

A photograph of a steel bridge girder connection. The main girder is painted blue and has several wooden beams attached to its bottom flange. The connection is made with steel plates and bolts. The text "Steel Bridge Connection Design" is overlaid in yellow.

Steel Bridge Connection Design

Karl H. Frank
Hirschfeld Industries



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Outline

- Connection Limit States-Shear Connections
- Connection Design Forces-Composite Girders
- Design Example

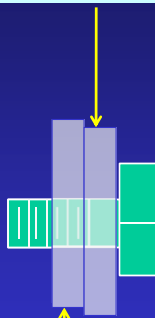
Limit States- Shear Connections

- Bolt Strength
 - Shear
 - Threads Out of the Shear Plane
 - Threads in the Shear Plane
 - Slip
 - Bolt Tension
 - Slip Coefficient
- Connected Material
 - Bolt Bearing
 - Net and Gross Section
 - Block Shear

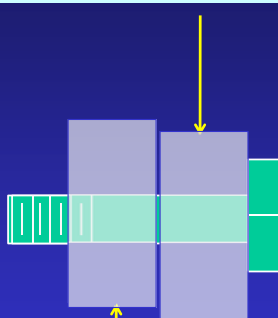
Bolt Shear Strength

$$\text{Shear Strength of Material} = 0.60 \times F_u$$

Threads
Not
Excluded
from Shear
Plane



Threads
Excluded
from Shear
Plane



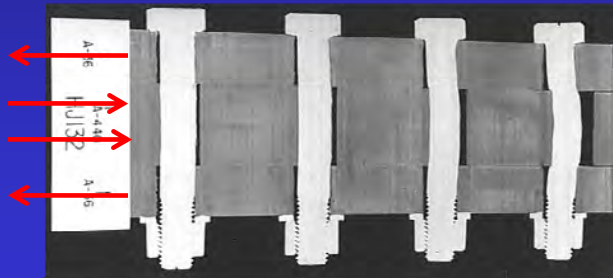
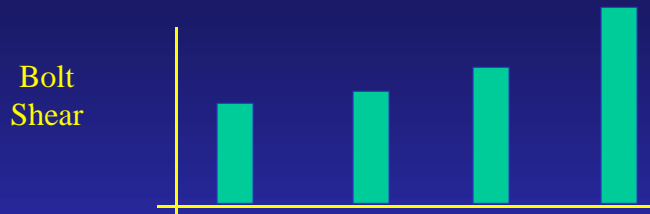
$$\text{Bolt Shear Strength} = 0.8 \times \text{Shear Area} \times \text{Shear Strength}$$

0.80 - Connection Reduction Factor for Joints Up to 50 inches in Length
Shear Area :

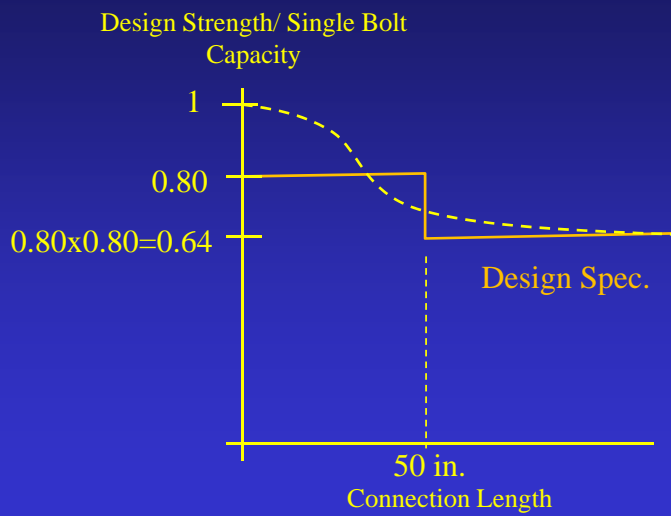
$$\text{Threads Excluded} = A_{\text{bolt}}$$

$$\text{Threads Not Excluded} = 0.8 A_{\text{bolt}}$$

Unequal Bolt Shear In Long Joints

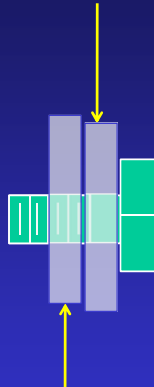


Joint Length Shear Strength Reductions



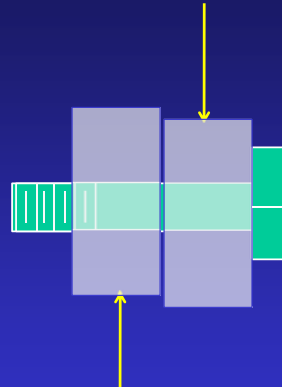
Bolt Shear Strength

Threads
Not
Excluded
from Shear
Plane



Shear Strength :
 $0.8 \times 0.60 \times F_u \times 0.8 \times A_{\text{bolt}}$
 $0.38 F_u \times A_{\text{bolt}}$

