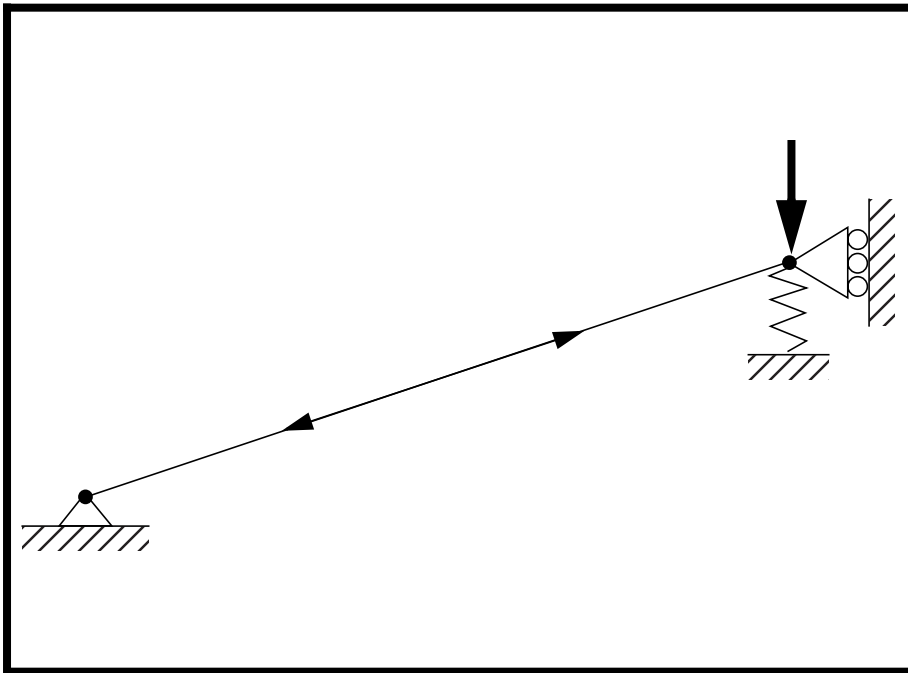


---

**WORKSHOP PROBLEM 4c**

*Nonlinear Snap-Through  
Load Analysis  
(different spring constants)*



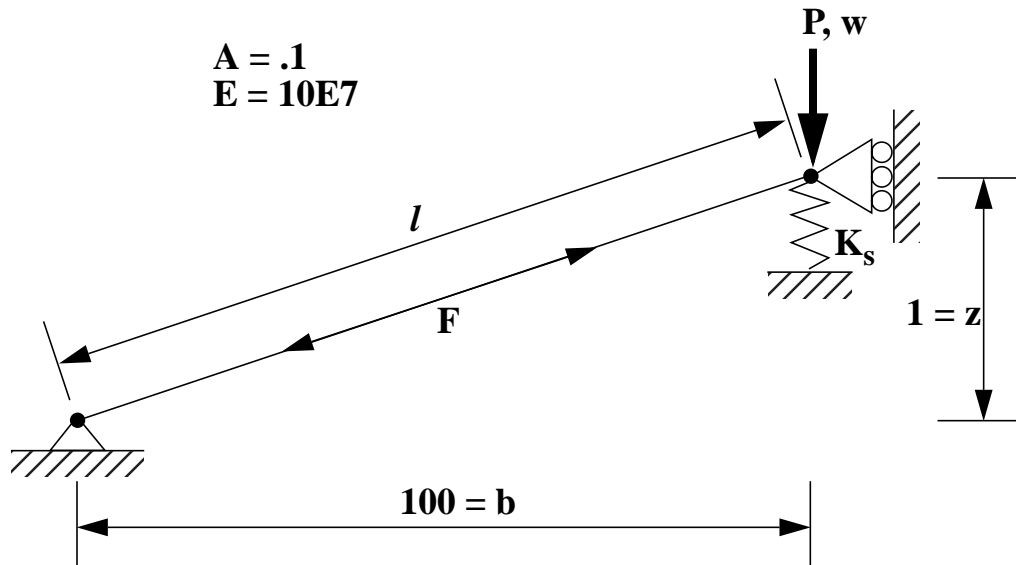
**Objectives:**

- Demonstrate the use of a nonlinear static analysis for a snap-through load.
- Demonstrate the effect of different spring constants on the load-deflection curve.



