

ENGINEERING TRIPOS PART IIA

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Wednesday 9 May 2007 2.30 to 4

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Module 3D4

STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS AND STABILITY

*Answer not more than three questions.*

*All questions carry the same number of marks.*

*The approximate percentage of marks allocated to each part of a question is indicated in the right margin.*

*Attachment: Data Sheet for Question 4.*

STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS

Single-sided script paper

Graph paper

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Engineering Data Book

CUED approved calculator allowed

**You may not start to read the questions  
printed on the subsequent pages of this  
question paper until instructed that you  
may do so by the Invigilator**

1 A thin-walled angle section is made from sheet of uniform thickness  $t$ , density  $\rho$ , elastic modulus  $E$ , shear modulus  $G$  and has the cross-section shown in Fig. 1.

(a) Determine the principal second moments of area. Describe why the shear centre is located at the intersection of the two legs of the angle. [40%]

(b) The angle section is mounted as a horizontal cantilever of length  $L$  with its longer side pointing upwards and is loaded by its own weight.

(i) Determine the magnitude of the deflection of the centroid at the tip. [25%]

(ii) Determine the twist at the tip. [35%]

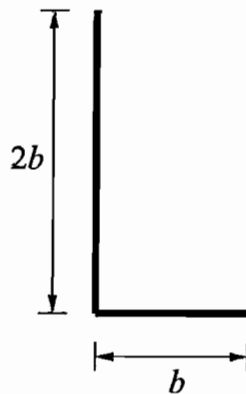


Fig. 1

2 Figure 2 shows the side view of a continuous beam bridge with uniform flexural rigidity  $EI$  and two unequal spans. The beam is simply supported at its two ends and continuous over the middle span.

- (a) Sketch the influence line for the shear force at point X. [20%]
- (b) Find a mathematical expression for the influence line for the shear and determine its value at the supports, at the centre of each span and at X. [50%]
- (c) Discuss qualitatively how a bridge designer would use this influence line to calculate maximum and minimum shear forces at point X when the bridge is loaded by:
- (i) a single concentrated force representing a heavy vehicle; [15%]
- (ii) a distributed load of any length. [15%]

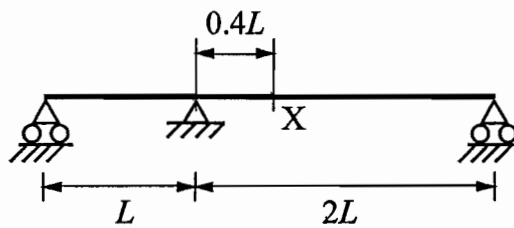


Fig. 2

(TURN OVER

3 Figure 3 shows a two-dimensional structure consisting of straight rods of equal length  $L$ , connected by frictionless pin joints. In the unloaded configuration members AB and BC form an angle of  $30^\circ$  with the horizontal, and member CD is horizontal. Member CD is axially linear-elastic with stiffness  $k$ , whereas the other members are effectively rigid. All members can be regarded as infinitely rigid in bending.

- (a) Set up an expression for the total potential energy of the structure,  $\Pi(\theta)$ . [30%]
- (b) Find an expression for  $P$  in terms of  $\theta$  and plot a graph of  $P(\theta)$  marking salient values. [30%]
- (c) Find the maximum value of  $P$  prior to snap-through. [30%]
- (d) Analyse the stability of the equilibrium path  $P(\theta)$  and mark stable and unstable regions on your graph. [10%]

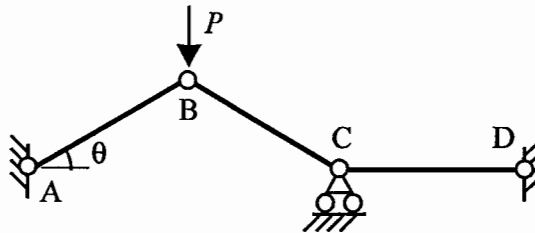


Fig. 3

4 (a) Figure 4(a) shows a beam-column of length  $L$  and bending stiffness  $EI$  loaded by a compressive axial force  $P$ . End A of the beam-column is connected by a frictionless pin to a rigid foundation.