Threads
Excluded
from Shear
Plane



Shear Strength :
 $0.8 \times 0.60 \times F_u \times A_{\text{bolt}}$
 $0.48 F_u \times A_{\text{bolt}}$

$\Phi_s = 0.80$

$$\text{Slip Capacity} = R_n = K_h K_s N_s P_t$$

$\Phi_s = 1.0$
(Art.6.13.2.2)

K_h = Hole Factor

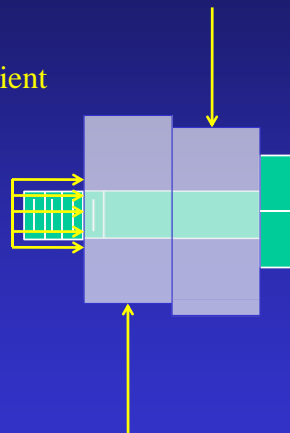
= 1 (normal size holes)

K_s = Surface Condition Slip Coefficient

= 0.5 (blasted or Zinc Rich)

N_s = Number of Slip Planes per Bolt

P_t

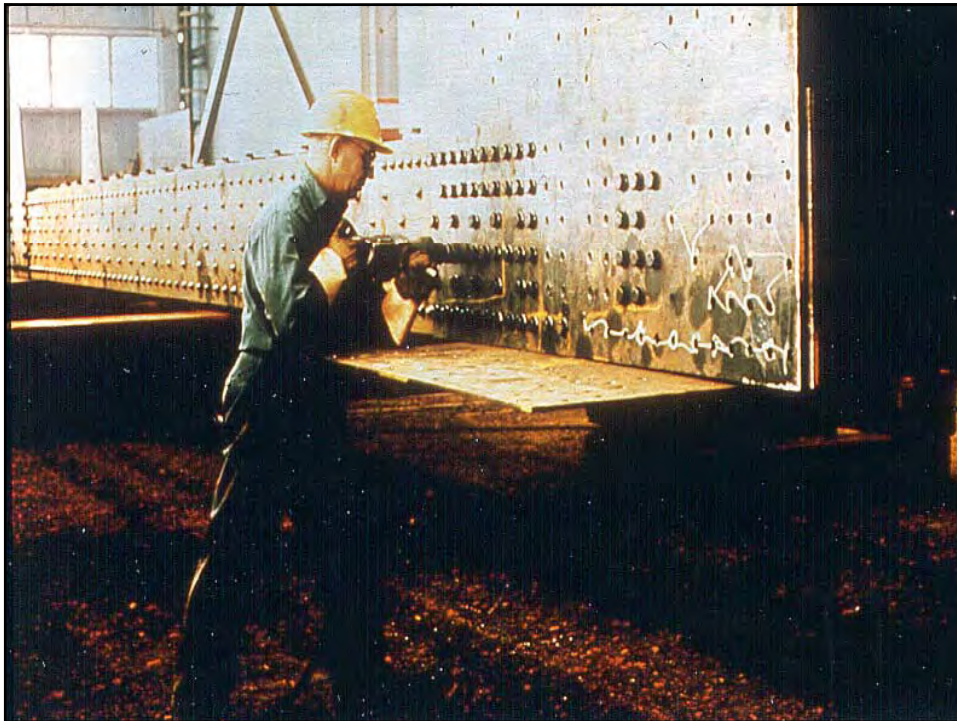
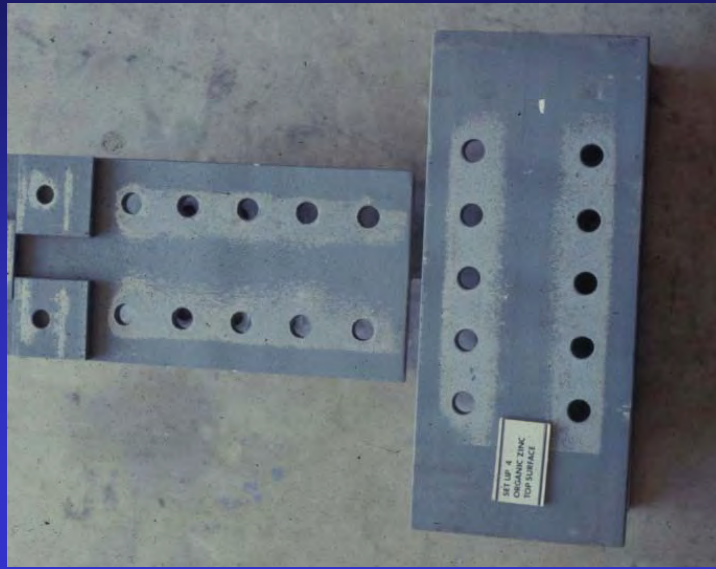