**Model Description:**

For the structure below:

**Add Case Control commands and Bulk Data Entries to:**

1. Perform a nonlinear static analysis on the model for the cases when  $K_s=0$ ,  $K_s=3$ , and  $K_s=6$ .

---

## Suggested Exercise Steps:

- Modify the existing MSC/NASTRAN input file by adding the appropriate loading conditions and nonlinear static analysis control parameters.
- For Case Control, insert the static load set selection (LOAD) and the nonlinear static analysis parameter selection (NLPARM) in each subcase.
- For Bulk Data, insert all the relevant nonlinear static analysis parameters for each subcase (NLPARM).
- Prepare the model for a nonlinear static analysis.
  - ◆ PARAM, LGDISP, 1
- Insert the parameters for arc-length methods (NLPCI).
- Generate an input file and submit it to the MSC/NASTRAN solver for a nonlinear static analysis.
- Review the results.
- Modify the existing model, adjusting the spring constant.
- Generate another input file and submit it to the MSC/NASTRAN solver for a normal modes analysis.
- Review the results.
- Modify the existing model, adjusting the spring constant.
- Generate the final input file and submit it to the MSC/NASTRAN solver for a normal modes analysis.
- Review the results.

## Input File Workshop 4a for Modification:

### prob4a.dat

```
ASSIGN OUTPUT2 = 'prob4a.op2' , UNIT=12
ID NAS103, WORKSHOP 4A SOLUTION
TIME 10
SOL 105
CEND
TITLE=SIMPLE ONE DOF GEOMETRIC NONLINEAR PROBLEM
LABEL=REF: STRICKLIN AND HAISLER; COMP. AND STRUCT.; 7:125-136 (1977)
ECHO=UNSORT
  DISP(SORT2)=ALL
SUBCASE 10
  LOAD=6
SUBCASE 20
  METHOD=30
BEGIN BULK
PARAM,POST,0
$
$ GEOMETRY
GRID, 1, , 0., 0., 0., , 123456
GRID, 2, , 100., 1., 0., , 13456
$
$ CONNECTIVITY
CROD, 10, 10, 1, 2
$CELAS1, 20, 20, 2, 2, 0, 0
$
$ PROPERTIES
$
PROD, 10, 1, .1
$PELAS, 20, 3.
MAT1, 1, 10.E7
$
$ LOADS
$
FORCE, 6, 2, , -6., 0., 1., 0.
$
$ SOLUTION STRATEGY
$
EIGB, 30, INV, 0.0, 3.0, 20, 2, 2, , +EIGB
+EIGB, MAX
ENDDATA
```

---

## Exercise Procedure:

**1. Users who are not utilizing MSC/PATRAN for generating an input file should go to Step 7, otherwise, proceed to step 2.**

2. Create a new database called **prob4c.db**.

### File/New...

*New Database Name:*

**prob4c**

**OK**

In the **New Model Preference** form set the following:

*Tolerance:*

**Default**

*Analysis Code:*

**MSC/NASTRAN**

*Analysis Type:*

**Structural**

**OK**

3. Import the model data from the database **prob4a.db**.

### File/Import...

*Object:*

**Model**

*Source:*

**MSC/PATRAN DB**

*PATRAN Databases:*

**prob4a.db**

**Apply**

When the summary form appears, clear it by clicking on **OK**.

**OK**

4. Modify the model loading to 15 lbs.

### ◆ Loads/BCs

*Action:*

**Modify**

*Object:*

**Force**

*Type:*

**Nodal**

Select Set to Modify:

Force <F1 F2 F3 >

5. Make sure the spring constant is set to k=0.

◆ **Properties**

Action:

Dimension:

Type:

Select Prop. Set to Modify

Spring Constant:

6. Now you are ready to generate an input file for the analysis.

Click on the **Analysis** radio button on the Top Menu Bar and set up the subcases as follows:

◆ **Analysis**

Action:

Object:

Method:

