

## CHAPTER 8 MEMBERS IN COMBINED AXIAL LOAD AND BENDING

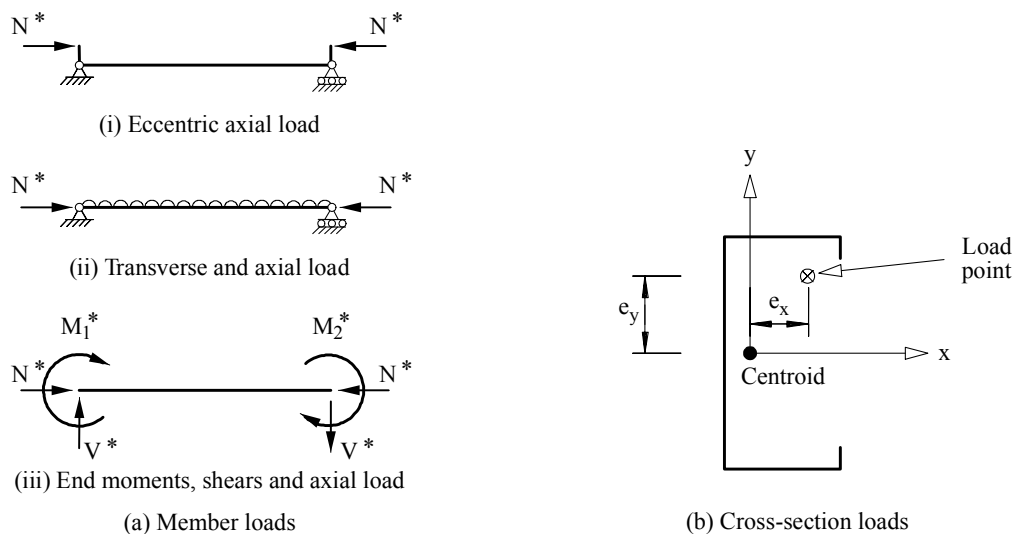
### 8.1 Combined Axial Compressive Load and Bending - General

Structural members which are subjected to simultaneous bending and compression are commonly called beam-columns. The bending generally results from one of three sources depending upon the application of the beam-column. These sources are shown in Fig. 8.1(a) and are described as follows:

- (i) Eccentric axial load of the type usually encountered in columns where the line of action of the axial force is eccentric from the centroid. A typical application is the columns of industrial steel storage racks where the beams apply an eccentric load to the columns as a consequence of the nature of the connections. In the studs in steel framed housing, particular end connections at the top and bottom plates may produce eccentric loading.
- (ii) Distributed transverse loading normally resulting from wind forces on sheeting attached to the structural member. A typical application is the purlins in the end spans of industrial buildings where the end wall applies axial load to the purlin and the sheeting applies a distributed load. Another application is the stud walls of steel-framed houses where lateral load from wind, and axial load from upper storeys or the roof can occur simultaneously.
- (iii) End moments, shears and axial forces which occur in members of rigid jointed structures such as portal frames, where the members are rigidly connected together using bolted joints.

The combination of concentric axial force and bending moment at a cross-section can be converted to an equivalent eccentric axial force as shown in Fig. 8.1(b). The eccentricity of this axial force defines three different situations. For the monosymmetric section shown in Fig. 8.1(b), these are:

- (i) Eccentric compression with bending in the plane of symmetry when  $e_x \neq 0$  and  $e_y = 0$ .
- (ii) Eccentric compression with bending about the axis of symmetry when  $e_x = 0$  and  $e_y \neq 0$ .
- (iii) Biaxial bending when  $e_x \neq 0$  and  $e_y \neq 0$ .



**Fig. 8.1 Combined compression and bending**



In AS/NZS 4600, Clause 3.5.1 specifies the acceptable combinations of action effects (force, moment) for members subject to combined bending and compression. Clause 3.5.1 uses the design capacity for beams given in Clause 3.3 as well as those for columns given in Clause 3.4. The capacity factors ( $\phi_b$ ,  $\phi_c$ ) for bending and compression remain the same as when the bending or compression are considered alone.

