RAIC Centre for Architecture at Athabasca University

Structural Connections

| Туре | Real Life Examples | Symbolic Representations | Movements Allowed or Prevented | Reaction Forces | Number of Unknowns |
|------------------------|---|------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Roller or Rocker | Roller | F | Allowed: Horizontal Movement and Rotation Prevented: Vertical Movement A roller or rocker can only prevent movement in the vertical direction so the roller can only exert a reaction in that direction | One force (F) either pushing up or pulling down. This force acts perpendicular to the beam at the point of contact. | 1 Unknown: 1) F |
| Pin | A steel beam connected to a column without welds or stiffeners behaves like a pin connector | F _y F _x | Allowed: Rotation Prevented: Horizontal and Vertical Movement Note: A pin can prevent translation in any direction but the force of the reaction is usually analysed as having two parts – F _x and F _y | A horizontal force (F _x) and a vertical force (F _γ) which are the components of a single force of unknown direction | 2 Unknowns: 1) F _x and 2) F _y |
| Fixed | A concrete beam connected to a wall with reinforcing behaves like a fixed connection | F _x H F _y | Allowed: None Prevented: Horizontal and Vertical Movement; and Rotation The most constrained kind of support and it prevents the component from translation and rotation | A horizontal force (F _x) and a vertical force (F _y) which are the components of a single force of unknown direction; AND a moment force (M) | 3 Unknowns: 1) F _x 2) F _y and 3) M |

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