Job Name

Solution Type:  NONLINEAR STATIC

<b>Subcase Create...</b>	
<i>Subcase Name:</i>	<b>nonlinear</b>
<b>Output Requests...</b>	
<i>Form Type:</i>	<b>Advanced</b>
<i>Output Requests</i>	<i>(Deselect all except <b>DISPL...</b>)</i>
<b>Delete</b>	
<i>Select Result Type</i>	<b>Applied Loads</b>
<i>Sorting:</i>	<b>By Freq/Time</b>
<b>Create</b>	
<i>Output Requests</i>	<i>(Select <b>DISPL...</b>)</i>
<i>Sorting:</i>	<b>By Freq/Time</b>
<b>Modify</b>	
<i>Intermediate Output Option:</i>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>OK</b>	
<b>Apply</b>	
<b>Cancel</b>	
<b>Subcase Select...</b>	
<i>Subcases for Solution Sequence:</i>	<b>nonlinear</b>
<i>Subcases Selected:</i>	<i>(Deselect <b>Default</b>)</i>
<b>OK</b>	
<b>Direct Text Input...</b>	
	<b>● Bulk Data Section</b>
	<b>NLPCI,1,CRIS,1.,1., , , ,25</b>
	<i>(Type in blank text box.)</i>
<b>OK</b>	
<b>Apply</b>	

An input file called **prob4c\_1.bdf** will be generated. This process of translating your model into an input file is called the Forward Translation. The Forward Translation is complete when the Heartbeat turns green. MSC/PATRAN users should now proceed to **Step 8**.



Note: You must edit the input file before submitting it for an analysis.

7. Edit the input file.

Enter a text editor and make the following changes to the input file:

In the Bulk Data section, look for the CELAS entry and change the last parameter to 2.

**CELAS 2 2 2 2**

---

## Generating an input file for MSC/NASTRAN Users:

- MSC/NASTRAN users can generate an input file using the data from the Model Description. The result should be similar to the output below (**prob4c\_1.dat**):

```
ASSIGN OUTPUT2 = 'prob4c_1.op2' , UNIT=12
ID NAS103, WORKSHOP 4A SOLUTION
TIME 10
SOL 106
CEND
TITLE=SIMPLE ONE DOF GEOMETRIC NONLINEAR PROBLEM
LABEL=REF: STRICKLIN AND HAISLER; COMP. AND STRUCT.; 7:125-136 (1977)
ECHO=UNSORT
  DISP(SORT2)=ALL
  OLOAD(SORT2)=ALL
SUBCASE 10
  LOAD=15
  NLPARAM=30
BEGIN BULK
PARAM,POST,0
PARAM,LGDISP,1
$
$ GEOMETRY
$
GRID, 1, , 0., 0., 0., , 123456
GRID, 2, , 100., 1., 0., , 13456
$
$ CONNECTIVITY
$
CROD, 10, 10, 1, 2
CELAS1, 20, 20, 2, 2, 0, 0
$
$ PROPERTIES
$
PROD, 10, 1, .1
PELAS, 20, 0.
MAT1, 1, 10.E7
$
$ LOADS
$
FORCE, 15, 2, , -15., 0., 1., 0.
$
$ SOLUTION STRATEGY
$
NLPARAM, 30, 10, , AUTO, 5, 25, PW, YES
```

NLPCI, 30, CRIS, 1., 1., , , , 25  
ENDDATA

---

## Submit the input file for analysis:

9. Submit the input file to MSC/NASTRAN for analysis.
  - 9a. To submit the MSC/PATRAN **.bdf** file, find an available UNIX shell window. At the command prompt enter **nastran prob4c\_1.bdf scr=yes**. Monitor the analysis using the UNIX **ps** command.
  - 9b. To submit the MSC/NASTRAN **.dat** file, find an available UNIX shell window and at the command prompt enter **nastran prob4c\_1.dat scr=yes**. Monitor the analysis using the UNIX **ps** command.
10. When the analysis completed, edit the **prob4c\_1.f06** file and search for the word **FATAL**. If no matches exist, search for the word **WARNING**. Determine whether the existing **WARNING** messages indicate any modeling errors.
  - 10a. While still editing **prob4c\_1.f06**, search for the word:

**D I S P L A C E** (spaces are necessary).

What is the y-displacement of Node 2 at the end of the last step?

