

Meeting: 1003, Atlanta, Georgia, MAA CP J1, MAA Session on Projects and Demonstrations that Enhance a Differential Equations Course

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Animating Beam Theory.

Beam theory is a classical engineering subject that provides a rich variety of interesting physical and mathematical problems ranging from linear, constant coefficient ODE BVPs that admit closed-form solutions to nonlinear PDEs that require numerical solutions. The varying degrees of difficulty allow instructors to easily tune problems to students' abilities and interests. I will present a sample of interesting problems that are accessible to undergraduate students of differential equations with solutions enhanced by computer-generated animations. (Received September 30, 2004)