bmatrix} 2cs^2 & 0 & -cs^2 & c^2s & 0 & 0 & -cs^2 & -c^2s \\ & 1+2c^3 & c^2s & -c^3 & 0 & -1 & -c^2s & -c^3 \\ & & cs^2 & -c^2s & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & & & c^3 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & & & & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & & & & & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ & & & & & & cs^2 & c^2s \\ \text{symm} & & & & & & & c^3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_{x1} \\ u_{y1} \\ u_{x2} \\ u_{y2} \\ u_{x3} \\ u_{y3} \\ u_{x4} \\ u_{y4} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} H \\ -P \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

in which $c = \cos\alpha$ and $s = \sin\alpha$. Explain from physics why the 5th row and column contain only zeros.

b) Apply the BCs and show the 2-equation modified stiffness system.

c) Solve for the displacements u_{x1} and u_{y1} . Check that the solution makes physical sense for the limit cases $\alpha \rightarrow 0$ and $\alpha \rightarrow \pi/2$. Why does u_{x1} “blow up” if $H \neq 0$ and $\alpha \rightarrow 0$?

d) Recover the axial forces in the three members. Partial answer: $F^{(3)} = -H/(2s) + Pc^2/(1+2c^3)$. Why do $F^{(1)}$ and $F^{(3)}$ “blow up” if $H \neq 0$ and $\alpha \rightarrow 0$?