

1. Why can't the equations for the weights-on-a-string problem be solved as is usually done for simultaneous equations? (For example, by successive elimination of one variable.)
2. Why are matrix methods used for the weights-on-a-string problem?
3. What physical quantities are the unknowns in the matrix formulation of the multi-dimensional Newton-Raphson method?
4. Why can't we solve for the unknown angles and tensions directly?
5. What would you conclude if your solution yielded *negative* tensions for the strings?