# **Centers of Gravity - Centroids**

• The *center of gravity* is the location of the equivalent force representing the total weight of a body comprised of particles that each have a mass gravity acts upon.



Resultant force: Over a body of constant thickness in x and y

$$\sum F_z = \sum_{i=1}^n \Delta W_i = \mathbf{W} \qquad \qquad \mathbf{W} = \int \mathbf{dW}$$

Location:  $\overline{x}$ ,  $\overline{y}$  is the equivalent location of the force W from all  $\Delta W_i$ 's over all x & y locations (with respect to the moment from each force) from:

$$\sum M_{y} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_{i} \Delta W_{i} = \overline{x} W \qquad \overline{x} W = \int x dW \Rightarrow \overline{x} = \frac{\int x dW}{W} \text{ OR } \qquad \overline{\overline{x}} = \frac{\sum (x \Delta W)}{W}$$
$$\sum M_{x} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} y_{i} \Delta W_{i} = \overline{y} W \qquad \overline{y} W = \int y dW \Rightarrow \overline{y} = \frac{\int y dW}{W} \text{ OR } \qquad \overline{\overline{y}} = \frac{\sum (y \Delta W)}{W}$$

• The *centroid of an area* is the average x and y locations of the area particles

For a discrete shape  $(\Delta A_i)$  of a uniform thickness and material, the weight can be defined as:

 $\begin{array}{ll} \Delta W_i = \gamma t \Delta A_i & \text{where:} \\ \gamma \text{ is weight per unit } \\ t \Delta A_i \text{ is the volume} \end{array} (\text{specific weight) with units of } \underline{N/m^3} \text{ or } \underline{lb/ft^3} \end{array}$ 

So if  $W = \gamma t A$ :

$$\overline{x} \gamma A = \int x \gamma dA \Rightarrow \overline{x}A = \int x dA \text{ OR} \qquad \overline{x} = \frac{\sum (x \Delta A)}{A} \text{ and similarly } \overline{y} = \frac{\sum (y \Delta A)}{A}$$

Similarly, for a line with constant cross section,  $a (\Delta W_i = \gamma a \Delta L_i)$ :

$$\overline{x}L = \int xdL \text{ OR } \qquad \overline{\overline{x}} = \frac{\sum(x\Delta L)}{L} \quad \text{and} \quad \overline{y}L = \int ydL \text{ OR } \qquad \overline{\overline{y}} = \frac{\sum(y\Delta L)}{L}$$

•  $\overline{x}$ ,  $\overline{y}$  with respect to an x, y coordinate system is the centroid of an area AND the center of for a body of uniform material and thickness.

• The *first moment of the area* is like a force moment: and is the \_\_\_\_\_\_ multiplied by the perpendicular distance to an axis.

$$Q_x = \int y dA = \overline{y}A \qquad Q_y = \int x dA = \overline{x}A$$

# • <u>Centroids of Common Shapes</u>

Centroids of Common Shapes of Areas and Lines



Shape		x	$\overline{y}$	Area
Triangular area	$\frac{1}{\overline{y}}$	$\frac{b}{3}$	$\frac{h}{3}$	$\frac{bh}{2}$
Quarter-circular area	C C	$\frac{4r}{3\pi}$	$\frac{4r}{3\pi}$	$\frac{\pi r^2}{4}$
Semicircular area		0	$\frac{4r}{3\pi}$	$\frac{\pi r^2}{2}$
Semiparabolic area		$\frac{3a}{8}$	$\frac{3h}{5}$	$\frac{2ah}{3}$
Parabolic area	O	0	$\frac{3h}{5}$	$\frac{4ah}{3}$
Parabolic span- drel	$a = \frac{1}{y = kx^2}$ $h$ $h$ $\overline{y}$	$\frac{3a}{4}$	$\frac{3h}{10}$	<u>ah</u> 3
Circular sector		$\frac{2r\sin\alpha}{3\alpha}$	0	$\alpha r^2$
Quarter-circular arc		$\frac{2r}{\pi}$	$\frac{2r}{\pi}$	$\frac{\pi r}{2}$
Semicircular arc		0	$\frac{2r}{\pi}$	π
Arc of circle		$\frac{r \sin \alpha}{\alpha}$	0	2ar

