



AS3020: Aerospace Structures

Module 4: Bending of Beam-Like Structures

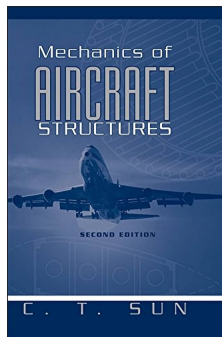
Instructor: Nidish Narayanaa Balaji

Dept. of Aerospace Engg., IIT-Madras, Chennai

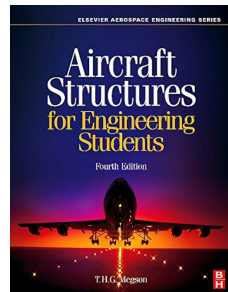
September 9, 2025

Table of Contents

- 1 Unsymmetrical Bending
 - Axial Stress and its Moments
 - Equilibrium Equations
 - Equations of Motion in Terms of Displacement
 - Axial Stress In Terms of Moments and Forces
- 2 Shear Stress and Flow in Sections
 - Shear Center
 - Closed Sections
 - Closed Section Shear Center
- 3 Stringer-Web Idealization
- 4 Shear Lag



Chapters 4-5 in Sun (2006)



Chapters 16-20 in Megson (2013)

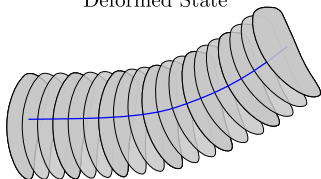
1. Unsymmetrical Bending

Assumptions

- ❶ Plane sections remain planar.
- ❷ Sections remain perpendicular to neutral axis: $\gamma_{12} = \gamma_{13} = 0$.
- ❸ Plane Stress: $\sigma_{22} = \sigma_{33} = 0$.



Deformed State



1. Rigid Section Displacement Field

$$\begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ u_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ v(X_1) \\ w(X_1) \end{bmatrix} + \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} X_3\theta_2 - X_2\theta_3 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{\underline{\theta} \times \underline{X}}$$

2. Zero Shear Strain Simplification

$$\gamma_{12} = \gamma_{13} = 0 \Rightarrow \boxed{\theta_2 = -w', \quad \theta_3 = v'}$$

3. Plane Stress Constitution

$$\boxed{\sigma_{11} = E_Y \underline{E}_{11}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}_{11} = u_{1,1} &= \begin{bmatrix} X_3 & -X_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \theta_2' \\ \theta_3' \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} X_3 & -X_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -w'' \\ v'' \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

1.1. Axial Stress and its Moments

Unsymmetrical Bending

- The axial stress distribution is $\sigma_{11} = E_Y [X_3 \quad -X_2] \begin{bmatrix} -w'' \\ v'' \end{bmatrix}$. The traction vector in

the section is $\underline{t} = \sigma_{11}\underline{e}_1 + \sigma_{12}\underline{e}_2 + \sigma_{13}\underline{e}_3$.

- Considering just the axial component ($\sigma_{11}\underline{e}_1$), we write the overall axial force as the area integral (**zeroth moment**):

$$N_1 = \int_{\mathcal{A}} \sigma_{11} = E_Y \left[\int_{\mathcal{A}} X_3 dA \quad - \int_{\mathcal{A}} X_2 dA \right] \begin{bmatrix} -w'' \\ v'' \end{bmatrix}.$$

- Recall that we have already chosen the origin as the section centroid for expressing the rigid rotation displacement field, s.t. $\int_{\mathcal{A}} \underline{X} dA = \underline{0}$. Therefore $N_1 = 0$ for pure bending.
- Considering the moment due to the axial component ($d\underline{m} = (X_k \underline{e}_k) \times (\sigma_{11} \underline{e}_1 dA)$) we have (**first moment**):

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} M_2 \\ M_3 \end{bmatrix} &= \int_{\mathcal{A}} \begin{bmatrix} X_3 \\ -X_2 \end{bmatrix} \sigma_{11} dA = \int_{\mathcal{A}} E_Y \begin{bmatrix} X_3 \\ -X_2 \end{bmatrix} [X_3 \quad -X_2] dA \begin{bmatrix} -w'' \\ v'' \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \int_{\mathcal{A}} E_Y \begin{bmatrix} X_3^2 & -X_2 X_3 \\ -X_2 X_3 & X_2^2 \end{bmatrix} dA \begin{bmatrix} -w'' \\ v'' \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

For constant E_Y through section,

$$\begin{bmatrix} M_2 \\ M_3 \end{bmatrix} = E_Y \begin{bmatrix} I_{22} & -I_{23} \\ -I_{23} & I_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -w'' \\ v'' \end{bmatrix}.$$

Second Moments of Area

$$I_{22} = \int_{\mathcal{A}} X_3^2 dA$$

$$I_{33} = \int_{\mathcal{A}} X_2^2 dA$$

$$I_{23} = \int_{\mathcal{A}} X_2 X_3 dA$$

1.2. Equilibrium Equations

Unsymmetrical Bending

- We shall invoke and simplify the equilibrium equations in an integral sense in the presence of transverse forces only.

$$\sigma_{1j,j} = 0 \implies \int_{\mathcal{A}} \sigma_{1j,j} dA = 0$$

$$\sigma_{12,1} + f_2 = 0 \implies \int_{\mathcal{A}} \sigma_{12,1} dA + \int_{\mathcal{A}} f_2 dA = 0$$

$$\sigma_{13,1} + f_3 = 0 \implies \int_{\mathcal{A}} \sigma_{13,1} dA + \int_{\mathcal{A}} f_3 dA = 0$$

- $\int_{\mathcal{A}} \sigma_{1j,j} dA$ is simplified as

$$\int_{\mathcal{A}} \sigma_{1j,j} dA = \int_{\mathcal{A}} \sigma_{11,1} dA + \overbrace{\int_{\mathcal{A}} \sigma_{12,2} dA + \int_{\mathcal{A}} \sigma_{13,3} dA}^{\int_{\mathcal{A}} \sigma_{1j} n_j dA} = N_{1,1}$$

where $\underline{n} = n_j \underline{e}_j$ is the **outward pointing normal** on the boundary of the section ($n_1 = 0$).