## 8.2 Interaction Equations for Combined Axial Compressive Load and Bending

The rules governing combined actions are based on the use of linear interaction equations expressed in terms of axial force and moment as follows.

When 
$$\frac{N^*}{\phi_c N_c} \leq 0.15$$

$$\frac{N^*}{\phi_c N_c} + \frac{M_x^*}{\phi_b M_{bx}} + \frac{M_y^*}{\phi_b M_{by}} \leq 1.0 \quad (8.1)$$

When 
$$\frac{N^*}{\phi_c N_c} > 0.15$$

(a) 
$$\frac{N^*}{\phi_c N_c} + \frac{C_{mx} M_x^*}{\phi_b M_{bx} \alpha_{nx}} + \frac{C_{my} M_y^*}{\phi_b M_{by} \alpha_{ny}} \leq 1.0 \quad (8.2)$$

(b) 
$$\frac{N^*}{\phi_c N_s} + \frac{M_x^*}{\phi_b M_{bx}} + \frac{M_y^*}{\phi_b M_{by}} \leq 1.0 \quad (8.3)$$

where

$N_c$  = nominal member capacity of the member in compression determined in accordance with Clause 3.4

$M_{bx}$ ,  $M_{by}$  = nominal member moment capacity about the x- and y-axes respectively determined in accordance with Clause 3.3.3

$C_{mx}$ ,  $C_{my}$  = coefficients for unequal end moments

$N_s$  = nominal section capacity of the member in compression determined in accordance with Clause 3.4, with  $f_n = f_y$

$\alpha_{nx}$ ,  $\alpha_{ny}$  = moment amplification factors

The basis of the linear interaction equations expressed as Eqs (8.1) to (8.3) is given in Ref. 8.1. Eq. (8.2) is a stability check and Eq. (8.3) is a strength check at the supports.

The coefficients ( $C_{mx}$ ,  $C_{my}$ ) allow for unequal end moments in beam-columns. They are set out for members free to sway in Fig. 8.2(a) and members braced against sway in Fig. 8.2(b).

The moment amplification factors ( $\alpha_{nx}$ ,  $\alpha_{ny}$ ) are defined by Eqs (8.4) and (8.5).

$$\alpha_{nx} = 1 - \frac{N^*}{N_{ex}} \quad (8.4)$$

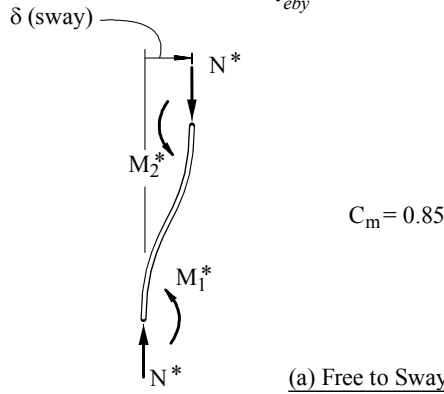
$$\alpha_{ny} = 1 - \frac{N^*}{N_{ey}} \quad (8.5)$$

where 
$$N_{ex} = \frac{\pi^2 EI_{bx}}{l_{ebx}^2} \quad (8.6)$$

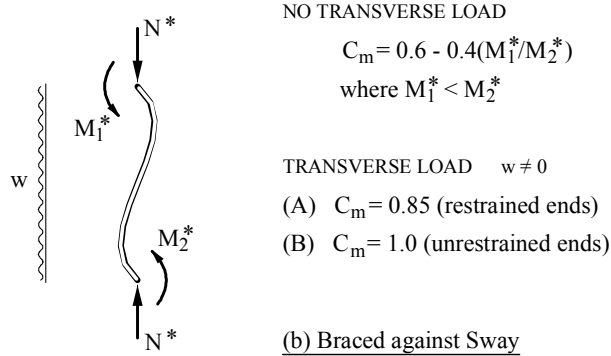


and

$$N_{ey} = \frac{\pi^2 EI_{by}}{l_{eby}^2} \quad (8.7)$$



$$C_m = 0.85$$



NO TRANSVERSE LOAD

$$C_m = 0.6 - 0.4(M_1^*/M_2^*)$$

where  $M_1^* < M_2^*$

TRANSVERSE LOAD  $w \neq 0$

- (A)  $C_m = 0.85$  (restrained ends)  
 (B)  $C_m = 1.0$  (unrestrained ends)

