CIVL 3121

Deflections

- Question: What are Structural Deflections?
- Answer: The deformations or movements of a structure and its components, such as beams and trusses, from their original positions.
- It is as important for the designer to determine deflections and strains as it is to know the stresses caused by loads.





Deflections

Deflection Diagrams and the Elastic Curve

- The ability to determine the deflection of a structure is very important.
- Deflection is caused by many sources, such as, loads, temperature, construction error, and settlements.
- It is important to include the calculation of deflections into the design procedure to prevent structural damage to secondary structures (concrete or plaster walls or roofs) or to solve indeterminate problems.

Deflections

Deflection Diagrams and the Elastic Curve

- In this section, we will learn to compute the deflection of *linear elastic* structures.
- An elastic structure is one that returns to its original position after the load is removed.
- Deflections are most often caused by *internal loadings* such as bending moment and axial force.



