

# Lightweight Design in Mechanical Engineering

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*Problem 6. Lightweight Design of shafts under combined torsional and bending loads*

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## Problem 6

Calculate lightweight design of a shaft in equilibrium under combined torsional and bending loads (Fig. 1).

Constraints **A** and **B** are frictionless pinned supports.

Ensure minimum safety margin  
 $n_{\min} = 2$ .

Permissible stress is  $\sigma_{\text{perm}}$ .

Consider a material with high strength-to-density ratio.

Perform material cost comparison.

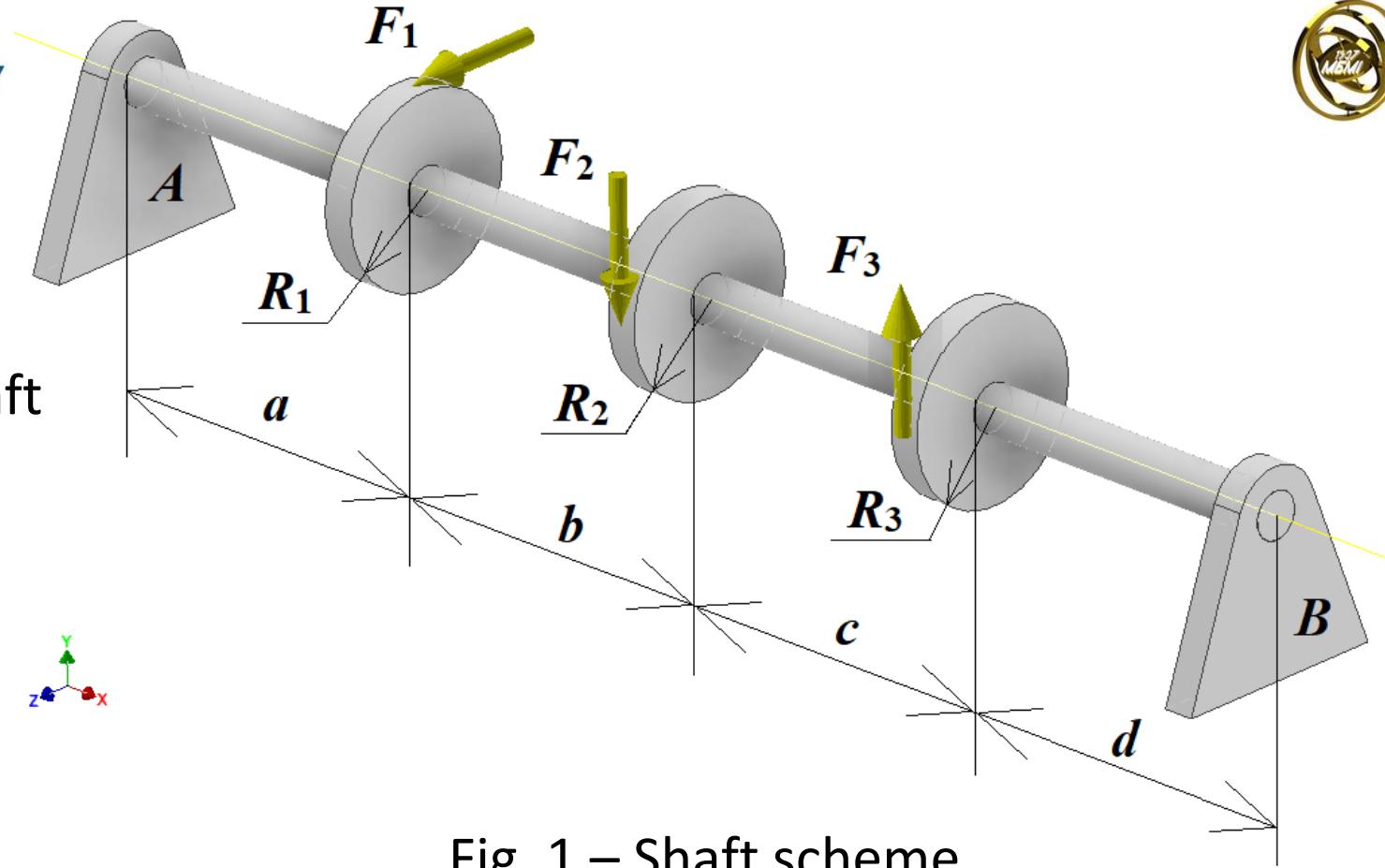


Fig. 1 – Shaft scheme

Force values are  $F_1 = 1.5 \text{ kN}$ ,  $F_2 = 0.5 \text{ kN}$ ,  $F_3 = 3 \text{ kN}$ .

Dimensions are  $R_1 = 0.15 \text{ m}$ ,  $R_2 = 0.15 \text{ m}$ ,  $R_3 = 0.1 \text{ m}$ ,  $a = 0.2 \text{ m}$ ,  $b = 0.2 \text{ m}$ ,  $c = 0.4 \text{ m}$ ,  $d = 0.2 \text{ m}$ .

## Problem 6

1. Apply Poinsot's theorem by replacing each tangential force by an axial force and a couple of forces (torque) (Fig. 2).

