Preface

CATIA Version 5 Structure Design allows you to quickly model linear and curved structures, and plates using standard or user-defined sections. It addresses foundation and tooling design.

As a scalable product, CATIA-Structure Design can be used with other CATIA Version 5 products such as CATIA-Part Design, CATIA-Assembly Design, CATIA-Sheetmetal Design, and CATIA-Generative Drafting.

Using This Guide
More Information
Using This Guide

This book is intended to help you become quickly familiar with CATIA Structure Design. You should already be accustomed with basic CATIA Version 5 concepts such as document windows, standard and view toolbars.

To get the most out of this guide, we suggest you start reading and performing the step-by-step Getting Started tutorial.

Basic Task and Advanced Task sections present the main capabilities in the form of user tasks. It may be a good idea to take a look at the section describing the workbench menus and toolbars.
More Information

Prior to reading this book, we recommend that you read the *CATIA Version 5 Infrastructure User's Guide*.


Click to find out more about [Conventions](#) used in this guide.
Conventions

Certain conventions are used in CATIA, ENOVIA & DELMIA documentation to help you recognize and understand important concepts and specifications. The following text conventions may be used:

- The titles of CATIA documents *appear in this manner* throughout the text.
- File -> New identifies the commands to be used.

The use of the mouse differs according to the type of action you need to perform.

*Use this mouse button, whenever you read*

- Select (menus, commands, geometry in graphics area, ...)
- Click (icons, dialog box buttons, tabs...)
- Double-click
- Shift-click
- Ctrl-click
- Check (check boxes)
- Drag
- Drag and drop (icons onto objects, objects onto objects)
- Drag
- Move
- Right-click (to select contextual menu)

Graphic conventions are denoted as follows:

- indicates the estimated time to accomplish a task.
- indicates a target of a task.
- indicates the prerequisites.
- indicates the scenario of a task.
- indicates tips
indicates a warning.

indicates information.

indicates the end of a task.

indicates functionalities that are new or enhanced with this Release. Enhancements can also be identified by a blue-colored background in the left-hand margin.
What's New?

Enhanced: When creating plates, you can now use the Sketcher to define the contour.
Getting Started

This tutorial will guide you step-by-step through your first Structure Design session, allowing you to get acquainted with the product.

You will need a CATIA Version 5 session and should be familiar with basic concepts such as document windows, standard and view toolbars.

You should be able to complete this tutorial in about 15 minutes.

Setting Up Your Session
Creating Columns
Creating a Plate
Bracing Your Structure
Creating a Walkway
Creating Infills
Making Changes
Setting Up Your Session

This first task shows you how to enter the Structure Design workbench and set up your V5 session.

1. Select File -> Open then select the GettingStarted.CATProduct document from the samples directory.

2. Select Mechanical Design -> Structure Design from the Start menu.

   The Structure Design workbench is displayed.

3. Switch to Design Mode (Edit -> Representations).

   The document contains wireframe construction elements that will help you build the following foundation:

![Foundation Image](image)

4. To ensure associativity between the structures you are going to create and the grid used as a construction aid, set the following options:
   - Select Tools -> Options from the menu bar
   - Click Mechanical Design -> Part Design in the left-hand box of the Options dialog box
   - Click the General tab
   - Check Keep link with selected object and Synchronize all external references.

5. Click Mechanical Design -> Structure Design in the left-hand box of the Options dialog box and select the Structure Design tab, then set member and plate material to Steel.
6. For access to available sections as well as to sample standard catalog sections, set the following options in the Structure Design tab:
   - Enter the path of the directory containing sample standard catalog sections in the Directory field under Catalog storage: installation_folder/startup/components/structuralcatalogs
   - For more information on the installation folder, see the CATIA Infrastructure User's Guide.
   - Enter e:\tmp in the Directory field under Section storage to identify the path of the directory containing available sections

7. Click OK in the Options dialog box when done.
Creating Support Columns

This task shows you how to create the four support columns of your structure. Columns use standard section IPE200 with a gravity anchor point.

1. Double-click the Member icon.

The Member Definition and Point Definition dialog boxes appear.

Double-clicking keeps the dialog box open letting you can create several columns.

2. Close the Point Definition dialog box.

3. Load the standard section, IPE200, that you will need:
   - In the Section list, select Other section...
     - The Catalogs dialog box listing the various catalogs available is displayed.
     - Select the OTUA catalog.
     - In the Family box, select the IPE type.
     - In the Section box, select section IPE200.
     - Click OK.

   The Section list in the Member Definition dialog box is updated.

4. Keep default options defining member type, anchor point and orientation.
5. In the Direction box list, select Parallel to the Z axis.
6. Select the start point of your column.
7. Select the end point of your column.
   The column is created in the geometry area and identified in the specification tree.

In this case where a support (grid line) coincides with the start and end points used to create the column, you can also use the Member on Support command.
8. Repeat to create the other three columns.
   Your structure now looks like this:
Creating a Plate

This task shows you how to create a plate on top of the support columns.

1. Click the Plate icon.
   The Plate Definition dialog box appears.

2. Enter the plate thickness, for example 100mm.
3. Select the grid plane as support plane.

4. Select the ends of linear members to define the contour of the plate:
   Note: The system shows you a preview to guide you when creating the plate. You need only select the ends of three members, the system closes the contour for you.
5. Select the arrow to invert the orientation of the thickness.
6. Click OK to create the plate.

Your structure now looks like this:
This task shows you how to brace both ends of your structure.

1. Double-click the Member icon.
   
   The Member Definition dialog box appears. Double-clicking keeps the dialog box open letting you can create several braces.

2. In the Type list, select V-Brace.
3. In the Section list, select IPE200.
4. In the Anchor point list, select Gravity.
5. In the Direction box list, select Unspecified.
6. Select the top end of the first column.
7. Select the bottom end of the opposite column.
   
   The first part of the brace is created.

8. Select the bottom end of first column.

9. Select the top end of opposite column.
   
   The brace at this end of the structure is finished.