T2 = \_\_\_\_\_

## Comparison of Results:

11. Compare the results obtained in the **.f06** file with the results on the following page:

0

SUBCASE 1

POINT-ID = 2

D I S P L A C E M E N T V E C T O R

STEP	TYPE	T1	T2	T3	R1	R2	R3
7.862365E-02	G	0.0	-1.500225E-01	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1.189938E-01	G	0.0	-3.000450E-01	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
2.347448E-01	G	0.0	-2.250337E+00	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
4.484861E-01	G	0.0	-2.400360E+00	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
7.252314E-01	G	0.0	-2.550382E+00	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1.000000E+00	G	0.0	-2.671816E+00	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

L O A D V E C T O R

STEP	TYPE	T1	T2	T3	R1	R2	R3
7.862365E-02	G	0.0	-1.179354E+00	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1.189938E-01	G	0.0	-1.784906E+00	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
2.347448E-01	G	0.0	-3.521173E+00	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
4.484861E-01	G	0.0	-6.727292E+00	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
7.252314E-01	G	0.0	-1.087847E+01	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1.000000E+00	G	0.0	-1.500000E+01	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

12. MSC/NASTRAN users have finished the first part of this exercise. MSC/PATRAN users should proceed to the next step.

**MSC/NASTRAN users should proceed to Step 15.**

13. Proceed with the Reverse Translation process, that is, importing the **prob4c\_1.op2** results file into MSC/PATRAN. To do this, return to the **Analysis** form and proceed as follows:

◆ **Analysis**

<i>Action:</i>	<b>Read Output2</b>
<i>Object:</i>	<b>Result Entities</b>
<i>Method:</i>	<b>Translate</b>
<b>Select Results File...</b>	
<i>Selected Results File:</i>	<b>prob4c_1.op2</b>
<b>OK</b>	
<b>Apply</b>	

14. Create an XY plot of Element Force vs Displacement.

◆ **Results**

<i>Action:</i>	<b>Create</b>
<i>Object:</i>	<b>Graph</b>
<i>Method:</i>	<b>Y vs X</b>
<i>Select Result Case(s)</i>	<i>(Select all cases.)</i>
<i>Y:</i>	<b>Result</b>
<i>Select Y Result</i>	<b>Applied Loads, Translational</b>
<i>Quantity:</i>	<b>Y Component</b>

X:

Result

Select X Result...

Select X Result

Displacements, Translational

Quantity:

Y Component

OK

Next click on the **Target Entities** icon.



Target Entities

Target Entity:

Nodes

Select Nodes

Node 2

(Select node on the right.)

Click on the **Display Attributes** icon.



Display Attributes

■ Show X Axis Label

X Axis Label:

Displacements

X Axis Scale

● Linear

X Axis Format...

Label Format:

Fixed

OK

■ Show Y Axis Label

Y Axis Label:

Applied Load

Y Axis Scale

● Linear

Y Axis Format...

Label Format:

Fixed

OK

Apply



To change the title, do the following:

◆ **XY Plot**

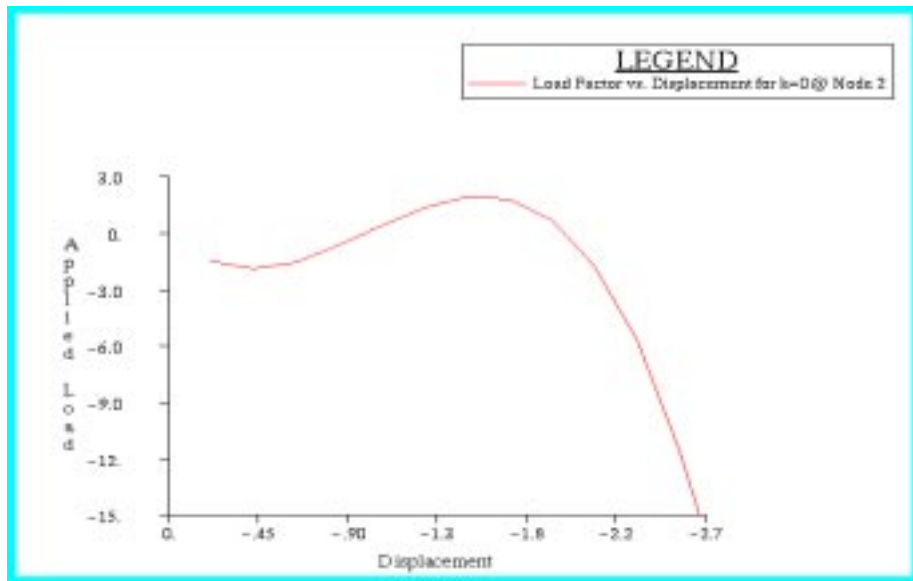
<i>Action:</i>	<input type="text" value="Modify"/>
<i>Object:</i>	<input type="text" value="Curve"/>
<i>Curve List</i>	<input type="text" value="default_GraphResults Graph 0"/>
<input type="text" value="Title..."/>	
<i>Curve Title Text</i>	<input type="text" value="Load Factor vs. Displacement for k=0 @ Node 2"/>
<input type="text" value="Apply"/>	
<input type="text" value="Cancel"/>	

