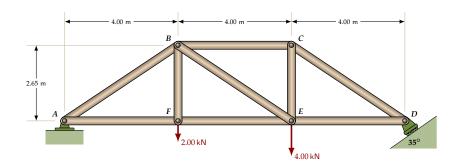
# Method of Joints — Step by Step Examples Engineering Statics

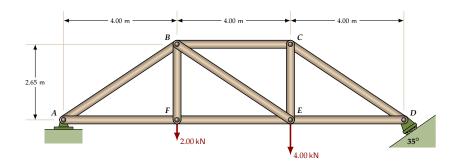
Last revision on August 11, 2025



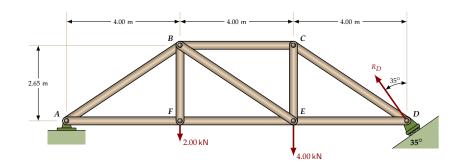
# Method of Joints: Example 1

The truss is supported by a pinned connection at A and a roller, inclined at  $35^{\circ}$  to the horizontal, at D.

Determine the internal force in each truss member due to the applied loads at E and F.



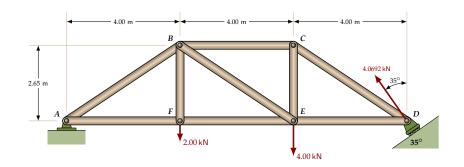
# Find the reaction at DTake moments of the external forces acting on the truss, about A:



#### Find the reaction at D

Take moments of the external forces acting on the truss, about A:

$$\sum\! M_A = R_D \cos 35^\circ \! \times \! 12.0 \, \mathrm{m} - 2.00 \, \mathrm{kN} \! \times \! 4.00 \, \mathrm{m} - 4.00 \, \mathrm{kN} \! \times \! 8.00 \, \mathrm{m} = 0$$

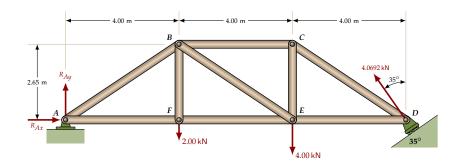


#### Find the reaction at D

Take moments of the external forces acting on the truss, about A:

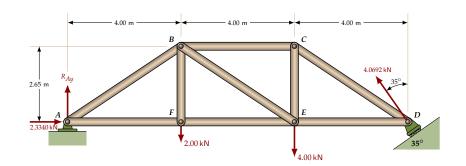
$$\sum\! M_A = R_D \cos 35^\circ \times 12.0\,\mathrm{m} - 2.00\,\mathrm{kN} \times 4.00\,\mathrm{m} - 4.00\,\,\mathrm{kN} \times 8.00\,\,\mathrm{m} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow R_D = \frac{40.0 \,\mathrm{kN} \cdot \mathrm{m}}{12.0 \,\mathrm{m} \times \cos 35^\circ}$$
$$= 4.0692 \,\mathrm{kN}$$



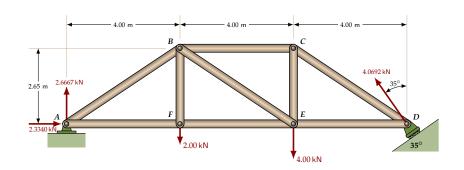
#### Find the reaction at A

**Note:** We could proceed to find all the forces in the truss members, working from D back to A, **without** finding the reaction at A. But the reaction at A is useful for a check – at the end of the problem – to make sure that we haven't made any errors along the way.



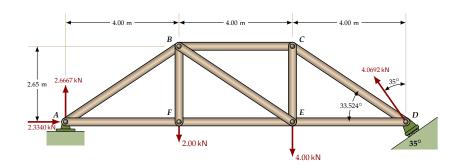
#### Find the reaction at A

$$\sum F_X = R_{Ax} - 4.0692 \sin 35^\circ \text{ kN} = 0$$
 
$$\Rightarrow R_{Ax} = 2.3340 \text{ kN}$$

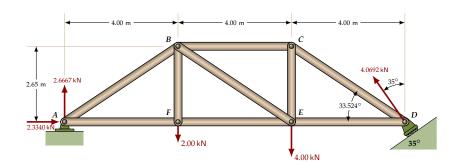


#### Find the reaction at A

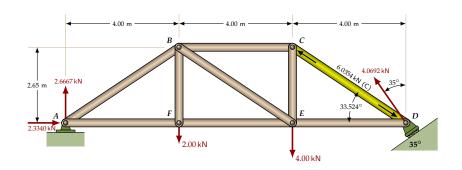
$$\begin{split} &\sum F_x = R_{Ax} - 4.0692 \sin 35^\circ \, \text{kN} = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow R_{Ax} = 2.3340 \, \text{kN} \\ &\sum F_y = R_{Ay} + 4.0692 \cos 35^\circ \, \text{kN} - 2.00 \, \text{kN} - 4.00 \, \text{kN} = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow R_{Ay} = 2.6667 \, \text{kN} \end{split}$$

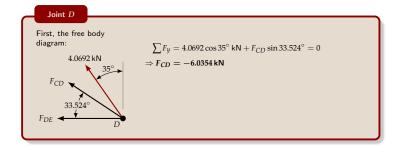


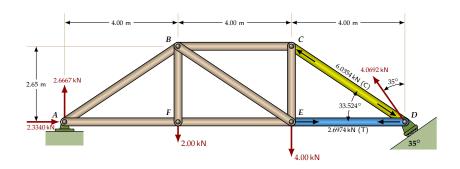
Find the truss angle 
$$\angle CDE = \tan^{-1} \left[ \frac{CE}{DE} \right]$$
 