Bolt Installed Tension

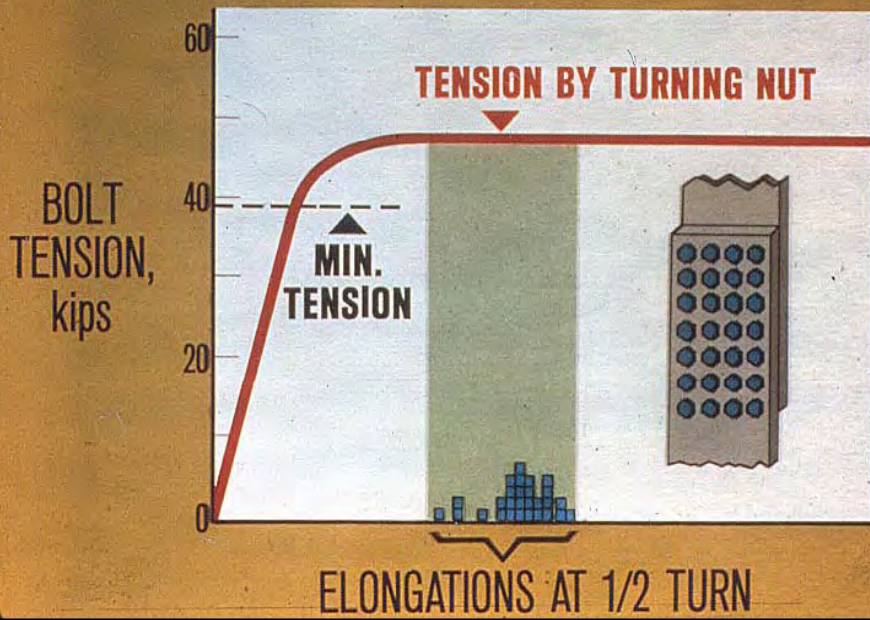
$P_t = 0.70 \times \text{Tensile Strength}$

$= 0.70 \times A_{\text{tensile}} \times F_u$

Post Slip Examination of Zinc Rich Paint Specimen



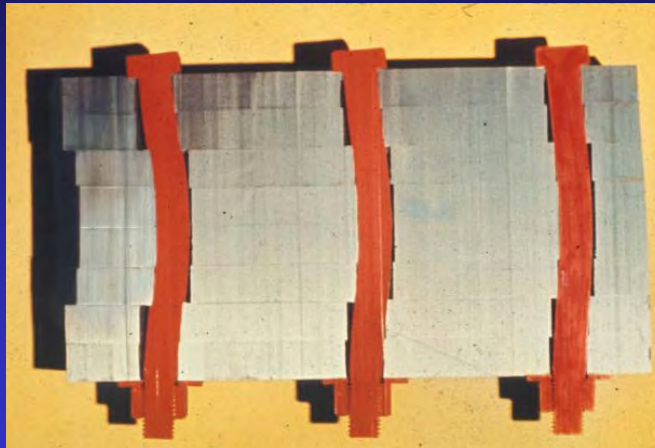
CLAMPING FORCE



Diameter (in.)	0.625	0.75	0.875	1	1.125	1.25	1.375
A_b (in ²)	0.307	0.442	0.601	0.785	0.994	1.227	1.485
A325 Bolt							
F_{ub} (ksi)	120	120	120	120	105	105	105
$F_{ub} A_b$ (kip)	36.8	53.0	72.2	94.2	104.4	128.9	155.9
P_t (kip)	19	28	39	51	56	71	85
Type	$\phi_s R_n$ (kip)						
A325F	9.5	14.0	19.5	25.5	28.0	35.5	42.5
A325N	11.2	16.1	21.9	28.7	31.7	39.2	47.4
A325X	14.1	20.4	27.7	36.2	40.1	49.5	59.9

