

AS3020: Aerospace Structures Module 4: Bending of Beam-Like Structures

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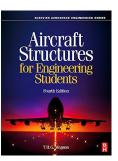
Table of Contents

Unsymmetrical Bending

- Equations of Motion in Terms of Displacement
- 2 Shear Stress and Flow in Sections
 - Shear Center
 - Closed Sections • Closed Section Shear Center
 - Stringer-Web Idealization Shear Lag



Chapters 4-5 in Sun [1]

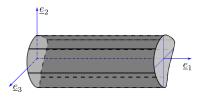


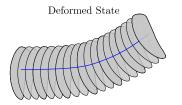
Chapters 16-20 in Megson [2]

September 29, 2024

2/25

1. Unsymmetrical Bending





• Displacement Field

$$u_1 = -X_2\theta_3 + X_3\theta_2, \quad u_2 = v, \quad u_3 = w.$$

• Zero shear
$$\implies \theta_3 = v', \quad \theta_2 = -w'$$

• Direct stress

$$\sigma_{11} = E_y \begin{bmatrix} X_3 & -X_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \theta'_2 \\ \theta'_3 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$= \frac{\begin{bmatrix} X_3 & -X_2 \end{bmatrix}}{I_{22}I_{33} - I_{23}^2} \begin{bmatrix} I_{33}M_2 + I_{23}M_3 \\ I_{23}M_2 + I_{22}M_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

• Equilibrium Considerations:

$$\begin{split} M_{2,1} &= V_3, \qquad V_{2,1} + F_2 = 0 \\ M_{3,1} &= -V_2, \quad V_{3,1} + F_3 = 0. \end{split}$$

1.1. Equations of Motion in Terms of Displacement Unsymmetrical Bending

• The moments are related to σ_{11} through (note the signs)

$$M_3 = -\int X_2 \sigma_{11} dA, \quad M_2 = \int X_3 \sigma_{11} dA.$$

• Since $M_{2,1} = V_3$ and $M_{3,1} = -V_2$ (from equilibrium considerations), we can write the above as

$$\begin{bmatrix} V_2 \\ V_3 \end{bmatrix} = \int \begin{bmatrix} X_2 \\ X_3 \end{bmatrix} \sigma_{11,1} dA.$$

• Invoking force equilibrium $(V_{2,1} = -F_2, V_{3,1} = -F_3)$ we have,

$$-\begin{bmatrix}F_2\\F_3\end{bmatrix} = \int \begin{bmatrix}X_2\\X_3\end{bmatrix} \sigma_{11,11} dA = E_y \int \begin{bmatrix}X_2\\X_3\end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix}-X_2 & X_3\end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix}\theta_{3''}'\\\theta_{2''}'\end{bmatrix} dA$$
$$= -E_y \int \begin{bmatrix}X_2\\X_3\end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix}X_2 & X_3\end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix}v''''\\w''''\end{bmatrix} dA$$

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1.1. Equations of Motion in Terms of Displacement

• Since deflections v, w do not depend on the section, the above simplifies to,

$$E_{y}\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix}\int X_{2}^{2}dA & \int X_{2}X_{3}dA\\ \int X_{2}X_{3}dA & \int X_{3}^{2}dA\end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbb{I}}\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix}v''''\\ w''''\end{bmatrix}}_{u''''} - \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix}F_{2}\\F_{3}\end{bmatrix}}_{F} = \begin{bmatrix}0\\0\end{bmatrix}$$

which, in array-matrix notation is written as,

$$E_y \mathbb{I} \underline{u}^{\prime \prime \prime \prime} - \underline{F} = \underline{0}.$$

- We have introduced the array $y = \begin{bmatrix} v & w \end{bmatrix}^T$ here.
- The above is a fourth order differential equation in terms of the deflections that governs the unsymmetrical bending.