- $\sigma_{1j} n_j$ is the \underline{e}_1 component of the traction vector on the free surface. By definition this has to be zero, so we have $N_{1,1} = 0$.
- Defining the shearing forces as $V_2 = \int_{\mathcal{A}} \sigma_{12} dA$ and $V_3 = \int_{\mathcal{A}} \sigma_{13} dA$, the second two equations can be read as:

$$V_{2,1} + F_2 = 0, \quad V_{3,1} + F_3 = 0.$$

1.2. Equilibrium Equations

Unsymmetrical Bending

- In order to relate the different stresses, we invoke $M_2 = X_3\sigma_{11}$ and $M_3 = -X_2\sigma_{11}$ now.
- We first pre-multiply $\sigma_{1j,j}$ by X_3 **and then integrate** over the section:

$$\int_A X_3 \sigma_{11,1} dA + \underbrace{\int_A X_3 \sigma_{12,2} dA}_{\int_{\partial A} \cancel{X_3 \sigma_{12} d\ell} - \int_A \sigma_{12} dA} + \underbrace{\int_A X_3 \sigma_{13,3} dA}_{\int_{\partial A} \cancel{X_3 \sigma_{13} n_3 d\ell} - \int_A \sigma_{13} dA} = 0,$$

Integration by Parts, Gauss Divergence.

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{M_{2,1} - V_3 = 0}.$$

- Next we pre-multiply $\sigma_{1j,j}$ by X_2 and repeat the same:

$$\int_A X_2 \sigma_{11,1} dA + \underbrace{\int_A X_2 \sigma_{12,2} dA}_{\int_{\partial A} \cancel{X_2 \sigma_{12} d\ell} - \int_A \sigma_{12} dA} + \underbrace{\int_A X_2 \sigma_{13,3} dA}_{\int_{\partial A} \cancel{X_2 \sigma_{13} n_3 d\ell} - \int_A \sigma_{13} dA} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{-M_{3,1} - V_2 = 0}.$$

1.2. Equilibrium Equations

Unsymmetrical Bending

- The equilibrium equations are

$$V_{2,1} + F_2 = 0, \quad V_{3,1} + F_3 = 0, \quad M_{2,1} = V_3, \quad M_{3,1} = -V_2,$$

which can be rewritten as

$$M_{3,11} = F_2, \quad -M_{2,11} = F_3.$$

The Equilibrium Considerations are Independent of Kinematics!

- While it may sometimes be hard to fully comprehend, note that the equilibrium considerations are **independent** of the kinematic assumptions.
- We are merely interpreting the general 3D equilibrium equations we developed before for the 3D prismatic case.
- We do not need to be confused by the fact that if shear strains are zero, the shear stresses will have to be too for a linear elastic material since all the above considerations are made independent of the type of material constitution.
- We have, however, assumed that $\sigma_{22} = \sigma_{33} = \sigma_{23} = 0$.

1.3. Equations of Motion in Terms of Displacement

Unsymmetrical Bending

- The moments are related to the kinematics by

$$\begin{bmatrix} M_2 \\ M_3 \end{bmatrix} = E_Y \begin{bmatrix} I_{22} & -I_{23} \\ -I_{23} & I_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -w'' \\ v'' \end{bmatrix}.$$

- Invoking the equilibrium conditions again we have,

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} M_{2,11} \\ M_{3,11} \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} F_2 \\ F_3 \end{bmatrix}, \\ E_Y \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I_{22} & -I_{23} \\ -I_{23} & I_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v'''' \\ w'''' \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} F_2 \\ F_3 \end{bmatrix}, \\ \implies E_Y \begin{bmatrix} I_{33} & I_{23} \\ I_{23} & I_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v'''' \\ w'''' \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} F_2 \\ F_3 \end{bmatrix}, \end{aligned}$$

or in more compact notation,

$$\boxed{E_Y \mathbb{I} \underline{\underline{V}}'''' = \underline{\underline{F}}}, \quad \mathbb{I} = \begin{bmatrix} I_{33} & I_{23} \\ I_{23} & I_{22} \end{bmatrix}.$$

(Recall how the simple bending case looked)

1.4. Axial Stress In Terms of Moments and Forces

Unsymmetrical Bending

- So far we have

$$\sigma_{11} = E_Y [X_3 \quad -X_2] \begin{bmatrix} -w'' \\ v'' \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} M_2 \\ M_3 \end{bmatrix} = E_Y \begin{bmatrix} I_{22} & -I_{23} \\ -I_{23} & I_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -w'' \\ v'' \end{bmatrix}.$$

- Inverting the second relationship allows us to write σ_{11} in terms of $[M_1 \quad M_2]$ directly:

$$\sigma_{11} = \frac{[X_3 \quad -X_2]}{I_{22}I_{33} - I_{23}^2} \begin{bmatrix} I_{33} & I_{23} \\ I_{23} & I_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} M_2 \\ M_3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

- By reordering the terms we get a form that is slightly easier to remember:

$$\sigma_{11} = \frac{[X_2 \quad X_3]}{I_{22}I_{33} - I_{23}^2} \begin{bmatrix} I_{22} & -I_{23} \\ -I_{23} & I_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -M_3 \\ M_2 \end{bmatrix},$$

and therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_{11,1} &= \frac{[X_2 \quad X_3]}{I_{22}I_{33} - I_{23}^2} \begin{bmatrix} I_{22} & -I_{23} \\ -I_{23} & I_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -M_{3,1} \\ M_{2,1} \end{bmatrix}, \\ \Rightarrow \sigma_{11,1} &= \frac{[X_2 \quad X_3]}{I_{22}I_{33} - I_{23}^2} \begin{bmatrix} I_{22} & -I_{23} \\ -I_{23} & I_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} V_2 \\ V_3 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

