Chapter 3b – Development of Truss Equations										
Learning Objectives										
Series	To derive the stiffness matrix for a bar element.									
A First Course in the Finite Element Method	• To illustrate how to solve a bar assemblage by the direct stiffness method.									
	 To introduce guidelines for selecting displacement functions. 									
DATYL L LOGAN	 To describe the concept of transformation of vectors in two different coordinate systems in the plane. 									
	• To derive the stiffness matrix for a bar arbitrarily oriented in the plane.									
	• To demonstrate how to compute stress for a bar in the plane.									
	 To show how to solve a plane truss problem. 									
	 To develop the transformation matrix in three- dimensional space and show how to use it to derive the stiffness matrix for a bar arbitrarily oriented in space. 									
	To demonstrate the solution of space trusses.									





Inclined, or Skewed, Supports

Therefore, the relationship between of the components of the displacement in the local and the global coordinate systems at node 3 is:

$$\begin{bmatrix} u'_3 \\ v'_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \alpha & \sin \alpha \\ -\sin \alpha & \cos \alpha \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_3 \\ v_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

We can rewrite the above expression as:

$$\{d'_3\} = [t_3]\{d_3\} \qquad \begin{bmatrix}t_3\\-\sin\alpha & \cos\alpha\end{bmatrix}$$

We can apply this sort of transformation to the entire displacement vector as:

 $\{d'\} = [T_1]\{d\}$ or $\{d\} = [T_1]^T\{d'\}$















Stiffness Matrix for a Bar Element											
Example 9 – Space Truss Problem											
The first step in the	matr	rix tra	nsforr	natio	n to	o find	l the	р	roduc	t of	
[<i>T</i> ₁][<i>K</i>].		$[T_1]$					[K]				
$[T_1][K] = 1,260 \times 10^5 N/m$	1 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0	$ \begin{array}{cccc} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ \sqrt{2}_{2} & \sqrt{2}_{2} \\ -\sqrt{2}_{2} & \sqrt{2}_{2} \\ \sqrt{2}_{2} & \sqrt{2}_{2} \end{array} $	0. 0. -0.70	5 5 0 7	0.5 1.5 0 -1 0.707 - 0	0 0 1 0 -0.707 0.707	0 -1 0 1 0	-0.5 -0.5 -1 0 1.414 -0.707	-0.5 -0.5 0 0 0.707 0	
$[T_{t}][K] = 1,260 \times 10^{5}$	N∕ m	0.5 0.5 0 -0.707 0	0.5 1.5 0 -1 -0.707 0	0 1 0 -0.707 0.707	0 -1 0 1 0	-0.5 -0.5 -1 0 1.414 -0.707	-0.5 -0.5 0 0.707 0				











Potential Energy Approach to Derive Bar Element Equations

If we let the volume of the element approach zero, then:

$$dU = \sigma_x d\varepsilon_x dV$$

Summing the differential energy over the whole bar gives:

$$U = \int_{V} \left\{ \int_{0}^{\varepsilon_{x}} \sigma_{x} d\varepsilon_{x} \right\} dV = \int_{V} \left\{ \int_{0}^{\varepsilon_{x}} E\varepsilon_{x} d\varepsilon_{x} \right\} dV = \int_{V} \frac{1}{2} E\varepsilon_{x}^{2} dV$$

For a linear-elastic material (Hooke's law) as shown below:



Potential Energy Approach to Derive Bar Element Equations

The internal strain energy statement becomes

$$U = \frac{1}{2} \int_{V} \sigma_{x} \varepsilon_{x} dV$$

The potential energy of the external forces is:

$$\Omega = -\int_{V} X_{\mathbf{b}} u \, dV - \int_{S} T_{\mathbf{x}} u_{s} \, dS - \sum_{i=1}^{M} f_{i\mathbf{x}} u_{i}$$

where $X_{\rm b}$ is the body force (force per unit volume), T_x is the traction (force per unit area), and $f_{\rm ix}$ is the nodal concentrated force. All of these forces are considered to act in the local x direction.