- If shear strain is assumed zero, can we still have shear stress?
- We posit: $\gamma_{12} = 0$, $\gamma_{13} = 0$, $\gamma_{23} = 0$. As point quantities, the shear stresses may still be small ($\tau_{12} = G\sigma_{12}$).
- But the **integral quantities** are taken to be finite:

$$\int \sigma_{12} dA = V_2, \qquad \int \sigma_{13} dA = V_3,$$
$$\int \sigma_{12} dX_3 = q_2, \qquad \int \sigma_{13} dX_2 = q_3.$$

• Invoking plane stress assumption at the section, the governing equation is,

$$\sigma_{11,1} + \sigma_{1s,s} = 0.$$

• Integrating the above from s = 0 to s, we get the **Shear flow formula**:

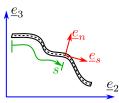
$$q(s) - q_0 = -\frac{\left[\int_0^s tX_3 ds - \int_0^s tX_2 ds\right]}{I_{22}I_{33} - I_{23}^2} \begin{bmatrix} I_{33}V_3 - I_{23}V_2\\ I_{23}V_3 - I_{22}V_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

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6/25

2. Shear Stress and Flow in Sections

Thin Section: Plane Stress Assumption



• We define the above section-local coordinate system and transform the elasticity equations to $\sigma_{11,1} + \sigma_{1n,n} + \sigma_{1s,s} = 0$. Applying **plane stress** assumption (for thin sections) drops the σ_{1n} term, leading to:

$$\sigma_{11,1} + \sigma_{1s,s} = 0 \implies t\sigma_{11,1} + q_{,s} = 0,$$

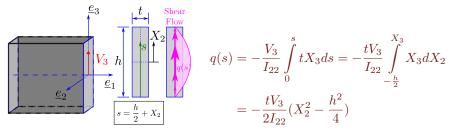
where we have integrated along the \underline{e}_n direction once.

• Following through with the integral along \underline{e}_s , this leads to the **shear flow** formula

$$q(s) - q_0 = -\frac{\left[\int_0^s tX_3 ds - \int_0^s tX_2 ds\right]}{I_{22}I_{33} - I_{23}^2} \begin{bmatrix} I_{33}V_3 - I_{23}V_2\\ I_{23}V_3 - I_{22}V_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

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• Consider the rectangular section with height h and thickness t:



- Remember that V_3 is NOT any externally **applied force**. It is merely the resultant of all the shear stresses in the section.
- So V_3 and q(s) point in the same direction in this example. It is incorrect to think that q(s) is balancing out V_3 .

The "I" section

- Consider the shear distribution through an I-section as shown here
- The shear distribution looks like it is "flowing", with more "flow" occurring in the thin vertical web and less in the flanges.
- The second moment of area I_{22} sums up as,

$$I_{22} = \overbrace{\frac{h^3 t}{12}}^{web} + 2 \times \overbrace{\left(\frac{2bt^3}{12} + 2bt \times \frac{h^2}{4}\right)}^{flange} \approx (\frac{h^3}{12} + bh^2)t.$$

• I_{33} sums up as,

$$I_{33} = \underbrace{\frac{ht^3}{12}}_{web} + 2 \times \underbrace{\left(\frac{2b^3t}{3}\right)}_{\approx 0 \text{ for small}} \approx \underbrace{\frac{4b^3t}{3}}_{\approx 0 \text{ for small}}$$

flanae

Flanges Web Flanges \underline{e}_3 Flanges \underline{e}_2 hWeb

b

The "I" section

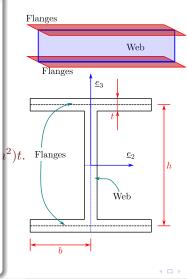
Idealization

- Both *I*₂₂ and *I*₃₃ are dominated by flange contributions, implying that <u>bending is</u> supported primarily by the flanges.
- This motivates the following idealization for the I-section:

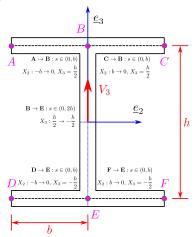
$$A = 2bt$$
$$I_{22} = bh^2 t, I_{33} = 0$$
$$A = 2bt$$

- The lumped area elements denoted are sometimes referred to as "Booms" in the section.
- Thickness in the web (denoted <u>)</u> is taken to be zero for bending-stress calculations.