10. Repeat for the other end of the structure.

   Your structure now looks like this:
Creating a Walkway

This task shows you how to create the linear members making up a walkway.

The Linear Member Definition dialog box is still displayed.

1. In the Type list, select Beam.

2. In the Section list, select IPE200.

3. In the Anchor point list, select Gravity top.

4. In the Direction list, select Parallel to the X-axis.

5. Click the Length checkbox and enter 2000 in the Length box.

6. Select column 1 and indicate to identify the positive direction:

   The first support beam is created.

7. Select column 4 and indicate to identify the positive direction:

   The second support beam is created.

8. In the Linear Member Definition dialog box, change the direction to Parallel to the xy plane.

9. Uncheck the Length checkbox.

10. Click the Offset checkbox and enter 2000.

11. Select the two support beams you just created:

    The first connecting beam is created.
Be careful where you select the two beams. The system determines the end nearest the selection point to define the start and end points of the beam you want to create.

12. Select the two support beams again, this time at the other end:
   The second connecting beam is created.
   
   Note: This second beam is needed to create the infills and complete the walkway.

13. In the Type list, select V-Brace.

14. Keep the same section, IPE200.

15. In the Anchor point list, select Gravity.

16. In the Orientation box, use to arrows to change the angle to 90 degrees.

17. In the Direction list, select Parallel to XZ plane.

18. Uncheck the Offset checkbox.

19. Select the bottom end of column 1.
20. Select the far end of the first beam created.
21. Repeat for the other end of the walkway.
22. Click the Member icon to exit the command.

Your structure now looks like this:
Creating Infills

This task shows how to create infills to complete the walkway and your structure.

1. Click the Infill icon.

   The Infill Definition dialog box appears.

2. In the Type list, select Beam.

3. In the Section list, select IPE200.

4. In the Anchor point list, select Top center.

5. Set the Orientation back to 0deg.

6. In the Number box, use the arrows to change the number of infills to 4.

7. Keep the default options in the Spacing boxes.

8. Select the two connecting beams.
   **Important:** Make sure you select the entire definition of the beam.

9. Click OK to create the infills.

   Infills are created and have the characteristics defined in the Infill Definition dialog box.

   Infills are added to the specification tree.

   Your structure now looks like this:
Making Design Changes

You discover that your structure interferes with the dismantling and maintenance of neighbouring parts. It needs to be shortened slightly and this can be done without adversely affecting your design.

This task shows you how to use the associativity between the members and plate created and the construction grid to adjust the length of your structure.

1. Double-click the plane (highlighted below) at the end of the structure twice to edit it:

![Diagram of the structure with the highlighted plane.]

Note: On the first double-click, you enter the Part Design workbench.

On the second double-click, the Plane Definition dialog box appears.

![Plane Definition dialog box.]

- Plane type: Offset from plane
- Reference: Plane.3
- Offset: 3000mm
- Reverse Direction
- Repeat object after OK

[OK, Apply, Cancel buttons]
2. Drag the plane to the new position or enter a shorter offset distance in the dialog box, for example 2500mm.

3. Click OK when done.

   The grid is updated. Now you can update the structure.

4. Double-click the root product in the specification tree.

5. If the Update icon is active, click to update.

   The structure is updated.
   Your structure now looks like this:
To ensure associativity between the structures you create and the grid used as a construction aid, you must check the following options (Tools -> Options...) before creating your structures:

- Keep link with selected object and Synchronize all external references for update in the General tab under Mechanical Design -> Part Design in the Options dialog box.

This concludes the getting started step-by-step scenario.

You should now go to the basic task section of this guide. This steps you through basic procedures, letting you get the most out of this product.
Basic Tasks

The basic tasks you will perform in the Structure Design workbench involve creating linear and curved structures, and plates using standard or user-defined sections, modifying structures, specifying structure joints, translating and rotating structures, as well as creating construction grids to assist you create structures.

Creating Structures
Modifying, Joining & Moving
Creating a Grid
Creating Structures

CATIA - Structure Design allows you to create linear and curved structures, and plates using standard or user-defined sections.

Do not forget to switch to Design Mode (Edit -> Representations -> Design Mode) to create structures.

Double-clicking commands keeps dialog boxes open and lets you create more than one structure at any one time.

**Associativity:**

To ensure associativity between the structures you create and any underlying wireframe geometry used as construction geometry, you must check the following options (Tools -> Options...) before creating your structures:

- Keep link with selected object and Synchronize all external references for update in the General tab under Mechanical Design -> Part Design in the Options dialog box.

**Access sections:** Select Other section... in the Section box list then choose the appropriate catalog or simply select a user-defined section in the Section box list

**Create linear members:** Set parameters in the Member Definition dialog box then define where the member starts and ends

**Create infills:** Set parameters in the Infill dialog box then select the two structures between which you want to create infills

**Create members on supports:** Set parameters in the Member on Support dialog box then select the support

**Create plates:** Set parameters in the Plate Definition dialog box, select a support then define the contour of the plate

**Create end plates:** Set parameters in the End Plate Definition dialog box, select the end of the structure at which you want to place the end plate
Sections used to create structures can be:

- **Standard catalog sections**
  
  Samples of standard catalogs are supplied with the product. Sections in these catalogs are parametric sketches associated with design tables (CSV-type Excel files).

- **User-defined sections**

All sections are accessed via the Section list in Linear Member Definition, Infill Definition or Member on Support dialog boxes.

This task shows how to make standard catalog and user-defined sections available.

No sample document is provided.

**Accessing standard catalog sections**

1. Select Other section... in the Section box list of the Linear Member Definition, Infill Definition or Member on Support dialog box. The Catalogs dialog box listing the various catalogs available is displayed.

2. In the Catalog box, select the catalog of interest, for example AISC.

3. In the Family box, select the type of interest, for example C.

4. In the Section box, select the section of interest.

5. Click Apply in the dialog box.

6. Select as many sections as desired, clicking Apply each time.
The Section list of the appropriate Definition dialog box is updated with the selected section(s).