2. Shear Stress and Flow in Sections

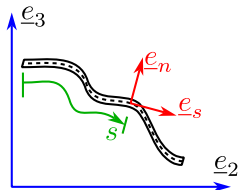
- If shear strain is assumed zero, can we still have shear stress?
- We posit: $\gamma_{12} = 0$, $\gamma_{13} = 0$, $\gamma_{23} = 0$. As point quantities, the shear stresses may still be small ($\sigma_{12} = G\gamma_{12}$).
- But the **integral quantities** are taken to be finite:

$$\int \sigma_{12} dA = V_2, \quad \int \sigma_{13} dA = V_3.$$

- We will never try to use σ_{12} or σ_{13} in isolation - they will always feature as section averaged quantities.

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:

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

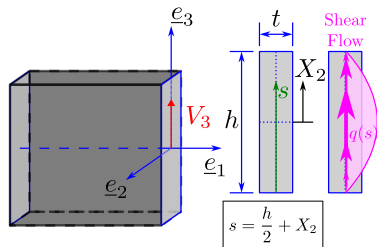
where we have integrated along the \underline{e}_n direction once.

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

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

2. Shear Stress and Flow in Sections

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



$$\begin{aligned}
 q(s) &= -\frac{V_3}{I_{22}} \int_0^s t X_3 ds = -\frac{t V_3}{I_{22}} \int_{-\frac{h}{2}}^{X_3} X_3 dX_2 \\
 &= -\frac{t V_3}{2 I_{22}} \left(X_2^2 - \frac{h^2}{4} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

- 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 .

2. Shear Stress and Flow in Sections

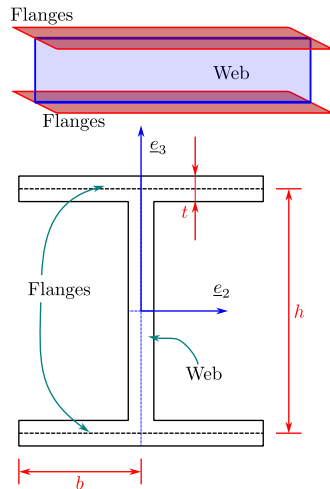
The “I” section

- 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,

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

- I_{33} sums up as,

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

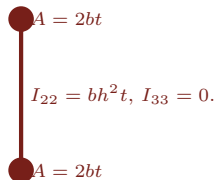


2. Shear Stress and Flow in Sections

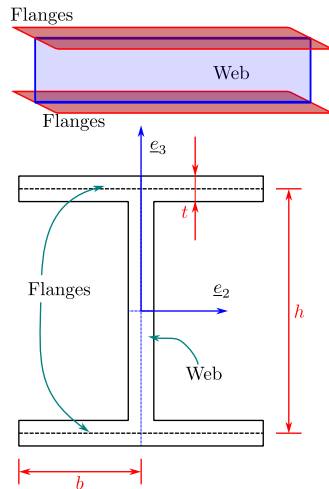
The “I” section

Idealization

- Both I_{22} and I_{33} are dominated by flange contributions, implying that bending is supported primarily by the flanges.
- This motivates the following idealization for the I-section:



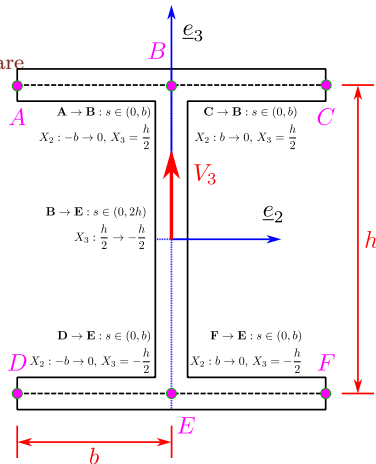
- The lumped area elements denoted \bullet are sometimes referred to as “**Booms**” in the section.
- Thickness in the web (denoted —) is taken to be zero for bending-stress calculations.



2. Shear Stress and Flow in Sections

The “I” section

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

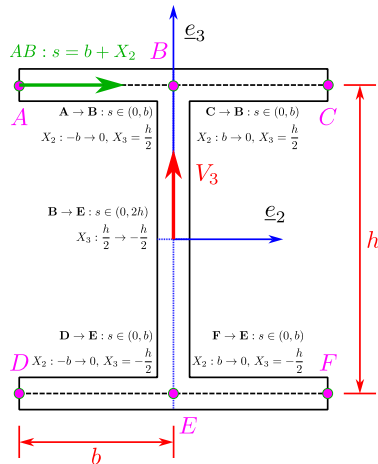


2. Shear Stress and Flow in Sections

The “I” section

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

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{B} : q_{AB}(s) &\equiv q_{AB}(X_2) = \\ &= -\frac{tV_3}{I_{22}} \int_0^s X_3 ds = -\frac{htV_3}{2I_{22}}(b + X_2) \end{aligned}$$



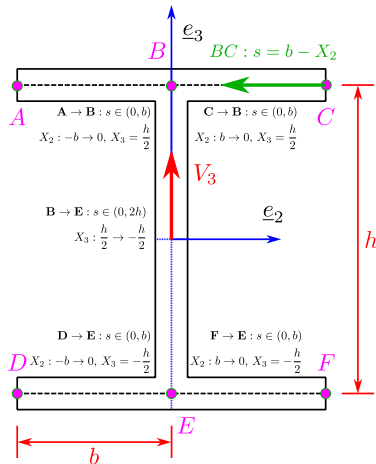
2. Shear Stress and Flow in Sections

The “I” section

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

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{B} : q_{AB}(s) &\equiv q_{AB}(X_2) = \\ &= -\frac{tV_3}{I_{22}} \int_0^s X_3 ds = -\frac{htV_3}{2I_{22}}(b + X_2) \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{B} : q_{CB}(X_2) = -\frac{htV_3}{2I_{22}}(b - X_2)$$