Stiffness Matrix for a Bar Element

Potential Energy Approach to Derive Bar Element Equations

Apply the following steps when using the principle of minimum potential energy to derive the finite element equations.

- 1. Formulate an expression for the total potential energy.
- 2. Assume a displacement pattern.
- 3. Obtain a set of simultaneous equations minimizing the total potential energy with respect to the displacement parameters.



Potential Energy Approach to Derive Bar Element Equations

Using the stress-strain relationships, the axial strain is:

$$\varepsilon_{x} = \frac{du}{dx} = \left[\frac{dN_{1}}{dx} \quad \frac{dN_{2}}{dx}\right] \left\{ \begin{array}{c} u_{1} \\ u_{2} \end{array} \right\}$$

where N_1 and N_2 are the interpolation functions gives as:

$$\varepsilon_{x} = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{L} & \frac{1}{L} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_{1} \\ u_{2} \end{bmatrix} \qquad \{\varepsilon_{x}\} = [B]\{d\}$$
$$B = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{L} & \frac{1}{L} \end{bmatrix}$$

The axial stress-strain relationship is: $\{\sigma_x\} = [D]\{\varepsilon_x\}$

Potential Energy Approach to Derive Bar Element Equations

For the one-dimensional stress-strain relationship [D] = [E] where *E* is the modulus of elasticity.

Therefore, stress can be related to nodal displacements as:

 $\{\sigma_x\} = [D][B]\{d\}$

The total potential energy expressed in matrix form is:

$$\pi_{p} = \frac{A}{2} \int_{0}^{L} \{\sigma_{x}\}^{T} \{\varepsilon_{x}\} dx - \{d\}^{T} \{P\} - \int_{V} \{u\}^{T} \{X_{b}\} dV - \int_{S} \{u\}^{T} \{T_{x}\} dS$$

where $\{P\}$ represented the concentrated nodal loads.

Stiffness Matrix for a Bar Element

Potential Energy Approach to Derive Bar Element Equations

If we substitute the relationship between \hat{u} and \hat{d} into the energy equations we get:

$$\pi_{p} = \frac{A}{2} \int_{0}^{L} \underbrace{\left\{d\right\}^{T} \left[B\right]^{T} \left[D\right]^{T} \left[B\right] \left\{d\right\}}_{\left[B\right] \left\{d\right\}} dx - \left\{d\right\}^{T} \left\{P\right\}}_{-\int_{U}^{U} \left\{d\right\}^{T} \left[N\right]^{T} \left\{X_{b}\right\} dV - \int_{u}^{U} \left\{d\right\}^{T} \left[N_{s}\right]^{T} \left\{T_{x}\right\} dS$$

In the above expression for potential energy π_p is a function of the **d**, that is: $\pi_p = \pi_p(u_1, u_2)$.

However, [*B*] and [*D*] and the nodal displacements *u* are not a function of *x*.

Potential Energy Approach to Derive Bar Element Equations

Integration the energy expression with respect to *x* gives:

$$\pi_{p} = \frac{AL}{2} \{d\}^{T} [B]^{T} [D]^{T} [B] \{d\} - \{d\}^{T} \{f\}$$

where

$$\left\{f\right\} = \left\{P\right\} + \int_{V} [N]^{\mathsf{T}} \left\{X_{\mathsf{b}}\right\} dV + \int_{S} [N]^{\mathsf{T}} \left\{X_{\mathsf{b}}\right\} dS$$

We can define the surface tractions and body-force matrices as:

$$\left\{f_{s}\right\} = \int_{S} [N]^{\mathsf{T}} \left\{T_{x}\right\} dS \qquad \left\{f_{b}\right\} = \int_{V} [N]^{\mathsf{T}} \left\{X_{b}\right\} dV$$

