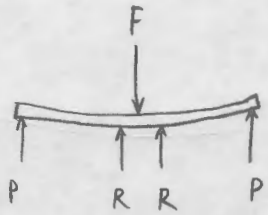
BEAM BENDING EQUATIONS

We are solving for the deflexion of the foldable mowboard under an applied load:

In the calculations that follow, δ is the max deflection of the board, while Δ is the deflexion of the center piece.

The center piece is either a plate or two rods. It is connected to each half by two attachments. There is a force in each of the attachments:



view of center piece

We will need to find those forces when calculating δ. The center piece (either a plate or two rods) has a length l. Its properties: Young's Modulus E and a second moment of area I. It is by changing I that we will differentiate the tube design and the plate design.

For the plate design, $I = \frac{bR^3}{12}$ (R height of plate)

For the 2-rod design, $I = \frac{\pi}{32}(D_{out}^4 - D_{in}^4)$ (D_{out} is outer diameter, D_{in} inner diameter)

The distance between the two middle attachments is called d.

Each half of the board has a length L, width b, Young's Modulus E and moment of area J.

We find first the deflection of the center piece, the we find the deflection of the left half. Using boundary conditions we can find the value of R and P, and obtain the final equation which gives a condition on the parameters of the center piece such that the deflection δ is the same as for the original board.