Determine the relationship between the end couple  $M_B$  and the corresponding rotation  $\theta_B$ , in terms of the stability functions  $s$  and  $c$  given in the attached data sheet. Show that for  $P = 0$  this relationship agrees with the deflection coefficient given in the Structures Data Book. [30%]

(b) Figure 4(b) shows a two-dimensional structure consisting of three linear-elastic members of equal length  $L$  and bending stiffness  $EI$ . The members are rigidly jointed at B. Member AB is fully connected to a rigid foundation at A and member BD is pinned to a rigid foundation at D. Forces of magnitude  $P/2$  and  $P$  are applied at joints B and C in the directions shown.

(i) Set up the  $2 \times 2$  stiffness matrix relating the rotations  $\theta_B$  and  $\theta_C$  to corresponding couples, in terms of the stability functions for the members of the frame. [40%]

(ii) What is the critical value of  $P$ ? [30%]

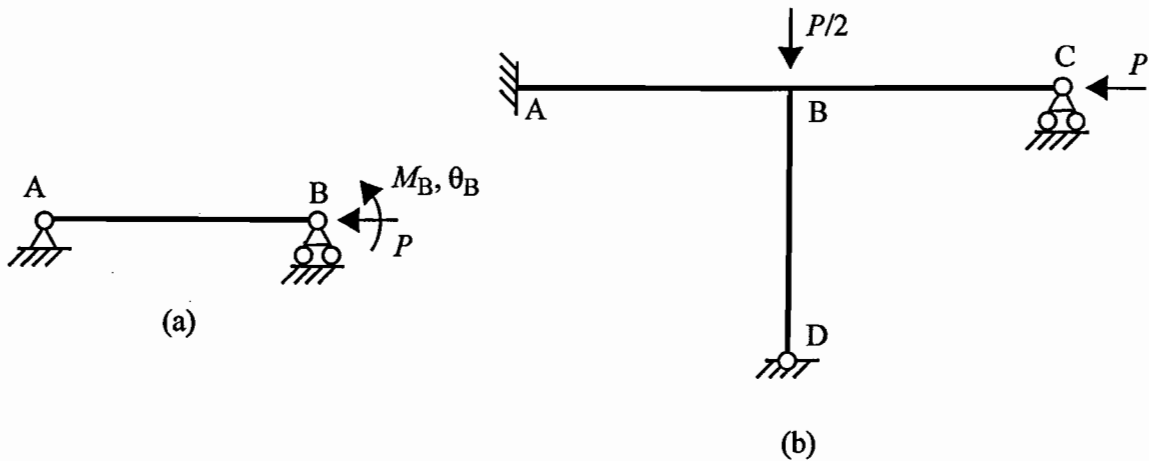


Fig. 4

END OF PAPER

**Data Sheet for Question 4: Stability Functions.**



For a beam of length  $L$ , as shown in the figure above, the following stiffness relationships apply:

$$\begin{bmatrix} M_A \\ M_B \end{bmatrix} = \frac{EI}{L} \begin{bmatrix} s & sc \\ sc & s \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \phi_A \\ \phi_B \end{bmatrix}$$

where  $E$  is the Young's modulus and  $I$  the second moment of area for in-plane bending. The stability functions  $s$  and  $c$  are tabulated below for a member with Euler buckling load  $P_E$ .

$P/P_E$	$s$	$c$
0.0	4.00	0.50
1.0	2.47	1.00
1.1	2.28	1.11
1.2	2.09	1.25
1.3	1.89	1.42
1.4	1.68	1.66
1.5	1.46	1.97
1.6	1.22	2.43
1.7	0.98	3.17
1.8	0.72	4.50
1.9	0.44	7.66

$P/P_E$	$s$	$c$
2.0	0.14	24.68
2.1	-0.18	-21.07
2.2	-0.52	-7.51
2.3	-0.89	-4.62
2.4	-1.30	-3.37
2.5	-1.75	-2.67
2.6	-2.25	-2.23
2.7	-2.81	-1.93
2.8	-3.44	-1.71
2.9	-4.18	-1.54
3.0	-5.03	-1.42