Note: Catalog sections added to the list are saved in the directory defined in the Section storage box of the Structure Design tab in the Options dialog box (Tools -> Options -> Mechanical Design) and can, subsequently, be accessed directly in the Section list.

**User-defined sections**

User-defined sections are of two types:

- **Parametric sections stored in a user catalog**

  User catalog sections are accessed via the Other section... option in the Section box of the dialog box.

- **Resolved sections stored directly in the directory defined in the Section storage box of the Structure Design tab in the Options dialog box (Tools -> Options -> Mechanical Design).**

Both types of section can be created using the Sketcher. For more information on sketcher capabilities, see the Sketcher User's Guide. A simple task illustrating the use of the sketcher is included in this guide; see Sketching.

1. To access user catalog sections, select Other section... in the Section box list of the Linear Member Definition, Infill Definition or Member on Support dialog box and proceed as above for standard catalog sections.

Or,

Select the resolved section of interest in the Section box list of the Linear Member Definition, Infill Definition or Member on Support dialog box.
Creating Linear Members

This task shows how to create linear members.

No sample document is provided.

1. Click the Member icon.

The Linear Member Definition and Point Definition dialog boxes appear.

Note: Double-click the icon to keep the dialog box and create more than one member.

2. In the Type list, select the type of member you want to create:
   - Column
   - Beam
   - H-Brace
   - V-Brace.

3. In the Section list, select the shape you want to use. Click:
   - One of the available section names, or
   - Other section... to access catalog sections not already listed.

For more information, see Accessing Sections.

4. In the preview or in the Anchor point list, select the desired point at which to anchor the section along the support axis.

Note: Since the section selected is symmetrical, gravity anchor points coincide with standard anchor points.

The illustration to the right shows standard and gravity anchor points for a channel shape section.
5. In the Orientation box, use the arrows to change the angular dimension value and orient the section around its anchor point:

   The Orientation field is updated in 90 degree increments by default. Right-click in this field to change the step.

   In the illustrations below, the anchor point is top left.

6. In the Direction list, select how you want to place the member:

   - Unspecified
   - Parallel to the XY plane
   - Parallel to the YZ plane
   - Parallel to the XZ plane
   - Parallel to an unspecified plane: click the Direction box and select a plane before defining the member limits.
   - On an unspecified plane: click the Direction box and select a plane before defining the member limits. The member is projected onto the plane.
   - Parallel to the X axis
   - Parallel to the Y axis
   - Parallel to the Z axis
   - Parallel to an unspecified line: click the Direction box and select a line before defining the member limits.

7. Define the limits of the member you want to create:

   You can define the start and end limits of a member in a variety of different ways, by
   - Entering coordinates
   - Selecting wireframe elements
   - Specifying a length
   - Specifying an offset to the XY, YZ or XZ plane

**Entering Coordinates**

   - Enter point coordinates in the Point Definition dialog box or in the power input field in the status bar.
   - You can combine coordinates and selection of wireframe elements when defining start and end points for members.

**Selecting Wireframe Elements**

   - Select a wireframe element in the geometry area.
   - You can combine coordinates and selection of wireframe elements when defining start and end points for members.

Wireframe elements are useful construction aids. To create a construction grid, see Creating a Grid.
Specifying a Length

- Enter point coordinates or select a wireframe element to define the start point.
- Click the Length checkbox and enter a value or use the arrows to change the value in the Length field.
- Indicate in the geometry area to identify the direction.

Specifying an Offset to XY, YZ or XZ Plane

**Note:** This option is only available when the selected direction is parallel to the XY, YZ or XZ plane. The offset is computed along the normal to the defined plane.

- Click the Offset checkbox and enter a value or use the arrows to change the value in the Offset field. You can enter a positive or a negative value.
- Select wireframe elements or two existing structures.

Specifying an offset is particularly useful when creating members between two existing structures.

A preview of the member guides you as you create. Any changes in the member definition are immediately reflected in the preview.

The member is created and has the characteristics defined in the Member Definition dialog box.

The linear member is added to the specification tree.

To modify a member, right-click it in the specification tree and select the appropriate command from the contextual menu.

You can translate, rotate and manipulate members.
Creating Infills

This task shows how to create infills between two members or plates.

You can either specify the number of infills you want to place or have the system compute how many to place based on information you enter about infill spacing.

No sample document is provided.

1. Click the Infill icon.

The Infill Definition dialog box appears.

2. In the Type list, select the type of infill you want to create:
   - Column
   - Beam
   - H-Brace
   - V-Brace

3. In the Section list, select the shape you want to use. Click:
   - One of the available section names, or
   - Other section... to access catalog sections not already listed.

For more information, see Accessing Sections.

4. In the preview or in the Anchor point list, select the desired point to anchor the section along the support axis.

   Note: Since the section selected is symmetrical, gravity anchor points coincide with standard anchor points.

   The illustration to the right shows standard and gravity anchor points for a channel shape section.

5. In the Orientation box, use the arrows to change the angular dimension value and orient the section around its anchor point:

   The Orientation field is updated in 90 degree increments by default. Right-click in this field to change the step.

   In the illustrations below, the anchor point is top left.
6. Specify the number of infills you want to place:
   - In the Number box, scroll to a new value with the up and down arrows
   - Or,
   - Click the Compute checkbox to have the system compute the number of infills.

Use the Compute option to have the system calculate:
   - The number of equally-spaced infills to place based on the length of reference 1 and a maximum distance between infills (D2) that you specify. The system adjusts the distance D2.
   - Note: If you specify the distance to the first infill (D1) and the distance from the last infill (D3) as well, D3 is re-computed by the system.
   - Distance D3 from distances D1 and D2 you entered in the Defined mode.

7. In the Position box, select
   - Relative to position infill sections with respect to the plane defined by the selected structures
   - Or,
   - Absolute to take infill section orientation into account.

8. (Optional) In the Offset box, set an offset with respect to the plane defined by the selected structures.
9. Select the first structure (reference 1).
10. Select the second structure (reference 2).