2. Shear Stress and Flow in Sections

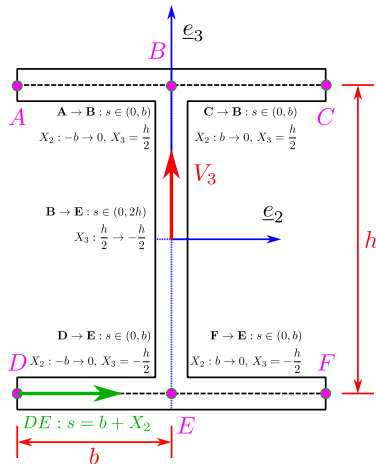
The “I” section

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

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{B} : q_{AB}(s) &\equiv q_{AB}(X_2) = \\ &= -\frac{tV_3}{I_{22}} \int_0^s X_3 ds = -\frac{htV_3}{2I_{22}}(b + X_2) \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{B} : q_{CB}(X_2) = -\frac{htV_3}{2I_{22}}(b - X_2)$$

$$\mathbf{D} \rightarrow \mathbf{E} : q_{DE}(X_2) = \frac{htV_3}{2I_{22}}(b + X_2)$$



2. Shear Stress and Flow in Sections

The “I” section

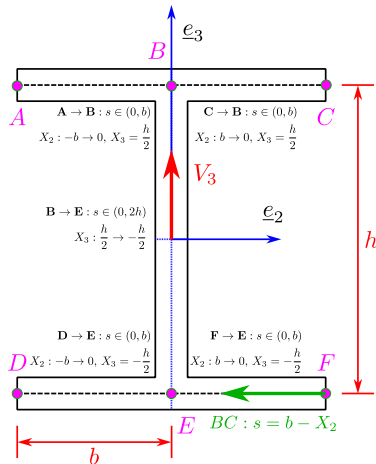
- Let us consider the case with $V_2 = 0$, $V_3 \neq 0$.
- The segments $A \rightarrow B$, $C \rightarrow B$, $D \rightarrow E$, and $F \rightarrow E$ are exposed in their free ends, simplifying the shear flow integral ($q = 0$ at free ends).

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{B} : q_{AB}(s) &\equiv q_{AB}(X_2) = \\ &= -\frac{tV_3}{I_{22}} \int_0^s X_3 ds = -\frac{htV_3}{2I_{22}}(b + X_2) \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{B} : q_{CB}(X_2) = -\frac{htV_3}{2I_{22}}(b - X_2)$$

$$\mathbf{D} \rightarrow \mathbf{E} : q_{DE}(X_2) = \frac{htV_3}{2I_{22}}(b + X_2)$$

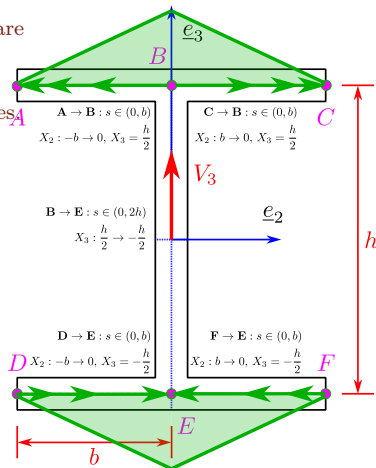
$$\mathbf{F} \rightarrow \mathbf{E} : q_{FE}(X_2) = \frac{htV_3}{2I_{22}}(b - X_2)$$



2. Shear Stress and Flow in Sections

The "I" section

- Let us consider the case with $V_2 = 0$, $V_3 \neq 0$.
- The segments $A \rightarrow B$, $C \rightarrow B$, $D \rightarrow E$, and $F \rightarrow E$ 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

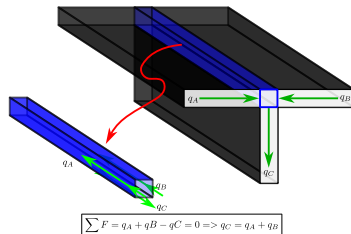


2. Shear Stress and Flow in Sections

The “I” section

- Let us consider the case with $V_2 = 0$, $V_3 \neq 0$.
- The segments $A \rightarrow B$, $C \rightarrow B$, $D \rightarrow E$, and $F \rightarrow E$ 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 ($B \rightarrow E$), we have to observe the balance at the “T” junction.

Balance at the T-junction

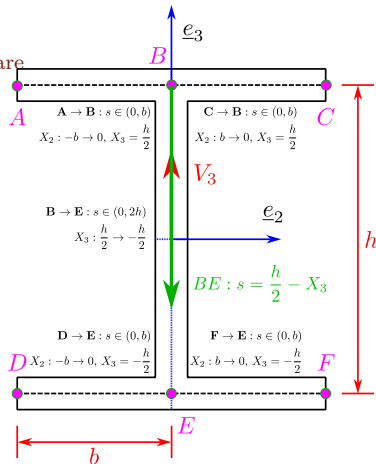


2. Shear Stress and Flow in Sections

The “I” section

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

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



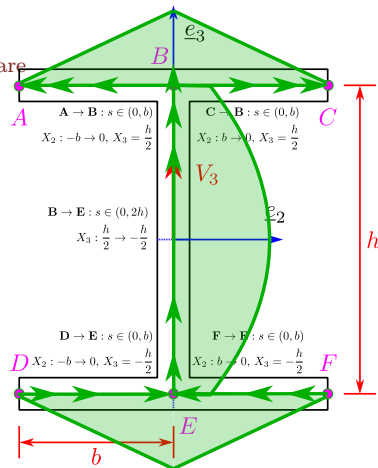
The “I” section

The “I” section

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

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

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



2. Shear Stress and Flow in Sections

The “I” section: Order of Magnitude Analysis

- Let us consider the “total” shear forces experienced by each member.