Stiffness Matrix for a Bar Element

Potential Energy Approach to Derive Bar Element Equations

Minimization of π_p with respect to each nodal displacement requires that:

$$\frac{\partial \pi_p}{\partial u_1} = 0 \qquad \qquad \frac{\partial \pi_p}{\partial u_2} = 0$$

For convenience, let's define the following

$$\left\{\boldsymbol{U}^{*}\right\} = \left\{\boldsymbol{d}\right\}^{T} \left[\boldsymbol{B}\right]^{T} \left[\boldsymbol{D}\right]^{T} \left[\boldsymbol{B}\right] \left\{\boldsymbol{d}\right\}$$
$$\left\{\boldsymbol{U}^{*}\right\} = \left[\boldsymbol{u}_{1} \quad \boldsymbol{u}_{2}\right] \left\{\begin{array}{c} -\frac{1}{L} \\ \frac{1}{L} \\ \end{array}\right\} \left[\boldsymbol{E}\right] \left[-\frac{1}{L} \quad \frac{1}{L}\right] \left\{\begin{array}{c} \boldsymbol{u}_{1} \\ \boldsymbol{u}_{2} \\ \end{array}\right\}$$

Potential Energy Approach to Derive Bar Element Equations

Simplifying the above expression gives:

$$U^{*} = \frac{E}{L^{2}} \left(u_{1}^{2} - 2u_{1}u_{2} + u_{2}^{2} \right)$$

The loading on a bar element is given as:

$$\left\{\boldsymbol{d}\right\}^{T}\left\{\boldsymbol{f}\right\} = \boldsymbol{u}_{1}\boldsymbol{f}_{1x} + \boldsymbol{u}_{2}\boldsymbol{f}_{2x}$$

Therefore, the minimum potential energy is:

$$\frac{\partial \pi_p}{\partial u_1} = \frac{AE}{2L} (2u_1 - 2u_2) - f_{1x} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \pi_p}{\partial u_2} = \frac{AE}{2L} \left(-2u_1 + 2u_2 \right) - f_{2x} = 0$$

Stiffness Matrix for a Bar Element

Potential Energy Approach to Derive Bar Element Equations

The above equations can be written in matrix form as:

$$\frac{\partial \pi_p}{\partial (d)} = \frac{AE}{L} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} f_{1x} \\ f_{2x} \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

The stiffness matrix for a bar element is: $\begin{bmatrix} k \end{bmatrix} = \frac{AE}{L} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

This form of the stiffness matrix obtained from the principle of minimum potential energy is identical to the stiffness matrix derived from the equilibrium equations.



Stiffness Matrix for a Bar Element
Example 10 - Bar Problem
$\begin{cases} f_{1x} \\ f_{2x} \end{cases} = \int_{0}^{L} \begin{cases} 1 - \frac{x}{L} \\ \frac{x}{L} \end{cases} \{Cx\} dx = \begin{cases} \left \frac{Cx^2}{2} - \frac{Cx^3}{3L} \right _{0}^{L} \\ \left \frac{Cx^3}{3L} \right _{0}^{L} \end{cases} = \begin{cases} \frac{CL^2}{6} \\ \frac{CL^2}{3} \end{cases}$
The total load is the area under the distributed load curve, or:
$F=\frac{1}{2}(L)(CL)=\frac{CL^2}{2}$
The equivalent nodal forces for a linearly varying load are:
$f_{1x} = \frac{F}{3} = \frac{1}{3}$ of the total load $f_{2x} = \frac{2F}{3} = \frac{2}{3}$ of the total load



























Comparison of Finite Element Solution to Exact Solution

In order to be able to judge the accuracy of our finite element models, we will develop an exact solution for the bar element problem.

The exact solution for the displacement may be obtained by:

$$u=\frac{1}{AE}\int_{0}^{L}P(x)dx$$

where the force \boldsymbol{P} is shown on the following free-body diagram.