   The point at which you select structures is important. The system determines the end nearest this point and computes infill spacing along the selected structure from this end.
   A preview guides you as you create. Any changes in the infill definition are immediately reflected in the preview.
Options in the Spacing boxes let you define the distances between infills as well as between infills and the ends of selected structures.

11. Specify infill spacing:

To have infills placed at equal distances along structure 1:
- In the Mode box, select Equal.

To specify infill position and spacing with respect to the first structure (reference 1):
- In the Mode box, select Defined
- In the D1 box, enter a value or use the arrows to change the value to specify the distance from the end of the structure to the first infill
- In the D2 box, enter a value or use the arrows to change the value to specify the distance between infills
- In the D3 box, enter a value or use the arrows to change the value to specify the distance from the last infill to the other end of the structure.

Note: In the Defined mode, you must enter distances D1 and D2. Distance D3 is generally deduced by the system.

To define infill position and spacing with respect to the second structure (reference 2): In the Mode box, select the appropriate option:
- Equal: infills are placed at equal distances along structure 2
- Perpendicular to 1: infills are placed perpendicular to structure 1
- Perpendicular to 2: infills are placed perpendicular to structure 2
- Same as 1: D1 and D3 distances are applied when placing infills along structure 2.

Use the Same as 1 option when structures are not parallel to keep the same distances between infills and the ends of structures.
12. When satisfied, click OK to create the infills.

Infills are created and have the characteristics defined in the Infill Definition dialog box.

Infills are added to the specification tree.

- To modify infills, right-click in the specification tree and select the appropriate command from the contextual menu.
- You can translate, rotate and manipulate infills.
Creating Members on Supports

This task shows how to route straight and curved members along an existing support. The member can be trimmed to planes, intersection elements or faces of existing structures selected as limits.

This command is particularly useful when creating curved members.

Open the MemberOnSupport.CATProduct document.

1. Click the Member on Support icon.

The Member on Support dialog box appears.

2. In the Type list, select the type of member you want to create:
   - Column
   - Beam
   - H-Brace
   - V-Brace.

3. In the Section list, select the shape you want to use. Click:
   - One of the available section names, or
   - Other section... to access catalog sections not already listed.

   For more information, see Accessing Sections.

4. In the preview or in the Anchor point list, select the desired point to anchor the section along the support axis.
Note: Since the section selected is symmetrical, gravity anchor points coincide with standard anchor points.

The illustration to the right shows standard and gravity anchor points for a channel shape section.

5. In the Orientation box, use the arrows to change the angular dimension value and orient the section around its anchor point:

The Orientation field is updated in 90 degree increments by default. Right-click in this field to change the step.

In the illustrations below, the anchor point is top left.

6. Select the support curve or line:

Select wireframe elements created using the Grid command or the CATIA V5 Wireframe and Surface Design product. You cannot select elements of a sketch.

The member will be routed along the selected support. A preview guides you as you create. Any changes in member definition are immediately reflected in the preview.

Arrows identify the direction along which a positive offset is calculated.
Right-click in the geometry area to access the contextual menu allowing you to specify the number of sections previewed.

7. To orient the section with respect to a reference curve or surface, click the Reference box and select the desired curve or surface.
   Specifying a reference lets you create twisted members.

8. Select the first limit to which you want to trim the member
9. Select the second limit.
10. (Optional) In the Offset box, enter a value or use the arrows to change the value to offset limit 1 or limit 2 by the specified distance.

Limits can be planes, intersection elements or the faces of existing structures.
11. Click OK to create the curved member.

   The member is created and has the characteristics defined in the Member on Support dialog box.

   The curved member is added to the specification tree.

   To **modify** a member, right-click it in the specification tree and select the appropriate command from the contextual menu.

   You can **translate**, **rotate** and **manipulate** members.
Creating Plates

This task shows how to create different types of plate.

Open the CreatingPlates.CATProduct document.

The sample documents looks like this:

1. Click the Plate icon.

   The Plate Definition dialog box appears.

2. In the Type list, select the desired type of plate.

3. In the Thickness box, use the arrows to change the thickness value or enter a value directly in the box.

4. Select a support:

   The support can be a plane or the face of an existing structure.

5. In the Offset box, use the arrows to change the distance value or enter a value directly in the box to create the plate parallel to the support, offset by the specified distance.
6. Define the contour of your plate:
- Click the Sketcher icon to open the Sketcher workbench
- Sketch the plate contour in the support plane
- Exit the sketcher.

For more information on the Sketcher, see the *Sketcher User’s Guide*. The plate is created. You can now make any on-the-fly modifications and see them reflected in the preview.

Or,
- Select points, lines or edges in the document to define the plate contour.

An arrow normal to the support and identifying the direction of extrusion is displayed. As you select elements, a preview appears to guide you. Elements you select are projected onto the support plane.
- Click Apply or double-click to create the plate.

7. Select the arrow or click the Reverse direction option in the dialog box to extend the plate in the opposite direction from that shown.

8. Adjust the plate thickness.

9. Click Apply when satisfied.
You can also modify the shape of your plate and for example create a corner using the Sketcher.

10. Click OK when done.

The plate is created and has the characteristics defined in the Plate Definition dialog box.

The plate is added to the specification tree.

11. Create another structure between the two plates using a plate face as support.

Your structure now looks like this:
To redefine a plate, right-click it in the specification tree and select Definition from the contextual menu.

You can translate, rotate and manipulate plates.
Creating End Plates

This task shows how to create a special type of plate called an end plate.

No sample document is provided.

1. Click the End-Plate icon.

   The End Plate Definition dialog box appears.

2. In the Type list, select the desired type of plate.

3. Define the length, width and thickness of the plate using arrows to change the values or entering values directly in boxes.

   The length and width are defined with respect to the local axis system of the structure, for example, in the case of an I shape, the width is defined along the x-axis parallel to the flange and the length along the y-axis parallel to the web.
4. Select the end of the structure at which you want to place the end plate.

The end plate is created as defined and is added to the specification tree.