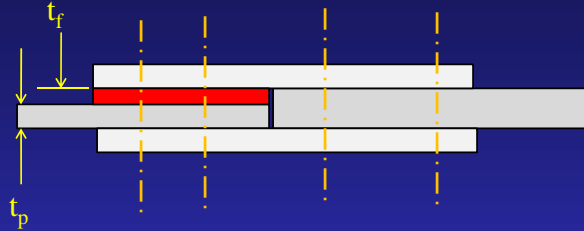
Diameter (in.)	0.625	0.75	0.875	1	1.125	1.25	1.375
A_b (in ²)	0.307	0.442	0.601	0.785	0.994	1.227	1.485
A490 Bolt							
F_{ub} (ksi)	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
$F_{ub} A_b$ (kip)	46.0	66.3	90.2	117.8	149.1	184.1	222.7
P_t (kip)	24	35	49	64	80	102	121
Type	$\phi_s R_n$ (kip)						
A490F	12.0	17.5	24.5	32.0	40.0	51.0	60.5
A490N	14.0	20.1	27.4	35.8	45.3	56.0	67.7
A490X	17.7	25.4	34.6	45.2	57.3	70.7	85.5

Undeveloped Filler



Bending of Bolts Reduces Shear Strength

Filler at Flange Thickness Transition



Shear Strength Reduction due to Filler:

if $t_f \geq 0.25\text{in.}$

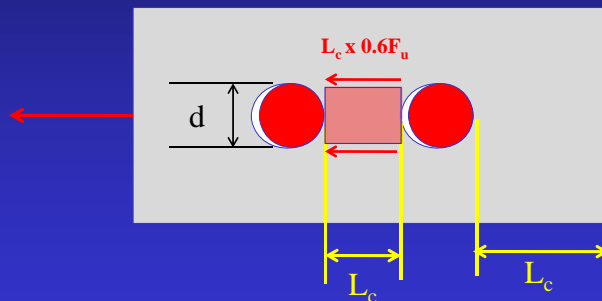
$$R = \left[\frac{(1+\gamma)}{(1+2\gamma)} \right]$$

$$\gamma = \frac{A_f}{A_p} \text{ normally } = \frac{t_f}{t_p}$$

A_f = Sum of the Area of the Filler Plates

A_p = Smaller of Connected Plate Area or Sum of Splice Plate Area

Bearing Strength of Connected Material Standard Holes



if $L_c \geq 2d$

$$R_n = 2.4 d t F_u$$

for $L_c < 2d$

$$R_n = 1.2 L_c t F_u$$

$$\Phi_{bb} = 0.80$$

AASHTO Bearing Strength							
	F _u = 65 ksi			Hole Size = Dia. + 0.0625			
Diameter (in.)	0.625	0.75	0.875	1	1.125	1.25	1.375
Min. Spacing (in.)	1.875	2.25	2.625	3	3.375	3.75	4.125
Clear Distance (in.)	1.188	1.438	1.688	1.938	2.188	2.438	2.688
$\phi_{bb}R_n$ (kip/in. of thickness)	74.1	89.7	105.3	120.9	136.5	152.1	167.7
Typical Spacing (in.)	2	2.5	3	3	3.5	3.75	4.25
Clear Distance (in.)	1.313	1.688	2.063	1.938	2.313	2.438	2.813
$\phi_{bb}R_n$ (kip/in. of thickness)	81.9	105.3	128.7	124.8	144.3	156	175.5
A325X/Bearing	0.17	0.19	0.22	0.29	0.28	0.32	0.34
A490X/Bearing	0.22	0.24	0.27	0.36	0.40	0.45	0.49
Min. End Distance (in.)	0.875	1	1.125	1.25	1.5	1.625	1.75
Clear Distance (in.)	0.53	0.59	0.66	0.72	0.91	0.97	1.03
$\phi_{bb}R_n$ (kip/in. of thickness)	33.15	37.05	40.95	44.85	56.55	60.45	64.35

$\Phi_{bb} = 0.80$

Design Conditions

- Dead Load and Service Load II- Design Against Slip
- Strength I- Design for Shear, Bearing, Block Shear, and Net Section
- Minimum Connection- Controls for many field Splices

Minimum Connection- Web Shear Article 6.13.6.1.4b

- If $V_u < 0.5 \phi_v V_n$ (Shear at Strength I less 1/2 shear capacity)
 - $V_{uw} = 1.5 \times V_u$
- Otherwise:

$$V_{uw} = \frac{(V_u + \phi_v V_n)}{2}$$

Minimum Flange Force Controlling Flange (largest stress)