$$= \tan^{-1} \left[ \frac{2.65 \text{ m}}{4.00 \text{ m}} \right]$$
 
$$= 33.524^{\circ}$$

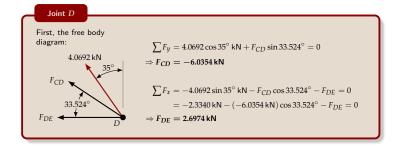


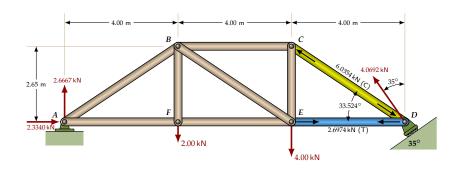




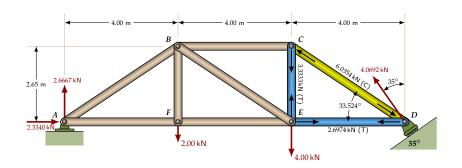


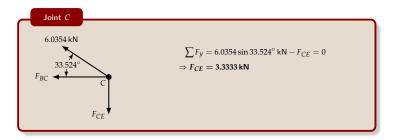


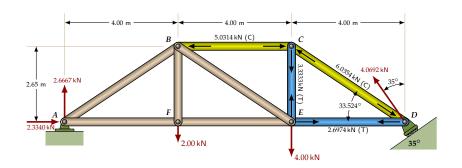


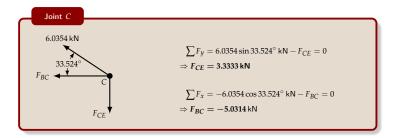


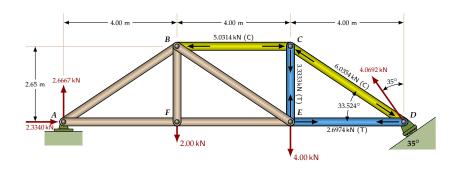




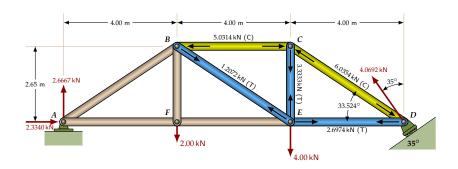


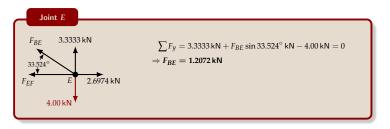


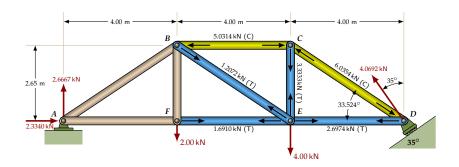


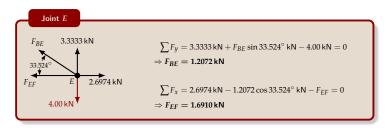


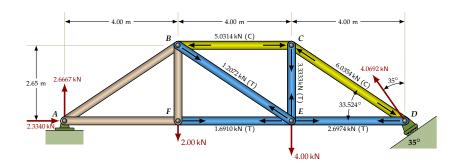




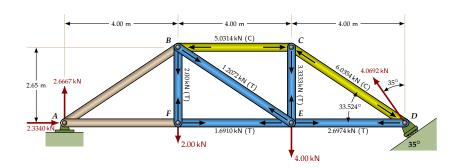


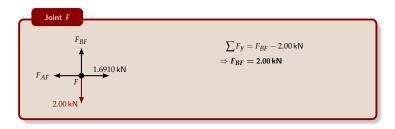


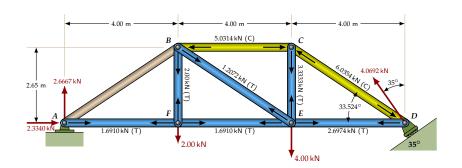


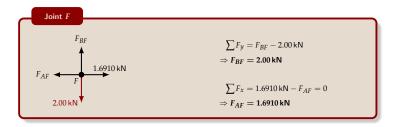


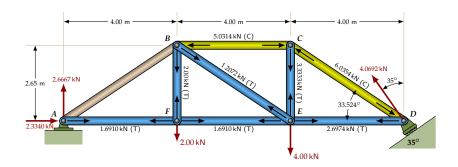




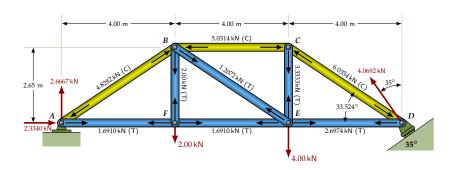


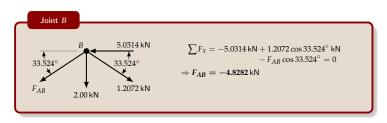


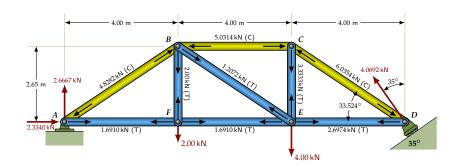


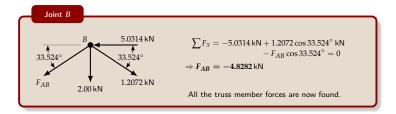


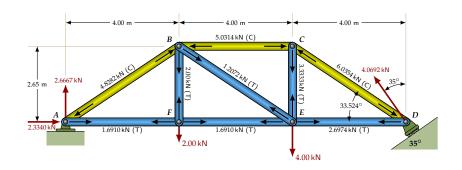


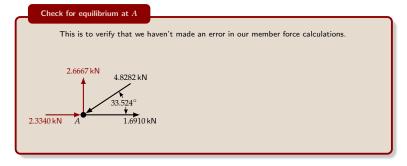


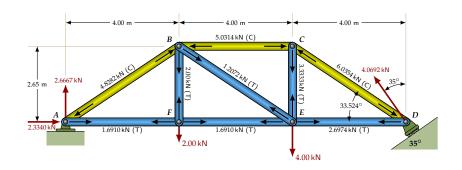


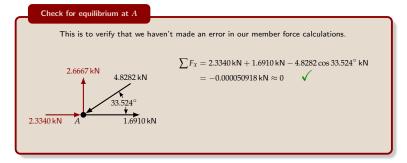


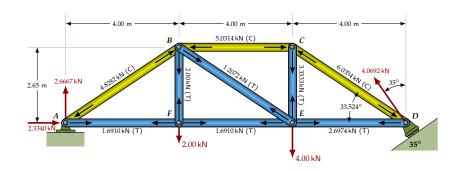


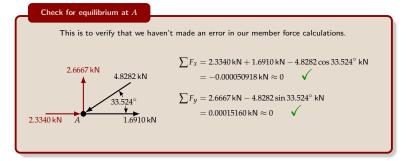


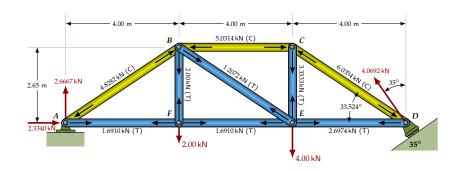


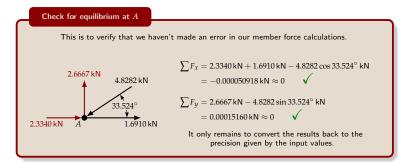


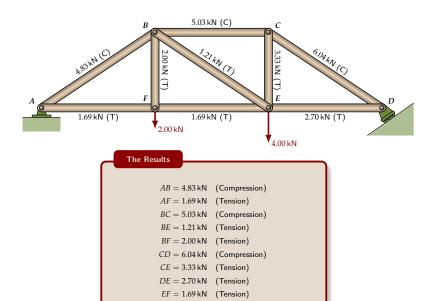


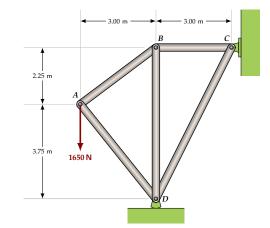






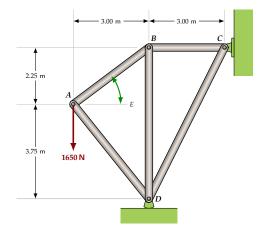


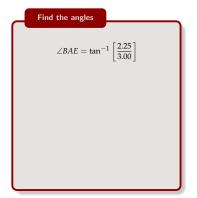


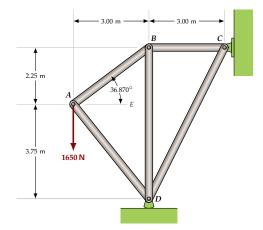


# Method of Joints: Example 2

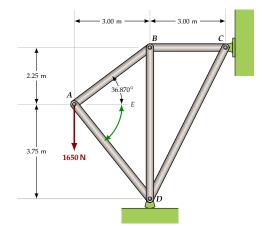
Solve for the internal forces in each of the truss members. Specify whether they are in tension or in compression. Then use the reactions at  ${\cal C}$  and  ${\cal D}$  to verify your results.





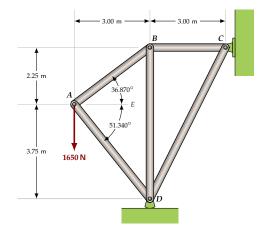






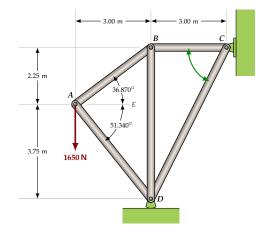
$$\angle BAE = \tan^{-1} \left[ \frac{2.25}{3.00} \right]$$
$$= 36.870^{\circ}$$

$$\angle DAE = \tan^{-1} \left[ \frac{3.75}{3.00} \right]$$



$$\angle BAE = \tan^{-1} \left[ \frac{2.25}{3.00} \right]$$
$$= 36.870^{\circ}$$

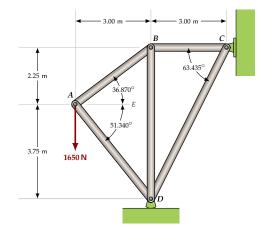
$$\angle DAE = \tan^{-1} \left[ \frac{3.75}{3.00} \right]$$
$$= 51.340^{\circ}$$



$$\angle BAE = \tan^{-1} \left[ \frac{2.25}{3.00} \right]$$
$$= 36.870^{\circ}$$

$$\angle DAE = \tan^{-1} \left[ \frac{3.75}{3.00} \right]$$
$$= 51.340^{\circ}$$

$$\angle BCD = \tan^{-1} \left[ \frac{6.00}{3.00} \right]$$



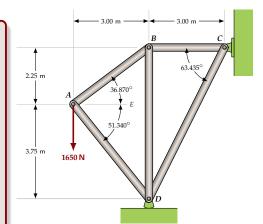
$$\angle BAE = \tan^{-1} \left[ \frac{2.25}{3.00} \right]$$
$$= 36.870^{\circ}$$

$$\angle DAE = \tan^{-1} \left[ \frac{3.75}{3.00} \right]$$
$$= 51.340^{\circ}$$

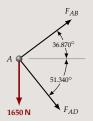
$$\angle BCD = \tan^{-1} \left[ \frac{6.00}{3.00} \right]$$
$$= 63.435^{\circ}$$

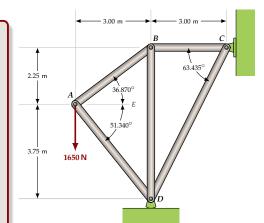
### $\mathsf{Joint}\ A$

Draw the unknown forces in tension, pointing away from the joint they are acting upon. Then a positive result means the member is in tension and a negative result implies compression.

