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THE LOCAL INSTABILITY OF THIN-WALLED SECTIONS UNDER COMBINED COMPRESSION AND BENDING

.

by

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and

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#### INTRODUCTION

The problem of local buckling of thin plates and thin walled structural sections under direct compression has interested investigators for the past four or five decades. Bleich (1), Lundquist and Stowell (7), Chilver (3), Harvey (4), Bulson (2), Wittrick (15), and many others, have presented solutions for a variety of problems in this field. The action of a combination of bending moments and direct compression on a section, however, has received relatively little attention.

Solutions to the problem of a single plate under compression and moments in its plane have been obtained by several researchers, including Timoshenko (12), Schuette and McCulloch (11), Johnson and Noel (5) and Walker (13) (14). Johnson and Noel advocated that their results should be used in conjunction with tables published by Kroll (6) in order to evaluate buckling loads for sections under eccentrically applied loading. Walker found buckling loads for plain and lipped channel sections under compression and bending about an axis parallel to the web by using a graphical method to link the behaviour of component plates. Harvey investigated the case of a channel under pure bending about the axis of symmetry using an approximate solution for the flanges. All the solutions taking moments into account are indirect and make use of procedures to link the component plates which have been investigated individually. (A recent paper by Plank and Wittrick (17) gives buckling stresses for plain channels in bending about the axis of symmetry obtained using a complex finite strip method of analysis.)

The greatest difficulty encountered in the solution of this type of problem is found in determining the restraint imposed by adjacent plates on each other. The analysis presented in this paper makes no

attempt to calculate the restraints on each plate, but allows each plate to deform in any number of ways compatible with the deformations of its adjacent plates. The rotational restraint theoretically imposed on adjacent plates at the junctions is changed for each prescribed set of deflection functions which cover the whole section so that the analysis allows a high degree of freedom at the junctions. The Principle of Minimum Potential Energy is then employed to establish the relative magnitude of the prescribed deflection functions to give the lowest possible buckling load for the section. Knowing the deflected form of the section the rotational restraints imposed between adjacent plates can be evaluated if required.

The buckling solution so obtained can then be used as a starting point for analysis of the post-buckling behaviour of the section. This procedure has been used by the authors in a number of postbuckling analyses (8)(9)(10). The post-buckling analysis is not detailed in this paper, although the problem is discussed and some results are shown.

#### BUCKLING ANALYSIS

Consider the section shown in Fig. 1. A plain channel section is shown for illustration but the same approach has been used for lipped channel and trapezoidal sections. A force P is applied through the centroid, and a moment M acts about the neutral axis of bending. It is assumed that the load acts on the ends of the section through rigid plates which prevent warping of the ends.

The stress system due to the applied loading will therefore be as

shown in the figure. On the web the stress is constant with magnitude denoted  $\overline{\sigma}$ . On the flanges the effect of the applied moment is to cause a variation in stress across the flange. The variation in stress across the section can be taken into account using the factor  $\alpha$  indicated in Fig. 1. On the flanges the stress variation is  $\overline{\sigma}(1-\alpha y_2/b_2)$ . In the case of a lipped channel the factor  $\alpha$  can also be used to obtain the lip stresses in terms of the web stress by writing  $\sigma_{lip} = \overline{\sigma}(1-\alpha)$ .

Thus the stresses in all plates can be found in terms of the web stress  $\bar{\sigma}$ , which is used as a reference stress.

The problem now requires the evaluation of the magnitude of  $\overline{\sigma}$  to cause local buckling of the section. The evaluation of  $\overline{\sigma}$  can be obtained from an examination of the potential energy of the system at the point of buckling as follows.