Minimum Flange Force = $F_{cf} \times A_e$

$$F_{cf} = \frac{\left(\left| \frac{f_{cf}}{R_h} \right| + \alpha \phi_f F_{yf} \right)}{2} \geq 0.75 \alpha \phi_f F_{yf}$$

$A_e = A_g$ compression flange

$$= \left(\frac{\phi_u F_u}{\phi_y F_{yt}} \right) A_{net} \leq A_g \text{ tension flange}$$

Controlling Flange Requirements

$$\alpha = R_h = 1$$

Minimum Flange Force = $F_{cf} \times A_e$

$$F_{cf} = \frac{(f_{cf} + F_{yf})}{2} \geq 0.75 F_{yf}$$

$A_e = A_g$ compression flange

$= 1.09 A_{net} \leq A_g$ Grade 50 tension flange

$= 1.18 A_{net} \leq A_g$ Grade 50W tension flange

Non Controlling Flange

Minimum Flange Force = $F_{nf} \times A_e$

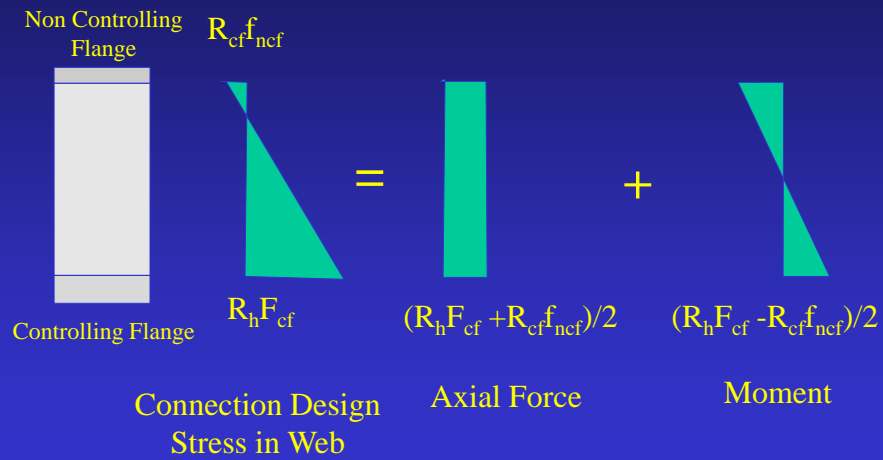
$$F_{nf} = R_{cf} \left| \frac{f_{nf}}{R_h} \right| \geq 0.75 \alpha \phi_f F_{yf}$$

$R_{cf} = \frac{F_{cf}}{f_{cf}}$ increase in design stress for controlling flange

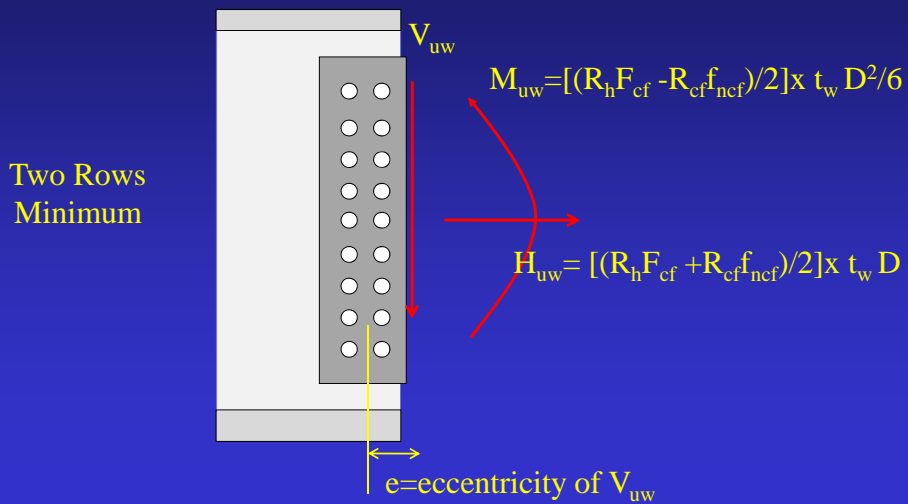
$A_e = A_g$ compression flange

$= \left(\frac{\phi_u F_u}{\phi_y F_{yt}} \right) A_{net} \leq A_g$ tension flange

Design Forces Web Splice Moment in Web



Web Connection Design Forces



Web Connection Design Force

Moment:

$$M = V_{uw} x e + M_{uw}$$

Vertical Force:

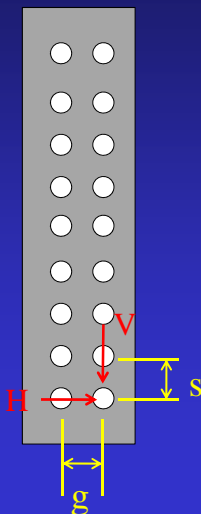
$$V = V_{uw}$$

Horizontal Force:

$$H = H_{uw}$$

- Calculate Force on Corner Fastener Using Rigid Body Equations Assuming Rotation About Centroid of Bolt Group

Web Corner Bolt Shear



$$I_p = \frac{nm}{12} [s^2(n^2 - 1) + g^2(m^2 - 1)]$$

n = number of bolts in one vertical row

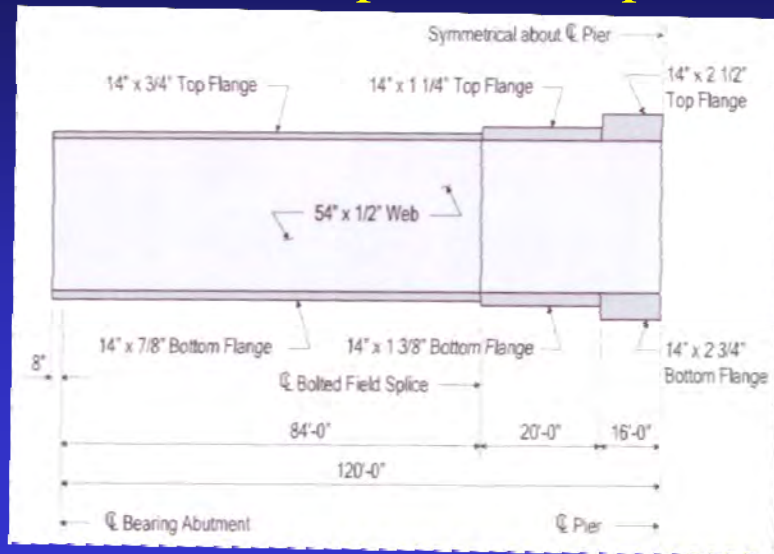
m = number of vertical rows

$$V = \text{Vertical Force} = \frac{V_{uw}}{nm} + \frac{(e V_{uw} + M_{uw})}{I_p} \left[\frac{(m-1)}{2} g \right]$$

$$H = \text{Horizontal Force} = \frac{H_{uw}}{nm} + \frac{(e V_{uw} + M_{uw})}{I_p} \left[\frac{(n-1)}{2} s \right]$$

$$\text{Maximum Bolt Shear} = \sqrt{V^2 + H^2}$$

NHI Girder Splice Example



Nominal Forces

Force	Service II	Strength I	A_{gross}
Web Shear Force	-198.53 kip	262.2 kip	
Stress Top Flange Mid Thickness	-0.73 ksi	-1.32 ksi	$14 \times 3/4 = 10.50$
Stress Bottom Flange Mid Thickness	15.1 ksi	20.69 ksi	$14 \times 7/8 = 12.25$

Controls

Controlling Flange Requirements Tension Flange, $\alpha=R_h = 1$

$$F_{cf} = \frac{(f_{cf} + F_{yf})}{2} = \frac{(20.69 + 50)}{2} = 35.3 < 0.75 F_{yf} = 37.5 \text{ ksi}$$

Two Rows of $\frac{7}{8}$ in. bolts each side of web, standard holes.

$$A_{net} = 12.25 - 4 \times \left(\frac{15}{16}\right) \times \frac{7}{8} = 8.97 \text{ in}^2$$

$$A_e = 1.09 A_{net} = 1.09 \times 8.75 = 9.77 \leq A_g = 12.25 \text{ in}^2$$

$$\text{Splice Design Force} = 37.5 \times 9.77 = 366.6 \text{ kip}$$

Non Controlling Compression Flange

$$R_{cf} = \frac{F_{cf}}{f_{cf}} = \frac{37.5}{20.69} = 1.81 \text{ Ratio of Increase Controlling Flange}$$

$$\text{Minimum Flange Force} = F_{nf} \times A_e$$

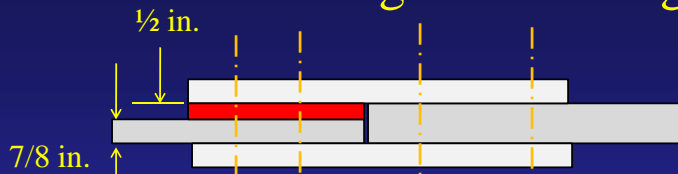
$$F_{nf} = R_{cf} \left| \frac{f_{nf}}{R_h} \right| = 1.81 \left| \frac{-1.32}{1} \right| = 2.18 < 0.75 \alpha \phi_f F_{yf}$$