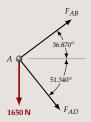


Draw the unknown forces in tension, pointing away from the joint they are acting upon. Then a positive result means the member is in tension and a negative result implies compression.

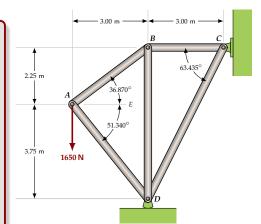




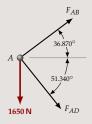
Draw the unknown forces in tension, pointing away from the joint they are acting upon. Then a positive result means the member is in tension and a negative result implies compression.



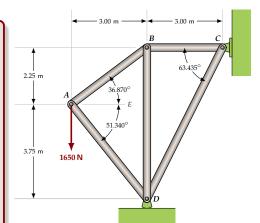
$$\sum F_x = F_{AB} \cos 36.870^\circ + F_{AD} \cos 51.430^\circ = 0$$



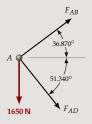
Draw the unknown forces in tension, pointing away from the joint they are acting upon. Then a positive result means the member is in tension and a negative result implies compression.



$$\sum F_X = F_{AB} \cos 36.870^\circ + F_{AD} \cos 51.430^\circ = 0$$
 
$$\sum F_Y = F_{AB} \sin 36.870^\circ - F_{AD} \sin 51.340^\circ - 1650 \, \text{N} = 0$$

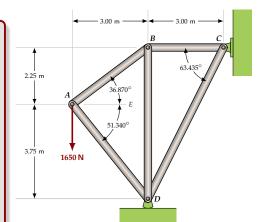


Draw the unknown forces in tension, pointing away from the joint they are acting upon. Then a positive result means the member is in tension and a negative result implies compression.

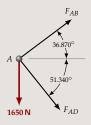


$$\begin{split} \sum F_x &= F_{AB} \cos 36.870^\circ + F_{AD} \cos 51.430^\circ = 0 \\ \sum F_y &= F_{AB} \sin 36.870^\circ - F_{AD} \sin 51.340^\circ - 1650 \, \text{N} = 0 \end{split}$$

Now, use the system-solver on your calculator to solve these two equations for  ${\cal F}_{AB}$  and  ${\cal F}_{AD}$ .



Draw the unknown forces in tension, pointing away from the joint they are acting upon. Then a positive result means the member is in tension and a negative result implies compression.

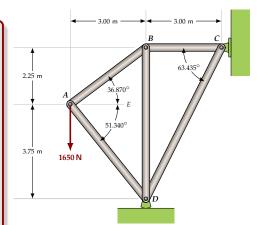


$$\sum F_x = F_{AB} \cos 36.870^\circ + F_{AD} \cos 51.430^\circ = 0$$

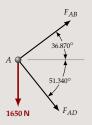
$$\sum F_y = F_{AB} \sin 36.870^\circ - F_{AD} \sin 51.340^\circ - 1650 \,\text{N} = 0$$

Now, use the **system-solver** on your calculator to solve these two equations for  $F_{AB}$  and  $F_{AD}$ .

$$F_{AB} = 1031.3 \, \text{N}$$
 and  $F_{AD} = -1320.6 \, \text{N}$ .



Draw the unknown forces in tension, pointing away from the joint they are acting upon. Then a positive result means the member is in tension and a negative result implies compression.

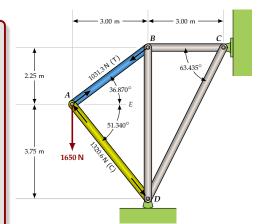


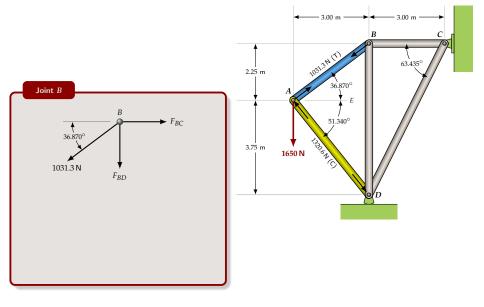
$$\begin{split} \sum F_x &= F_{AB} \cos 36.870^\circ + F_{AD} \cos 51.430^\circ = 0 \\ \sum F_y &= F_{AB} \sin 36.870^\circ - F_{AD} \sin 51.340^\circ - 1650 \, \mathrm{N} = 0 \end{split}$$

Now, use the **system-solver** on your calculator to solve these two equations for  $F_{AB}$  and  $F_{AD}$ .

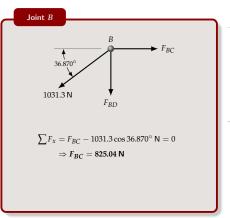
$$F_{AB} = 1031.3 \, \text{N}$$
 and  $F_{AD} = -1320.6 \, \text{N}$ .

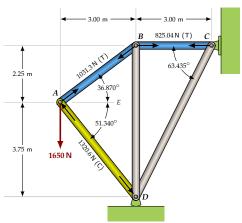
 $F_{AB}$  is positive, so member AB is in tension.  $F_{AD}$  is negative, so AD is in compression.

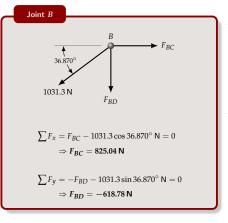


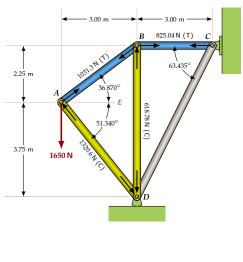


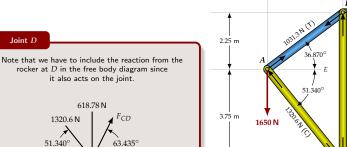
Example 2





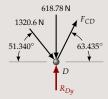




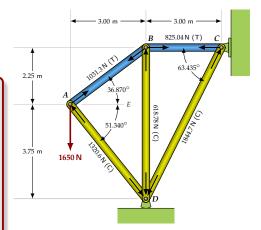


### Joint D

Note that we have to include the reaction from the rocker at D in the free body diagram since it also acts on the joint.

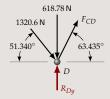


$$\begin{split} \sum F_X &= F_{CD} \cos 63.435^\circ + 1320.6 \cos 51.340^\circ \text{ N} = 0 \\ \Rightarrow F_{CD} &= -\frac{1320.6 \cos 51.340^\circ \text{ N}}{\cos 63.435^\circ} \\ \Rightarrow F_{CD} &= -1844.7 \text{ N} \end{split}$$



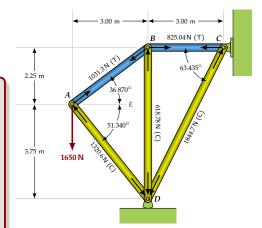
### ${\bf Joint}\ D$

Note that we have to include the reaction from the rocker at D in the free body diagram since it also acts on the joint.



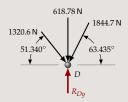
$$\begin{split} \sum F_x &= F_{CD} \cos 63.435^\circ + 1320.6 \cos 51.340^\circ \text{ N} = 0 \\ \Rightarrow F_{CD} &= -\frac{1320.6 \cos 51.340^\circ \text{ N}}{\cos 63.435^\circ} \\ \Rightarrow F_{CD} &= -1844.7 \text{ N} \end{split}$$

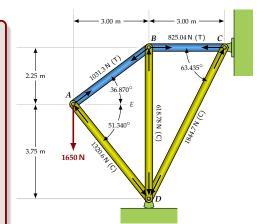
All the internal forces in the truss have now been found.