2. Determine the torques

$$T_1 = F_1 \cdot R_1 = 0.225 \text{ kN}\cdot\text{m};$$

$$T_2 = F_2 \cdot R_2 = 0.075 \text{ kN}\cdot\text{m};$$

$$T_3 = F_3 \cdot R_3 = 0.3 \text{ kN}\cdot\text{m}.$$

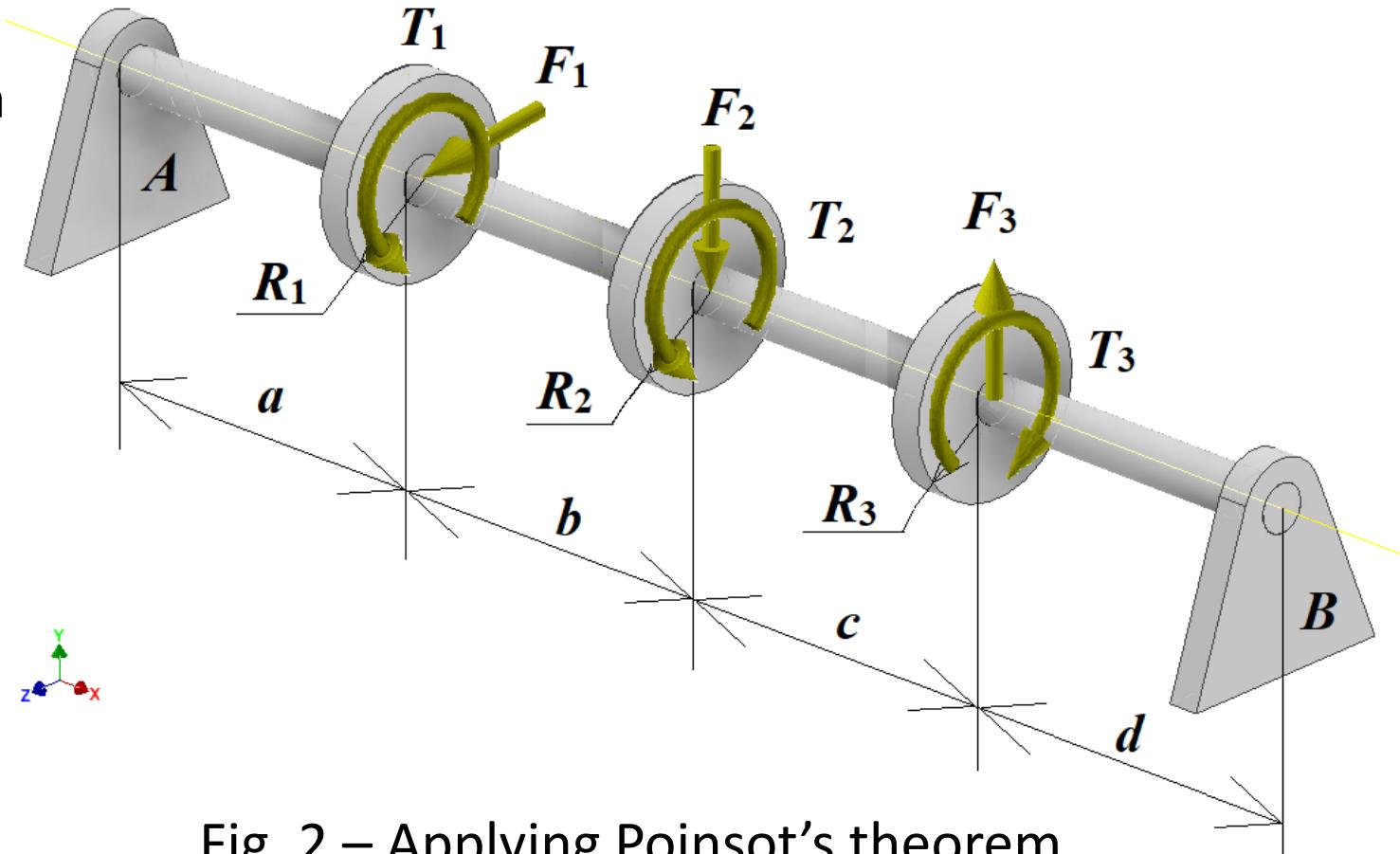


Fig. 2 – Applying Poinsot's theorem

## Problem 6

3. Determine internal torques in all shaft sections. Torques in sections with **lengths a and d** are **0**. Create free-body diagrams (Figs. 3, 4) for sections 1-1 and 2-2. Analyze their equilibrium.

4. Determine the torques

$$\sum M_x(F_i) = 0: -T_1 + T_{1-1} = 0;$$

$$T_{1-1} = 0.225 \text{ kN}\cdot\text{m};$$

$$\sum M_x(F_i) = 0: -T_1 - T_2 + T_{2-2} = 0;$$

$$T_{2-2} = 0.3 \text{ kN}\cdot\text{m}.$$

Construct a torque diagram (Fig. 5).

