

6. A torsion bar  $AB$  is fixed at  $A$  and supported at  $B$ , being connected to a cantilever  $BC$ . The spring rate of bar  $AB$  is  $k_{AB} \sim N(\mu_{AB}, \sigma_{AB}^2)$ , and the spring rate of the cantilever  $BC$  is  $k_{BC} \sim N(\mu_{BC}, \sigma_{BC}^2)$ . The force acting on point  $C$  is distributed with  $P \sim N(\mu_P, \sigma_P^2)$ . If  $k_{AB}$ ,  $k_{BC}$  and  $P$  are independent, what is the overall spring rate with respect to the vertical deflection  $\delta$  at  $C$ ? Find its mean and standard deviation using the First Order Second Moment Method.

**Answer:**  $\mu_k = \frac{\mu_{AB}\mu_{BC}}{\mu_{AB} + \mu_{BC}l_{BC}^2}$ ,  $\sigma_k = \frac{\sqrt{\mu_{BC}^4 l_{BC}^4 \sigma_{AB}^2 + \mu_{AB}^4 \sigma_{BC}^2}}{(\mu_{BC}l_{BC}^2 + \mu_{AB})^2}$