There are some checks we can make to ensure there are no errors in our calculations. We use moments and the summing of the reactions.

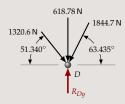
First, determine  $R_{Dy}$ , the *y*-component of the reaction at D (D is supported by a rocker and has no *x*-component):



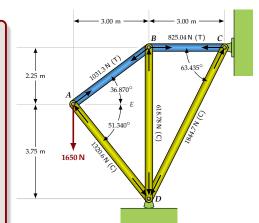


There are some checks we can make to ensure there are no errors in our calculations. We use moments and the summing of the reactions.

First, determine  $R_{Dy}$ , the *y*-component of the reaction at D (D is supported by a rocker and has no *x*-component):

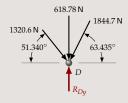


$$\sum F_y = R_{Dy} - 1320.6 \sin 51.340^{\circ} \text{ N} - 618.78 \text{ N}$$
 
$$- 1844.7 \sin 63.435^{\circ} \text{ N} = 0$$
 
$$\Rightarrow R_{Dy} = 3299.9 \text{ N}$$



There are some checks we can make to ensure there are no errors in our calculations. We use moments and the summing of the reactions.

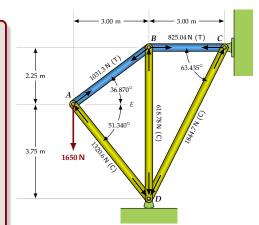
First, determine  $R_{Dy}$ , the y-component of the reaction at D (D is supported by a rocker and has no x-component):



$$\begin{split} \sum & F_y = R_{Dy} - 1320.6 \sin 51.340^\circ \text{ N} - 618.78 \text{ N} \\ & - 1844.7 \sin 63.435^\circ \text{ N} = 0 \\ \Rightarrow & R_{Dy} = 3299.9 \text{ N} \end{split}$$

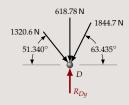
If we calculate  $R_{Dy}$  by taking moments about C of the external forces acting the truss, we get:

$$\begin{split} \sum & M_{C} = (1650 \text{ N}) \cdot (6.00 \text{ m}) - R_{Dy} \cdot (3.00 \text{ m}) = 0 \\ \Rightarrow & R_{Dy} = 3300 \text{ N} \quad \checkmark \end{split}$$



There are some checks we can make to ensure there are no errors in our calculations. We use moments and the summing of the reactions.

First, determine  $R_{Dy}$ , the y-component of the reaction at D (D is supported by a rocker and has no x-component):

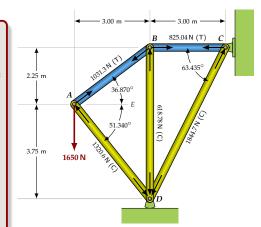


$$\sum F_y = R_{Dy} - 1320.6 \sin 51.340^{\circ} \text{ N} - 618.78 \text{ N}$$
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If we calculate  $R_{Dy}$  by taking moments about C of the external forces acting the truss, we get:

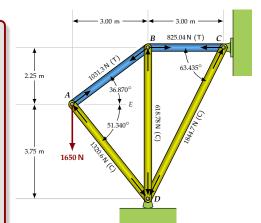
$$\sum M_{\rm C} = (1650 \, {\rm N}) \cdot (6.00 \, {\rm m}) - R_{Dy} \cdot (3.00 \, {\rm m}) = 0$$
 
$$\Rightarrow R_{Dy} = 3300 \, {\rm N} \quad \checkmark$$

Note: This is as expected from our previous calculation — apart from some rounding error in the fifth digit.



Notice that results from members AC, AB, BD and CD were incorporated into this check (since AB was used in the calculation of BD) so it is safe to assume that these results are correct.

But we have not checked member *BC*. We do that by summing all the external forces, and then investigating joint *C*.

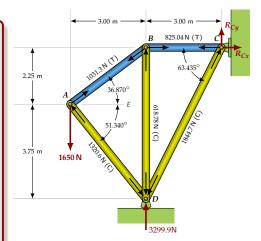


Notice that results from members AC, AB, BD and CD were incorporated into this check (since AB was used in the calculation of BD) so it is safe to assume that these results are correct.

But we have not checked member *BC*.

We do that by summing all the external forces, and then investigating joint *C*.

$$\begin{split} & \sum F_x = R_{Cx} = 0 \\ & \sum F_y = R_{Cy} + 3299.9 \text{ N} - 1650 \text{ N} \\ \Rightarrow R_{Cy} = -1649.9 \text{ N} \end{split}$$



Notice that results from members AC, AB, BD and CD were incorporated into this check (since AB was used in the calculation of BD) so it is safe to assume that these results are correct.

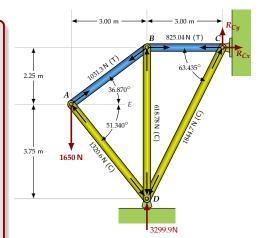
But we have not checked member *BC*.

We do that by summing all the external forces, and then investigating joint *C*.

$$\sum F_x = R_{Cx} = 0$$
 
$$\sum F_y = R_{Cy} + 3299.9 \text{ N} - 1650 \text{ N}$$
 
$$\Rightarrow R_{Cy} = -1649.9 \text{ N}$$

Now, examine joint C for equilibrium:





Notice that results from members AC, AB, BD and CD were incorporated into this check (since AB was used in the calculation of BD) so it is safe to assume that these results are correct.

But we have not checked member *BC*.

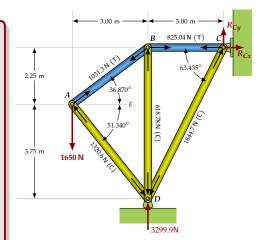
We do that by summing all the external forces, and then investigating joint *C*.

$$\sum F_x = R_{Cx} = 0$$
 
$$\sum F_y = R_{Cy} + 3299.9 \text{ N} - 1650 \text{ N}$$
 
$$\Rightarrow R_{Cy} = -1649.9 \text{ N}$$

Now, examine joint C for equilibrium:



$$\sum F_x = 1844.7 \cos 63.435^{\circ} \text{ N} - 825.04 \text{ N}$$
$$= -0.066554 \text{ N} \approx 0 \quad \checkmark$$



Notice that results from members AC, AB, BD and CD were incorporated into this check (since AB was used in the calculation of BD) so it is safe to assume that these results are correct.

But we have not checked member *BC*. We do that by summing all the external forces, and then investigating joint *C*.

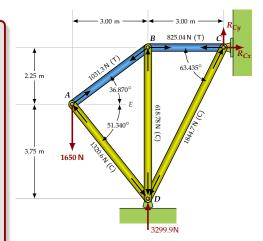
$$\sum F_x = R_{Cx} = 0$$
 
$$\sum F_y = R_{Cy} + 3299.9 \text{ N} - 1650 \text{ N}$$
 
$$\Rightarrow R_{Cy} = -1649.9 \text{ N}$$

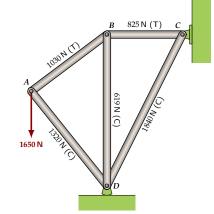
Now, examine joint  ${\cal C}$  for equilibrium:



$$\sum F_x = 1844.7 \cos 63.435^{\circ} \text{ N} - 825.04 \text{ N}$$
$$= -0.066554 \text{ N} \approx 0 \quad \checkmark$$

$$\sum F_y = 1844.7 \sin 63.435^\circ - 1649.9 \text{ N}$$
$$= 0.05057 \text{ N} \approx 0 \quad \checkmark$$





# The Results

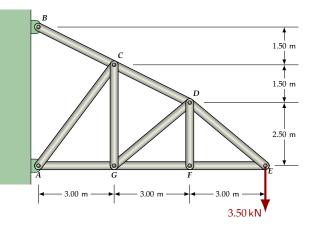
AB = 1030 N (Tension)

AC = 1320 N (Compression)

BC = 825 N (Tension)