$$T_{\max} = 0.3 \text{ kN}\cdot\text{m}.$$

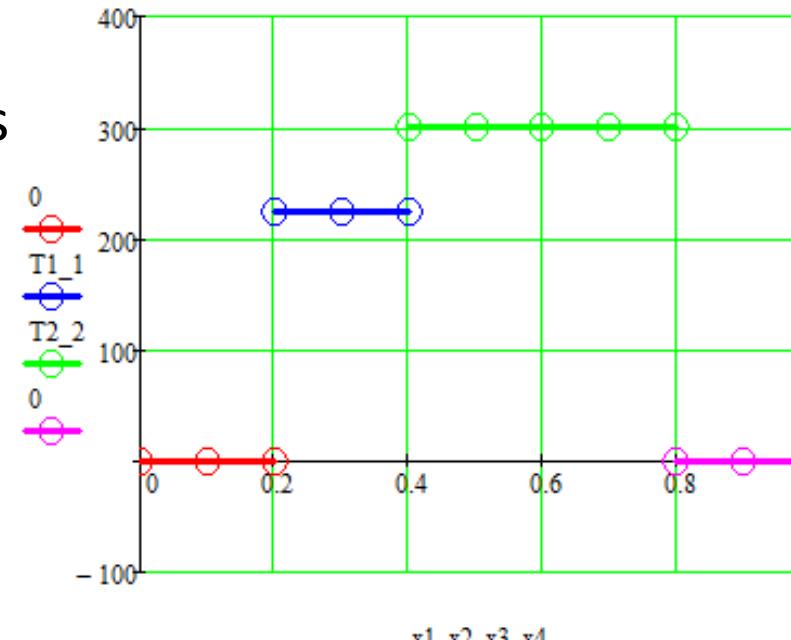


Fig. 5 – Torque diagram

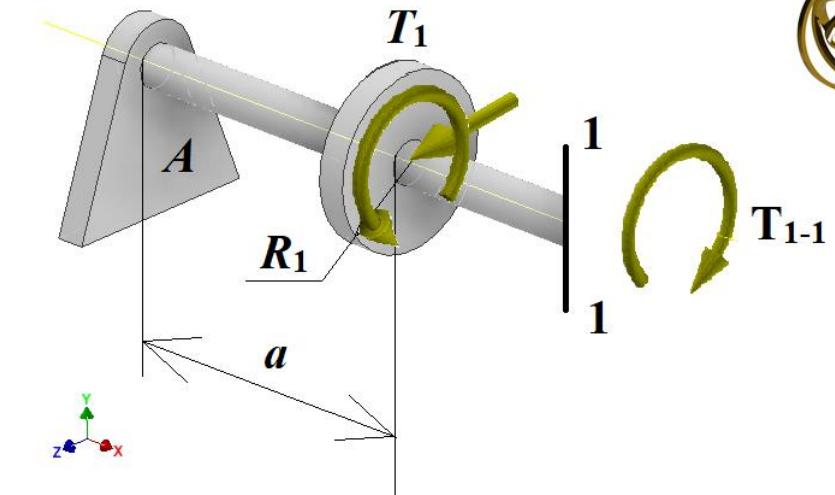


Fig. 3 – Section 1-1

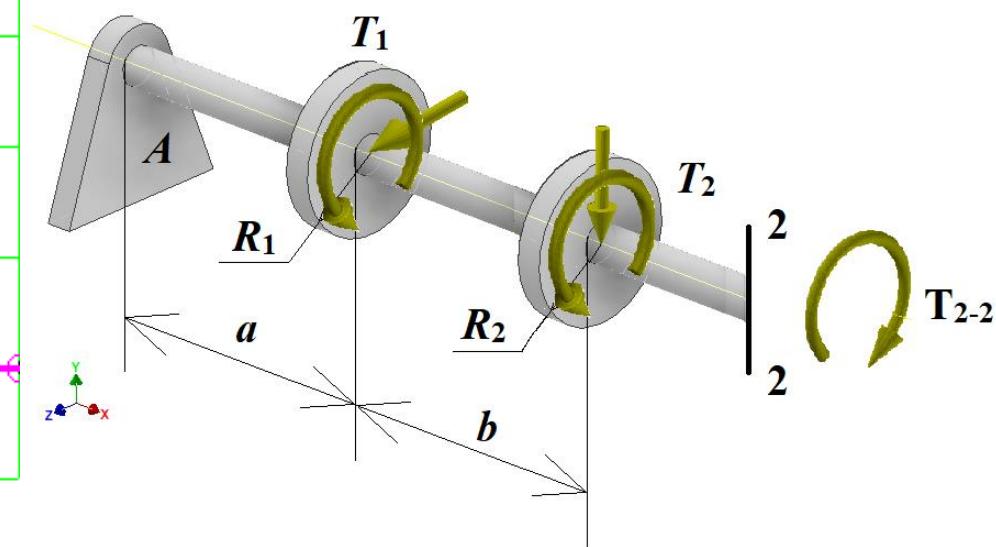


Fig. 4 – Section 2-2

## Problem 6

5. Consider the equilibrium in the **XY plane** using the scheme in **Fig. 6**.

6. Determine reactions of constraints  $Y_A$  and  $Y_B$

$$\sum M_A(F_i) = 0: -F_2(a + b) + F_3(a + b + c) - Y_B(a + b + c + d) = 0;$$

$$Y_B = 2.2 \text{ kN};$$

$$\sum M_B(F_i) = 0: Y_A(a + b + c + d) + F_2(c + d) - F_3d = 0;$$