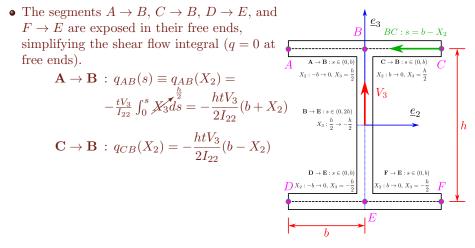
- Let us consider the case with $V_2 = 0, V_3 \neq 0$.
- The segments $A \to B$, $C \to B$, $D \to E$, and $F \to E$ are exposed in their free ends, simplifying the shear flow integral (q = 0 at free ends).



- Let us consider the case with $V_2 = 0, V_3 \neq 0$.
- The segments $A \to B, C \to B, D \to E$, and $F \to E$ are exposed in their free ends, $AB: s = b + X_2$ simplifying the shear flow integral (q = 0 at)free ends). $\mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{B} : s \in (0, b)$ $X_2: -b \to 0, X_3 = \frac{h}{2}$ $\mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{B} : q_{AB}(s) \equiv q_{AB}(X_2) =$ V_3 h $\mathbf{D} \rightarrow \mathbf{E}$: $s \in (0, b)$ $\mathbf{F} \rightarrow \mathbf{E} : s \in (0, b)$ $\sum X_2 : -b \to 0, X_3 = -\frac{n}{2}$ $X_2 : h \rightarrow 0, X_2 = -$

The "I" section

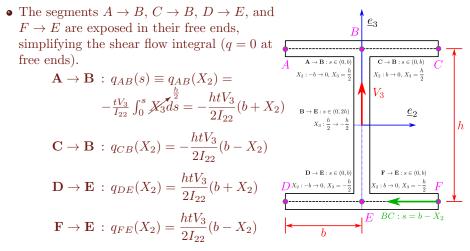
• Let us consider the case with $V_2 = 0, V_3 \neq 0$.



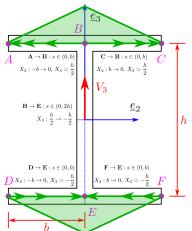
- Let us consider the case with $V_2 = 0, V_3 \neq 0$.
- The segments $A \to B, C \to B, D \to E$, and \underline{e}_3 $F \to E$ are exposed in their free ends, simplifying the shear flow integral (q = 0 at)free ends). $\mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{B} : s \in (0, b]$ $\mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{B} : s \in (0, b)$ $X_2 : b \rightarrow 0, X_3 = \frac{h}{2}$ $X_2: -b \rightarrow 0, X_3 = \frac{h}{2}$ $\mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{B} : q_{AB}(s) \equiv q_{AB}(X_2) =$ \underline{e}_2 h $\mathbf{C} \to \mathbf{B} : q_{CB}(X_2) = -\frac{htV_3}{2I_{c2}}(b - X_2)$ $\mathbf{D} \rightarrow \mathbf{E} : s \in (0, b)$ $\mathbf{F} \rightarrow \mathbf{E} : s \in (0, b)$ $\mathbf{D} \to \mathbf{E} : q_{DE}(X_2) = \frac{htV_3}{2I_{22}}(b+X_2) \qquad D^{X_2:-b\to 0, X_3=-\frac{b}{2}}$ $X_2 : b \rightarrow 0, X_2 = -\frac{n}{2}$ $DE: s = b + X_2$

The "I" section

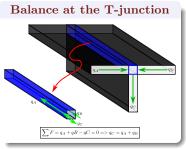
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- In summary we have linear relationships at the flanges.

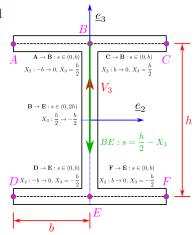


- Let us consider the case with $V_2 = 0, V_3 \neq 0$.
- The segments $A \to B$, $C \to B$, $D \to E$, and $F \to E$ are exposed in their free ends, simplifying the shear flow integral (q = 0 at free ends).
- In summary we have linear relationships at the flanges.
- Before looking at the web $(B \to E)$, we have to observe the balance at the "T" junction.



