

**Mathematics Lab Assessment No. 5**

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Division: A

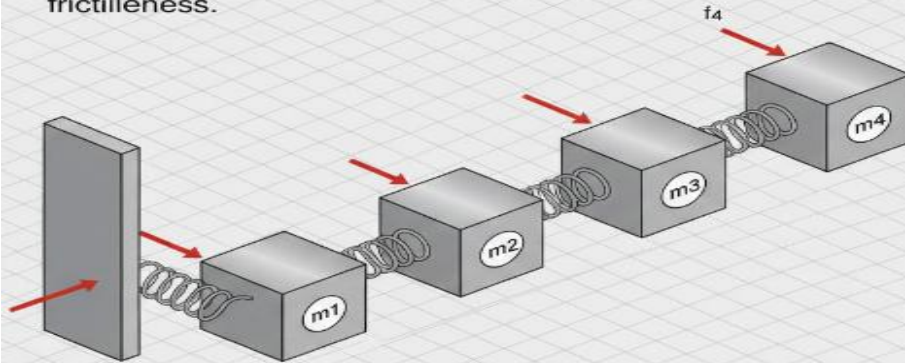
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Question

**Static Equilibrium Question**

Refer the diagram below showing a 4-mass system. All surfaces are frictionless.



- Given the following values:
- Spring Stiffnesses:  $k_1 = 20 \text{ N/m}$ ,  $k_2 = 20 \text{ N/m}$ ,  $k_3 = 30 \text{ N/m}$ ,  $k_4 = 30 \text{ N/m}$
- External Forces:  $f_1 = 15 \text{ N}$      $f_2 = 0 \text{ N}$      $f_3 = 0 \text{ N}$      $f_4 = 20 \text{ N}$

1. Construct the 4x4 Stiffness Matrix  $K$  for this system.
2. Calculate the displacement of each mass from its equilibrium position.

- Spring stiffnesses:  
 $k_1 = 20 \text{ N/m}$ ,  $k_2 = 20 \text{ N/m}$ ,  $k_3 = 30 \text{ N/m}$ ,  $k_4 = 30 \text{ N/m}$
- External forces:  
 $f_1 = 15 \text{ N}$ ,  $f_2 = 0$ ,  $f_3 = 0$ ,  $f_4 = 20 \text{ N}$

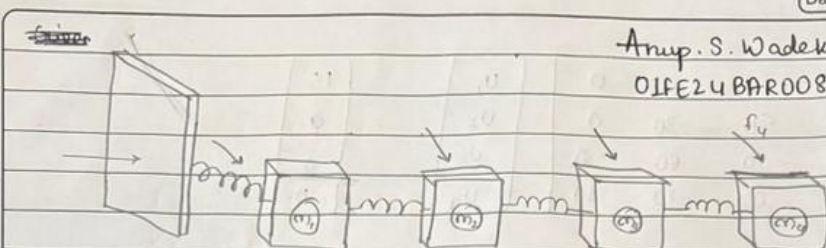
Solution	<p>i) Identify the parameters and mathematical concept</p> <p><b>System Parameters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of masses: 4 (<math>m_1, m_2, m_3, m_4</math>)</li> <li>• Springs: Linear elastic springs</li> <li>• Motion: One-dimensional (horizontal)</li> <li>• Surface: Frictionless</li> <li>• Unknown displacements:</li> </ul> $\{u\} = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ u_3 \\ u_4 \end{bmatrix}$ <p><b>External Force Vector</b></p> $\{F\} = \begin{bmatrix} 15 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 20 \end{bmatrix} \text{ N}$ <p><b>Mathematical Concept</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Static equilibrium of spring–mass systems</li> <li>• Linear algebra and matrix formulation</li> <li>• Governing equation:</li> </ul> $[K]\{u\} = \{F\}$ <p>Where  <math>[K]</math> is the global stiffness matrix.</p>

ii) Solve analytically

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Given

$k_1 = 20 \text{ N/m}$	$F_1 = 15 \text{ N}$
$k_2 = 20 \text{ N/m}$	$F_2 = 0 \text{ N}$
$k_3 = 30 \text{ N/m}$	$F_3 = 0 \text{ N}$
$k_4 = 30 \text{ N/m}$	$F_4 = 20 \text{ N}$

unknown displacements  
 $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$

force equilibrium eqn.