**Fig. 8.2  $C_m$  factors**

The values of  $I_{bx}$ ,  $I_{by}$  are the second moments of area of the full, unreduced cross-section about the  $x$ -,  $y$ -axes respectively. The values of  $l_{ebx}$ ,  $l_{eby}$  are the effective lengths for buckling about the  $x$ -,  $y$ -axes respectively. They may be greater than the member length for members in sway frames. The moment amplification factors ( $\alpha_{nx}$ ,  $\alpha_{ny}$ ) increase the first order elastic moments ( $M_x^*$ ,  $M_y^*$ ) to second order elastic moments ( $M_x^* / \alpha_{nx}$ ,  $M_y^* / \alpha_{ny}$ ).

AS/NZS 4600 does not mention second order elastic analyses in Clause 1.6.2 Structural Analysis and Design. It is presumed that all analyses are first order elastic since the second order effects are included by way of the amplification factors. However, it seems reasonable for  $M_x^*$ ,  $M_y^*$  to be based on second order elastic analyses if  $C_{mx} / \alpha_{nx} = 1.0$  and  $C_{my} / \alpha_{ny} = 1.0$ . The resulting equations are similar to Clause 8.4.4 of AS 4100-1998 (Ref. 1.10) except that  $N_c$  in Eqs (8.1) and (8.2) should still be based on the effective length ( $l_e$ ) and not the actual length as for Clause 8.4.4 of AS 4100-1990. Further research is required in this area for cold-formed members.

### 8.3 Monosymmetric Sections under Combined Axial Compressive Load and Bending

The behaviour of monosymmetric sections depends upon whether the sections are bent in the plane of symmetry, about the axis of symmetry or both.

#### 8.3.1 Sections Bent in a Plane of Symmetry

Monosymmetric sections bent in the plane of symmetry may fail by either:

- (a) deflecting gradually in the plane of symmetry without twisting, followed by yielding or local buckling at the location of maximum moment. This mode is denoted by the curves labelled "Flexural Yielding" in Fig. 8.3, which has been developed from the study



**Design of Cold-Formed Steel Structures**  
**(To Australian/New Zealand Standard**  
**AS/NZS 4600:2005)**

by

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**fourth edition - 2007**



# CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
PREFACE TO THE 4 <sup>th</sup> EDITION	viii
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Design Standards and Specifications for Cold-Formed Steel	1
1.1.1 General	1
1.1.2 History of Australian Cold-Formed Steel Structures Standards and USA Specifications	1
1.1.3 New Developments in the 2005 Edition	2
1.2 Common Section Profiles and Applications of Cold-Formed Steel	4
1.3 Manufacturing Processes	10
1.4 Special Problems in the Design of Cold-Formed Sections	12
1.4.1 Local Buckling and Post-local Buckling of Thin Plate Elements	12
1.4.2 Propensity for Twisting	13
1.4.3 Distortional Buckling	14
1.4.4 Cold Work of Forming	14
1.4.5 Web Crippling under Bearing	15
1.4.6 Connections	15
1.4.7 Corrosion Protection	16
1.4.8 Inelastic Reserve Capacity	16
1.4.9 Fatigue	16
1.5 Loading Combinations	17
1.6 Limit States Design	17
1.7 Computer Analysis	19
1.8 References	20
CHAPTER 2 MATERIALS AND COLD WORK OF FORMING	22
2.1 Steel Standards	22
2.2 Typical Stress-Strain Curves	23
2.3 Ductility	25
2.4 Effects of Cold Work on Structural Steels	29
2.5 Corner Properties of Cold-Formed Sections	30
2.6 Fracture Toughness	32
2.6.1 Background	32
2.6.2 Measurement of Critical Stress Intensity Factors	32
2.6.3 Evaluation of the Critical Stress Intensity Factors for Perforated Coupon Specimens	34
2.6.4 Evaluation of the Critical Stress Intensity Factors for Triple Bolted Specimens	35
2.7 References	36
CHAPTER 3 BUCKLING MODES OF THIN-WALLED MEMBERS IN COMPRESSION AND BENDING	37
3.1 Introduction to the Finite Strip Method	37
3.2 Monosymmetric Column Study	38
3.2.1 Unlipped Channel	38
3.2.2 Lipped Channel	41
3.2.3 Lipped Channel (Fixed Ended)	44
3.3 Purlin Section Study	45
3.3.1 Channel Section	45
3.3.2 Z-Section	46