$$Y_A = 0.3 \text{ kN};$$

Check the results

$$\sum F_{iy} = 0: -Y_A + F_3 - Y_B - F_2 = 0.$$

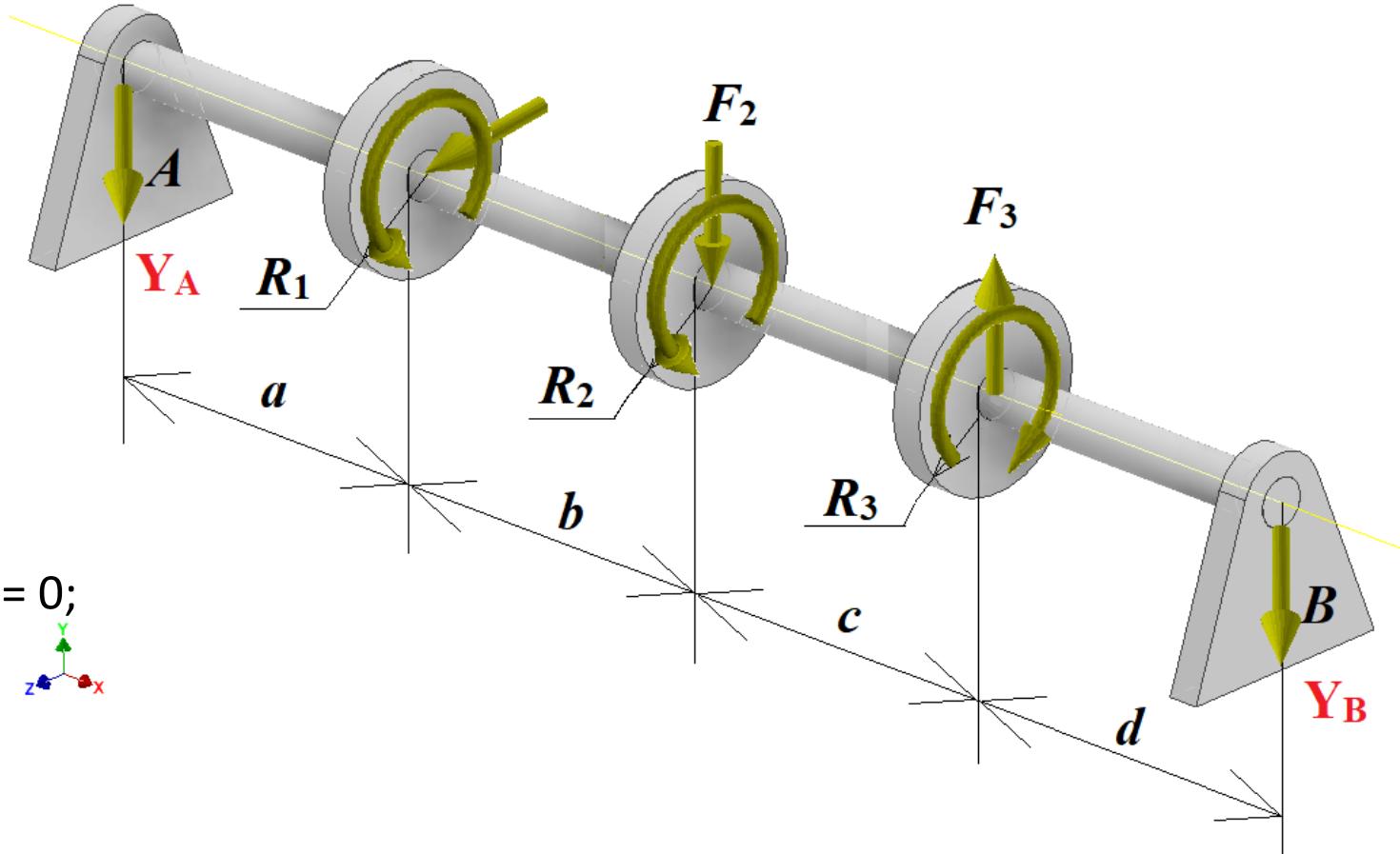


Fig. 6 – Scheme for forces in the **XY plane**

## Problem 6

7. Calculate bending moments in the **XY plane** using the schemes in **Fig. 7**.

8. Determine bending moments in cross-sections

$$1-1: M_{Y1-1} = -Y_A \cdot x_1;$$

$$2-2: M_{Y2-2} = -Y_A \cdot x_2;$$

$$3-3: M_{Y3-3} = -Y_A \cdot x_3 - F_2(x_3 - a - b);$$

$$4-4: M_{Y4-4} = -Y_A \cdot x_4 - F_2(x_4 - a - b) - F_3(x_4 - a - b - c).$$

Construct a diagram (Fig. 8)

