

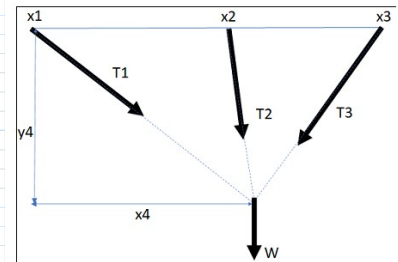
Statics by vectors

ORIGIN := 1

Let's define a 3D coordinate system, the origin is at x1 in the sketch.

Three unit vectors (for x, y, and z) are  $i := \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $j := \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ , and  $k := \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ . x

is positive to the right, y is positive up, and z is positive out of the page.  
(The sketch is looking at the XY plane.)



$ii := 1 \dots 3$   $ij := 1 \dots 4$

$$XY := \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 7 & 0 & 0 \\ 5 & -3 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$Wm := 1000$

$Crd_{ij} := \langle XY^T \rangle^{(ij)}$  3D coordinates for the three T forces and the weight W

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} \quad Crd^T = \begin{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

We'll define direction unit vectors for the three tensions, and another for the weight W. The direction of the tension vectors is such that a positive value is positive in the coordinate system.

$$dr_{ii} := \frac{Crd_{ii} - Crd_4}{|Crd_{ii} - Crd_4|} \quad dr^T = \begin{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -0.857 \\ 0.514 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} -0.555 \\ 0.832 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 0.555 \\ 0.832 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \quad dr_w := \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

The force vectors (for the tensions and the weight) are now going to be the magnitude of the force times the direction vector:  $(Wm \cdot dr_w)^T = [0 \ -1000 \ 0]^T$ . We can "normalize" the problem by dividing all of the force vectors by the magnitude of the weight. Assume (for discussion) that the magnitudes of the tensions are  $Tm := [00 \ 605 \ 605]^T$ .

$$\text{Sum of forces: } \sum T + W = 0 \quad \sum_{f=1}^3 Tm_f \cdot dr_f + Wm \cdot dr_w = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 6.781 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} \text{"Force in X direction"} \\ \text{"Force in Y direction"} \\ \text{"Force in Z direction"} \end{bmatrix}$$

Using vector notation allows us to calculate moments by vector cross-product: **Mom = arm x force**. The moment vector reflects the "right-hand rule" for torque--point your right thumb along the vector, and your fingers will curl in the direction of the torque.

$$Crd_4 \times (Wm \cdot dr_w) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ -5000 \end{bmatrix} \quad Crd_4 \times dr_w = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{Moment about origin due to weight}$$

$$MT_{ii} := Crd_{ii} \times (Tm_{ii} \cdot dr_{ii}) \quad MT^T = \begin{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1510.171 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 3523.733 \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

Note that the first cable (anchored at the origin) produces no moment.

$$\text{The "sum of moments" equation now becomes} \quad \sum_{f=1}^3 Crd_f \times (Tm_f \cdot dr_f) + Crd_4 \times (Wm \cdot dr_w) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 33.904 \end{bmatrix}$$

If we "normalize" these equations:

$$\sum_{f=1}^3 dr_f + dr_w = 0$$

$$\sum_{f=1}^3 Crd_f \times dr_f + Crd_4 \times dr_w = 0$$

Now we build the solution matrix:

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \text{sum of forces (X and Y)} & M_{1,ii} := \left( dr_{ii} \right)_1 \quad M_{2,ii} := \left( dr_{ii} \right)_2 \quad B_1 := dr_{w_1} \quad B_2 := dr_{w_2} \\
 \text{sum of moments (Z)} & M_{3,ii} := \left( Crd_{ii} \times dr_{ii} \right)_3 \quad B_3 := \left( Crd_4 \times dr_w \right)_3 \quad B := -B
 \end{array}$$

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} -0.857 & -0.555 & 0.555 \\ 0.514 & 0.832 & 0.832 \\ 0 & 2.496 & 5.824 \end{bmatrix} \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \quad \det(M) = 0$$

As Werner said, "Three linear equations in three variables only have one single unique solution if the determinant A of the matrix of coefficients is different from zero."