The work done, U , by the external loads and moments in the locally buckled strut can be expressed in terms of the local deflections and the edge stresses (see ref. 8).

$$U = -\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \iint \frac{t}{2} \cdot \overline{\sigma} \times (1 - \frac{\alpha_{i} \cdot y_{i}}{b_{i}}) \left(\frac{\partial w_{i}}{\partial x}\right)^{2} dy_{i} dx \qquad (1)$$

and the strain energy contained in the section due to bending is

$$V_{1} = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \left\{ \int \frac{D}{2} \left\{ \frac{\partial^{2} w_{i}}{\partial x^{2}} + \frac{\partial^{2} w_{i}}{\partial y_{i}^{2}} \right\}^{2} - 2 (1-\nu) \left[ \frac{\partial^{2} w_{i}}{\partial y_{i}^{2}} \cdot \frac{\partial^{2} w_{i}}{\partial x^{2}} - \left( \frac{\partial^{2} w_{i}}{\partial x \partial y_{i}} \right)^{2} \right] \right\} dy_{i} dx$$
(2)

The potential energy of the system is the sum of U and  ${\tt V}_1$  .

$$v = v + v_1$$
(3)

To evaluate the potential energy, the form of the local deflections  $w_{i}$ , must be specified for all plates of the section. The plate

#### COMBINED COMPRESSION AND BENDING

loaded ends are assumed to be simply supported and the very small curvatures of the plate edge due to the moments are neglected so that the buckles vary sinusoidally in the x-direction

i.e. 
$$w_i = \sin \frac{\pi x}{e b_1} \sum_{n=1}^{N} A_n Y_{in}$$
 (4)

Note that the period of the buckles is the same for all plates, from conditions of compatibility, and is related to the width of the reference plate by the constant e.

The functions  $Y_{in}$  are dependent on  $y_i$  only and must satisfy the boundary conditions at the plate edges. These functions were postulated as algebraic polynomials. The construction of a set of functions is illustrated here for a plane channel strut with coordinate system as shown in Fig. 2, and similar functions are obtained for lipped channel sections using different boundary conditions.

On the web, a typical function Y is

$$Y_{1n} = \left[ \left( \frac{Y_1}{b} \right)^{f_{1n}} + \beta_{1n} \left( \frac{Y_1}{b} \right)^{g_{1n}} + \gamma_{1n} \left( \frac{Y_1}{b} \right)^{\ell_{1n}} \right]$$
(5)

On the flanges, the corresponding function chosen is

$$Y_{2n} = c_n \left[ \left( \frac{hy_2}{b} \right) + \beta_{2n} \left( \frac{hy_2}{b} \right)^2 + \gamma_{2n} \left( \frac{hy_2}{b} \right)^{f_{2n}} + \delta_{2n} \left( \frac{hy_2}{b} \right)^{g_{2n}} \right] (6)$$

where  $b = \frac{b_1}{2}$ ,  $h = \frac{b}{b_2}$  and  $C_{2n}$  is a magnitude coefficient

The indices  $f_{ln}$ ,  $g_{ln}$  and  $l_{ln}$  are arbitrary integers and are even to ensure symmetry of web deflections. In at least one function  $Y_{ln}$ used in the series the lowest index, say  $f_{ln}$  is taken as zero to ensure that deflections are allowed to exist on the web centre line.

The indices  $f_{2n}$  and  $g_{2n}$  are also arbitrary in magnitude and may be even or odd integers.

The functions  $Y_{1n}$  and  $Y_{2n}$  must be related to satisfy the boundary conditions at the plate junctions and at the free edges of the flanges. These conditions are as follows.