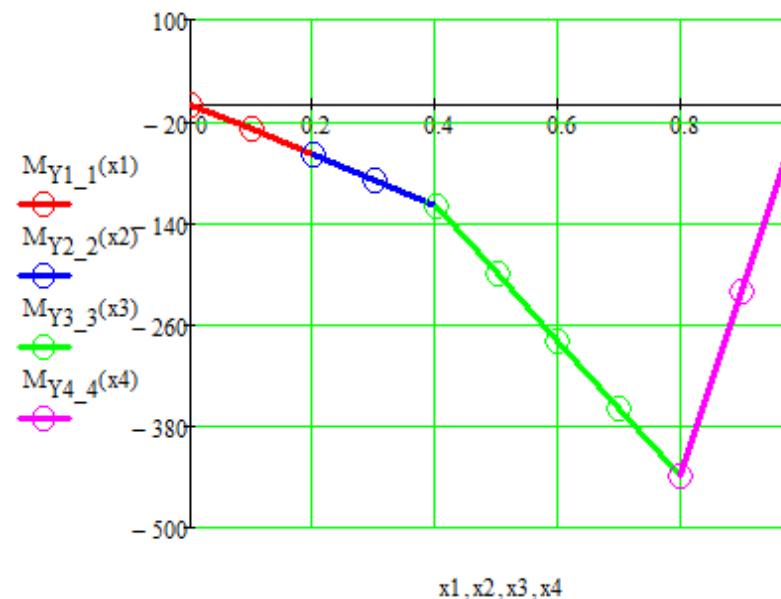


Fig. 8 – Bending moments in **XY plane**

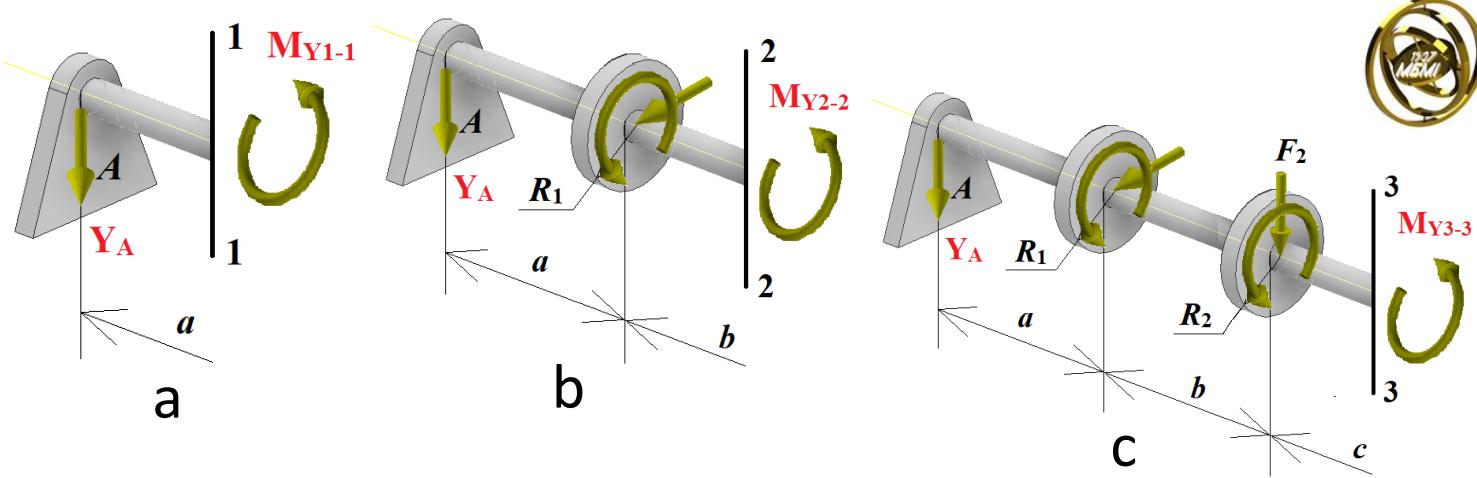


Fig. 7 – Calculation schemes for bending moments in **XY plane**

(a – 1-1; b – 2-2;  
c – 3-3; d – 4-4)