- Flange AB**

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

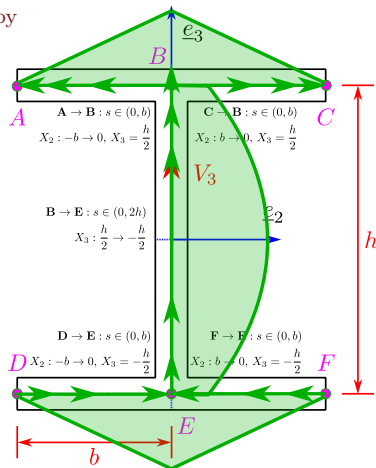
- Web BE**

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

- For $b = \frac{h}{2}$, we have,

$$V_{AB} = -\frac{h^3 tV_3}{16I_{22}} \approx -\frac{V_3}{8}$$

$$V_{BE} = V_3$$



2. Shear Stress and Flow in Sections

The “I” section: Order of Magnitude Analysis

- Let us consider the “total” shear forces experienced by each member.

- Flange AB**

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

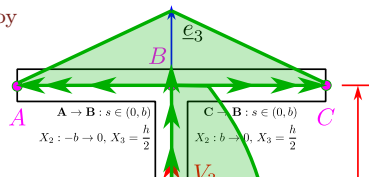
- Web BE**

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

- For $b = \frac{h}{2}$, we have,

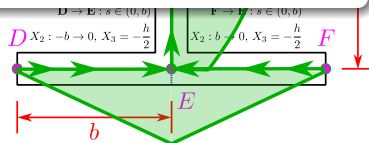
$$V_{AB} = -\frac{h^3 tV_3}{16I_{22}} \approx -\frac{V_3}{8}$$

$$V_{BE} = V_3$$



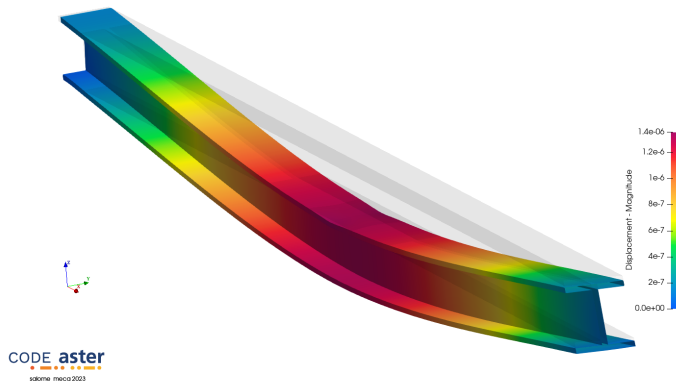
Idealization

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

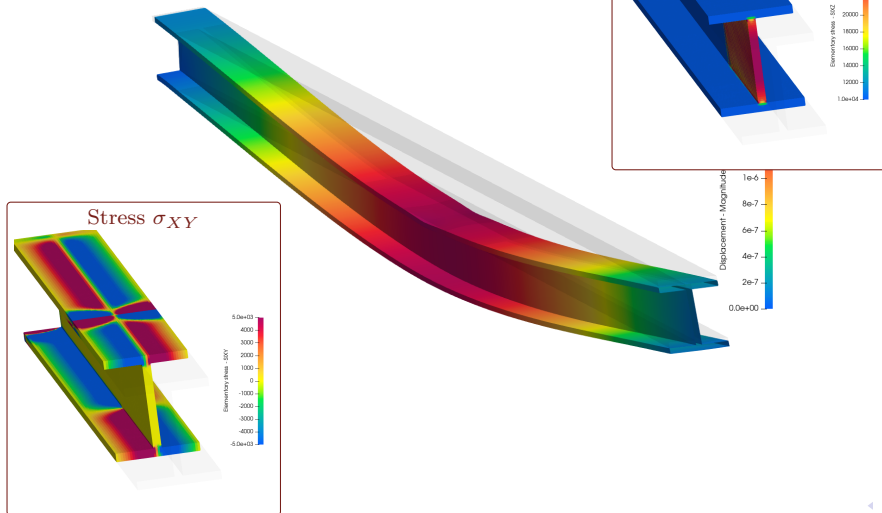


Code_Aster on the Salome Platform

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

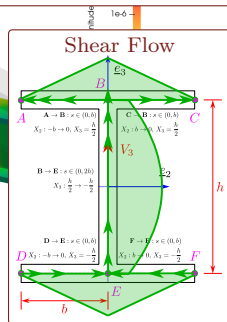
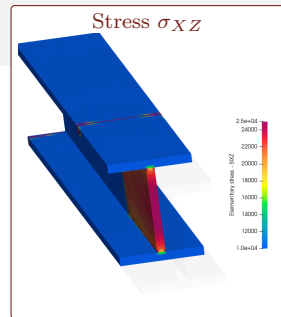
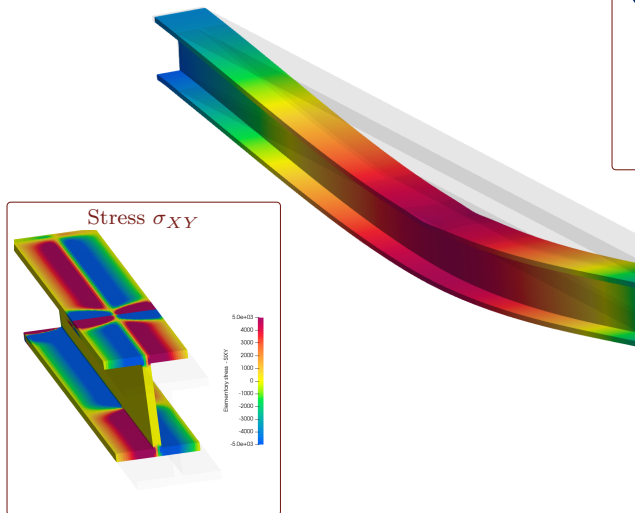
2. Shear Stress and Flow in Sections