mass  $m_1$

$$F_1 = k_1 u_1 + k_2 (u_1 - u_2) \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

mass  $m_2$

$$F_2 = k_2 (u_2 - u_1) + k_3 (u_2 - u_3) \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

mass  $m_3$

$$F_3 = k_3 (u_3 - u_2) + k_4 (u_3 - u_4) \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

mass  $m_4$  (free end)

$$F_4 = k_4 (u_4 - u_3) \quad \text{--- (4)}$$

Stiffness matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} k_1 + k_2 & -k_2 & 0 & 0 \\ -k_2 & k_2 + k_3 & -k_3 & 0 \\ 0 & -k_3 & k_3 + k_4 & -k_4 \\ 0 & 0 & -k_4 & k_4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ u_3 \\ u_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} F_1 \\ F_2 \\ F_3 \\ F_4 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$\begin{bmatrix} 40 & -20 & 0 & 0 \\ -20 & 50 & -30 & 0 \\ 0 & -30 & 60 & -30 \\ 0 & 0 & -30 & 30 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ u_3 \\ u_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 15 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 20 \end{bmatrix}$$

Solve eqn.

eqn ④

$$30(u_4 - u_3) = 20$$

$$u_4 = u_3 + 0.667$$

eqn ③

$$-30u_2 + 60u_3 - 30(u_3 + 0.667) = 0$$

$$-30u_2 + 30u_3 = 20$$

$$u_3 = u_2 + 0.667$$

eqn ②

$$-20u_1 + 50u_2 - 30(u_2 + 0.667) = 0$$

$$-20u_1 + 20u_2 = 20 \Rightarrow u_2 = u_1 + 1$$

eqn ①

$$40u_1 - 20(u_1 + 1) = 15$$

$$20u_1 = 35 \Rightarrow u_1 = 1.75$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ u_3 \\ u_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1.75 \\ 2.75 \\ 3.42 \\ 4.08 \end{bmatrix}$$

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	iii) GeoGebra Screenshot / Program Execution

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```
import numpy as np

# Spring stiffness (N/m).
k1, k2, k3, k4 = 20, 20, 30, 30.

# Global stiffness matrix.
k = np.array([
    [k1+k2, -k2, 0, 0],
    [-k2, k2+k3, -k3, 0],
    [0, -k3, k3+k4, -k4],
    [0, 0, -k4, k4]
], dtype=float)

# Force vector (N)
f = np.array([15, 0, 0, 20], dtype=float).

# solve for displacements
x = np.linalg.solve(k, f).

Print("Stiffness matrix k:\n", k)
Print("\n force vector f:\n", f)
Print("\n displacement x(m):\n", x)
```



output

stiffness matrix  $k$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} 40, & -20, & 0, & 0 \\ -20, & 50, & -30, & 0 \\ 0, & -30, & 60, & -30 \\ 0, & 0, & -30, & 30 \end{bmatrix}$$

force vector  $f$ :

$$[15, 0, 0, 20]$$

displacement  $u$  (m):

$$[1.75, 2.75, 3.416, 4.083]$$

iv) Results and analysis from the graph

- Displacement increases progressively from  $m_1$  to  $m_4$
- Maximum displacement occurs at the free end due to applied force  $f_4$
- The system exhibits linear elastic behavior
- Static equilibrium condition is satisfied
- Results validate the stiffness matrix formulation

**Final Answer**

$$\{u\} = \begin{bmatrix} 1.750 \\ 2.750 \\ 3.420 \\ 4.083 \end{bmatrix} \text{ m}$$