3.4	Tubular Flange Sections	47
3.4.1	Hollow Flange Beam in Bending	47
3.4.2	LiteSteel Beam Section in Bending	48
3.5	References	49
CHAPTER 4 STIFFENED AND UNSTIFFENED COMPRESSION ELEMENTS		50
4.1	Local Buckling	50
4.2	Postbuckling of Plate Elements in Compression	51
4.3	Effective Width Formulae for Imperfect Elements in Pure Compression	52
4.4	Effective Width Formulae for Imperfect Elements under Stress Gradient	56
4.4.1	Stiffened Elements	56
4.4.2	Unstiffened Elements	56
4.5	Effective Width Formulae for Elements with Stiffeners	57
4.5.1	Edge Stiffened Elements	57
4.5.2	Intermediate Stiffened Elements with One Intermediate Stiffener	58
4.5.3	Edge Stiffened Elements with Intermediate Stiffeners, and Stiffened Elements with more than One Intermediate Stiffener	58
4.5.4	Uniformly Compressed Edge Stiffened Elements with Intermediate Stiffeners	59
4.6	Examples	59
4.6.1	Hat Section in Bending	59
4.6.2	Hat Section in Bending with Intermediate Stiffener in Compression Flange	63
4.6.3	C-Section Purlin in Bending	68
4.7	References	75
CHAPTER 5 BEAMS, PURLINS AND BRACING		76
5.1	General	76
5.2	Flexural-Torsional (Lateral) Buckling	77
5.2.1	Elastic Buckling of Unbraced Simply Supported Beams	77
5.2.2	Continuous Beams and Braced Simply Supported Beams	81
5.2.3	Bending Strength Design Equations	85
5.3	Distortional Buckling	86
5.3.1	Flange Distortional Buckling	86
5.3.2	Lateral-Distortional Buckling	89
5.4	Basic Behaviour of Purlins	89
5.4.1	Linear Response of Channel and Z-sections	89
5.4.2	Stability Considerations	92
5.4.3	Sheeting and Connection Types	94
5.5	Design Methods for Purlins	95
5.5.1	No Lateral and Torsional Restraint Provided by the Sheeting	95
5.5.2	Lateral Restraint but No Torsional Restraint	95
5.5.3	Lateral and Torsional Restraint	96
5.6	Bracing	98
5.7	Inelastic Reserve Capacity	101
5.7.1	Sections with Flat Elements	101
5.7.2	Cylindrical Tubular Members	102
5.8	Examples	102
5.8.1	Simply Supported C-Section Purlin	102
5.8.2	Distortional Buckling Stress for C-Section	107
5.8.3	Continuous Lapped Z-Section Purlin	108
5.8.4	Z-Section Purlin in Bending	116
5.9	References	122