5. Click OK when done.
Modifying, Joining & Moving

**Modify structures**: Right-click the structure in the specification tree and select the desired type of modification, then make appropriate changes.

**Join structures**: Select the cut in the Joint Definition dialog box, specify an offset, then select members

**Translate structures**: Select a structure and enter offset values in the Move dialog box

**Rotate structures**: Select a structure, choose the axis of rotation and enter an angle in the Move dialog box

**Manipulate structures**: Define the move in the Manipulation Parameters dialog box, select a structure and drag
Modifying Structures

You can modify the definition (type, section, anchor point and orientation) of both members and plates. You can also extend, stretch (unconstrained linear members only) and flip members.

All modifications are done via the contextual menu on structures selected in the specification tree.

Note: You cannot select structures you want to modify in the geometry area.

This task shows how to modify members.

No sample document is provided.

1. Right-click the member you want to modify and select the type of modification you want to make from the contextual menu.

   You can:
   - Modify the type, section, anchor point and orientation (Definition).
   - Add a positive or negative offset at member ends (Extend).
   - Stretch unconstrained linear members (Stretch).
   - Flip the section (Flip).

   Note: Only Definition is available for plates.

2. Make the required modification.

   Definition: make your selection(s) in the Definition dialog box that appears and click OK when done.

If you have created a large number of structures, right-click the structure of interest in the geometry area then select the Center Graph command to find your structure in the specification tree.
Extend: the Limits Definition dialog appears. Set new values in offset boxes and/or select a new limit where appropriate then click OK when done.

For structures created by specifying a length, you can also modify the length value.

Stretch: a graphic manipulator is displayed letting you stretch the unconstrained linear member along the main axes of the section. Stretch your structure and click OK when done.

Important: This command is only available for unconstrained linear members, i.e. those created by entering coordinates or with the Keep link with selected object option de-activated.

Flip: select this command to flip an asymmetric section.
Joining Structures

This task shows how to specify the type of joint between members and define how member ends are cut.

No sample document is provided.

1. Click the Joint icon.

The Joint Definition dialog box appears.

2. In the Type list, select the desired type, for example Normal cut.

Types available are:
- None: no cut.
  This option lets you remove a previously applied cut.
- Weld cut: a cutting plane is used to cut the member you want to trim.
- Miter cut: members are perpendicular with ends cut at an angle.
- Normal cut: ends of members are cut perpendicular to the support axis.

3. In the Offset box, use the arrows to change the offset value or enter a value directly in the box to offset the member you want to trim from the trimming member.

4. Select the member serving as limit (trimming member).

5. Select the member you want to trim.

It is important to select members in the correct order.

6. Click Apply to create the cut.

Members are cut back as specified in the dialog box.
Translating Structures

This task will show you two ways to move a structure to a new location:

- Entering value(s) in the Move dialog box
- Selecting wireframe elements to define the direction.

No sample document is provided.

The structure you want to move must belong to the active object.

1. Click the Translation or Rotation icon.

The Move dialog box is displayed.

2. Select the structure you want to translate.

3. Define the translation:

   **Entering value(s) in the Move dialog box:**

   The move is defined in terms of an offset along x, y or z axes.
   - Enter an offset value for x, y or z in the Offset boxes.
Click Apply.

The selected structure is moved accordingly.

Click Invert to change the direction of the offset and move the structure in the opposite direction.

The structure is translated in the opposite direction.

You can click Apply as many times as you wish to move the structure to the desired position.

Selecting wireframe elements:

The move is defined by selecting wireframe elements or selecting a wireframe element and entering a distance.

Click Selection to define your translation with respect to a wireframe element.

The Translation tab contents is grayed.

If you select a line or a plane you also need to enter a distance value. The translation is then done along the selected line or normal to the selected plane. Selecting two faces or planes assumes these elements are parallel.
Select two faces as shown.

Faces are parallel.

CATIA computes the distance between them. The distance is displayed in the Offset boxes.

Click Apply to translate the structure.

You can apply this translation to other structures. Simply select them and click Apply.

4. Click OK when done.
Rotating Structures

This task will show you two ways to rotate a structure:

- **Identify the axis of rotation** in the dialog box and enter an angle.
- **Select a wireframe element** to define the axis of rotation and enter an angle.

The structure you want to move must belong to the active object.

1. Click the Translation or Rotation icon.

   The Move dialog box is displayed.

   Translation options are available. To know how to translate structures, see Translating Structures.

2. Click the Rotation tab.

3. Select the structure you want to rotate.

4. Define the rotation:
Entering a angle and specifying an axis of rotation:

- Click one of the Axis options to specify the axis of rotation.
- Enter an angle of rotation in the Angle box.
- Click Apply.

The selected structure is rotated accordingly.

Selecting wireframe elements:

- Click Selection to define your rotation with respect to a wireframe element.
- Select a wireframe element to define the axis of rotation, an edge for example.

Enter an angle in the Angle box.
- Click Apply to rotate the structure.

You can apply this rotation to other structures. Simply select them and click Apply.

5. Click OK when done.
Manipulating Structures

The Manipulate command lets you drag to move a structure freehand. It is less constraining than the Translate and Rotate commands.

This task will show you how to move structures.

No sample document is provided.

The structure you want to move must belong to the active object.

1. Click the Manipulation icon.

The Manipulation Parameters dialog box appears:

A variety of options let you:
- Move selected structures along the x, y or z-axis as well as in the xy, yz and xz planes
- Rotate selected structures around the x, y or z-axis
- Select a wireframe element to define the direction of the move or the axis of rotation.

2. Click the Drag along Y axis icon.

3. Select the structure you want to move.

4. Drag to translate the selected structure.
   
The structure is moved in the specified direction.
5. Select another structure and click Drag around Y axis icon.
6. Drag to rotate the structure.

   You are rotating it around the Y axis.

7. Click With respect to constraints.

   Note: This option concerns assembly constraints.