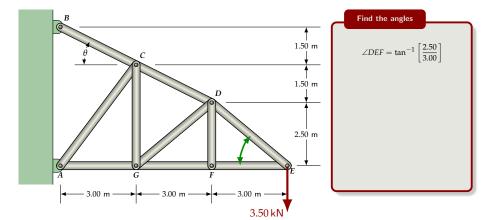
BD = 619 N (Compression)

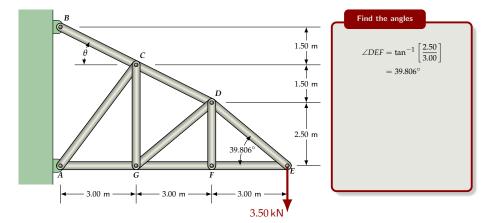
CD = 1840 N (Compression)

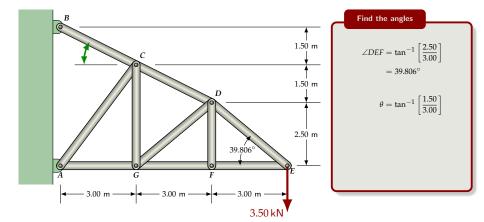


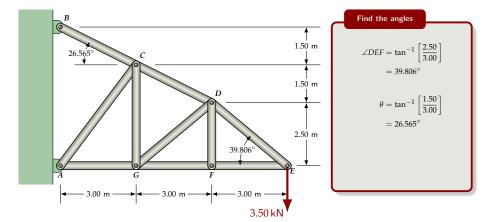
### Method of Joints: Example 3

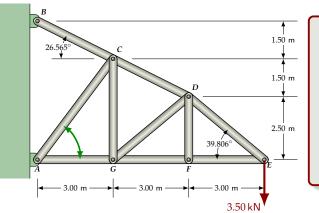
Analyze the truss above to determine the internal forces in each truss member. All connections are pinned.

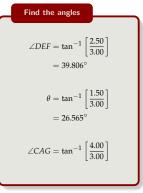


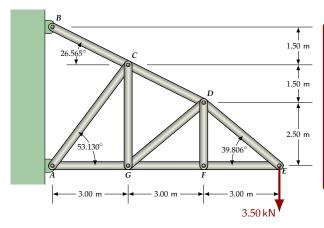


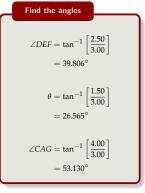


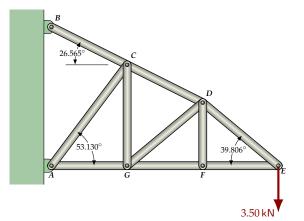












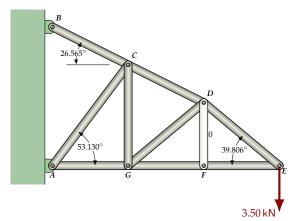
$$\angle DEF = \tan^{-1} \left[ \frac{2.50}{3.00} \right]$$
$$= 39.806^{\circ}$$

$$\theta = \tan^{-1} \left[ \frac{1.50}{3.00} \right]$$
$$= 26.565^{\circ}$$

$$\angle CAG = \tan^{-1} \left[ \frac{4.00}{3.00} \right]$$
$$= 53.130^{\circ}$$

### Notice:

1. By inspection, truss member DF is a **zero-force** member. (Consider the y-components acting at F.)



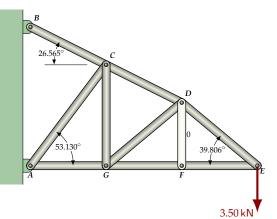
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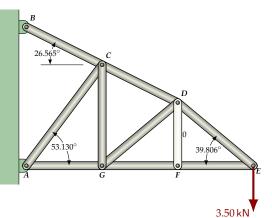
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## Notice:

- 1. By inspection, truss member DF is a **zero-force** member. (Consider the y-components acting at F.)
- 2. We can start at joint E and analyze the truss joints  $E \to F \to D \to G \to C$ , without calculating the reactions at A and B.



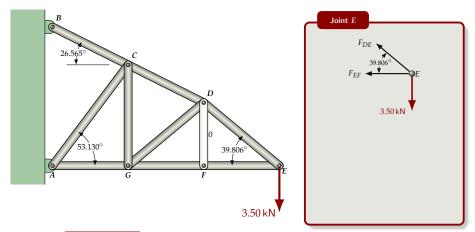
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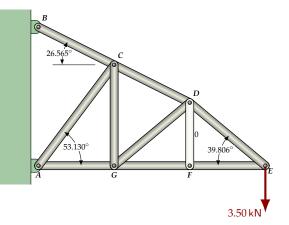
#### Notice:

- 1. By inspection, truss member DF is a **zero-force** member. (Consider the y-components acting at F.)
- We can start at joint E and analyze the truss joints E → F → D → G → C, without calculating the
  reactions at A and B.
- Finding the reactions at A and B is useful, however, to verify our results; if we have not made
  mistakes, then the sum of all forces acting at A (including the reaction) will equal 0. Similarly, the
  sum of all forces acting at B will equal 0.



### **Considerations:**

- 1. Draw a free body diagram (FBD) for each joint!
- Draw all unknown FBD forces (F<sub>DE</sub> and F<sub>DE</sub> in this case) in tension, pointing away from the joint. Then, a positive result indicates tension and a negative result indicates compression.



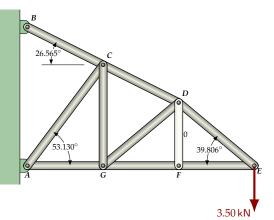




$$\sum F_y = F_{DE} \sin 39.806^\circ - 3.50 \,\mathrm{kN} = 0$$
 
$$\Rightarrow F_{DE} = 5.4671 \,\mathrm{kN}$$

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- Draw all unknown FBD forces (F<sub>DE</sub> and F<sub>DE</sub> in this case) in tension, pointing away from the joint. Then, a positive result indicates tension and a negative result indicates compression.
- 3. Sum the y-components first, so that we have only one variable  $(F_{DE})$  and can find it directly.



#### Joint E

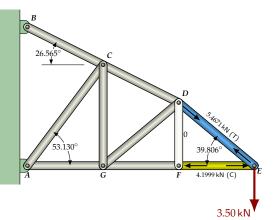


$$\sum F_y = F_{DE} \sin 39.806^{\circ} - 3.50 \text{ kN} = 0$$
 
$$\Rightarrow F_{DE} = 5.4671 \text{ kN}$$

$$\sum F_x = -F_{DE}\cos 39.806^\circ - F_{EF} = 0$$
  
$$\Rightarrow F_{EF} = -5.4671\cos 39.806^\circ \text{ kN}$$
  
$$= -4.1999 \text{ kN}$$

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#### Joint E

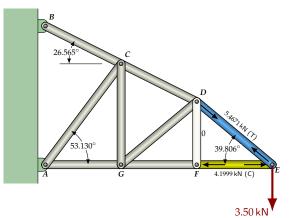


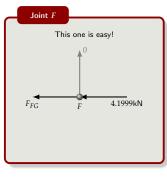
$$\sum F_y = F_{DE} \sin 39.806^\circ - 3.50 \, \mathrm{kN} = 0$$
 
$$\Rightarrow F_{DE} = 5.4671 \, \mathrm{kN}$$

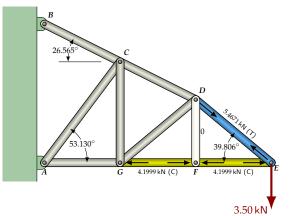
$$\sum F_x = -F_{DE}\cos 39.806^{\circ} - F_{EF} = 0$$
  
$$\Rightarrow F_{EF} = -5.4671\cos 39.806^{\circ} \text{ kN}$$
  
$$= -4.1999 \text{ kN}$$

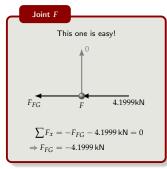
### Considerations:

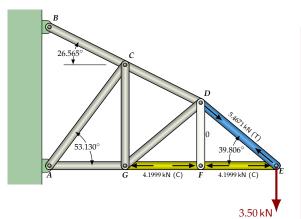
- 1. Draw a free body diagram (FBD) for each joint!
- Draw all unknown FBD forces (F<sub>DE</sub> and F<sub>DE</sub> in this case) in tension, pointing away from the joint. Then, a positive result indicates tension and a negative result indicates compression.
- 3. Sum the y-components first, so that we have only one variable  $(F_{DE})$  and can find it directly.
- Maintain all 5 working significant digits (or more) for now to reduce the accumulation of rounding errors.