Comparison of Finite Element Solution to Exact Solution

Therefore:

$$u = \frac{1}{AE} \int_{0}^{L} P(x) dx \qquad u = \frac{1}{AE} \int_{0}^{x} 5x^{2} dx = \frac{5x^{3}}{3AE} + C_{1}$$

Applying the boundary conditions:

$$u(L) = 0 = \frac{5x^3}{3AE} + C_1 \qquad \Rightarrow \quad C_1 = -\frac{5L^3}{3AE}$$

The exact solution for axial displacement is:

$$u(L) = \frac{5}{3AE} \left(x^3 - L^3 \right) \qquad \sigma(x) = \frac{P(x)}{A} = \frac{5x^2}{A}$$







Galerkin's Residual Method and Its Application to a One-Dimensional Bar

There are a number of weighted residual methods.

However, the Galerkin's method is more well-known and will be the only weighted residual method discussed in this course.

In weighted residual methods, a trial or approximate function is chosen to approximate the independent variable (in our case, displacement) in a problem defined by a differential equation.

The trial function will not, in general, satisfy the governing differential equation.

Therefore, the substitution of the trial function in the differential equation will create a residual over the entire domain of the problem.

Stiffness Matrix for a Bar Element

Galerkin's Residual Method and Its Application to a One-Dimensional Bar

Therefore, the substitution of the trial function in the differential equation will create a residual over the entire domain of the problem.

$$\int_{V} RdV = minimum$$

In the residual methods, we require that a weighted value of the residual be a minimum over the entire domain of the problem.

The weighting function W allows the weighted integral of the residuals to go to zero.

$$\int_{V} RW \, dV = 0$$

Galerkin's Residual Method and Its Application to a One-Dimensional Bar

Using Galerkin's weighted residual method, we require the weighting functions to be the interpolation functions N_{i} . Therefore:

 $\int_{V} RN_i \, dV = 0 \qquad i = 1, 2, \cdots, n$

Stiffness Matrix for a Bar Element

Example 12 - Bar Element Formulation

Let's derive the bar element formulation using Galerkin's method. The governing differential equation is:

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(AE\frac{du}{dx}\right) = 0$$

Applying Galerkin's method we get:

$$\int_{0}^{L} \frac{d}{dx} \left(AE \frac{du}{dx} \right) N_{i} dx = 0 \qquad i = 1, 2, \cdots, n$$

We now apply integration by parts using the following general formula:

$$\int rds = rs - \int sdr$$



Example 12 - Bar Element Formulation

Recall that:

$$\frac{du}{dx} = \frac{dN_1}{dx}u_1 + \frac{dN_2}{dx}u_2 \qquad \frac{du}{dx} = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{L} & \frac{1}{L} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Our original weighted residual expression, with the approximation for *u* becomes:

$$AE\int_{0}^{L} \frac{dN_{i}}{dx} \left[-\frac{1}{L} \quad \frac{1}{L} \right] dx \left\{ \begin{matrix} u_{1} \\ u_{2} \end{matrix} \right\} = \left| N_{i}AE\frac{du}{dx} \right|_{0}^{L}$$

Stiffness Matrix for a Bar Element Example 12 - Bar Element Formulation Substituting N_1 for the weighting function N_i gives: $AE \int_0^L \frac{dN_1}{dx} \left[-\frac{1}{L} \quad \frac{1}{L} \right] dx \left\{ \begin{matrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \end{matrix} \right\} = \left| N_1 AE \frac{du}{dx} \right|_0^L$ $AE \int_0^L \left[-\frac{1}{L} \right] \left[-\frac{1}{L} \quad \frac{1}{L} \right] dx \left\{ \begin{matrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \end{matrix} \right\} = \frac{AEL}{L^2} (u_1 - u_2)$ $\left| N_1 AE \frac{du}{dx} \right|_0^L = AE \frac{du}{dx} \right|_{x=0} = AE \varepsilon_x |_{x=0} = A\sigma_x |_{x=0} = f_{1x}$ $\Rightarrow \frac{AE}{L} (u_1 - u_2) = f_{1x}$