- Modify the X-axis of the XY plot in order to better view the results.

◆ **XY Plot**

<i>Action:</i>	<input type="text" value="Modify"/>
<i>Object:</i>	<input type="text" value="Axis"/>
<i>Active Axis</i>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> X
<input type="text" value="Scale..."/>	
<i>Assignment Method</i>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Range
<i>Enter Lower and Upper Values</i>	<input type="text" value="0 , -2.7"/>
<i>Number of Primary Tick Marks</i>	<input type="text" value="7"/>
<input type="text" value="Apply"/>	
<input type="text" value="Cancel"/>	

The following XY plot should appear on the screen.



Notice the drastic displacement change for a small load increase above 1.5 lbs. This represents the snap-through aspect of the problem. Next, let's run the analysis for the cases when  $k=3$  and  $k=6$ , and plot those curves as well.

16. **MSC/NASTRAN users may modify the PELAS entry in the input file to account for the different spring constants, as well as change the input and output file names.**

**After this is done, MSC/NASTRAN users have completed the exercise.**

17. MSC/PATRAN users will modify the spring constant, resubmit the analysis, and import the results. A sample algorithm for the next two analyses is as follows:

Set the spring constant to  $k=\#$ .

◆ **Properties**

Action:

**Modify**

Dimension:

**0D**

Type:

**Grounded Spring**

Select Prop. Set to Modify

**spring**

**Input Properties...***Spring Constant:*

# (# is 3 or 6)

**OK****Apply**

Set up the analysis.

◆ **Analysis***Action:***Analyze***Object:***Entire Model***Method:***Analysis Deck***Job Name***prob4c\_#** (# is 2 or 3)**Direct Text Input...***(Verify that text still says.)***OK****Subcase Select...***Subcases for Solution Sequence:***nonlinear***Subcases Selected:**(Deselect Default.)***OK****Apply**

Note: Be sure to edit the CELAS entry as show in Step 7.

Run the **.bdf** file through NASTRAN.**nastran prob4c\_# scr=yes** (where # is 2 or 3)Check the **.f06** file for errors, and look at the displacements.Read in the **.op2** file into PATRAN.◆ **Analysis**

---

Action:

**Read Output2**

Object:

**Result Entities**

Method:

**Translate**

**Select Results File...**

Selected Results File:

**prob4c\_#.op2** (# is 2 or 3)

**OK**

**Apply**

Now add the curve to your XY plot.

#### ◆ Results

Action:

**Create**

Object:

**Graph**

Method:

**Y vs X**

Select the set of result cases that are to be added by highlighting them.

Select Result Case(s)

*(Select the second or third set of cases.)*

Repeat the previous procedure for the new subcases with only one difference. Under the **Display Attributes** window in the **Results** form, click on the **Append Curves in XY Window** as shown below.

#### ■ Append Curves in XY Window

Then click Apply.