- Let us consider the case with $V_2 = 0$, $V_3 \neq 0$.
- The segments A → B, C → B, D → E, and F → E are exposed in their free ends, simplifying the shear flow integral (q = 0 at free ends).
- On $\mathbf{B} \to \mathbf{E}$, we have $q_{BE}(0) = q_{AB}(0) + q_{CB}(0) = -\frac{bhtV_3}{I_{22}}.$
- The integration evaluates as,

$$q_{BE}(X_3) = -\frac{bhtV_3}{I_{22}} + \frac{tV_3}{2I_{22}}(X_3^2 - \frac{h^2}{4})$$
$$= -\frac{htV_3}{I_{22}}(b + \frac{h}{8}) + \frac{tV_3}{2I_{22}}X_3^2.$$

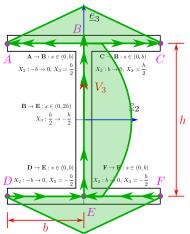


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$$= -\frac{htV_3}{I_{22}}(b + \frac{h}{8}) + \frac{tV_3}{2I_{22}}X_3^2.$$

• We now have the complete shear flow in the section.



The "I" section: Order of Magnitude Analysis

- Let us consider the "total" shear forces experienced by each member.
- Flange AB

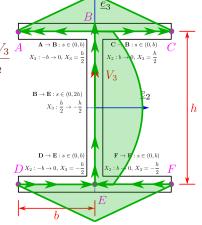
$$V_{AB} = -\frac{htV_3}{2I_{22}} \int_{-b}^{0} (b+X_2)dX_2 = -\frac{b^2htV}{4I_{22}}$$

• Web BE

$$V_{BE} = \frac{h^2(h+12b)tV_3}{12I_{22}} = V_3$$

• For
$$b = \frac{h}{2}$$
, we have,

$$V_{AB} = -\frac{h^3 t V_3}{16 I_{22}} \approx -\frac{V_3}{8}$$
$$V_{BE} = V_3$$



The "I" section: Order of Magnitude Analysis

- Let us consider the "total" shear forces experienced by each member.
- Flange AB

$$V_{AB} = -\frac{htV_3}{2I_{22}} \int_{-b}^{0} (b+X_2)dX_2 =$$

• Web BE

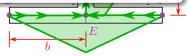
$$V_{BE} = \frac{h^2(h+12b)tV_3}{12I_{22}} = V_3$$

• For $b = \frac{h}{2}$, we have,

$$V_{AB} = -\frac{h^3 t V_3}{16 I_{22}} \approx -\frac{V_3}{8}$$
$$V_{BE} = V_3$$

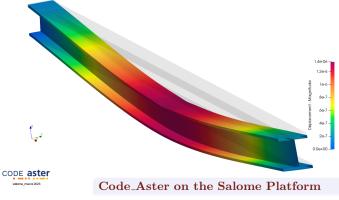
 $\frac{b^2 ht V_3}{4I_{22}} A \xrightarrow[X_3:-b \to 0, X_3=\frac{h}{3}]} \begin{pmatrix} C \\ X_2:-b \to 0, X_3=\frac{h}{3} \\ AI_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} C \\ X_2:b \to 0, X_3=\frac{h}{3} \\ AI_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} C \\ X_2:b \to 0, X_3=\frac{h}{3} \\ AI_{22} \\ AI_{23} \\ AI_{24} \\ AI_{25} \\ AI_{25}$

Since $V_{AB} \ll V_{BE}$, we understand that the **web is primarily responsible for restoring shear loads**, with negligible contributions from the flanges.

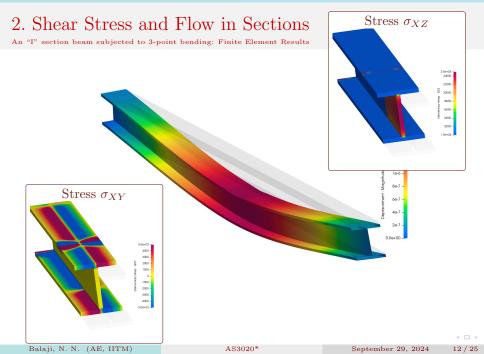


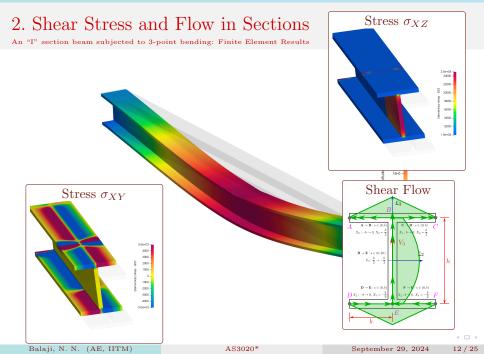
2. Shear Stress and Flow in Sections

An "I" section beam subjected to 3-point bending: Finite Element Results



Free and Open Source (FOSS) FE solver that comes with a fully functional frontend (Salome)! <u>Please Do</u> <u>Explore!</u>