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



2. Shear Stress and Flow in Sections

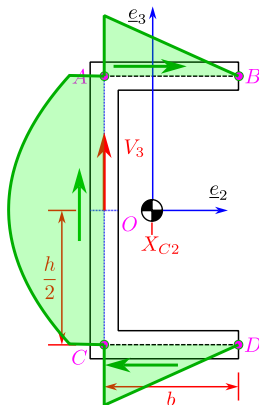
An "I" section beam subjected to 3-point bending: Finite Element Results



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:



$$I_{22} \approx \frac{(h^3 + 6bh^2)t}{12} + \mathcal{O}(t^2)$$

$$q_{BA}(X_2) = -\frac{htV_3}{2I_{22}}(b - X_2)$$

$$q_{AC}(X_3) = -\frac{htV_3}{2I_{22}}\left(b + \frac{h}{4}\right) + \frac{tV_3}{2I_{22}}X_3^2$$

$$q_{CD}(X_2) = -\frac{htV_3}{2I_{22}}(b - X_2)$$

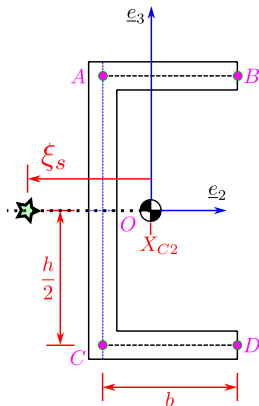
$$M_1 = \oint pqds = -\frac{b^2h^2tV_3}{4I_{22}} := V_3\xi_s$$

$$\xi_s \approx -\frac{3b^2}{h + 6b} + \mathcal{O}(t)$$

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:



$$I_{22} \approx \frac{(h^3 + 6bh^2)t}{12} + \mathcal{O}(t^2)$$

$$q_{BA}(X_2) = -\frac{htV_3}{2I_{22}}(b - X_2)$$

$$q_{AC}(X_3) = -\frac{htV_3}{2I_{22}}\left(b + \frac{h}{4}\right) + \frac{tV_3}{2I_{22}}X_3^2$$

$$q_{CD}(X_2) = -\frac{htV_3}{2I_{22}}(b - X_2)$$

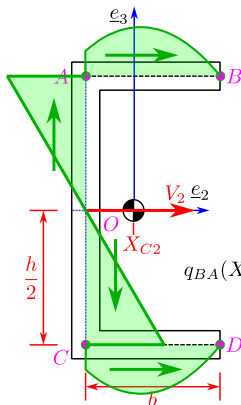
$$M_1 = \oint pqds = -\frac{b^2h^2tV_3}{4I_{22}} := -V_3\xi_s$$

$$\xi_s \approx \frac{3b^2}{h + 6b} + \mathcal{O}(t)$$

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:



$$XC_2 = \frac{(bt)\frac{b}{2} \times 2}{2bt + ht} = \frac{b}{2 + h/b}$$

$$q(s) - q(0) = -\frac{tV_2}{I_{33}} \int_0^s X_2 ds$$

Shear Flow

$$q_{BA}(X_2) = \frac{tV_2}{2I_{33}} \frac{(X_2^2(h+2b)^2 - b^2(h+b)^2)}{(h+2b)^2}$$

$$q_{AC}(X_3) = -\frac{tb^2V_2}{(2b+h)I_{33}} X_3$$

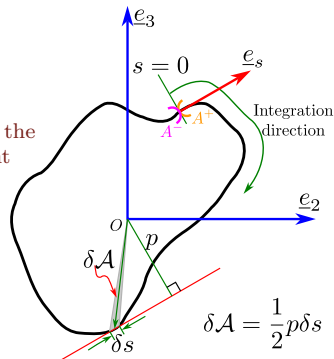
$$q_{CD}(X_2) = -q_{BA}(X_2)$$

2.2. Closed Sections

Shear Stress and Flow in Sections

- The shear-flow integral formula makes no reference to whether the section is open or closed.
- Considering the generic closed section shown, we start the integral at some **arbitrary** point A , denoting the point right before it as A^- . The integral is then written as,

$$q(s) - q_{A^-} = - \underbrace{\int_0^s t \sigma_{11,1} ds}_{q_b(s)}.$$



- When no twisting is expected at the section, the moment along \underline{e}_1 about O has to be zero. This is computed as,

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

2.2. Closed Sections

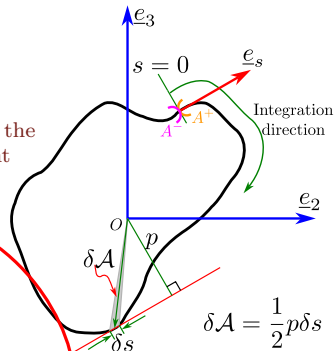
Shear Stress and Flow in Sections

- The shear-flow integral formula makes no reference to whether the section is open or closed.
- Considering the generic closed section shown, we start the integral at some **arbitrary** point A , denoting the point

Are we already assuming that O is the shear center with this?!

written as,

$$q(s) = q_A - \underbrace{\int_0^s \omega_{11,1} ds}_{q_b(s)}.$$



- When no twisting is expected at the section, the moment along \underline{e}_1 about O has to be zero. This is computed as,

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

2.2. Closed Sections

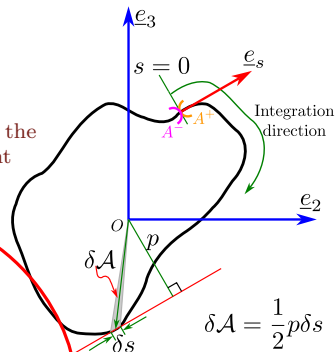
Shear Stress and Flow in Sections

- The shear-flow integral formula makes no reference to whether the section is open or closed.
- Considering the generic closed section shown, we start the integral at some **arbitrary** point A , denoting the point

written as,

Are we already assuming that O is the shear center with this?!

