

Structural Analysis: Moment Distribution Method

Given:

- Members A, B, C, D, E in the frame all have the same modulus of elasticity E and moment of inertia I .
- Supports A and E are pinned.
- Support D is fixed.
- Load on span BC = 4 kN/m.
- Point load on span DE = 9 kN.

Required:

- Determine the moments at the ends of each member using the moment distribution method.
- Draw the bending moment diagram of the frame.

Solution:

Step 1: Calculation of Fixed-End Moments (FEM)

For span AB (hinged at A):

Pin at A:

$$FEM_{AB} = 0 \text{ kNm}$$

$$FEM_{BA} = 0 \text{ kNm}$$

For span BC (uniform distributed load):

$$w = 4 \text{ kN/m}, L = 6 \text{ m}$$

$$FEM_{BC} = \frac{wL^2}{12} = \frac{4 \times 6^2}{12} = 12 \text{ kNm}$$

$$FEM_{CB} = -\frac{wL^2}{12} = -12 \text{ kNm}$$

For span CD (no load):

$$FEM_{CD} = 0 \text{ kNm}$$

$$FEM_{DC} = 0 \text{ kNm}$$

For span DE (point load in the middle):

$$P = 9 \text{ kN}, L = 4 \text{ m}$$

$$FEM_{DE} = \frac{PL}{8} = \frac{9 \times 4}{8} = 4.5 \text{ kNm}$$

$$FEM_{ED} = -\frac{PL}{8} = -4.5 \text{ kNm}$$

Step 2: Calculation of Stiffness Factors

$$\text{For a beam with both ends fixed, } k = \frac{4EI}{L}$$

$$\text{For a beam with one end pinned and one end fixed, } k = \frac{3EI}{L}$$

Span AB:

$$L = 6 \text{ m}$$

$$k_{AB} = 0 \text{ (simple support at A)}$$

$$k_{BA} = \frac{3EI}{6} = 0.5EI$$

Span BC:

$$L = 6 \text{ m}$$

$$k_{BC} = \frac{4EI}{6} = 0.6667EI$$

$$k_{CB} = \frac{4EI}{6} = 0.6667EI$$

Span CD:

$$L = 4 \text{ m}$$

$$k_{CD} = \frac{4EI}{4} = EI$$

$$k_{DC} = \frac{4EI}{4} = EI$$

Span DE:

$$L = 4 \text{ m}$$

$$k_{DE} = \frac{3EI}{4} = 0.75EI$$

$$k_{ED} = 0 \text{ (simple support at E)}$$

Step 3: Distribution Factors

The distribution factor (DF) is calculated for each end of the members:

$$DF_{BA} = \frac{k_{BA}}{k_{BA} + k_{BC}} = \frac{0.5EI}{0.5EI + 0.6667EI} = \frac{0.5}{1.1667} = 0.4285$$

$$DF_{BC} = \frac{0.6667EI}{1.1667EI} = 0.5714$$

$$\text{DF}_{CB} = \frac{k_{CB}}{k_{CB} + k_{CD}} = \frac{0.6667EI}{0.6667EI + EI} = \frac{0.6667}{1.6667} = 0.4$$

$$\text{DF}_{CD} = \frac{k_{CD}}{1.6667EI} \approx 0.6$$

$$\text{DF}_{DE} = 1, \text{DF}_{ED} = 0$$

Step 4: Moment Distribution Calculation

Iteration 1:

$$M_{BC} = 12 \text{ kNm}$$

$$M_{CB} = -12 \text{ kNm}$$

Carry-over moments to the near-end spans:

$$\text{Carry-over to AB} = M_{AB} = 0 \text{ kNm}$$

$$\text{Carry-over to BA} = 0$$

$$M_{CB} = -12 \text{ kNm}$$

$$\text{Carry-over to DC} = -6 \text{ kNm}$$

Iteration 2: (Balancing moment at each joint): Joint B:

$$M_B = 0$$

$$M_{BC} = 0$$

Joint C:

$$M_C = -6$$

Joint D:

$$M_{DE} = 4.5, ED = 6$$

Sum the Moments:

$$M_{AB}, A=0$$

$$M_{BC} = -12 \text{ kNm}$$

$$M_{CB} = 6 \text{ kNm}$$

$$M_{DE} = 6 \text{ kNm}$$

Step 5: Bending Moment Diagram

Once the moments at each end are determined, the remaining task is to plot them accordingly. **Final Summary:**

- $M_{AB} = -12 \text{ kNm}$
- $M_{CB} = 6 \text{ kNm}$
- $BA = 0 \text{ kNm}$
- $CD, DC = 0$