   If you repeat the previous operation, you will notice that you are not allowed to do so. The existing parallelism constraint prevents you from moving the selected structure.
8. Click OK when done.
Creating a Grid

Using grids lets you design in context. You can create structures referencing geometrical grid elements. Design changes can then be introduced by modifying the grid and updating the structure in consequence.

Note: You can also design in context using assembly constraints.

This task shows how to create a new grid that you can then use as a construction aid to create members.

A grid is made of wireframe elements (lines, points and planes) and is identified in the specification tree. It can be created using either the Cartesian or Polar coordinate system.

Start the Structure Design workbench (Mechanical Design -> Structure Design from the Start menu).

1. Click the Grid icon.

The Grid Definition dialog box appears.

2. Enter a name for the grid you want to create in the Name box:

   The grid will be identified by this name in the specification tree.

3. Enter absolute coordinates in the Origin box or select a point in the geometry area to define the grid origin.

4. In the First direction in XY plane box:
   - In the Cartesian tab, enter H and V coordinates to define the local x-axis.
   - Click the Polar tab and enter an angle to define the polar axis.
   - Select a line in the geometry area.

   Note: By default, the local x-axis is positioned along the absolute x-axis.

5. Specify grid coordinates:
   - In the Cartesian tab, specify the distance between grid points and number of points along x, y and z axes.
   - In the Polar tab, specify the radius, amplitude and spacing along the z-axis as well as the number of grid points in each case.

   Note: Clicking More expands the dialog box and lets you enter up to three more different combinations to define your grid.
6. Click OK to create the grid.

The grid is created and is identified in the specification tree.

Grid planes are associative: planes are offset one from the other. Moving a plane will update the entire grid.

This is useful when modifying a structure: move a plane (double-click to edit) and see the structure defined using the grid updated when you double-click the root product in the specification tree if the following options were set when you creating your structure:

- Automatic construction constraints option in the Structure Design tab in the Options dialog box (Tools -> Options, Mechanical Design)
- Keep link with selected object and Synchronize all external references for update options in the General tab in the Options dialog box (Tools -> Options, Mechanical Design).
Advanced Tasks

The advanced tasks you will perform in the Structure Design workbench illustrate interoperability with other V5 products and how to generate BOMs.

Interoperability with V5
Generating BOMs
Working with User Sections
Interoperability with V5

**Sketch profiles for user sections:** Sketch your profile in the Sketcher workbench then save the sketch as a CATPart document in the directory defined in the Structure Design tab of the Options dialog box.

**Create cutouts:** Edit a plate, then switch to the Part Design workbench. Sketch the contour of the cutout then create it using the Pocket icon.

**Create flanges:** Edit a plate, then switch to the Sheet Metal Design workbench. Use Walls Recognition and Flange Definition icons.

**Creating assembly constraints:** Switch to the Assembly Design workbench and place desired constraints on structures.

**Generate drawings:** Switch to the Generative Drafting workbench and set drawing options in the New Drawing Creation dialog box.
Sketching Profiles for User Sections

This task shows how to sketch profiles for user sections using Sketcher capabilities.

No sample document is provided.

1. Start the Sketcher workbench (Start -> Mechanical Design -> Sketcher).

2. Select the xy working plane in the geometry area or specification tree.

   The Sketcher workbench is displayed.

   User sections created using Sketcher capabilities must be created in the xy plane.

3. Sketch your profile, for example use the Circle icon to sketch a simple circle that will give a round bar or circular tubing section:
   - Point where you want to place the center of the circle.
   - Drag to set the radius.
   - Click when satisfied.

   Note: It is recommended that profile dimensions match actual section dimensions.

4. If desired, set constraints.

5. Exit the sketcher.

6. Using File -> Save, save the sketch as a CATPart document in the directory defined in the Section storage box of the Structure Design tab in the Options dialog box (Tools -> Options -> Mechanical Design).

   Your sketch now appears as a resolved section in the Section list in Linear Member Definition, Infill Definition and Member on Support dialog boxes. You are now ready to use it to create a structure.

For more information on sketching profiles and setting constraints, see the Sketcher User's Guide.
Creating Cutouts

This task shows how to use Part Design capabilities to create cutouts. Cutouts are sketch-based features.

It is strongly recommended that you use only standard Part Design commands, such as Pocket, Hole, Edge Fillet, Chamfer and Split. Using other commands may corrupt your document.

For more information on Part Design capabilities, see the *Part Design User's Guide*.

No sample document is provided.

1. Create a simple plate structure in the Structure Design workbench.

2. Right-click the plate you just created and select Edit from the contextual menu.


4. Select one of the plate faces to define the working plane.

5. Click the Sketcher icon to enter the Sketcher workbench.

6. Click the Elongated Hole icon to sketch your contour.

7. Click where you want to start the major axis, then drag.

8. Click when satisfied to create the major axis.

9. Drag and click again to define the minor axis.

   The cutout contour has been defined.

10. Exit the Sketcher.

11. Click the Pocket icon in the Part Design workbench.

    The Pocket Definition dialog box appears and CATIA previews your cutout.
12. Select Up to last in the Type box to define the limit of your cutout.

   CATIA will extend the cutout feature from the sketch plane to the last face encountered.

13. Click OK to create the cutout.
Creating Flanges

This task shows how to use Sheetmetal Design capabilities to create flanges.

No sample document is provided.

Sheetmetal capabilities are only available for plates.

1. Create a simple plate structure in the Structure Design workbench.

2. Right-click the plate you just created and select Edit from the contextual menu.

3. Switch to the Sheet Metal Design workbench (Start -> Mechanical Design -> Sheet Metal Design).

4. Click the Walls Recognition icon to have the plate recognized and access Sheet Metal Design commands.

5. Click the Flange Definition icon.

The Flange Definition dialog box appears.

6. Select the edge on which you want to create a flange.

7. Specify the flange radius, length and angle. In our example, we entered 2mm, 50mm and 120 degrees respectively.

8. Click OK to create the flange.
All Sheetmetal Design commands are available for plates. For more information on Sheetmetal Design capabilities, see the Sheetmetal Design User's Guide.
Creating Assembly Constraints

Creating assembly constraints between structures lets you design in context and, in the case of changes, lets you control the propagation of modifications. Constraints can be placed as you work.