CHAPTER 6	WEBS	125
6.1	General	125
6.2	Webs in Shear	125
6.2.1	Shear Buckling	125
6.2.2	Shear Yielding	127
6.3	Webs in Bending	127
6.4	Webs in Combined Bending and Shear	129
6.5	Web Stiffeners	130
6.6	Web Crippling (Bearing) of Open Sections	130
6.6.1	Edge Loading Alone	130
6.6.2	Combined Bending and Edge Loading	133
6.7	Webs with Holes	134
6.8	Examples	136
6.8.1	Combined Bending and Shear at the End of the Lap of a Continuous Z-Section Purlin	136
6.8.2	Combined Bearing and Bending of Hat Section	138
6.9	References	139
CHAPTER 7	COMPRESSION MEMBERS	141
7.1	General	141
7.2	Elastic Member Buckling	141
7.2.1	Flexural, Torsional and Flexural-Torsional Buckling	141
7.2.2	Distortional Buckling	143
7.3	Section Capacity in Compression	143
7.4	Member Capacity in Compression	144
7.4.1	Flexural, Torsional and Flexural-Torsional Buckling	144
7.4.2	Distortional Buckling	146
7.5	Effect of Local Buckling	147
7.5.1	Monosymmetric Sections	147
7.5.2	High Strength Steel Box Sections	149
7.6	Examples	151
7.6.1	Square Hollow Section Column	151
7.6.2	Unlipped Channel Column	153
7.6.3	Lipped Channel Column	157
7.7	References	164
CHAPTER 8	MEMBERS IN COMBINED AXIAL LOAD AND BENDING	165
8.1	Combined Axial Compressive Load and Bending - General	165
8.2	Interaction Equations for Combined Axial Compressive Load and Bending	166
8.3	Monosymmetric Sections under Combined Axial Compressive Load and Bending	167
8.3.1	Sections Bent in a Plane of Symmetry	167
8.3.2	Sections Bent about an Axis of Symmetry	169
8.4	Combined Axial Tensile Load and Bending	170
8.5	Examples	171
8.5.1	Unlipped Channel Section Beam-Column Bent in Plane of Symmetry	171
8.5.2	Unlipped Channel Section Beam-Column Bent about Plane of Symmetry	174
8.5.3	Lipped Channel Section Beam-Column Bent in Plane of Symmetry	176
8.6	References	180



CHAPTER 9	CONNECTIONS	182
9.1	Introduction to Welded Connections	182
9.2	Fusion Welds	184
9.2.1	Butt Welds	184
9.2.2	Fillet Welds subject to Transverse Loading	184
9.2.3	Fillet Welds subject to Longitudinal Loading	185
9.2.4	Combined Longitudinal and Transverse Fillet Welds	186
9.2.5	Flare Welds	186
9.2.6	Arc Spot Welds (Puddle Welds)	187
9.2.7	Arc Seam Welds	190
9.3	Resistance Welds	190
9.4	Introduction to Bolted Connections	190
9.5	Design Formulae and Failure Modes for Bolted Connections	192
9.5.1	Tearout Failure of Sheet (Type I)	193
9.5.2	Bearing Failure of Sheet (Type II)	193
9.5.3	Net Section Tension Failure (Type III)	194
9.5.4	Shear Failure of Bolt (Type IV)	196
9.6	Screw Fasteners and Blind Rivets	196
9.7	Rupture	200
9.8	Examples	201
9.8.1	Welded Connection Design Example	201
9.8.2	Bolted Connection Design Example	205
9.9	References	208
CHAPTER 10	DIRECT STRENGTH METHOD	209
10.1	Introduction	209
10.2	Elastic Buckling Solutions	209
10.3	Strength Design Curves	210
10.3.1	Local Buckling	210
10.3.2	Flange-distortional buckling	212
10.3.3	Overall buckling	213
10.4	Direct Strength Equations	213
10.5	Examples	215
10.5.1	Lipped Channel Column (Direct Strength Method)	215
10.5.2	Simply Supported C-Section Beam	216
10.6	References	218
CHAPTER 11	STEEL STORAGE RACKING	219
11.1	Introduction	219
11.2	Loads	220
11.3	Methods of Structural Analysis	221
11.3.1	Upright Frames - First Order	222
11.3.2	Upright Frames - Second Order	223
11.3.3	Beams	223
11.4	Effects of Perforations (Slots)	224
11.4.1	Section Modulus of Net Section	224
11.4.2	Minimum Net Cross-Sectional Area	225
11.4.3	Form Factor (Q)	225
11.5	Member Design Rules	225
11.5.1	Flexural Design Curves	225
11.5.2	Column Design Curves	226





11.5.3	Distortional Buckling	227
11.6	Example	227
11.7	References	235
SUBJECT INDEX BY SECTION		236