## Problem 6

9. Consider the equilibrium in the **XZ plane** using the scheme in **Fig. 9.**

10. Determine reactions of constraints  $Z_A$  and  $Z_B$

$$\sum M_A(F_i) = 0: Z_B(a + b + c + d) - F_1 a = 0;$$

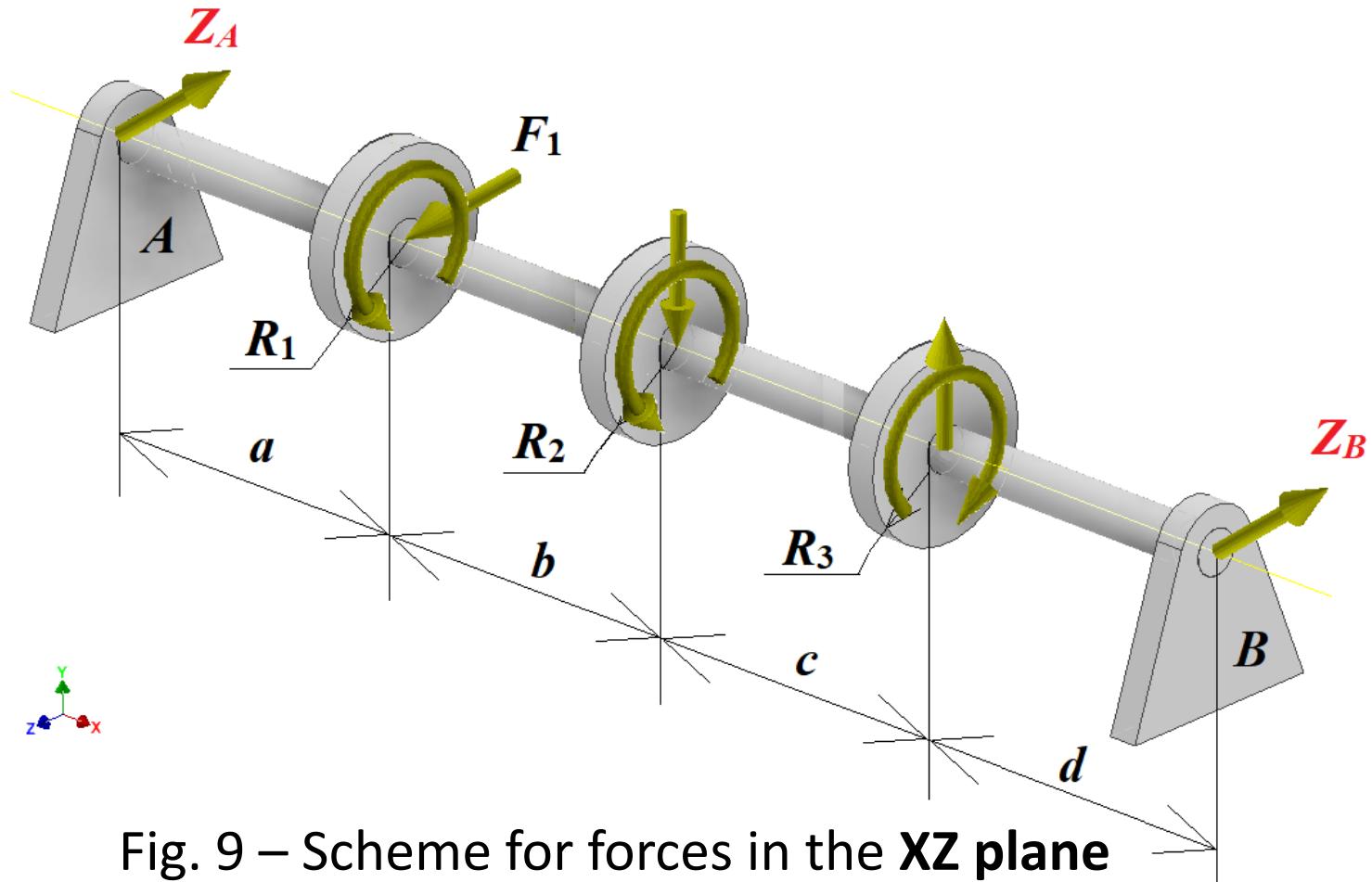
$$Z_B = 0.3 \text{ kN};$$

$$\sum M_B(F_i) = 0: -Z_A(a + b + c + d) + F_1(b + c + d) = 0;$$

$$Z_A = 1.2 \text{ kN}.$$

Check the results

$$\sum F_{iz} = 0: Z_A + Z_B - F_1 = 0.$$



## Problem 6

11. Calculate bending moments in the **XZ plane** using the schemes in **Fig. 10**.

12. Determine bending moments in cross-sections

$$1-1: M_{Z1-1} = Z_A \cdot x_1;$$

$$2-2: M_{Z2-2} = Z_A \cdot x_2 - F_1(x_2 - a);$$

$$3-3: M_{Z3-3} = Z_A \cdot x_3 - F_1(x_3 - a);$$

$$4-4: M_{Z4-4} = Z_A \cdot x_4 - F_1(x_4 - a).$$

Construct a diagram (Fig. 11)