Stiffness Matrix for a Bar Element Example 12 - Bar Element Formulation Substituting N_2 for the weighting function N_i gives: $AE_0^L \frac{dN_2}{dx} \left[-\frac{1}{L} \quad \frac{1}{L} \right] dx \begin{cases} u_1 \\ u_2 \end{cases} = \left| N_2 AE \frac{du}{dx} \right|_0^L$ $AE_0^L \left[\frac{1}{L} \right] \left[-\frac{1}{L} \quad \frac{1}{L} \right] dx \begin{cases} u_1 \\ u_2 \end{cases} = \frac{AEL}{L^2} (-u_1 + u_2)$ $\left| N_2 AE \frac{du}{dx} \right|_0^L = AE \frac{du}{dx} \right|_{x=L} = AE\varepsilon_x |_{x=L} = A\sigma_x |_{x=L} = f_{2x}$ $\Rightarrow \frac{AE}{L} (-u_1 + u_2) = f_{2x}$

Example 12 - Bar Element Formulation

Writing the last two equations in matrix form gives:

$L \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} t_{2x} \end{bmatrix}$

This element formulation is identical to that developed from equilibrium and the minimum potential energy approach.

Symmetry and Bandwidth

In this section, we will introduce the concepts of symmetry to reduce the size of a problem and of banded-symmetric matrices and bandwidth.

In many instances, we can use symmetry to facilitate the solution of a problem.

Symmetry means correspondence in size, shape, and position of loads; material properties; and boundary conditions that are mirrored about a dividing line or plane.

Use of symmetry allows us to consider a reduced problem instead of the actual problem. Thus, the order of the total stiffness matrix and total set of stiffness equations can be reduced.









S	Symmetry and Bandwidth - Example 1									
k ⁽¹⁾	$h = \frac{AE}{2L} \begin{bmatrix} 1\\ 1\\ -1\\ -1\\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$	v ₁ 1 -1 -1	$\begin{array}{ccc} u_{2} & v_{2} \\ -1 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \\ \end{array}$	k ⁽²⁾ :	$=\frac{AE}{2L}\begin{bmatrix}1\\-1\\-1\\1\end{bmatrix}$	v ₁ -1 - 1 -1 -	$\begin{bmatrix} u_{3} & v_{3} \\ 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$			
-	Element	θ	С	S	<i>C</i> ²	S ²	CS			
	1	45°	0.707	0.707	0.5	0.5	0.5			
	2	315°	0.707	-0.707	0.5	0.5	-0.5			
	3	0 °	1	0	1	0	0			
	4	270°	0	-1	0	1	0			
	5	90°	0	1	0	1	0			

Symmetry and Bandwidth - Example 1										
$\mathbf{k}^{(3)} = \frac{AE}{L}$	^u 1 0 1 0	v ₁ 0 0 0	u4 -1 0 1 0	 ν₄ 0 0 0 0 0 0 	k ⁽⁴⁾ :	$=\frac{AE}{2L}$	$ \begin{array}{cccc} u_2 & v_2 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \\ \end{array} $	u4 0 0 0 0	v₄ 0 −1 0 1	
Element	θ		C	;	S	<i>C</i> ²	S	2	CS	
1	45	D	0.7	07	0.707	0.5	0.	5	0.5	
2	315	5°	0.7	07	-0.707	0.5	0.	5	-0.5	
3	0°		1		0	1	0		0	
4	270)°	0		-1	0	1		0	
5	90°	D	0		1	0	1		0	

Symmetry and Bandwidth - Example 1								
$\mathbf{k}^{(5)} = \frac{AI}{2I}$	$ \begin{bmatrix} u_3 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} $	 u₄ 0 0 1 0 -1 0 	v4 0 -1 0 1					
Element	θ	С	S	<i>C</i> ²	S ²	CS		
1	45°	0.707	0.707	0.5	0.5	0.5		
2	315°	0.707	-0.707	0.5	0.5	-0.5		
3	0 °	1	0	1	0	0		
4	270°	0	-1	0	1	0		

Symmetry and Bandwidth - Example 1

Since elements 4 and 5 lie in the plane of symmetry, one half of their original areas have been used in developing the stiffness matrices.