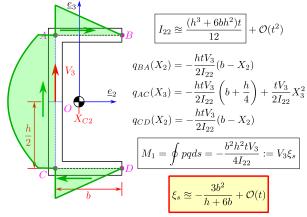




2.1. Shear Center

Shear Stress and Flow in Sections

- Shear Center is the point of shear load such that $\sum m_1 = 0$. Although in a lot of symmetric sections this is coincident with the centroid, this is **NOT always the case**.
- Consider the "C" section beam:

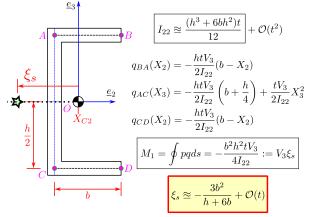


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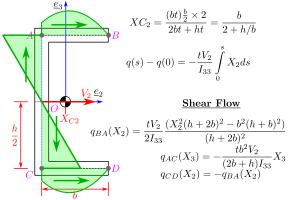


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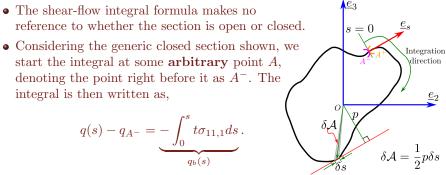
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Shear Stress and Flow in Sections

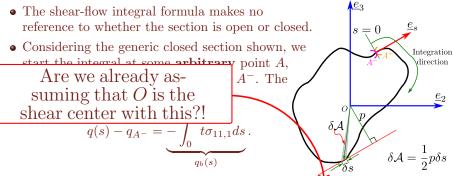


• When no twisting is expected at the section, the moment along <u>e</u>₁ about *O* has to be zero. This is computed as,

$$\int_{A^-}^{A^+} dM_1 = \oint pq(s)ds = q_{A^-} \underbrace{\stackrel{2\mathcal{A}}{\oint pq(s)ds}}_{q_{A^-}} + \oint pq_b(s)ds \implies \boxed{q_{A^-} = -\frac{1}{2\mathcal{A}} \oint pq_b(s)ds}_{q_{A^-}}.$$

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Shear Stress and Flow in Sections

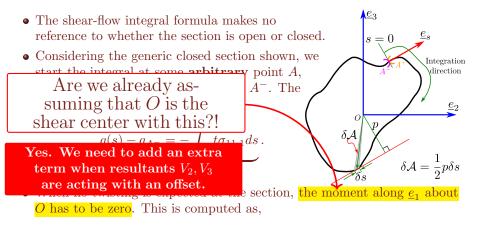


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Shear Stress and Flow in Sections



$$\int_{A^-}^{A^+} dM_1 = \oint pq(s)ds = q_{A^-} \underbrace{\stackrel{2\mathcal{A}}{\oint pq(s)ds}}_{pq(s)ds} + \oint pq_b(s)ds \implies \boxed{q_{A^-} = -\frac{1}{2\mathcal{A}} \oint pq_b(s)ds}_{q_{A^-}}.$$

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14/25

Shear Stress and Flow in Sections

 If we suppose that the resultants are acting along some (ξ₂, ξ₃), the applied moment is: (ξ₂e₂ + ξ₃e₃) × (V₂e₂ + V₃e₃):

$$M_1 = \xi_2 V_3 - \xi_3 V_2.$$

• Equating this to the moment developed from the shear flow distribution, we get:

$$\xi_2 V_3 - \xi_3 V_2 = 2\mathcal{A}q_{A^-} + \oint pq_b(s)ds$$

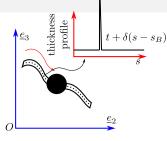
- For shear center determination (the point around which resultants act), this is not enough.
- We will additionally invoke an argument of zero twist $(\theta_{1,1} = 0)$ in the deflection field to get an additional relationship. This will be covered in the next module (Torsion).
- For symmetric closed sections, however, the shear center coincides with the centroid (through symmetry arguments).