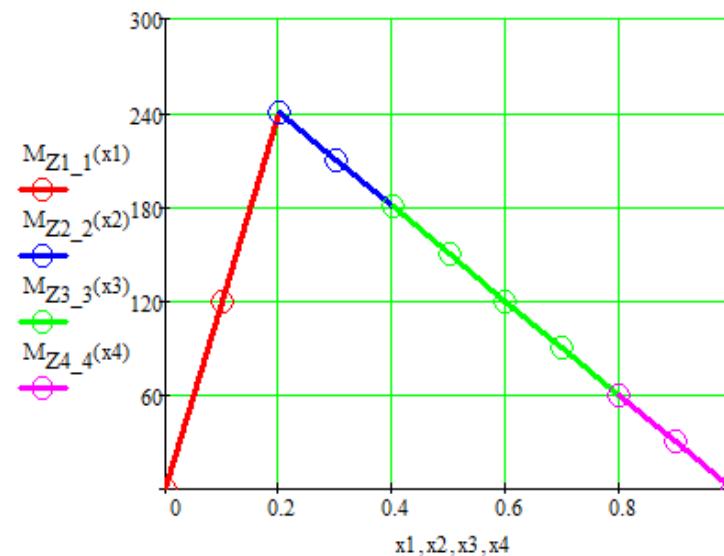


Fig. 11 – Bending moments in **XZ plane**

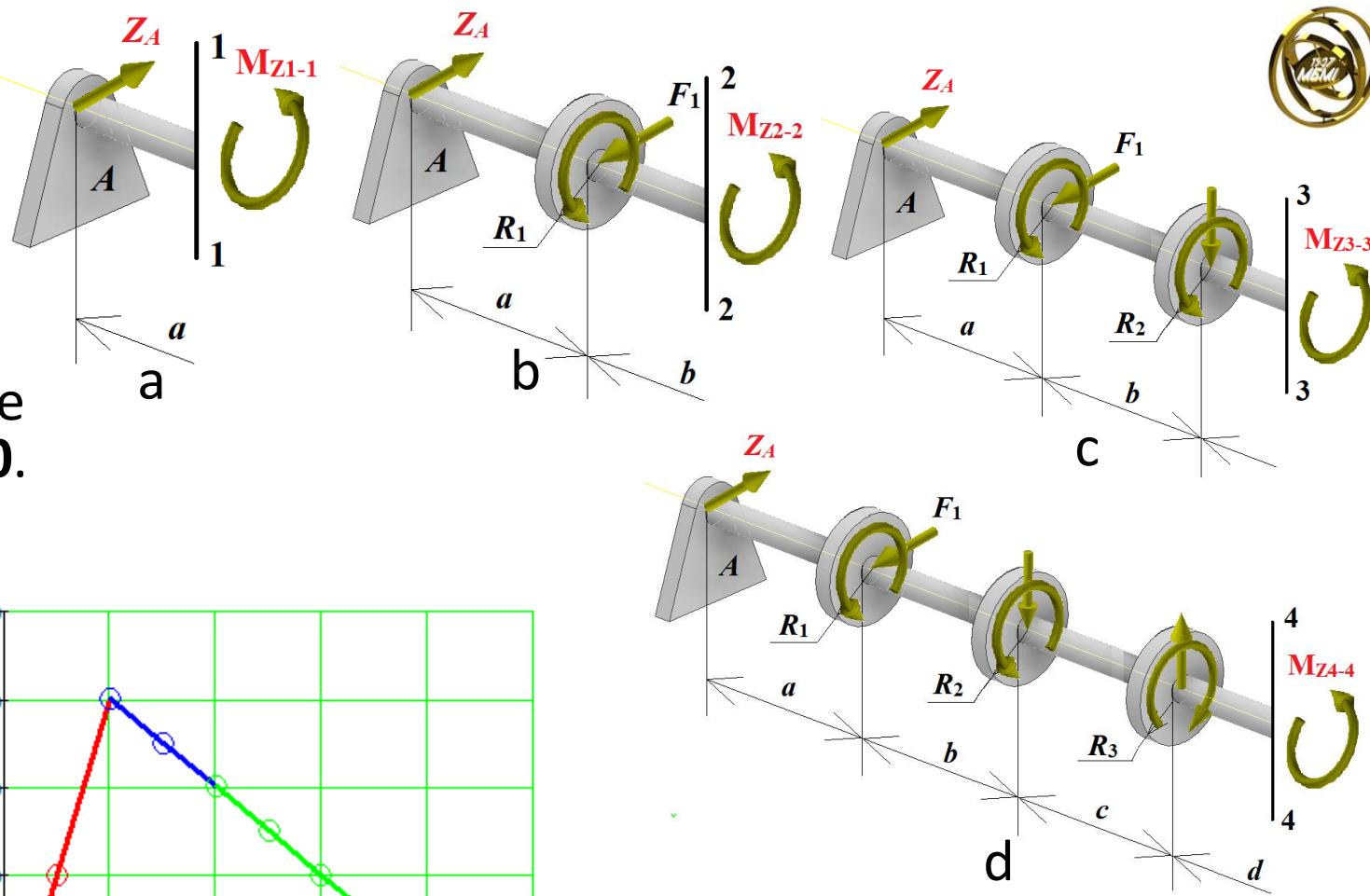


Fig. 10 – Calculation schemes for bending moments in **XZ plane**  
 (a – 1-1; b – 2-2;  
 c – 3-3; d – 4-4)

## Problem 6

13. Construct a diagram of resulting bending moments (Fig. 12)

$$M_{\Sigma 1} = [(M_{Y1-1})^2 + (M_{Z1-1})^2]^{0.5};$$

$$M_{\Sigma 2} = [(M_{Y2-2})^2 + (M_{Z2-2})^2]^{0.5};$$

$$M_{\Sigma 3} = [(M_{Y3-3})^2 + (M_{Z3-3})^2]^{0.5};$$

$$M_{\Sigma 4} = [(M_{Y4-4})^2 + (M_{Z4-4})^2]^{0.5}.$$

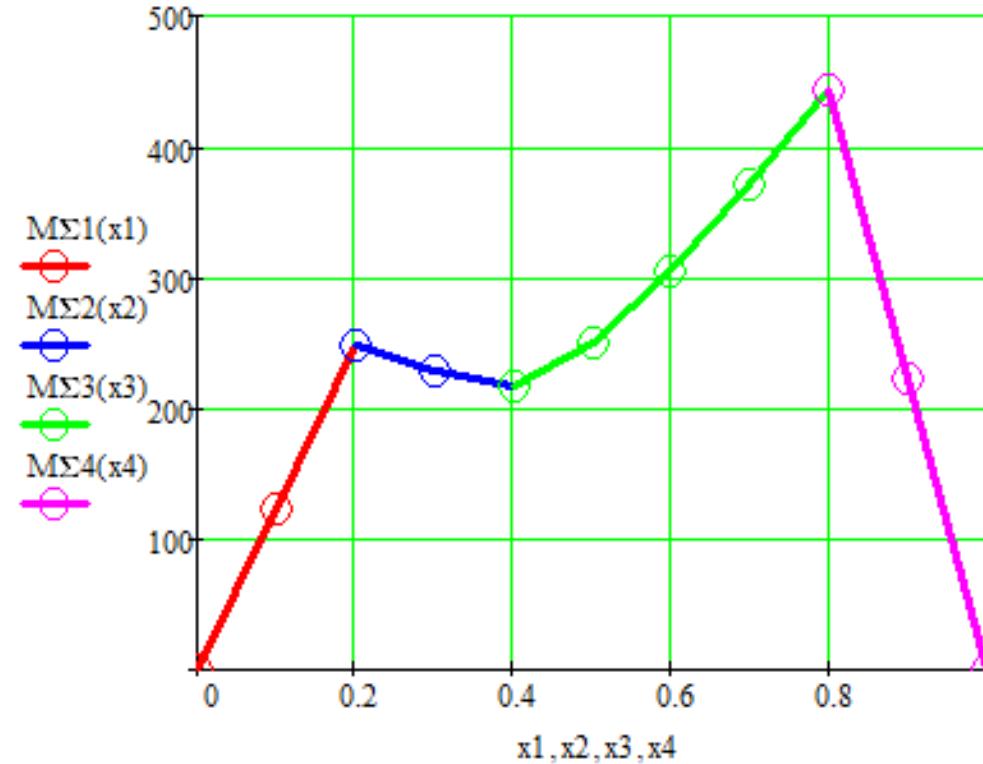


Fig. 12 – Diagram of resulting bending moments

## Problem 6

14. Determine the **reduced moment  $M_{\text{red}}$**  and solid circular shaft **diameter  $d_{\text{min}}$**  using maximum distortion energy theory

$$M_{\text{red}} = [(M_{\Sigma\text{max}})^2 + 0.75(T_{\text{max}})^2]^{0.5} = 1.023 \text{ kN}\cdot\text{m.}$$