The displacement boundary conditions are:

$$u_1 = v_1 = u_2 = u_3 = u_4 = 0$$

By applying the boundary conditions the force-displacement equations reduce to:

$$\frac{AE}{2L}\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & | & -1 \\ 0 & 2 & | & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_2 \\ v_3 \\ v_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ P \end{bmatrix}$$

Symmetry and Bandwidth - Example 1

We can solve the above equations by separating the matrices in submatrices (indicated by the dashed lines). Consider a general set of equations shown below:

$\begin{bmatrix} K_{11} \\ K_{12} \end{bmatrix} \int d_1 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \end{bmatrix}$	$K_{11}d_1 + K_{12}d_2 = 0$
$\begin{bmatrix} K_{21} & K_{22} \end{bmatrix} d_2 \end{bmatrix} F \int$	$\boldsymbol{K}_{21}\boldsymbol{d}_1 + \boldsymbol{K}_{22}\boldsymbol{d}_2 = \boldsymbol{F}$

Solving the first equation for d_1 gives: $d_1 = -K_{11}^{-1}K_{12}d_2$

Substituting the above equation in the second matrix equation gives: $K = K - \frac{1}{K} - \frac{1}{K$

$$K_{21}(-K_{11}^{-1}K_{12}d_2)+K_{22}d_2=F$$

Simplifying this expression gives:

$$\left(K_{22} - K_{21}K_{11}^{-1}K_{12}\right)d_2 = F$$

Symmetry and Bandwidth - Example 1

The previous equations can be written as: $k_c d_2 = F$

where: $k_c = K_{22} - K_{21}K_{11}^{-1}K_{12}$

Therefore, the displacements d_2 are: $d_2 = (k_c)^{-1} F$

If we apply this solution technique to our example global stiffness equations we get:

$$k_{c} = \frac{AE}{L} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{cases} -\frac{1}{2} \\ -\frac{1}{2} \end{cases} \end{bmatrix} \qquad \boxed{\frac{AE}{2L} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_{2} \\ v_{3} \\ v_{4} \end{bmatrix}} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ P \end{bmatrix}$$

Simplifying:

$$k_{c} = \frac{AE}{L} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} \right\} = \frac{AE}{L} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} \qquad (k_{c})^{-1} = \frac{2L}{AE}$$



Therefore, the displacements d_2 are: $d_2 = v_4 = -\frac{2PL}{AE}$

The remaining displacements can be found by substituting the result for v_4 in the global force-displacement equations.

$$\begin{cases} v_2 \\ v_3 \end{cases} = -\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} -\frac{1}{2} \\ -\frac{1}{2} \end{vmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{2PL}{AE} \end{bmatrix}$$

Expanding the above equations gives the values for the displacements.

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{V}_2 \\ \mathbf{V}_3 \end{cases} = \begin{cases} -\frac{PL}{AE} \\ -\frac{PL}{AE} \end{cases}$$

Symmetry and Bandwidth

The coefficient matrix (stiffness matrix) for the linear equations that occur in structural analysis is always symmetric and banded.

Because a meaningful analysis generally requires the use of a large number of variables, the implementation of compressed storage of the stiffness matrix is desirable both from the viewpoint of fitting into memory (immediate access portion of the computer) and computational efficiency.