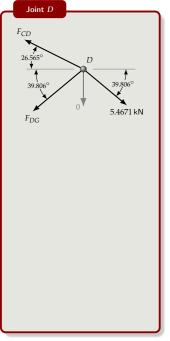


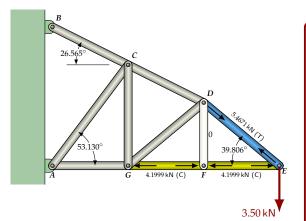


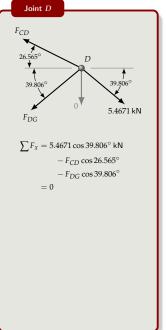


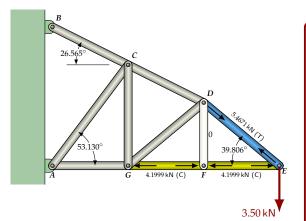


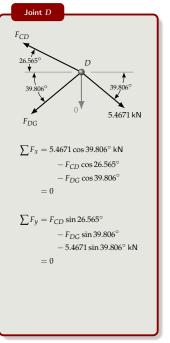


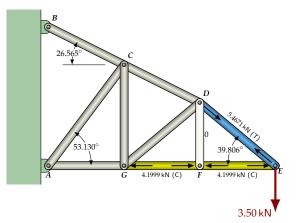




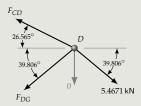












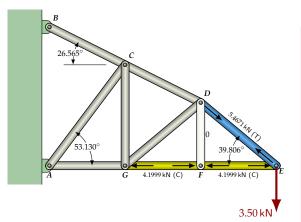
$$\sum F_x = 5.4671\cos 39.806^{\circ} \text{ kN} \\ -F_{CD}\cos 26.565^{\circ} \\ -F_{DG}\cos 39.806^{\circ}$$

$$\sum F_y = F_{CD} \sin 26.565^\circ$$
$$-F_{DG} \sin 39.806^\circ$$

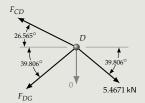
$$= 0$$

Now, use the  ${\bf system\text{-}solver}$  on your calculator to solve these two equations for  $F_{CD}$  and  $F_{DG}.$ 

- 5.4671 sin 39.806° kN



## ${\bf Joint}\ D$



$$\begin{split} \sum F_x &= 5.4671\cos 39.806^\circ \text{ kN} \\ &- F_{CD}\cos 26.565^\circ \\ &- F_{DG}\cos 39.806^\circ \end{split}$$

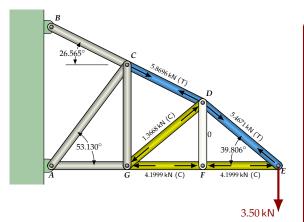
= 0

$$\sum F_y = F_{CD} \sin 26.565^{\circ}$$
$$-F_{DG} \sin 39.806^{\circ}$$

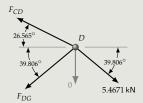
 $-5.4671 \sin 39.806^{\circ} \text{ kN}$ = 0

Now, use the **system-solver** on your calculator to solve these two equations for  $F_{CD}$  and  $F_{DG}$ .

$$F_{CD} = 5.8696 \, \mathrm{kN}, \, F_{DG} = -1.3668 \, \mathrm{kN}$$



## ${\bf Joint}\ D$



$$\sum F_x = 5.4671\cos 39.806^{\circ} \text{ kN} \\ -F_{CD}\cos 26.565^{\circ} \\ -F_{DG}\cos 39.806^{\circ}$$

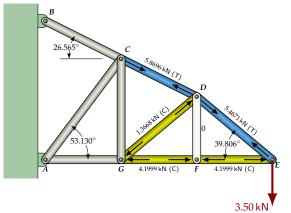
= 0

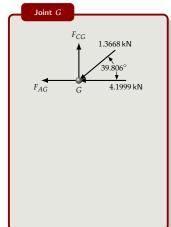
$$\sum F_y = F_{CD} \sin 26.565^\circ$$
$$-F_{DG} \sin 39.806^\circ$$

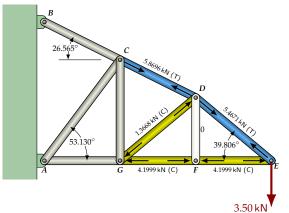
 $-5.4671 \sin 39.806^{\circ} \text{ kN}$ = 0

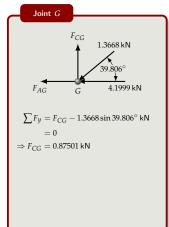
Now, use the  $\mbox{system-solver}$  on your calculator to solve these two equations for  $F_{CD}$  and  $F_{DG}.$ 

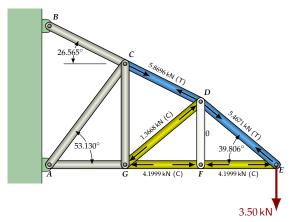
$$F_{CD} = 5.8696 \,\mathrm{kN}, \, F_{DG} = -1.3668 \,\mathrm{kN}$$

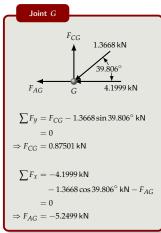


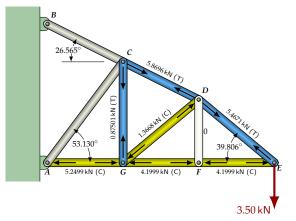


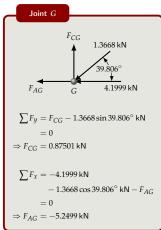


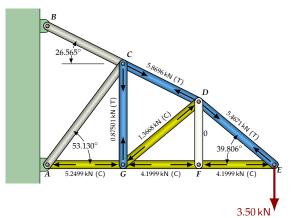


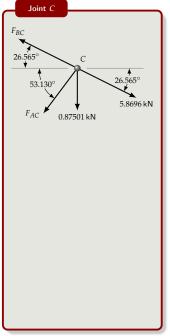


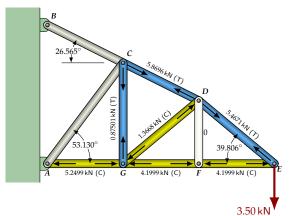


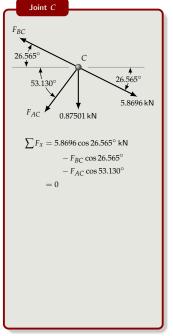


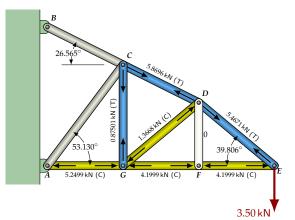


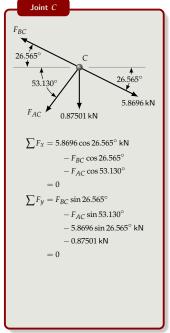


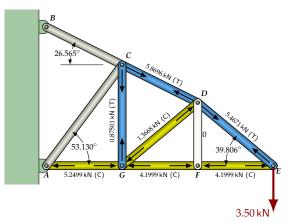


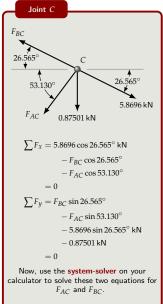


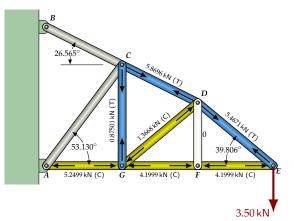


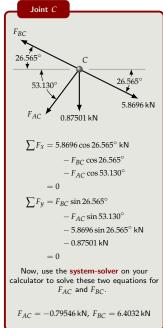


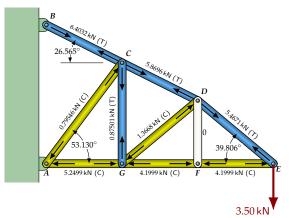


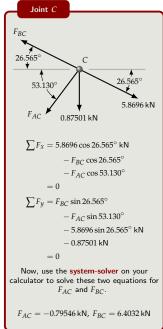


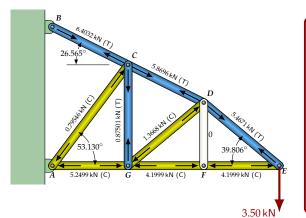




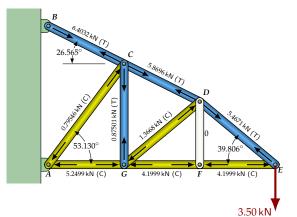








Inputs (lengths and the load at E) were accurate to 3 significant digits so our results can be no more accurate than this:



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AB = 0.795 kN (Compression)

 $AG = 5.25 \,\mathrm{kN}$  (Compression)

BC = 6.40 kN (Tension)CD = 5.87 kN (Tension)

 $CG = 0.875 \,\mathrm{kN}$  (Tension)

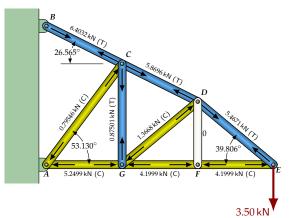
 $DE = 5.47 \, \text{kN} \, \text{(Tension)}$ 

DF = 0

 $DG = 1.37 \, \text{kN (Compression)}$ 

 $\mathit{EF} = 4.20\,\mathrm{kN}$  (Compression)

 $FG = 4.20 \,\mathrm{kN}$  (Compression)



Inputs (lengths and the load at E) were accurate to 3 significant digits so our results can be no more accurate than this:

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 $CD = 5.87 \,\mathrm{kN} \,\,(\mathrm{Tension})$ 

 $CG = 0.875 \,\mathrm{kN}$  (Tension)

 $DE = 5.47 \, \text{kN} \, \text{(Tension)}$ 

DF = 0

 $DG = 1.37 \, \mathrm{kN}$  (Compression)

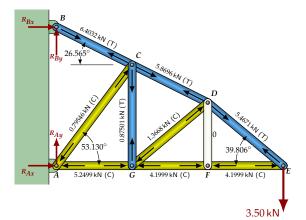
 $EF = 4.20 \,\text{kN} \, \text{(Compression)}$ 

FG = 4.20 kN (Compression)

#### But are these correct?

We could easily have made an error in a truss member calculation, causing most or all subsequent results to be incorrect.

Let's do a check. We can calculate the reactions at A and B, then check that all external forces acting on the truss do actually sum to zero in the x and y directions.



Inputs (lengths and the load at E) were accurate to 3 significant digits so our results can be no more accurate than this:

AB = 0.795 kN (Compression)

 $AG = 5.25 \,\mathrm{kN}$  (Compression)

 $BC = 6.40 \, \mathrm{kN}$  (Tension)

 $CD = 5.87 \,\mathrm{kN}$  (Tension)  $CG = 0.875 \,\mathrm{kN}$  (Tension)

DE = 5.47 kN (Tension)

DF = 0

 $DG = 1.37 \,\mathrm{kN}$  (Compression)

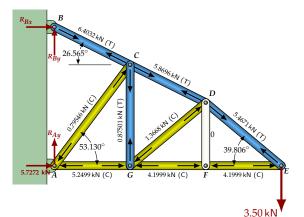
 $EF = 4.20 \, \text{kN} \, \text{(Compression)}$ 

 $FG = 4.20 \,\text{kN} \, \text{(Compression)}$ 

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AB = 0.795 kN (Compression)

 $AG = 5.25 \, \mathrm{kN}$  (Compression)

 $BC = 6.40 \, \mathrm{kN}$  (Tension)

 $CD = 5.87 \,\mathrm{kN}$  (Tension)  $CG = 0.875 \,\mathrm{kN}$  (Tension)

 $DE = 5.47 \, \text{kN} \, \text{(Tension)}$ 

DF = 0

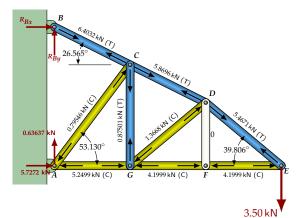
 $DG = 1.37 \, \mathrm{kN}$  (Compression)

 $EF = 4.20 \,\text{kN} \, \text{(Compression)}$ 

 $FG = 4.20 \, \text{kN}$  (Compression)

## Reaction at A

$$\sum F_X = R_{Ax} - 0.79546\cos 53.130^\circ \ {\rm kN} - 5.2499 \ {\rm kN} = 0$$
 
$$\Rightarrow R_{Ax} = 5.7272 \ {\rm kN}$$



Inputs (lengths and the load at E) were accurate to 3 significant digits so our results can be no more accurate than this:

$$AB = 0.795$$
 kN (Compression)

$$AG = 5.25 \, \mathrm{kN}$$
 (Compression)

$$BC = 6.40 \text{ kN (Tension)}$$
  
 $CD = 5.87 \text{ kN (Tension)}$ 

$$CG = 0.875 \, \text{kN (Tension)}$$

$$DE = 5.47 \, \text{kN} \, \text{(Tension)}$$

$$DF = 0$$

$$DG = 1.37 \,\mathrm{kN}$$
 (Compression)

$$EF = 4.20 \, \text{kN} \, \text{(Compression)}$$

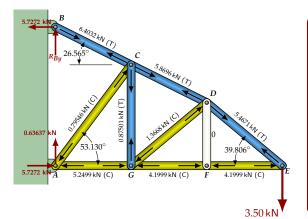
$$FG = 4.20 \text{ kN (Compression)}$$

#### Reaction at A

$$\sum F_X = R_{AX} - 0.79546 \cos 53.130^\circ \text{ kN} - 5.2499 \text{ kN} = 0$$
 
$$\Rightarrow R_{AX} = 5.7272 \text{ kN}$$

$$\sum F_y = R_{Ay} - 0.79546 \sin 53.130^\circ \, \text{kN} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow R_{Ay} = 0.63637 \,\mathrm{kN}$$



Inputs (lengths and the load at E) were accurate to 3 significant digits so our results can be no more accurate than this:

$$AB = 0.795$$
 kN (Compression)

$$AG = 5.25 \, \mathrm{kN}$$
 (Compression)

$$BC = 6.40 \,\mathrm{kN}$$
 (Tension)

$$CD = 5.87 \,\mathrm{kN} \,\,\mathrm{(Tension)}$$

$$CG = 0.875 \, \mathrm{kN}$$
 (Tension)

$$DE = 5.47 \,\mathrm{kN}$$
 (Tension)

$$DF = 0$$

$$DG = 1.37 \,\mathrm{kN}$$
 (Compression)

$$EF = 4.20 \, \text{kN} \, \text{(Compression)}$$

$$FG = 4.20 \,\mathrm{kN}$$
 (Compression)

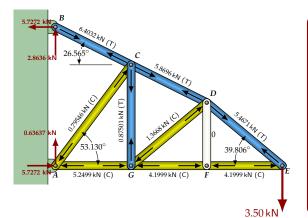
### Reaction at A

$$\sum F_x = R_{Ax} - 0.79546 \cos 53.130^{\circ} \text{ kN} - 5.2499 \text{ kN} = 0$$
 
$$\Rightarrow R_{Ax} = 5.7272 \text{ kN}$$

$$\sum F_y = R_{Ay} - 0.79546 \sin 53.130^\circ \text{ kN} = 0$$
 
$$\Rightarrow R_{Ay} = 0.63637 \text{ kN}$$

# Reaction at B

$$\sum F_x = R_{Bx} + 6.4032 \cos 26.565^{\circ} \text{ kN} = 0$$
  
 $\Rightarrow R_{Bx} = -5.7272 \text{ kN}$ 



Inputs (lengths and the load at E) were accurate to 3 significant digits so our results can be no more accurate than this:

$$AB = 0.795$$
 kN (Compression)

$$AG = 5.25 \, \mathrm{kN}$$
 (Compression)

$$BC = 6.40 \, \mathrm{kN}$$
 (Tension)

$$CD = 5.87 \, \mathrm{kN}$$
 (Tension)

$$CG = 0.875 \,\mathrm{kN}$$
 (Tension)

$$DE = 5.47 \,\mathrm{kN}$$
 (Tension)

$$DF = 0$$

$$DG = 1.37 \,\mathrm{kN}$$
 (Compression)

$$\mathit{EF} = 4.20\,\mathrm{kN}$$
 (Compression)

$$FG = 4.20\,\mathrm{kN}$$
 (Compression)