At the web/flange junction small out of plane deflections which exist due to curvature of the section are neglected and the deflections are assumed to be zero. Also the slopes of the plates must be equal to ensure compatibility and the moments imposed by one plate on another must be resisted by an equal moment. These conditions can be expressed:-

$$w_{1} = w_{2} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial w_{1}}{\partial y_{1}} = \frac{\partial w_{2}}{\partial y_{2}}$$

$$-D \left[ \frac{\partial^{2} w_{1}}{\partial y_{1}^{2}} + v \frac{\partial^{2} w_{1}}{\partial x^{2}} \right] = -D \left[ \frac{\partial^{2} w_{2}}{\partial y_{2}^{2}} + v \frac{\partial^{2} w_{2}}{\partial x^{2}} \right]$$
at  $y_{1} = b$ ,  $y_{2} = 0$ .
$$(7)$$

At the free edges of the flanges the conditions of zero moment and zero shear exist. These conditions may be expressed

$$-D\left[\frac{\partial^{2} w_{2}}{\partial y_{2}^{2}} + v \frac{\partial^{2} w_{2}}{\partial x^{2}}\right] = 0$$
  
$$-D\left[\frac{\partial^{3} w_{2}}{\partial y_{2}^{3}} + (2-v) \frac{\partial^{3} w_{2}}{\partial y_{2} \partial x^{2}}\right] = 0$$
 (8)

at  $y_2 = b_2$ .

Using equation 4 and introducing the term  $\frac{R_n}{b_1}$ , which may be defined as the coefficient of restraint for the nth term, allows the conditions (7) and (8) to be expressed in terms of the functions Y<sub>in</sub> as follows

$$Y_{1n} = Y_{2n} = 0$$

$$Y_{1n}' = Y_{2n}'$$

$$\frac{Y_{1n}''}{Y_{1n}'} = \frac{Y_{2n}''}{Y_{2n}'} = \frac{R_n}{b_1}$$
(9)

at 
$$y_1 = b$$
,  $y_2 = 0$   
 $Y_{2n}^{"} - v \frac{\pi^2}{e^2 b^2} Y_{2n} = 0$   
 $Y_{2n}^{"'} - (2 - v) \frac{\pi^2}{e^2 b^2} Y_{2n}' = 0$ 
(10)

at 
$$y_2 = b_2$$

The coefficient  $\frac{R_n}{b_1}$  has no specified value and is arbitrarily prescribed, different values of this coefficient being used for each term 'n', so that a large degree of freedom is allowed at the junctions.

Equations (9) and (10) can be satisfied for any arbitrarily prescribed values of the indices if the coefficients have the following magnitudes

$$\gamma_{1n} = \frac{f_{1n}(f_{1n}-1) - g_{1n}(g_{1n}-1) + \frac{R_n}{b_1}(g_{1n}-f_{1n})}{g_{1n}(g_{1n}-1) - \ell_{1n}(\ell_{1n}-1) + \frac{R_n}{b_1}(\ell_{1n}-g_{1n})}$$

$$\beta_{1n} = -(1+\gamma_{1n})$$

$$c_{n} = \frac{1}{h}(f_{1n} + g_{1n} \cdot \beta_{1n} + \lambda_{1n} \cdot \gamma_{1n})$$

$$\beta_{2n} = \frac{R_n}{2h} \qquad (lla,b,c,d,e,f)$$

$$\delta_{2n} = \frac{1^* + \beta_{2n} \cdot 2^* \cdot \frac{f_{2n}}{f_{2n}} - (1^{**} + \beta_{2n} \times 2^{**})}{f_{2n}}$$
$$f_{2n}^{**} - g_{2n}^* \frac{f_{2n}}{f_{2n}} + \frac{f_{2n}^{**}}{f_{2n}}$$