Symmetry and Bandwidth Another method, based on the concept of the skyline of the stiffness matrix, is often used to improve the efficiency in solving the equations. The skyline is an envelope that begins with the first nonzero coefficient in each column of the stiffness matrix (see the following figure). In skyline, only the coefficients between the main diagonal and the skyline are stored. In general, this procedure takes even less storage space in the computer and is more efficient in terms of equation solving than the conventional banded format.







Execution time (primarily, equation-solving time) is a function of the number of equations to be solved.

Without using banded storage of global stiffness matrix K, the execution time is proportional to $(1/3)n^3$, where *n* is the number of equations to be solved.

Using banded storage of K, the execution time is proportional to $n(n_b)^2$

The ratio of time of execution without banded storage to that using banded storage is then $(1/3)(n/n_b)^2$





Several automatic node renumbering schemes have been computerized.

This option is available in most general-purpose computer programs. Alternatively, the *wavefront* or *frontal* method are popular for optimizing equation solution time.

In the *wavefront method*, elements, instead of nodes, are automatically renumbered.

In the *wavefront method* the assembly of the equations alternates with their solution by Gauss elimination.

The sequence in which the equations are processed is determined by element numbering rather than by node numbering.

The first equations eliminated are those associated with element 1 only.

Next the contributions to stiffness coefficients from the adjacent element, element 2, are eliminated.

If any additional degrees of freedom are contributed by elements 1 and 2 only these equations are eliminated (condensed) from the system of equations.

Symmetry and Bandwidth

As one or more additional elements make their contributions to the system of equations and additional degrees of freedom are contributed only by these elements, those degrees of freedom are eliminated from the solution.

This repetitive alternation between assembly and solution was initially seen as a *wavefront* that sweeps over the structure in a pattern determined by the element numbering.

The *wavefront method*, although somewhat more difficult to understand and to program than the banded-symmetric method, is computationally more efficient.

A banded solver stores and processes any blocks of zeros created in assembling the stiffness matrix.

These blocks of zero coefficients are not stored or processed using the wavefront method.

Many large-scale computer programs are now using the wavefront method to solve the system of equations.

Homework Problems

- 3b. Do problems **3.50** and **3.55** on pages 146 165 in your textbook "A First Course in the Finite Element Method" by D. Logan.
- 4. Use SAP2000 and solve problems **3.63** and **3.67**.





Homework Problems

b) For the 25-bar truss shown below, determine the displacements and elemental stresses. Nodes 7, 8, 9, and 10 are pin connections. Let $E = 10^7 psi$ and the $A = 2.0 in^2$ for the first story and $A = 1.0 in^2$ for the top story. Table 1 lists the coordinates for each node. Table 2 lists the values and directions of the two loads cases applied to the 25-bar space truss.



Node	x (<i>in</i>)	y (<i>in</i>)	z (<i>in</i>)
1	-37.5	0.0	200.0
2	37.5	0.0	200.0
3	-37.5	37.5	100.0
4	37.5	37.5	100.0
5	37.5	-37.5	100.0
6	-37.5	-37.5	100.0
7	-100.0	100.0	0.0
8	100.0	100.0	0.0
9	100.0	-100.0	0.0
10	-100.0	-100.0	0.0

Homework Problems

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Case Node $F_x(kip)$ $F_y(kip)$ $F_z(kip)$										
	1	1.0	10.0	-5.0						
	2	0.0	10.0	-5.0						
1	3	0.5	0.0	0.0						
	6	0.5	0.0	0.0						
•	-5.0									
2	2	0.0	-20.0	-5.0						
Note: 1	Note: 1 kip = 4.45 kN									

Homework Problems

c) For the 72-bar truss shown below, determine the displacements and elemental stresses. Nodes 1, 2, 3, and 4 are pin connections. Let $E = 10^7 psi$ and the $A = 1.0 in^2$ for the first two stories and $A = 0.5 in^2$ for the top two stories. Table 3 lists the values and directions of the two loads cases applied to the 72-bar space truss.