**Note:** You can also design in context using a grid.

This task shows how to place an offset constraint between two structures using the Assembly Design workbench.

Open the **CreatingAssemblyConstraints.CATProduct** document.

1. Select the Assembly Design workbench (Start -> Mechanical Design -> Assembly Design).

2. Click the Offset Constraint icon.

3. Select the inside face of one of the two columns.

4. Select the corresponding face on the other column.

   The Constraint Properties dialog box appears.

5. Enter an offset of 1000mm in the dialog box, then click OK.

   The two structures are now constrained by an offset distance of 1000mm. If you move one of the structures, the distance between the structures will remain 1000mm.
6. Click the Manipulation icon, then the Drag along Y axis icon in the dialog box that appears.

7. Select one of the structures and drag to a new position, then click OK in the dialog box.

8. Select the structure you moved, then click the Fix Component icon to fix it in space.
   The entire structure is updated to respect the offset constraint.
For more information on creating constraints, see the Assembly Design User's Guide.
Generating Drawings

This task shows how to generate drawings from your structures using the Generative Drafting workbench.

No sample document is provided.

1. Create a column or beam structure in the Structure Design workbench.

2. Switch to the Drafting workbench (Start -> Mechanical Design -> Drafting).
   The New Drawing Creation dialog box appears.
   The default drawing standard, format and scale is indicated.

3. Select the drawing layout you want.

4. Click Modify... to change the scale of the drawing.
5. Change the scale to 0.1 in the New Drawing dialog box that appears, then click OK.

6. Click OK in the New Drawing Creation dialog box to create the drawing.

The Drafting workbench is opened and your drawing displayed.

You can use Generative Drafting and Interactive Drafting to annotate and dimension your drawings. For more information, see the appropriate User's Guide.
Generating BOMs

This task shows how to use a sample macro to generate a Bill of Material (BOM) in the form of an Excel report. You can in this way obtain critical design information.

The sample macro SectionQuantityList.CATScript is delivered in the /installation_folder/code/command folder. For more information on the installation folder, see the CATIA Infrastructure User’s Guide.

No sample document is provided.

1. Before being able to run the macro, you must edit it to identify the folder containing the BOM template SectionQuantityListTemplate.xls:
   - Select Tools ->Macro ->Macros...
   - Set Macro in to External File at the bottom of the Macro dialog box.
   - Click Select and navigate via Select External File dialog box until you find the sample macro, then select it and click Open.
   - Select the macro in the Macro dialog box and click Edit.
   - Enter the full path of the folder containing the template SectionQuantityListTemplate.xls in the line starting excelTemplate=
   - Save the edited macro in the folder identified.

2. Select the structures for which you want to generate the BOM.
   Use the Edit ->Search command to assist you identify structures of interest.


4. Run the macro:
   - Select Tools ->Macro ->Macros...
   - Select the macro in the Macro dialog box and click Run to run the macro.
   You can also drag and drop the macro onto your toolbar using Tools ->Customize ->Commands ->Macros. Then simply click the icon to run the macro.

The BOM is generated in the form of an Excel report. Product Structure and Structure Design attributes are listed.

For more information on recording, running and editing macros, see the CATIA Infrastructure User’s Guide.
Working with User Sections

**Sketch profiles for user sections:** Sketch your profile in the Sketcher workbench then save the sketch as a CATPart document in the directory defined in the Structure Design tab of the Options dialog box.

**Define anchor points for user sections:** Edit the sketch, create a construction point renaming it with the prefix catStr. Exit the sketcher then save the document.

**Create & complete parametric section catalogs:** Make your file tree, create design tables and CSV files then run your macro to generate the catalog.
This task shows how to sketch profiles for user sections using Sketcher capabilities.

No sample document is provided.

1. Start the Sketcher workbench (Start -> Mechanical Design -> Sketcher).

2. Select the xy working plane in the geometry area or specification tree.

   The Sketcher workbench is displayed.

   User sections created using Sketcher capabilities must be created in the xy plane.

3. Sketch your profile, for example use the Circle icon to sketch a simple circle that will give a round bar or circular tubing section:
   - Point where you want to place the center of the circle.
   - Drag to set the radius.
   - Click when satisfied.

   Note: It is recommended that profile dimensions match actual section dimensions.

4. If desired, set constraints.

5. Exit the sketcher.

6. Using File -> Save, save the sketch as a CATPart document in the directory defined in the Section storage box of the Structure Design tab in the Options dialog box (Tools -> Options -> Mechanical Design).

Your sketch now appears as a resolved section in the Section list in Linear Member Definition, Infill Definition and Member on Support dialog boxes. You are now ready to use it to create a structure.

For more information on sketching profiles and setting constraints, see the Sketcher User’s Guide.
Defining Anchor Points for User Sections

Anchor points can be defined on user-defined parametric sections.

**Note**: All resolved sections automatically inherit the defined anchor point.

This task shows how to define an anchor point.

No sample document is provided.

1. Edit the **sketched section**.

2. If the anchor point you want to define does not correspond to an existing point of the sketch, create an appropriate construction point.

3. Rename the point:
   - Right-click the point and select Properties from the contextual menu.
   - Select the Feature Properties tab in the Properties dialog box.
   - Rename the point using the prefix catStr, for example `catStrUserAnchorPoint`.

4. Exit the sketcher, then save the sketch as a CATPart document (File -> Save).

5. Return to the Structure Design workbench:
   - The new anchor point is automatically displayed.
Creating & Completing Parametric Section Catalogs

You can create new catalogs or add sections to existing catalogs.

- Section catalogs are located in the directory `installation_folder/startup/components/StructuralCatalogs`.
- Sketches of parametric sections (I, U, L, T, double U, double L, bulb and tube shapes) are stored in the sub-directory Sketchs.

This task shows how to create a user catalog for parametric sections.

No sample document is provided.