Yes. We need to add an extra term when resultants V_2, V_3 are acting with an offset.



- When no twisting is expected at the section, the moment along \underline{e}_1 about O has to be zero. This is computed as,

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

2.2. Closed Sections

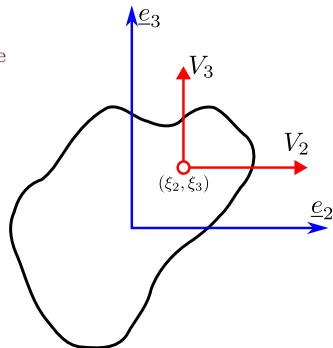
Shear Stress and Flow in Sections

- If we suppose that the resultants are acting along some (ξ_2, ξ_3) , the applied moment is:
 $(\xi_2 \underline{e}_2 + \xi_3 \underline{e}_3) \times (V_2 \underline{e}_2 + V_3 \underline{e}_3)$:

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

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

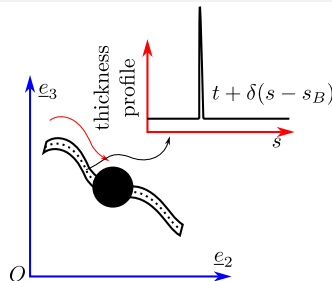
$$\xi_2 V_3 - \xi_3 V_2 = 2Aq_{A-} + \oint pq_b(s)ds$$



- 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).

3. Stringer-Web Idealization

- 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_{r2}, X_{r3}) , with area A_r .



- So the shear flow integral can be generalized to,

$$q(s) - q(0) = - \frac{\left[t \int_0^s X_3 ds + \sum_r A_r X_{r3} \quad -t \int_0^s X_2 ds - \sum_r A_r X_{r2} \right]}{I_{22}I_{33} - I_{23}^2} \begin{bmatrix} I_{33}V_3 - I_{23}V_2 \\ I_{23}V_3 - I_{22}V_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

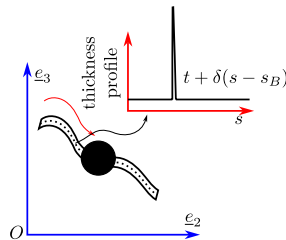
$$q(s) - q(0) = - \frac{[\sum_r A_r X_{r3} \quad -\sum_r A_r X_{r2}]}{I_{22}I_{33} - I_{23}^2} \begin{bmatrix} I_{33}V_3 - I_{23}V_2 \\ I_{23}V_3 - I_{22}V_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

3. Stringer-Web Idealization

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

$$q^+ - q^- = - \frac{[A_r X_{r3} \quad -A_r X_{r2}]}{I_{22} I_{33} - I_{23}^2} \begin{bmatrix} I_{33} V_3 - I_{23} V_2 \\ I_{23} V_3 - I_{22} V_2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

- For the sections without a boom, there is **no change in the shear flow**.
- Therefore, the shear flow is constant in the webs that 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!).

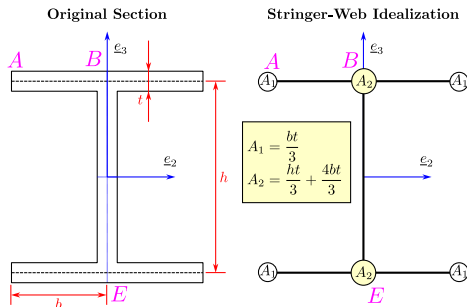
3. Stringer-Web Idealization

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:

$$\underbrace{I_{22,ideal}}_{4 \times \left(\frac{A_1 h^2}{4}\right) + 2 \times \left(\frac{A_2 h^2}{4}\right)} = \underbrace{I_{22,orig}}_{\left(\frac{h^3}{12} + bh^2\right)t + \mathcal{O}(t^2)}$$

$$\underbrace{I_{33,ideal}}_{4 \times (A_1 b^2)} = \underbrace{I_{33,ideal}}_{\frac{4b^3 t}{3} + \mathcal{O}(t^2)}$$



- 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 $4A_1 + 2A_2 = \frac{2ht}{3} + 4bt$, 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**.

3. Stringer-Web Idealization

Idealization of the I-Section: Shear Flow Comparisons

- For the idealized section AB , the shear flow is given by,

$$q_{AB,ideal} = -\frac{V_3}{I_{22,ideal}} A_1 \frac{h}{2} = -\frac{V_3 b}{h^2 + 12bh}.$$

The average flow for the original section is,

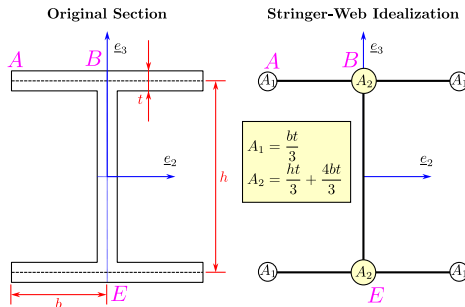
$$q_{AB,avg} = \frac{1}{b} \left(-\frac{b^2 ht V_3}{4I_{22}} \right) = \frac{3V_3 b}{h^2 + 12bh}.$$

- 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.



