

Martin Gillie's Christmas Competition

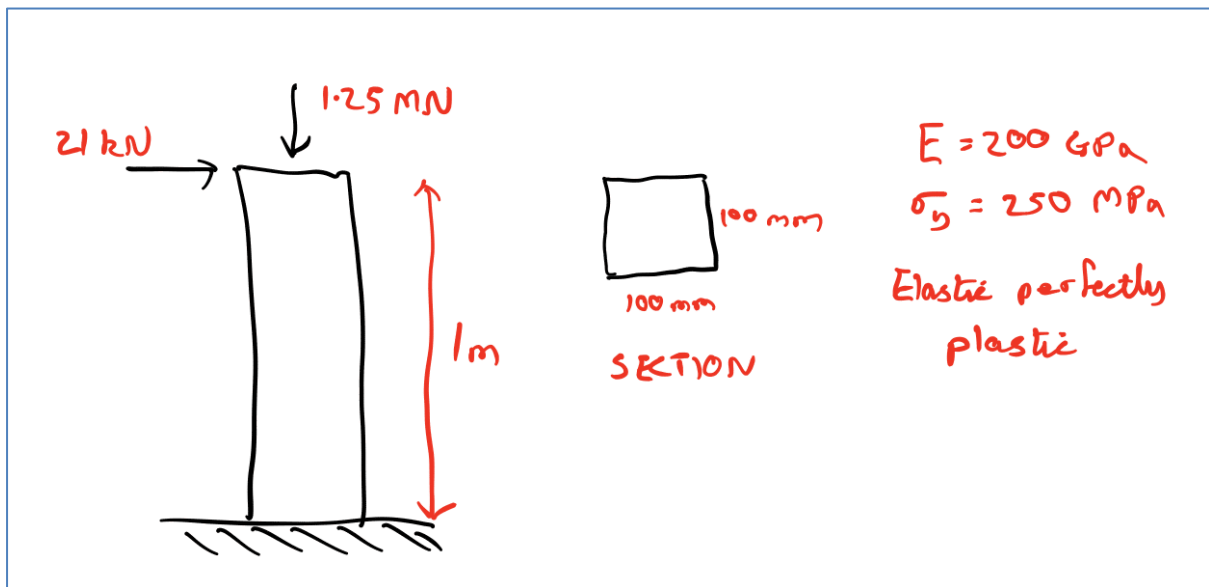
or a

Structural Engineering Challenge

Prize a copy of the book ["The Structural Basis of Architecture"](#)

The Question

What is the bending moment at the base of this column? (Hint: whatever it is, it isn't 21 x 1)



Rules

- 1) Entry is open to anyone.
- 2) Entries to Martin Gillie by Jan 15th (martin.gillie@manchester.ac.uk)
- 3) Entries to be a maximum of two sides of A4 and to clearly identify the basis for the answer, a name and an email address.
- 4a) The principal criterion for the prize is the answer Martin thinks most correct. Other factors such as elegance and lateral thinking in the solution may be considered. There may be some capriciousness in the weight given to these factors.
- 4b) When judging, expectations will be normalised by experience. Structural engineering professors will require a much more complete and imaginative solution to win than a 1st year undergraduate.
- 5) Martin Gillie will be the sole judge of entries.
- 6) The winner will be announced in January and the solution may be published at martingillie.wordpress.com.
- 7) Further prizes may be available if contributed (by e.g. well-paid professors (nudge, nudge)).