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Frames versus Machines



General Procedure for the Analysis of Frames and Machines

- Draw a Free Body Diagram (FBD) of the entire structure isolated from its supports and apply equations of equilibrium (usually this step is not required for machines);
- Draw a Free Body Diagram (FBD) of each piece of the structure;
 - Identify pieces that are two-force members,
 - When separating pieces, forces at connections are equal and opposite on each piece,
 - Show all known support reactions from the previous step.
- Apply Equations of Equilibrium to each piece and solve for all unknown forces;
 - Usually there is one piece that is easiest to start the analysis,
 - Analyze the next piece and show all known forces found from the previous analyses,
 - Repeat this step until all unknown forces are found,
 - If the last piece is not in equilibrium, most likely there was an error made in the preceding analyses.

FBDs of Members Cut at Internal Pin Connections