4. Shear Lag

Example from Sun (2006) (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:

- Applying equilibrium on the section at some $X_1 = x$ ① leads to top and bottom

booms experiencing $\int_{A_1} \sigma_{11} dA = P(x)$,

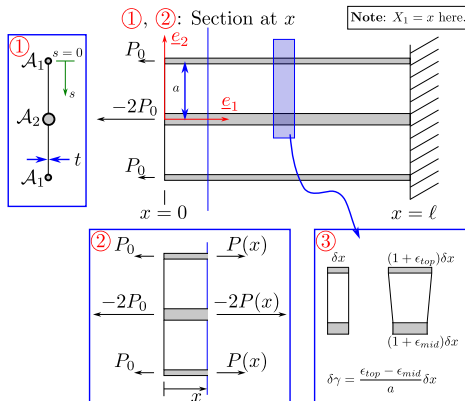
and the central boom,

$$\int_{A_2} \sigma_{11} dA = -2P(x).$$

- Shear flow in top web is given as

$$q_{top} = -\sigma_{11,1} A_1 = -P_{,1}$$

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



4. Shear Lag

Example from Sun (2006) (Section 3.1)

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

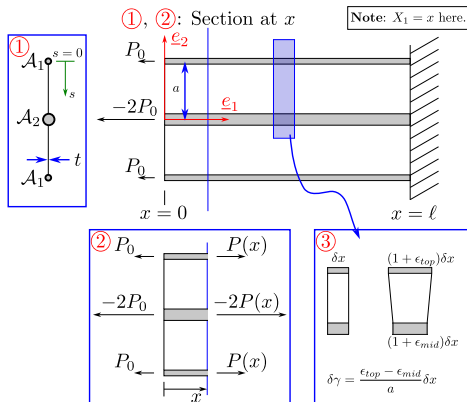
$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial \gamma_{12}}{\partial x} &= \frac{1}{a}(\epsilon_{top} - \epsilon_{mid}) \\ &= \frac{1}{E_Y a} \left(\frac{P(x)}{\mathcal{A}_1} - \frac{-2P(x)}{\mathcal{A}_2} \right)\end{aligned}$$

- 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

$$\sigma_{12} = \frac{1}{t} P_{,1} \text{ also}$$



$$\Rightarrow P_{,11} = \frac{Gt}{E_Y a} \left(\frac{1}{\mathcal{A}_1} + \frac{2}{\mathcal{A}_2} \right) P$$

4. Shear Lag

Example from Sun (2006) (Section 3.1)

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

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

- 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 .

4. Shear Lag: Decay Rate

Example from Sun (2006) (Section 3.1)

- 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,

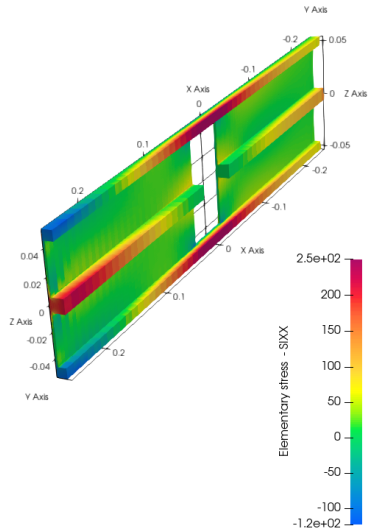
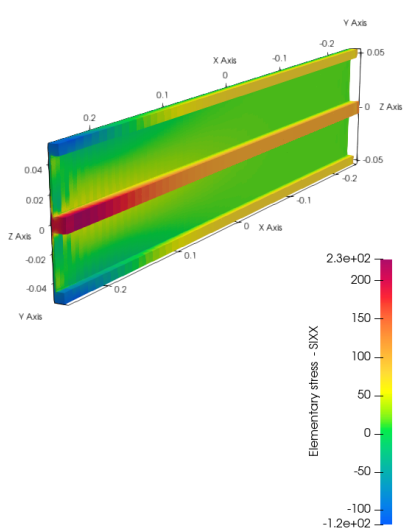
$$\lambda \propto \sqrt{\frac{G}{E_Y}}.$$

- $\uparrow G$ (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”).

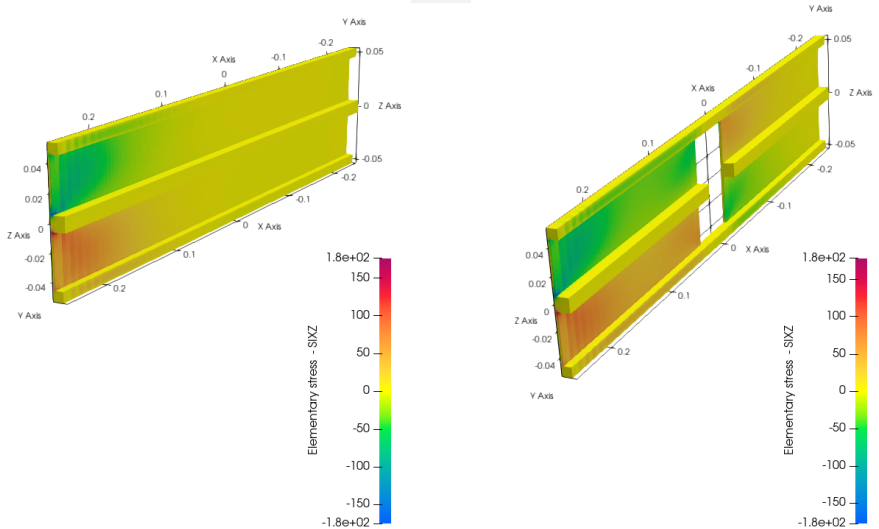
4. Shear Lag

Example from Sun (2006) (Section 3.1): FE Results



4. Shear Lag

Example from Sun (2006) (Section 3.1): FE Results



References I

- [1] 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, 40–45).
- [2] T. H. G. Megson. [Aircraft Structures for Engineering Students](#), Elsevier, 2013. ISBN: 978-0-08-096905-3 (cit. on p. 2).