

Joints or Sections?

Mechanical Engineering

The two truss methods, and which one the question is actually asking for.

Method of joints

- Gives every member force
- Two equations per joint
- Must work in from a support
- Slow if you want one member

Method of sections

- Gives one member directly
- Three equations per cut
- Cut through at most 3 unknowns
- Needs the reactions first

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Whole truss, use joints. One member deep inside it, cut a section.

Both assume pin joints and loads at joints only. A member loaded between joints also bends.