and

$$\begin{split} \mathbf{\gamma}_{2n} &= -\mathbf{1}^{\star} + \beta_{2n} \cdot \mathbf{2}^{\star} + \delta_{2n} \cdot \mathbf{g}_{2n}^{\star} / \mathbf{f}_{2n}^{\star} \\ \text{where } \mathbf{k}^{\star} &= \frac{1}{\mathbf{b}_{3}} \mathbf{k} \left(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{1}\right) \left(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{2}\right) - (2 - \nu) \frac{\pi^{2}}{\mathbf{e}^{2} \mathbf{b}^{2}} \frac{\mathbf{k}}{\mathbf{b}} \\ \text{and } \mathbf{k}^{\star \star} &= \frac{\mathbf{k}}{\mathbf{b}^{2}} \left(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{1}\right) - \nu \frac{\pi^{2}}{\mathbf{e}^{2} \mathbf{b}^{2}} \quad \text{for any coefficient } \mathbf{k}. \\ \text{Thus a suitable deflection form for all plates is specified with conditions at all boundaries satisfied. This constitutes the nth term of the deflection series, each item of the series prescribing deflected forms for all plates. By altering the indices <math>\mathbf{f}_{1n}$$
 etc. and the coefficient  $\frac{\mathbf{R}_{n}}{\mathbf{b}_{1}}$  and substituting in equations (11) alternative sets of suitable deflection functions can be obtained to make up any required number of terms in the deflection series. \\ \end{split}

Each term in the series is assigned a magnitude coefficient and the series,  $\Sigma A_n Y_{in}$  is therefore formed. Similar, if somewhat

## COMBINED COMPRESSION AND BENDING

more lengthy, sets of functions can be generated for the other sections discussed using the same approach.

Having obtained forms for the local deflections across the section, the analysis can be completed using the Principle of Minimum Potential Energy.

The potential energy of the system can be expressed in terms of the coefficients  $\Lambda_n$ . Substituting for  $w_i$  from equation (4) into equations (1) and (2), adding and integrating in the x-direction gives for the potential energy of the system

$$V = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \sum_{m=1}^{N} A_{n} A_{m} \left[ \frac{aD\pi^{2}}{4b_{1}^{2}} Q_{nm} - \bar{\sigma} \frac{at}{4} S_{nm} \right]$$
(12)

where

$$Q_{nm} = \sum_{i=1,2,3} \left\{ \int_{0}^{b_{i}} (Y_{in}^{"} - \frac{\pi^{2}}{e^{2}b_{1}^{2}} \cdot Y_{in}) (Y_{im}^{"} - \frac{\pi^{2}}{e^{2}b_{1}^{2}} \cdot Y_{im}) \frac{b_{1}^{2}}{\pi^{2}} dY_{i} - 2(1-\nu) \cdot \frac{1}{e^{2}} \left[ Y_{in} \cdot Y_{im}^{'} \right]_{0}^{b_{i}} \right\}$$
(13)

$$s_{nm} = \sum_{i=1,2,3} \int_{0}^{b_{i}} (1 - \frac{\alpha_{i} \cdot Y_{i}}{b_{i}}) Y_{in} \cdot Y_{im} \cdot dY_{i}$$
(14)

In equation (14)  $\alpha_1 = 0$ ,  $\alpha_2 = \alpha_3 = \alpha$ .

To find the value of  $\overline{\sigma}$  corresponding to buckling the Principle of

Minimum Potential Energy is now used

i.e. 
$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial A_n} = 0$$

Applying this to equation (12) gives a series of N simultaneous equations for  $A_n$  of the form

$$\sum_{m=1}^{N} A_{n} \left( \frac{aD}{4} \cdot \frac{\pi^{2}}{b_{1}^{2}} Q_{nm} - \overline{\sigma} \frac{at}{4} \cdot S_{nm} \right) = 0$$
(15)

It is obvious that equations (15) can also be written

$$\sum_{m=1}^{N} A_{n} (Q_{nm} - K_{1} \cdot S_{nm}) = 0$$

where  $K^{}_1$  is the non-dimensional form of  $\overline{\sigma}$  ,

i.e. 
$$K_1 = \frac{\overline{\sigma} \cdot b_1^2 \cdot t}{\pi^2 D}$$

This series of simultaneous equations can be expressed in the following matrix form

$$\begin{bmatrix} (Q_{11}-K_{1}.S_{11}) & (Q_{12}-K_{1}.S_{12}) & --- & (Q_{1N}-K_{1}.S_{1N}) \\ (Q_{21}-K_{1}.S_{21}) & ---- & \\ & & \\ & & \\ (Q_{N1}-K_{1}.S_{N1}) & ---- & (Q_{NN}-K_{1}.S_{NN}) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A_{1} \\ A_{2} \\ \\ A_{2} \\ \\ A_{N} \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

