

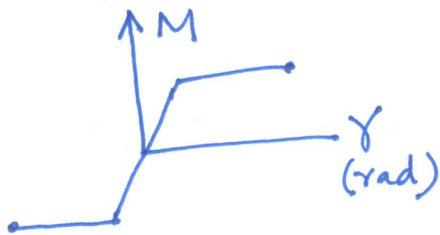
# ETABS: End Offsets and Rigid zone factor

Define → Section Properties → Panel Zone



Can be assigned to a point object at beam/column intersection.

Properties of Panel zone:

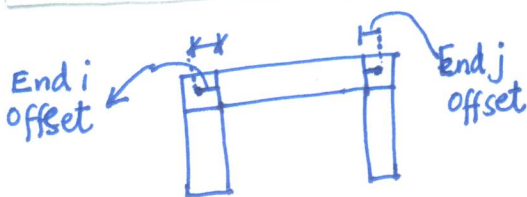


- Automatically from column elastic properties
  - Specified Spring properties
  - " Link "
  - Auto inelastic properties → ASCE 41-13
  - " " " → User
- Back bone degradation  
Acceptance Criteria

→ Select a frame → Assign → Frame → End Length Offsets

- The overlapping length
- Automatic
  - Define lengths
  - Rigid zone factor

$$\text{The flexible length of frame} = \text{Total Length} - \text{Rigid zone factor} \left( \frac{\text{End}_i \text{ offset} + \text{End}_j \text{ offset}}{2} \right)$$



- default
- 0 ⇒ No rigid offset
- 1 ⇒ Fully rigid offset (i.e. full length is rigid)

For concrete frames → 0.5 is recommended

## Panel zone and Rigid offset

Model 1: Rigid zone factor = 0, No panel zone  
Deflections: Largest (most conservative)  
Moments: Smallest (least " )

Model 2: Rigid zone factor = 1, No panel zone  
Deflections: Smallest  
Moments: Largest

Model 3: Rigid zone factor = 0, Panel zone  
(Properties from Column)  
Flexibility duplicated  
at joint locations.

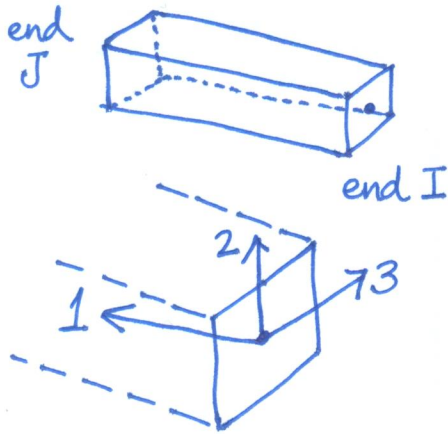
Deflections: Unrealistically large  
Moments: Unconservative

Model 4: Rigid zone factor = 1, Panel zone from column.

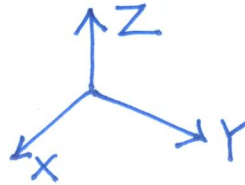
→ Rigid offsets only affect M3 and not axial and torsional properties.

# ETABS: End Releases/Partial Fixity

Release: Removing the capacity of a frame to resist any of  $P, V_2, V_3, M_2, M_3$  and  $T$ .



Global coordinates



1 → Always from I to J  
2 and 3 → decide based on relationship between 1 and Z.

So

$U_1 \rightarrow P$

$U_2 \rightarrow V_2$

$U_3 \rightarrow V_3$

$R_1 \rightarrow T$

$R_2 \rightarrow M_2$

$R_3 \rightarrow M_3$

DoF → Action

Default:

a) Plane 1-2 is vertical (parallel to Z)

b) 2 is in +Z direction unless the element is vertical

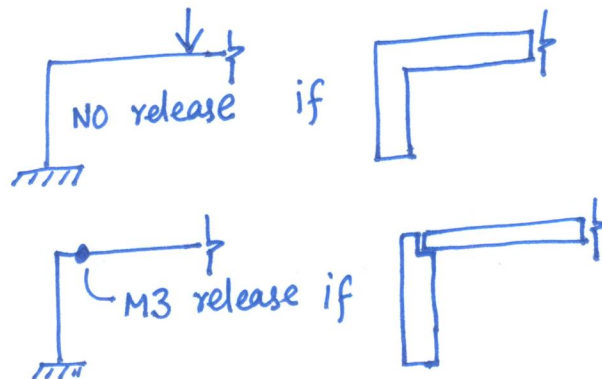
(e.g. column)

↳ 2 will be in +X direction

c) 3 is horizontal (lies in X-Y plane)

Any or all of the six actions can be released.

→  $M_3$  release in a beam will act like an internal hinge. It will not transfer moments to connecting element.