1. Make a USER directory containing CsvFiles, DesignTables and VBScript sub-directories.
2. Create the design tables corresponding to the various catalog families. Do not link them to parametric sketches.
3. Create CSV-type files.
   - The name of the design table must be the last parameter in the first line starting ENDCHAPTER.
   - For example, ENDCHAPTER: Name;Icon;DesignTable;
   - The full path name of documents must be given.
   
   Typical CSV file:
   ```
   ENDCHAPTER;HEA;I_SectionStructureI;OTUA_HEA;
   Keywords;Section;
   Types;String;
   ;HEA100;e:\users\jcm\StructuralCatalogs\Sketchs\IShape.CATPart
   ;HEA120;e:\users\jcm\StructuralCatalogs\Sketchs\IShape.CATPart
   ;HEA140;e:\users\jcm\StructuralCatalogs\Sketchs\IShape.CATPart
   ```
4. Using the example OTUA/VBScript to help you, create and run a macro that will generate the catalog.
   - If needed, use the OTUA catalog as an example when creating your user catalog.

This task shows how to add sections to existing catalogs.
To add sections to existing catalogs, you must rename the path of linked documents in CSV files because these files contain the full path name. To do so, one Excel file per sample catalog containing an appropriate macro is provided. For example, the Excel file for the OTUA catalog is OTUA_hierarchy.xls. Excel files are located in the CsvFiles directory.

1. Edit the Commands sheet of the appropriate Excel file, entering the necessary information.
   
   Note: The first sheet named Data contains all CSV files in the catalog.

2. Click Modify absolute path of pointed CATPart in CSV files to rename the path.

3. Add new sections.

4. Generate the catalog as above.
The CATIA Structure Design Version 5 application window looks like this.
Click the hotspots to see related documentation.

Design Toolbar
Assembly Toolbar
Specification Tree
Design Toolbar

See Creating a Grid
See Creating Linear Members
See Creating Infills
See Creating Members on Supports
See Creating Plates
See Creating End Plates
See Joining Structures
Assembly Toolbar

See Translating Structures and Rotating Structures

See Manipulating Structures
Icons displayed in the specification tree and specific to the Structure Design workbench are as follows:

- 🌉 A flat structure.
- ⛓ A linear or curved structure.
- 🛡 Support axis along which the section is anchored.
**Structure Design Settings:** Before you start your first working session, you can customize the way you work to suit your habits.
Structure Design Settings

This first task shows you how to customize Structure Design settings.

Select Tools -> Options... from the menu bar.

1. The Options dialog box appears.
2. Click Mechanical Design -> Structure Design in the left-hand box.
3. Click the Structure Design tab.

The Structure Design tab lets you customize:

- **Member color**: select the default color for members in the box list.
- **Plate color**: select the default color for plates in the box list.
- **Member material**: select the default material for members in the box list.
- **Plate material**: select the default material for plates in the box list.
Manage user types:

- **Add**: enter the name of the member or plate type then click Add to add user types.
- **Remove**: select the member or plate type in the list then click Remove to remove user types.

Paths to directories containing sample standard catalog sections and available sections:

- **Catalog storage / Directory**: identifies the path of the directory containing sample standard catalog sections:

  download directory/OS/startup/components/structuralcatalogs

  where OS is the operating system, for example intel_a (Windows NT).

- **Section storage / Directory**: identifies the full path of the directory containing available sections, for example e:\tmp.

  This directory contains resolved user-defined sections stored here directly and any sample standard or user-defined catalog sections accessed via the Other section... option. It is recommended that an empty directory be identified.

4. Click OK in the dialog box when done.
# Glossary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>assembly constraint</td>
<td>A geometric or dimension relation between two components in an assembly, for example a surface contact or parallelism constraint.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>constraint</td>
<td>In the Structure Design workshop, there are two types of constraint:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Construction constraint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Assembly constraint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>construction constraint</td>
<td>A relation between the structure you create and the underlying wireframe geometry used as construction geometry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>curved member</td>
<td>A structure having initial curvature.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>infill</td>
<td>One or more linear members created in one go between two structures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>joint</td>
<td>The way members are fastened together. Several cuts are proposed:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Weld cut: a cutting plane is used to cut the member you want to trim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Miter cut: members are perpendicular with ends cut at an angle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Normal cut: ends of members are cut perpendicular to the support axis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>linear member</td>
<td>A straight structure, for example a column or beam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>member</td>
<td>A linear or curved structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plate</td>
<td>A flat structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>section</td>
<td>Profile defining the shape of a member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>support axis</td>
<td>The line in a member along which the selected section is anchored</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wireframe element</td>
<td>Elements such as points, lines or curves used as construction aids to help you create your structures.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Index

A

assembly constraint

B

BOMs

C

catalogs for parametric sections
constraint
construction constraint
creating
  end plates
  grids
  infills
  linear members
  members on support
  plates
  structures
  curved member

E

end plates
G

generating BOMs ➔
grids ➔

I

infills ➔, ➔
interoperability with V5
  creating assembly constraints ➔
generating drawings ➔
sketching profiles for user sections ➔
using Part Design for cutouts ➔
using Sheetmetal Design for flanges ➔

J

joining structures ➔
joint ➔, ➔

L

linear members ➔, ➔

M

manipulating structures ➔
member ➔
members on support ➔
modifying structures ➔
plates ➤, ➤

rotating structures ➤

sections ➤
    creating parametric section catalogs ➤
    defining anchor points for user sections ➤
    sketching profiles for user sections ➤
    standard catalog ➤
    user-defined ➤

structures
    end plates ➤
    infills ➤
    joining ➤
    linear members ➤
    manipulating ➤
    members on support ➤
    modifying ➤
    plates ➤
    rotating ➤
    translating ➤
support axis ➤
T

tools
  creating grids ➤
  translating structures ➤

U

user sections ➤
  adding to existing catalogs ➤
  creating parametric section catalogs ➤
  defining anchor points for user sections ➤
  sketching profiles for user sections ➤

W

wireframe elements ➤