The non-trivial solutions of this set of equations furnish the values

#### COMBINED COMPRESSION AND BENDING

of  $\overline{\sigma}$  for the various modes of local buckling which can occur. In general the lowest eigenvalue of  $\overline{\sigma}$  is that at which buckling occurs.

The required eigenvalue can be calculated by any of a number of numerical methods and the deflected forms of the various plates can be obtained if required from the corresponding eigenvector.

The buckling loads and moments can now be found from the value of  $\overline{\sigma}$  obtained and thus the instability problem is solved. At this stage it should be pointed out that the solution obtained is dependent on the buckle half wavelength initially postulated, i.e. by the value of e prescribed. If the length 'a' of the section is such that there is more than one buckle then the half wavelength to give the lowest buckling stresses must be evaluated by obtaining solutions considering a number of buckle half wavelengths.

For the general case, for sections of unspecified length, the buckle half wavelength used should be that which gives the lowest possible buckling stresses. This can be evaluated very simply by inspection of the eigenvalues obtained for a number of values of buckle half wavelengths.

#### RESULTS

The variation in minimum local buckling stresses for plain channels under various loading eccentricities is shown in Fig. 3. The buckle half wavelength used was that which produced minimum  $K_1$ . It is emphasised here that these curves only apply to the case of local buckling and do not take into account the effects of other types of buckling, such as Euler buckling, or torsional buckling. For long struts, or struts with narrow flanges, Euler buckling may be

encountered prior to local buckling, and for channels with wide flanges there is a possibility of torsional buckling. These alternative buckling modes therefore must also be considered and various methods of analysis exist.

An indication of the effects of Euler buckling for uniformly compressed struts can be very easily obtained using the standard expression for Euler instability

$$\sigma_{\rm CR} = \frac{P_{\rm CR}}{A} = \frac{\pi^2 E}{\left(\frac{L}{r}\right)^2} \tag{16}$$

Figure 4 shows the effects of length on the initial buckling load for a uniformly compressed plain channel of a web width to thickness ratio equal to fifty. The local buckling curve is taken from Fig. 3 and the lines representing Euler buckling obtained from equation (16), rearranged to give results in terms of  $K_1$ .

Also shown are the results of Wittrick and Williams (16). The results of reference (16) were obtained from an extremely accurate analysis which obtains the minimum critical load considering all types of buckling. From the figure it can be seen that the use of equation (16) gives results in reasonable agreement with the rigorous analysis of reference (16) in the Euler buckling range. The value of Poisson's ratio used by the authors was 0.3 as compared with 0.36 used in reference (16), which accounts for some of the differences between the curves.

Figure 5 shows local buckling stresses for a lipped channel strut for various loading eccentricities. Again these are only for local

buckling and do not take into account other modes of buckling. In particular, in this case the effects which can occur if the lips are narrow and buckle laterally are neglected. The curves of Fig. 5 were drawn on the basis that the lips fulfil the function of making the deflections of the flanges zero at the flange-lip junction, and do not have any other effects on the local buckling behaviour. If the lips are very large, then the lips themselves will initiate buckling and the curves of Fig. 5 will over estimate the buckling stresses. Since the main purpose of this paper is to show the general effects of eccentric loading on local buckling, Fig. 5 illustrates these effects unobscured by the added complications ensuing from lip buckling.