### • Symmetric Areas

- An area is symmetric with respect to a line when every point on one side is mirrored on the other. The line divides the area into equal parts and the centroid will be on that axis.
- An area can be symmetric to a *center point* when every (x,y) point is matched by a (-x,-y) point. It does not necessarily have an axis of symmetry. The center point is the *centroid*.
- If the symmetry line is on an axis, the centroid location is on that axis (value of 0). With double symmetry, the centroid is at the intersection.
- Symmetry can also be defined by areas that match across a line, but are 180° to each other.

### **Basic Steps**

- 1. Draw a reference origin.
- 2. Divide the area into basic shapes
- 3. Label the basic shapes (components)
- 4. Draw a table with headers of *Component*, *Area*,  $\overline{x}$ ,  $\overline{x}A$ ,  $\overline{y}$ ,  $\overline{y}A$
- 5. Fill in the table value
- 6. Draw a summation line. Sum all the areas, all the  $\bar{x}A$  terms, and all the  $\bar{y}A$  terms
- 7. Calculate  $\hat{x}$  and  $\hat{y}$
- Composite Shapes

If we have a shape made up of basic shapes that we know centroid locations for, we can find an "average" centroid of the areas.

$$\hat{x}A = \hat{x}\sum_{i=1}^{n} A_i = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \overline{x}_i A_i \qquad \qquad \hat{y}A = \hat{y}\sum_{i=1}^{n} A_i = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \overline{y}_i A_i$$

<u>Centroid values can be negative.</u> <u>Area values can be negative (holes)</u>



3'

oʻ

У

CG

х

y

<u>y</u>=2.33"

0

3"

3"

х

Π

9"

#### Example 1 (pg 243)

### Example Problem 7.1: Centroids (Figures 7.5 and 7.6)

Determine the centroidal *x* and *y* distances for the composite area shown. Use the lower left corner of the trapezoid as the reference origin.

and reference origin.			9			x=5"
Component	Area ( $\Delta A$ ) (in. <sup>2</sup> )	$\overline{x}(in.)$	$\overline{x}\Delta A(in.^3)$	$\overline{y}(in.)$	$\overline{y}\Delta A(in.^3)$	]
$ \begin{array}{c}                                     $	$\frac{9''(3'')}{2} = 13.5 \text{ in.}^2$	6"	81 in. <sup>3</sup>	4"	54 in. <sup>3</sup>	$\hat{x} = \frac{202.5in^3}{40.5in^2} = 5in$ $\hat{y} = \frac{94.5in^3}{40.5in^2}$
$ \begin{array}{c}                                     $	9" (3") = 27 in. <sup>2</sup>	4.5"	121.5 in. <sup>3</sup>	1.5"	40.5 in. <sup>3</sup>	40.5 <i>in</i> - = 2.33 <i>in</i>
	$A = \sum \Delta A = 40.5 \text{ in.}^2$		$\sum \overline{x} \Delta A = 202.5 \text{ in.}^3$		$\sum \overline{\overline{y}} \Delta A = 94.5 \text{ in.}^3$	

## Example 2 (pg 245)

Example Problem 7.3b (Figure 7.13)

An alternate method that can be employed in solving this problem is referred to as the *negative area method*.

A 6" thick concrete wall panel is precast to the dimensions as shown. Using the lower left corner as the reference origin, determine the center of gravity (centroid) of the panel.



# Example 3 (pg 249) Example Problem 7.5 (Figures 7.16 and 7.17)

A composite or built-up cross-section for a beam is fabricated using two  $\frac{1}{2}$ " × 10" vertical plates with a C12 × 20.7 channel section welded to the top and a W12 × 16 section welded to the bottom as shown. Determine the location of the major *x*-axis using the center of the W12 × 16's web as the reference origin.

