

1. Bending a flexure under torque

The bending moment is given by

$$M'(s) = \frac{dM}{ds} = F_w \sin \theta \approx F_w \theta \quad (1)$$

The derivative of the bending angle is given by

$$\theta'(s) = \frac{1}{EI} M(s) \longrightarrow \theta''(s) = \frac{1}{EI} M'(s) = \frac{F_w}{EI} \theta(s) \quad (2)$$

where we assume E and I to be constant along the flexure axis s . Using the ansatz $\theta(s) = A \exp(-s \nu) + B \exp(s \nu)$, we see $\theta''(s) = \nu^2 \theta(s)$, which leads to $\nu^2 = F_w/(EI)$. The first boundary condition is that $\theta = 0$, hence

$$\theta(0) = A + B = 0 \longrightarrow A = -B. \quad (3)$$

Hence

$$\theta(s) = A^* \sinh(s \nu) \text{ with } \nu = \left(\frac{F_w}{EI} \right)^{1/2}. \quad (4)$$

From (2) we obtain

$$M(s) = EI \theta(s)' = A^* \nu \cosh(s \nu). \quad (5)$$

Our second boundary condition is that $M(L) = \tau$, hence

$$M(L) = A^* \nu \cosh(L \nu) = \tau \longrightarrow A^* = \frac{\tau}{\nu \cosh(L \nu)}. \quad (6)$$

With that, we can calculate the torque that the flexure exerts on the fixed end. It is

$$M(0) = \frac{\tau}{\nu \cosh(L \nu)} \quad (7)$$

So, the complete solution is

$$\theta(s) = \frac{\tau}{\nu \cosh(L \nu)} \sinh(s \nu). \quad (8)$$

The x and y coordinates can be obtained by integrating out

$$x(s) = \int_0^s \cos(\theta(s^*)) ds^* \text{ and } y(s) = \int_0^s \sin(\theta(s^*)) ds^* \quad (9)$$

In the small-angle approximation, we find

$$x(s) = s + c_0 \text{ and } y(s) = \frac{\tau}{EI \nu^2 \cosh(L \nu)} (\cosh(s \nu) - 1) + c_1 \quad (10)$$

The integration constant c_0 is 0 because $x = 0$ corresponds to $s = 0$. The integration constant c_1 is obtained from $y(0) = 0$, which is true for $c_1 = 0$. Since $x = s$, the s in $y(s)$ can be replaced by x . Substituting ν^2 with $F_w/(EI)$ we obtain,

$$y(x) = \frac{\tau}{F_w \cosh(L \nu)} (\cosh(x \nu) - 1). \quad (11)$$

This equation is identical to the one that Clive obtained for $F = 0$.