15. Condition of strength for a shaft is

$$\sigma_{\text{max}} = [ |M_{\text{red}}| / W ] \leq \sigma_{\text{perm}}$$

Section modulus for a solid circular shaft is

$$W = [\pi \cdot (d_{\text{min}})^3] / 32$$

16. Minimum diameter for a solid circular shaft

$$d_{\text{min}} = [32 \cdot M_{\text{red}} / \pi \cdot \sigma_{\text{perm}}]^{1/3}$$



## Problem 6

17. Consider a **circular solid shaft (round bar)** made of structural steel **S235J2**

Yield strength is  $\sigma_{\text{yield.St}} = 235 \text{ MPa}$ ;

Permissible stress  $\sigma_{\text{perm.St}} = \sigma_{\text{yield.St}} / n_{\text{min}} = 117.5 \text{ MPa}$ ;

Density is  $\rho_{\text{St}} = 7850 \text{ kg/m}^3$ .

18. Also consider **Titanium Grade 5 (Ti-6Al-4V)**

$\sigma_{\text{yield.Ti}} = 790 \text{ MPa}$ ;

$\sigma_{\text{perm.Ti}} = \sigma_{\text{yield.Ti}} / n_{\text{min}} = 395 \text{ MPa}$ ;

$\rho_{\text{Ti}} = 4430 \text{ kg/m}^3$ .

19. And consider **Aluminum 7075-T6**

$\sigma_{\text{yield.Al}} = 500 \text{ MPa}$ ;

$\sigma_{\text{perm.Al}} = \sigma_{\text{yield.Al}} / n_{\text{min}} = 250 \text{ MPa}$ ;

$\rho_{\text{Al}} = 2810 \text{ kg/m}^3$ .

## Problem 6

20. Calculate minimum diameters of **circular solid shafts**

$$d_{\min,St} = [32 \cdot M_{\text{red}} / \pi \cdot \sigma_{\text{perm},St}]^{1/3} = 44.6 \text{ mm};$$

$$d_{\min,Ti} = [32 \cdot M_{\text{red}} / \pi \cdot \sigma_{\text{perm},Ti}]^{1/3} = 29.8 \text{ mm};$$

$$d_{\min,Al} = [32 \cdot M_{\text{red}} / \pi \cdot \sigma_{\text{perm},Al}]^{1/3} = 34.7 \text{ mm}.$$

21. Calculate minimum cross-sectional area, which satisfies the safety factor  $n_{\min} = 2$

$$A_{\min,St} = [\pi \cdot (d_{\min,St})^2] / 4 = 1562 \text{ mm}^2;$$

$$A_{\min,Ti} = [\pi \cdot (d_{\min,Ti})^2] / 4 = 696 \text{ mm}^2;$$

$$A_{\min,Al} = [\pi \cdot (d_{\min,Al})^2] / 4 = 944 \text{ mm}^2.$$



## Problem 6

22. Perform volume calculations

$$V_{\min,St} = A_{\min,St} \cdot (a + b + c + d) = 15.6 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ m}^3;$$

$$V_{\min,Ti} = A_{\min,Ti} \cdot (a + b + c + d) = 7 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ m}^3;$$

$$V_{\min,Al} = A_{\min,Al} \cdot (a + b + c + d) = 9.4 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ m}^3.$$

23. Determine mass of circular shafts

$$m_{\min,St} = \rho_{St} \cdot V_{\min,St} = 12.26 \text{ kg};$$

$$m_{\min,Ti} = \rho_{Ti} \cdot V_{\min,Ti} = 3.08 \text{ kg};$$

$$m_{\min,Al} = \rho_{Al} \cdot V_{\min,Al} = 2.65 \text{ kg.}$$

24. Prices per kg of materials are

$$p_{St} = 0.728 \text{ €/kg};$$

$$p_{Ti} = 5.97 \text{ €/kg};$$

$$p_{Al} = 2.955 \text{ €/kg.}$$

25. Calculate material cost

$$MC_{St} = m_{\min,St} \cdot p_{St} = 8.93 \text{ €};$$

$$MC_{Ti} = m_{\min,Ti} \cdot p_{Ti} = 18.4 \text{ €};$$

$$MC_{Al} = m_{\min,Al} \cdot p_{Al} = 7.84 \text{ €.}$$



## Problem 6

### Conclusion.

Structure made of **aluminum** is the **lightest** and the **cheapest**, while having the same safety factor as **steel** and **titanium** structures.

**Compared to steel, the aluminum structure is only 22% in terms of weight, the titanium structure is 25% of steel structure.**

The cost of **aluminum** shaft is **88%** of the **steel** cost, and **titanium** shaft is **205%** of steel cost.

Therefore, from considerations of just weight and price, aluminum is the rational material.



**Thank you for your attention!**

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