













Static Equilibrium: Structures

- Simple systems of multiple components:
 - Trusses: formed from two-force members
 - **Frames**: contain at least one **member** with > 2 forces
 - Machines: structures containing moving parts designed to transmit and modify forces.



Static Equilibrium: Structures

• Trusses:

- A truss consists of straight, two-force members connected at joints; no member is continuous through a joint.
- Most structures are made of several trusses joined together to form a 3D framework. Each truss carries those loads which act in its plane and may be treated as a 2D structure.
- Bolted or welded connections are modeled as pinned together; forces acting at member ends reduce to a single force.
- If forces tend to pull the member apart, it is in tension. If the forces tend to compress the member, it is in compression.
- Truss members assumed to have negligible mass (compared to the loads they carry).



Ref: Beer & Johnston, Mechanics for Engineers: Statics