### Reaction at A

$$\sum F_x = R_{Ax} - 0.79546 \cos 53.130^{\circ} \text{ kN} - 5.2499 \text{ kN} = 0$$
 
$$\Rightarrow R_{Ax} = 5.7272 \text{ kN}$$

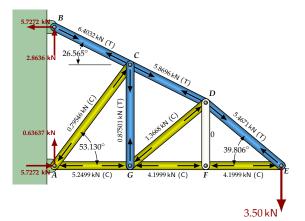
$$\sum F_{y} = R_{Ay} - 0.79546 \sin 53.130^{\circ} \text{ kN} = 0$$
 
$$\Rightarrow R_{Ay} = 0.63637 \text{ kN}$$

## Reaction at B

$$\sum F_x = R_{Bx} + 6.4032 \cos 26.565^{\circ} \text{ kN} = 0$$
  

$$\Rightarrow R_{Bx} = -5.7272 \text{ kN}$$

$$\sum F_y = R_{By} - 6.4032 \sin 26.565 \, \text{kN} = 0$$
 
$$\Rightarrow R_{By} = 2.8636 \, \text{kN}$$



Inputs (lengths and the load at E) were accurate to 3 significant digits so our results can be no more accurate than this:

$$AB = 0.795$$
 kN (Compression)

$$AG = 5.25 \,\mathrm{kN}$$
 (Compression)

$$BC = 6.40 \, \mathrm{kN}$$
 (Tension)

$$CD = 5.87 \, \mathrm{kN}$$
 (Tension)

$$CG = 0.875 \, \mathrm{kN}$$
 (Tension)

$$DE = 5.47 \, \text{kN} \, \text{(Tension)}$$

$$DF = 0$$

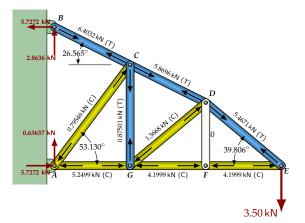
$$DG = 1.37 \, \mathrm{kN}$$
 (Compression)

$$EF = 4.20 \, \text{kN} \, \text{(Compression)}$$

$$FG = 4.20 \,\mathrm{kN}$$
 (Compression)

### The final check!

$$\sum F_x = R_{Ax} + R_{Bx} = 5.7272 \,\text{kN} - 5.7272 \,\text{kN} = 0$$



Inputs (lengths and the load at E) were accurate to 3 significant digits so our results can be no more accurate than this:

$$AB = 0.795$$
 kN (Compression)

$$AG = 5.25 \,\mathrm{kN}$$
 (Compression)

$$BC = 6.40 \, \mathrm{kN}$$
 (Tension)

$$CD = 5.87 \, \mathrm{kN}$$
 (Tension)

$$CG = 0.875 \, \mathrm{kN}$$
 (Tension)

$$DE = 5.47 \, \text{kN} \, \text{(Tension)}$$

$$DF = 0$$

$$DG = 1.37 \,\mathrm{kN}$$
 (Compression)

$$EF = 4.20 \, \text{kN} \, \text{(Compression)}$$

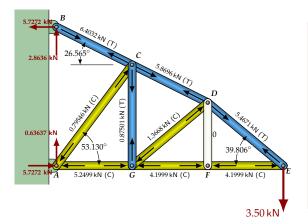
$$EF = 4.20 \text{ kiN (Compression)}$$

## $FG = 4.20 \,\mathrm{kN}$ (Compression)

# The final check!

$$\sum F_x = R_{Ax} + R_{Bx} = 5.7272 \,\text{kN} - 5.7272 \,\text{kN} = 0$$

$$\sum F_y = R_{Ay} + R_{By} - 3.50 \,\mathrm{kN} = 0.63637 \,\mathrm{kN} - 2.8636 \,\mathrm{kN} - 3.50 \,\mathrm{kN} = -0.00003 \,\mathrm{kN}$$



Inputs (lengths and the load at E) were accurate to 3 significant digits so our results can be no more accurate than this:

$$AB = 0.795$$
 kN (Compression)

$$AG = 5.25 \,\mathrm{kN}$$
 (Compression)

$$BC = 6.40 \,\mathrm{kN}$$
 (Tension)

$$CD = 5.87 \,\mathrm{kN} \,\,\mathrm{(Tension)}$$

$$CG = 0.875 \, \mathrm{kN}$$
 (Tension)

$$DE = 5.47 \,\mathrm{kN}$$
 (Tension)

$$DF = 0$$

$$DG = 1.37 \,\mathrm{kN}$$
 (Compression)

$$EF = 4.20 \, \text{kN} \, \text{(Compression)}$$

$$EF = 4.20 \text{ kiN (Compression)}$$

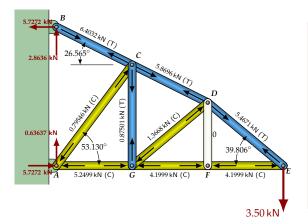
$$FG = 4.20 \, \mathrm{kN}$$
 (Compression)

# The final check!

$$\sum F_x = R_{Ax} + R_{Bx} = 5.7272 \,\text{kN} - 5.7272 \,\text{kN} = 0$$

$$\sum F_y = R_{Ay} + R_{By} - 3.50 \text{ kN} = 0.63637 \text{ kN} - 2.8636 \text{ kN} - 3.50 \text{ kN} = -0.00003 \text{ kN}$$

**Note:** We could also check by taking moments about C or D. (Taking moments about E,F,G or A would not pick up any errors in  $R_{Ax}$ . Moments about A or B would not pick up errors in  $R_{By}$  or  $R_{Ay}$ .)



Inputs (lengths and the load at E) were accurate to 3 significant digits so our results can be no more accurate than this:

$$AB = 0.795$$
 kN (Compression)

$$AG = 5.25 \,\mathrm{kN}$$
 (Compression)

$$BC = 6.40 \,\mathrm{kN}$$
 (Tension)

$$CD = 5.87 \,\mathrm{kN} \,\,\mathrm{(Tension)}$$

$$CG = 0.875 \, \mathrm{kN}$$
 (Tension)

$$DE = 5.47 \,\mathrm{kN}$$
 (Tension)

$$DF = 0$$

$$DG = 1.37 \,\mathrm{kN}$$
 (Compression)

$$EF = 4.20 \, \text{kN} \, \text{(Compression)}$$

$$EF = 4.20 \text{ kiN (Compression)}$$

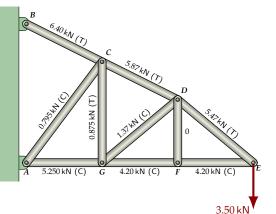
$$FG = 4.20 \, \mathrm{kN}$$
 (Compression)

# The final check!

$$\sum F_x = R_{Ax} + R_{Bx} = 5.7272 \,\text{kN} - 5.7272 \,\text{kN} = 0$$

$$\sum F_y = R_{Ay} + R_{By} - 3.50 \text{ kN} = 0.63637 \text{ kN} - 2.8636 \text{ kN} - 3.50 \text{ kN} = -0.00003 \text{ kN}$$

**Note:** We could also check by taking moments about C or D. (Taking moments about E,F,G or A would not pick up any errors in  $R_{Ax}$ . Moments about A or B would not pick up errors in  $R_{By}$  or  $R_{Ay}$ .)



# The Results

 $AB = 0.795 \,\mathrm{kN}$  (Compression)

 $AG = 5.25 \,\mathrm{kN}$  (Compression)

 $BC = 6.40 \,\mathrm{kN}$  (Tension)

 $CD = 5.87 \, \text{kN} \, \text{(Tension)}$ 

 $CG = 0.875 \,\mathrm{kN}$  (Tension)

 $DE = 5.47 \,\mathrm{kN}$  (Tension)

DF = 0

 $DG = 1.37 \,\mathrm{kN}$  (Compression)

 $EF = 4.20 \, \text{kN}$  (Compression)

 $FG = 4.20 \,\mathrm{kN}$  (Compression)