**Okay, with three cables the problem is statically indeterminate.**

Let's eliminate one cable:

Remove cable 1:

$$\begin{array}{l}
 M_1 := \text{submatrix}(M, 1, 3, 2, 3) = \begin{bmatrix} -0.555 & 0.555 \\ 0.832 & 0.832 \\ 2.496 & 5.824 \end{bmatrix} \\
 AP_1 := M_1^T \cdot M_1 \quad AB_1 := M_1^T \cdot B \\
 t_{w_1} := AP_1^{-1} \cdot AB_1 \quad t_{w_1} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.601 \\ 0.601 \end{bmatrix} \\
 Tm_1 := 0 \quad Tm_2 := t_{w_1} \quad Tm_3 := t_{w_1} \\
 Tm := Tm \cdot Wm
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \sum_{f=1}^3 Tm_f \cdot dr_f + Wm \cdot dr_w = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \sum_{f=1}^3 Crd_f \times (Tm_f \cdot dr_f) + Crd_4 \times (Wm \cdot dr_w) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}
 \end{array}$$

Remove cable 2:

$$\begin{array}{l}
 M_2 := \text{augment}(M^{(1)}, M^{(3)}) = \begin{bmatrix} -0.857 & 0.555 \\ 0.514 & 0.832 \\ 0 & 5.824 \end{bmatrix} \\
 AP_2 := M_2^T \cdot M_2 \quad AB_2 := M_2^T \cdot B \\
 t_{w_2} := AP_2^{-1} \cdot AB_2 \quad t_{w_2} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.555 \\ 0.858 \end{bmatrix} \\
 Tm_1 := t_{w_2} \quad Tm_2 := 0 \quad Tm_3 := t_{w_2} \\
 Tm := Tm \cdot Wm
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \sum_{f=1}^3 Tm_f \cdot dr_f + Wm \cdot dr_w = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \sum_{f=1}^3 Crd_f \times (Tm_f \cdot dr_f) + Crd_4 \times (Wm \cdot dr_w) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}
 \end{array}$$

Remove cable 3:

$$\begin{array}{l}
 M_3 := \text{augment}(M^{(1)}, M^{(2)}) = \begin{bmatrix} -0.857 & -0.555 \\ 0.514 & 0.832 \\ 0 & 2.496 \end{bmatrix} \\
 AP_3 := M_3^T \cdot M_3 \quad AB_3 := M_3^T \cdot B \\
 t_{w_3} := AP_3^{-1} \cdot AB_3 \quad t_{w_3} = \begin{bmatrix} -1.296 \\ 2.003 \end{bmatrix} \\
 Tm_1 := t_{w_3} \quad Tm_2 := t_{w_3} \quad Tm_3 := 0 \\
 Tm := Tm \cdot Wm
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \sum_{f=1}^3 Tm_f \cdot dr_f + Wm \cdot dr_w = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \sum_{f=1}^3 Crd_f \times (Tm_f \cdot dr_f) + Crd_4 \times (Wm \cdot dr_w) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}
 \end{array}$$

**Summary:**

The case of three supporting cables is statically indeterminate. We can get a closed solution for any combination of two supports.

Supports 2 and 3 eliminate 1:  $Wm \cdot t_{w_1} = \begin{bmatrix} 600.925 \\ 600.925 \end{bmatrix}$

Supports 1 and 3 eliminate 2:  $Wm \cdot t_{w_2} = \begin{bmatrix} 555.329 \\ 858.465 \end{bmatrix}$

Supports 1 and 2 eliminate 3:  $Wm \cdot t_{w_3} = \begin{bmatrix} -1295.767 \\ 2003.084 \end{bmatrix}$

*Note that support 1 is in compression. If these were cables, this would not be feasible.*