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 (ξ_2, ξ_3)

 V_2

- A stringer, when looked at from a section, looks like a feature with a sudden increase in thickness.
- Consider the r^{th} "Boom" to be located at (X_{r_2}, X_{r_3}) , with area A_r .



• So the shear flow integral can be generalized to,

$$q(s)-q(0) = -\frac{\left[t\int_{0}^{s} X_{3}ds + \sum_{r} A_{r}X_{r_{3}} - t\int_{0}^{s} X_{2}ds - \sum_{r} A_{r}X_{r_{2}}\right]}{I_{22}I_{33} - I_{23}^{2}} \left[\frac{I_{33}V_{3} - I_{23}V_{2}}{I_{23}V_{3} - I_{22}V_{2}}\right]$$

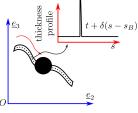
 \bullet When thickness t is negligible in comparison to the boom sections, this further simplifies to,

$$q(s) - q(0) = -\frac{\left[\sum_{r} A_{r} X_{r_{3}} - \sum_{r} A_{r} X_{r_{2}}\right]}{I_{22} I_{33} - I_{23}^{2}} \begin{bmatrix} I_{33} V_{3} - I_{23} V_{2} \\ I_{23} V_{3} - I_{22} V_{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

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• Considering the integral right across the boom, we have,

$$q^{+} - q^{-} = -\frac{\begin{bmatrix} A_{r}X_{r_{3}} & -A_{r}X_{r_{2}} \end{bmatrix}}{I_{22}I_{33} - I_{23}^{2}} \begin{bmatrix} I_{33}V_{3} - I_{23}V_{2} \\ I_{23}V_{3} - I_{22}V_{2} \end{bmatrix}.$$



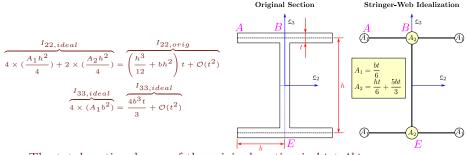
- For the sections without a boom, there is **no change in the shear flow**.
- Therefore, the shear flow is constant in the webs that *o* join two booms.

General Design Principle

- As a general principle, the stringers/booms are added to support bending.
- The web thicknesses are chosen to ensure the shear stresses don't exceed failure threshold (we should like to have t = 0 to minimize weight!).

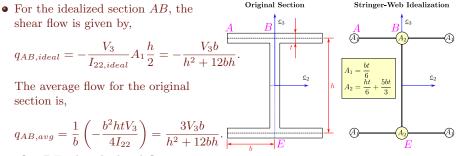
Idealization of the I-Section

• We idealize the I-section by lumping area elements A_1 and A_2 . A_1 and A_2 are estimated by matching the second area moments:



- The total sectional area of the original section is ht + 4bt.
- The total area of the new section (assuming the web thickness is drastically reduced) is $4A_1 + 2A_2 = \frac{ht}{3} + 4bt$, which is a **slight reduction**.
- Looking at this from a manufacturing standpoint, this shows that a web-stringer construction can achieve similar bending stiffness with lesser material expenditure.
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Idealization of the I-Section: Shear Flow Comparisons



• On BE, the idealized flow is

$$q_{BE,ideal} = 2q_{AB,ideal} - \frac{V_3}{I_{22,ideal}} A_2 \frac{h}{2} = -\frac{V_3}{h},$$

which is the same for the original section also.

• In the stringer-web section, therefore, the flanges carry lesser average shear than the original section, and the web carries the same shear.

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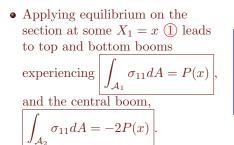
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September 29, 2024

19/25

Example from Sun [1] (Section 3.1)

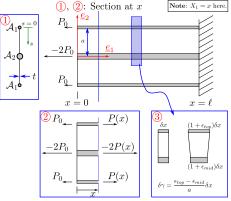
• We already saw the St. Venant's principle. Can we say something more specific about "how fast" the end effects start getting smoothed out in the stress field? Consider:



• Shear flow in top web is given as

$$q_{top} = -\sigma_{11,1}\mathcal{A}_1 = -P_{,1}$$

or, $-t\sigma_{12} = -P_{,1}$.