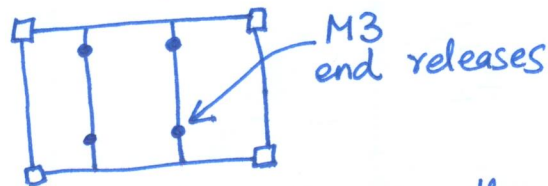
Apart from geometry,

→ In RC beams, reinforcement also determines whether the end condition should be released, partially released.

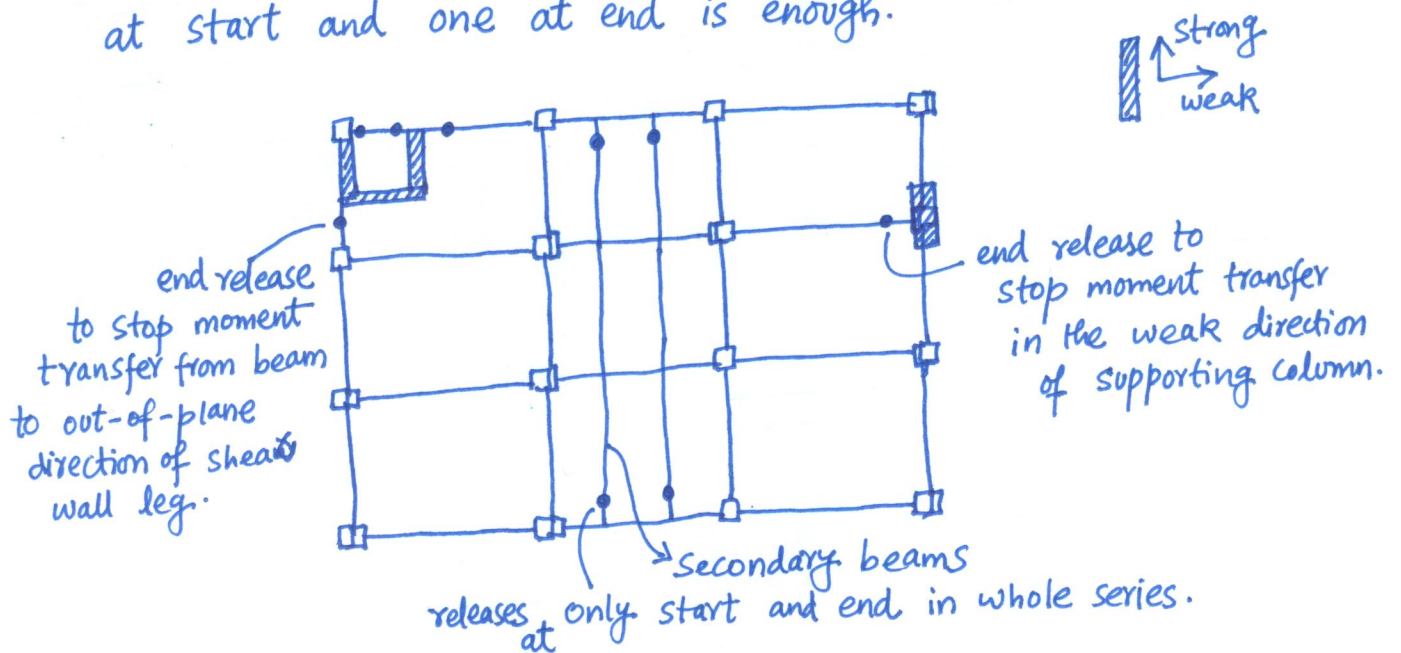


## Cases where we can use M3 release:

- Intentionally not transferring the end moment.  
e.g. to reduce reinforcement  $\rightarrow$  model like no resistance to moment.
- Not enough development length available to rebars to behave like a rigid connection.
- Column is so thin and unable to carry moments coming from beam.
- On secondary beams supported on main beams (girders).  
This will avoid the introduction of torsion  $\rightarrow$  Just simply supported.

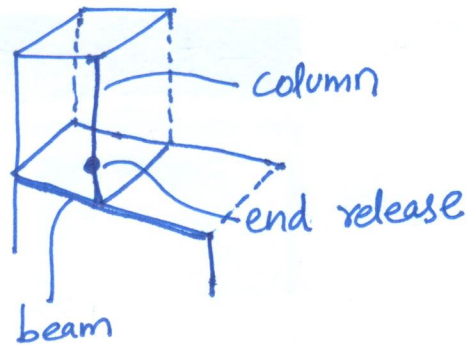


But if series of secondary beams, then one release at start and one at end is enough.



- (nodes of)  
On beams connecting to walls and columns on their weak axis. (i.e. perpendicular to longer dimension of leg or cross-section)

f) Columns supported on beams (to avoid torsion in supporting beams)



⇒ Select Frame → Assign → Frame → Releases/Partial Fixity

- completely remove the capacity of a node to resist a particular action.
- Provide your own stiffness coefficient corresponding to any dof.

⇒ Wrongly applied releases → Structural Stability