$$= 0.75 \times 1 \times 1 \times 50 = 37.5 \text{ ksi}$$

$$A_e = A_g = 10.5 \text{ in}^2 \text{ compression flange}$$

$$\text{Splice Design Force} = 37.5 \times 10.5 = 394.8 \text{ kip}$$

Bottom Flange Bolt Strength



Shear Strength Reduction due to Filler since $t_f \geq 0.25\text{in.}$:

$$t_f = \frac{7}{8}\text{ in} \quad t_s = 1\frac{3}{8} - \frac{7}{8} = \frac{1}{2}\text{ in}$$

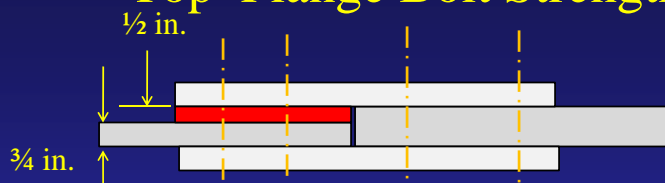
$$\gamma = \frac{0.5}{0.875} = 0.57$$

$$R = \left[\frac{(1+\gamma)}{(1+2\gamma)} \right] = \left[\frac{(1+0.57)}{(1+2 \times 0.57)} \right] = 0.73$$

$\frac{7}{8}$ in A325 Bolt with Threads Excluded

Bolt Shear Strength = $0.73 \times 27.7 = 20.2$ kip

Top Flange Bolt Strength



Shear Strength Reduction due to Filler since $t_f \geq 0.25\text{in.}$:

$$t_f = \frac{3}{4}\text{ in} \quad t_s = 1\frac{1}{4} - \frac{3}{4} = \frac{1}{2}\text{ in}$$

$$\gamma = \frac{0.5}{0.75} = 0.67$$

$$R = \left[\frac{(1+\gamma)}{(1+2\gamma)} \right] = \left[\frac{(1+0.67)}{(1+2 \times 0.67)} \right] = 0.71$$

$\frac{7}{8}$ in A325 Bolt with Threads Excluded

Bolt Shear Strength = $0.71 \times 27.7 = 19.8$ kip

Bolt Requirements

Bearing Based on
1.5 in. End
Distance

Connection	Splice Design Force kip	Bolt Shear Capacity kip	Number of Bolts Required	Number Provided	Bearing Force/Bolt kip	Bearing End Bolt Flange kip
Top Flange	394.8	19.8	$394.8/(2 \times 19.8) = 9.96$	12	$394.8/12 = 32.9$	$64.35 \times 3/4 = 48.3$ OK
Bottom Flange	357.8	20.2	$366.6/(2 \times 20.2) = 9.07$	12	$366.6/12 = 30.5$	$64.35 \times 7/8 = 56.3$ OK

t_{splice} = should be greater than half the smaller flange thickness

Top Flange $t_{splice} \geq 0.5 \times 3/4$ use 7/16 in.

Bottom Flange $t_{splice} \geq 0.5 \times 7/8$ use 7/16 in.

Web Connection Shear

- Unstiffened Web- $k=5$, $D=54$, $t_w=0.5$, $D/t_w=108$
 $- V_n = C V_p$, $V_p = 0.58 \times 50 \times 54 \times 0.5 = 783$ kip

$$C = \frac{1.57}{\left(\frac{D}{t_w}\right)^2} \left(\frac{Ek}{F_{yw}}\right) = \frac{1.57}{\left(\frac{54}{0.5}\right)^2} \left(\frac{29,000 \times 5}{50}\right)$$

$$= 0.39$$

$$V_n = 0.39 \times 783 = 305.4 \text{ kip}$$

$$V_u = 262.2 > 0.5 \phi_v V_n = 152.7 \text{ kip}$$

$$V_{uw} = \frac{(V_u + \phi_v V_n)}{2} = \frac{(262.2 + 305.4)}{2} = 283.8 \text{ kips}$$

Web Connection Moment:

$$\begin{aligned}
 M_{uw} &= [(R_h F_{cf} - R_{cf} f_{ncf})/2] \times t_w D^2/6 \\
 &= [1 \times 37.5 - 1.81 \times 1.32] \times 0.5 \times 54^2/12 \\
 &= 4,847 \text{ k-in}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$V_{uw} \times e = 283.8 \times 3.25 = 922.4 \text{ k-in}$$