Example from Sun [1] (Section 3.1)

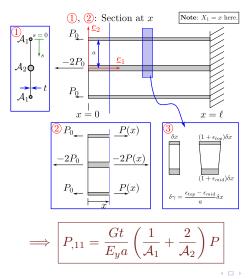
• Considering the shear differential in an infinitesimal section (3) we have,

$$\frac{\partial \gamma_{12}}{\partial x} = \frac{1}{a} (\epsilon_{top} - \epsilon_{mid})$$
$$= \frac{1}{E_y a} \left(\frac{P(x)}{A_1} - \frac{-2P(x)}{A_2} \right)$$

• Since $\gamma_{12} = \frac{1}{G}\sigma_{12}$, this becomes,

$$\sigma_{12,1} = \frac{G}{E_y a} \left(\frac{1}{\mathcal{A}_1} + \frac{2}{\mathcal{A}_2}\right) P(x).$$

• Using the force balance relationship $\sigma_{12} = \frac{1}{t}P_{,1}$ also



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September 29, 2024

21/25

Example from Sun [1] (Section 3.1)

• The equation governing the **boom restoring axial force** is of the form

$$P_{,11} - \lambda^2 P = 0, \qquad \lambda = \sqrt{\frac{Gt}{E_y a} \left(\frac{1}{\mathcal{A}_1} + \frac{2}{\mathcal{A}_2}\right)}.$$

• This is solved by

$$P(X_1) = C_1 e^{-\lambda X_1} + C_2 e^{\lambda X_1}.$$

• Solving it over $X_1 \in (0, \infty)$, it is easy to see that C_2 must be 0 for $P(X_1)$ to be bounded. So we have an **exponentially decaying** restoring force on the booms:

$$P(X_1) = P_0 e^{-\lambda X_1}$$

• Substituting for σ_{12} we have (for the top web),

$$\sigma_{12} = -\frac{\lambda P_0}{t} e^{-\lambda X_1},$$

which also decays exponentially in X_1 .

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4. Shear Lag: Decay Rate

Example from Sun [1] (Section 3.1)

- $\bullet\,$ The shear lag factor λ controls how quickly the effects "diffuse out".
 - Large λ implies "fast" diffusion and potentially high concentration around the ends..
 - Small λ implies "slow" diffusion and potentially low concentrations.
- In general for stringer-web structures,

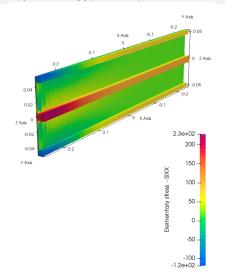
$$\lambda \propto \sqrt{\frac{G}{E_y}}.$$

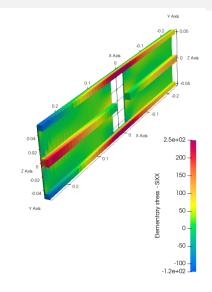
- $\uparrow G$ (stiffer web), $\uparrow \lambda$ ("faster" diffusion).
- $\uparrow E_y$ (stiffer boom), $\downarrow \lambda$ ("slower" diffusion).

The terms "faster" and "slower" are used in the sense that "slower" implies that the stress distribution needs a longer axial distance to get averaged out (vise versa for "faster").

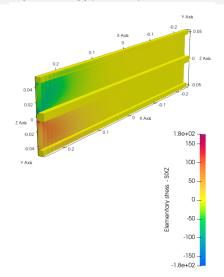
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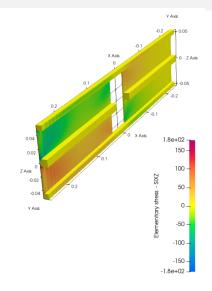
Example from Sun [1] (Section 3.1): FE Results





Example from Sun [1] (Section 3.1): FE Results





References I

- C. T. Sun. Mechanics of Aircraft Structures, 2nd edition. Hoboken, N.J: Wiley, June 2006. ISBN: 978-0-471-69966-8 (cit. on pp. 2, 36–41).
- T. H. G. Megson. Aircraft Structures for Engineering Students, Elsevier, 2013. ISBN: 978-0-08-096905-3 (cit. on p. 2).