**Apply**

To change the title, do the following:

#### ◆ XY Plot

Action:

**Modify**

Object:

**Curve**

Curve List

**default\_GraphResults Graph ...**

*(Select the corresponding graph.)*

**Title...**

*Curve Title Text*

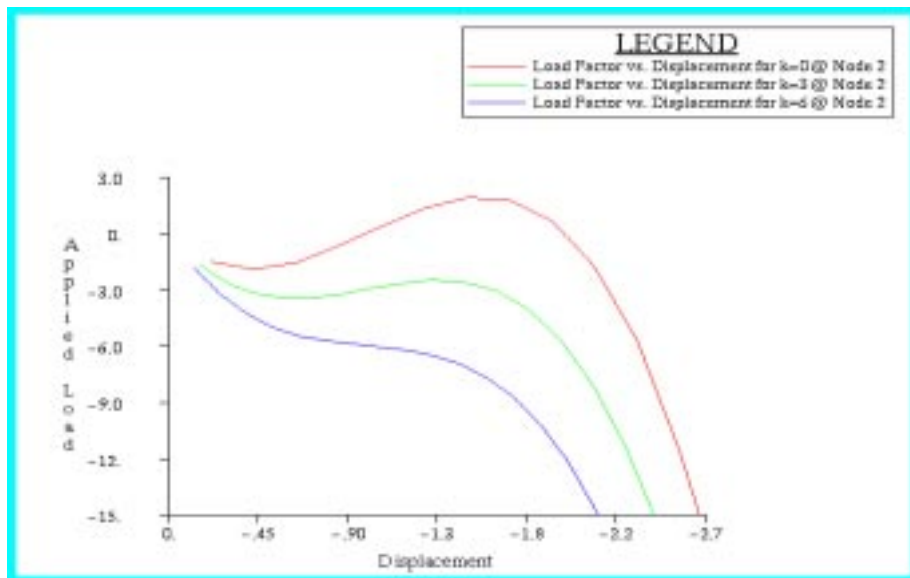
**Load Factor vs. Displacement  
for k=# @ Node 2**

(# is 3 or 6)

**Apply**

**Cancel**

After repeating the procedure for the remaining two cases, your plot should appear as follows:



Notice that as k is increased, the required load to produce a “snap-through” also increased.

Quit MSC/PATRAN when you have completed this exercise.

---

## MSC/PATRAN .bdf file: prob4c\_1.bdf

```
$ NASTRAN input file created by the MSC MSC/NASTRAN input file
$ translator ( MSC/PATRAN Version 7.5 ) on January 15, 1998 at
$ 22:07:48.
ASSIGN OUTPUT2 = 'prob4c_1.op2', UNIT = 12
$ Direct Text Input for File Management Section
$ Nonlinear Static Analysis, Database
SOL 106
TIME 600
$ Direct Text Input for Executive Control
CEND
SEALL = ALL
SUPER = ALL
TITLE = MSC/NASTRAN job created on 15-Jan-98 at 22:05:39
ECHO = NONE
MAXLINES = 999999999
$ Direct Text Input for Global Case Control Data
SUBCASE 1
$ Subcase name : nonlinear
  SUBTITLE=Default
  NLPARAM = 1
  SPC = 2
  LOAD = 2
  DISPLACEMENT(SORT2,REAL)=ALL
$ Direct Text Input for this Subcase
BEGIN BULK
PARAM POST -1
PARAM PATVER 3.
PARAM AUTOSPC YES
PARAM COUPMASS -1
PARAM K6ROT 100.
PARAM WTMASS 1.
PARAM LGDISP 1
PARAM,NOCOMPS,-1
PARAM PRTMAXIM YES
NLPARAM 1 70 ITER 1 25 PW YES + A
+ A .001 1.-7
$ Direct Text Input for Bulk Data
NLPCI,1,CRIS,1.,1,,,,,25
$ Elements and Element Properties for region : beam
PROD 1 1 .1
CROD 1 1 1 2
$ Elements and Element Properties for region : spring
PELAS 2 0.
CELAS1 2 2 2 2
```

```
$ Referenced Material Records
$ Material Record : mat_1
$ Description of Material : Date: 11-Jun-97      Time: 11:15:21
MAT1  1  1.+8
$ Nodes of the Entire Model
GRID  1  0.  0.  0.
GRID  2  100.  1.  0.
$ Loads for Load Case : Default
SPCADD  2  1  3
LOAD  2  1.  1.  1
$ Displacement Constraints of Load Set : constraint_1
SPC1  1  123456  1
$ Displacement Constraints of Load Set : constraint_2
SPC1  3  13456  2
$ Nodal Forces of Load Set : load_1
FORCE  1  2  0  15.  0.  -1.  0.
$ Referenced Coordinate Frames
ENDDATA 29a86b98
```