$e = 1.5 \text{ in.}$ hole edge distance in web + half the $1/2 \text{ in.}$ space between webs ($1/4 \text{ in.}$) + half the 3 in. row spacing in connection (1.5 in.) = 3.25

$$\text{Total Moment} = 4,847 + 922.4 = 5,769 \text{ k-in}$$

Web Connection Horizontal Force:

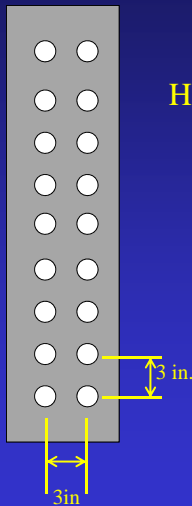
$$\begin{aligned}
 H_{uw} &= [(R_h F_{cf} + R_{cf} f_{ncf})/2] \times t_w D \\
 &= [(1 \times 37.5 + 1.81 \times 1.32)/2] \times 0.5 \times 54 \\
 &= 474.0 \text{ kip}
 \end{aligned}$$

Web Corner Bolt Shear

Try:

$n =$ number of bolts in one vertical row = 15

$m =$ number of vertical rows = 2



Connection
Height = $14 \times 3 = 42 \text{ in.}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_p &= \frac{n m}{12} [s^2 (n^2 - 1) + g^2 (m^2 - 1)] \\
 &= \frac{15 \times 2}{12} [3^2 (13^2 - 1) + 3^2 (2^2 - 1)] \\
 &= 5,108 \text{ in}^2
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 V &= \frac{V_{uw}}{nm} + \frac{(e V_{uw} + M_{uw})}{I_p} \left[\frac{(m-1)}{2} g \right] \\
 &= \frac{283.8}{30} + \frac{(3.25 \times 283.8 + 4,847)}{5,108} \left[\frac{(2-1)}{2} 3 \right] = 11.2 \text{ kip}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 H &= \frac{H_{uw}}{nm} + \frac{(e V_{uw} + M_{uw})}{I_p} \left[\frac{(n-1)}{2} s \right] \\
 &= \frac{474}{30} + \frac{(922 + 4,847)}{5,882} \left[\frac{(15-1)}{2} 3 \right] = 39.5 \text{ kip}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Maximum Bolt Shear} &= \sqrt{V^2 + H^2} = \sqrt{11.2^2 + 39.5^2} \\
 &= 41.1 \text{ kip} < 2 \times 21.9 = 43.8 \text{ kip (A325N)}
 \end{aligned}$$

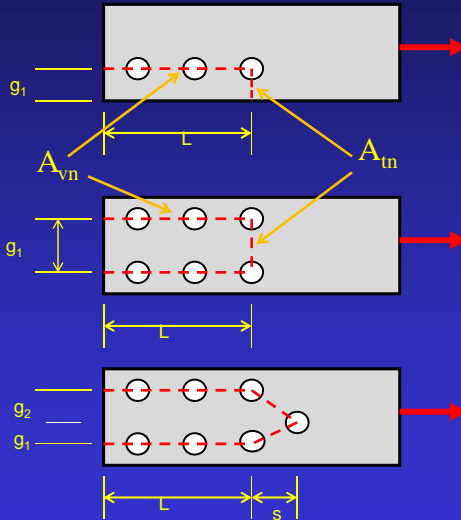
Contributions of Various Forces Upon Web Bolt Force

Force	V kip	H kip
V_{uw}	9.46	0
$e \times V_{uw}$	0.27	3.8
M_{uw}	1.4	19.9
H_{uw}	0	15.8
Total	11.13	39.5

Additional Checks

- Bearing on Web Connection
- Block Shear
- Net Section
- Slip During Construction and Fatigue Loading

Block Shear Modes



$$\Phi_{bs} = 0.80$$



$$R_r = \phi_{bs} R_p (0.58 F_u A_{vn} + U_{bs} F_u A_{tn})$$

$$\leq \phi_{bs} R_p (0.58 F_y A_{vs} + U_{bs} F_u A_{tn})$$

$R_p = 1$ drilled holes
 $= 0.9$ punched holes
 (cross frames)

$U_{bs} = 1$ axial force
 $= 0.5$ bending

Good and Bad



1. Too Many Web Bolts ~72 bolts
2. End Distance on Flange Splice Plate?

Good and Bad



Two Rows in
Web,
Higher Shear in
Outer Girder
(Curved Bridge)

Questions?