An important case of eccentric loading arises when the eccentricity tends to infinity, i.e. when the section is loaded under pure bending. Figure 6 shows buckling coefficients for a lipped channel under pure bending. The applied moment is such that the web is in compression and the lips are in tension. The effects of lip bending are taken into account in this case and it can be observed from the figure that these effects are negligible. The corresponding values of the critical applied moment are shown in Fig. 7. Here it is seen that the effects of lip width on the critical moment are quite substantial because the I value of the section is dependent on lip width. It is interesting to note in passing that the critical moment for a section with a given material thickness is independent on the absolute magnitudes of the other dimensions, but depends only on the relative dimensions.

#### COMPARISON WITH EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

The accuracy of the theoretical predictions can be assessed by

comparing the buckling loads with those obtained experimentally. A number of experiments were carried out to compare with theory, and some results are illustrated here.

A large scale investigation into the behaviour of beams under pure bending is reported in reference (9). Pure bending was applied to lipped channel and trapezoidal section beams over a six foot span and the buckling loads were obtained using strain gauges on the centre of the compression element  $(b_1)$ . From the strain gauge readings a plot of membrane strain versus applied moment could be drawn for the centre of the compression element as shown in Fig. 8. Buckling was assumed to occur when tangents to the post-buckling and pre-buckling slopes of the membrane stress curve coincided as indicated in the figure.

Figure 9 shows a comparison of the experimental results thus obtained for trapezoidal sections with the theoretical predictions, and indicates that agreement is very satisfactory. It was observed during the tests that the point of buckling was very clearly defined for the beams tested, all membrane strain graphs giving sharp changes in slope at buckling, as shown in Fig. 8.

To obtain experimental results for plain and lipped channels under eccentric compression, a number of tests were carried out on short struts.

The struts tested were two feet long and all had webs of 8 inches width. The lip width of the lipped channels was kept constant at  $l_2^{l_2}$  inches, and the material thickness used was nominally 0.048 inches. These dimensions were chosen so that buckling occurred purely in the local mode. The length of the struts was rather too short to let

the minimum buckle wavelength develop naturally, but was long enough to enable a choice of several wavelengths to be obtained.

Loads were applied through loading plates which produced approximately simply supported conditions at the plate ends, as shown diagramatically in Fig. 10. Any specified eccentricity of loading could be obtained by situating the adjustable knife edges through which loads were applied, at the required position relative to the web. Buckling loads were obtained, as for the beams, using strain gauges to obtain the variation of membrane strains. For plain channels two pairs of gauges were used, one pair at the flange free edges and the other pair on the web centre line. For the lipped channels only one pair of gauges were used and these were situated on the web centre line.

Figure 11 shows a comparison of theoretical and experimental buckling loads for lipped channels with loads applied at various eccentricities. The agreement is good, although the experimental loads are constantly a little lower than those predicted theoretically, despite the fact that the theoretical wavelength for minimum buckling load was unobtainable experimentally. It was observed in this case that the experimental buckling load was not so clearly defined as the beam experiments. This is mainly due to the combination of bending and direct stresses which tended to make initial imperfections grow quite rapidly and mask the buckling load to some extent, although the method used to obtain the buckling load was still able to cope adequately with these effects.

Figure 12 shows theoretical and experimental results for plain channel struts. In this case, only two loading conditions are shown, uniform compression and eccentricity of loading such that  $\alpha = 1$ . The results are again shown to be in very good agreement, thus verifying the accuracy of the theoretical solution.

#### EXTENSION OF ANALYSIS INTO THE POST-BUCKLING RANGE

It is well known that local buckling does not necessarily impose an upper limit to the carrying capacity of a thin-walled section, and many members can function satisfactorily well beyond the local buckling load. The analysis of local buckling can serve as a very useful initial step in the examination of section behaviour in the post-buckling range. From the buckling analysis a very accurate estimate of the deflected form of the section at buckling is obtained and this can be used in a subsequent large deflection analysis.

The authors have performed post-buckling analyses using the buckling solution as a first step for the case of beams and struts (9)(10). The results for beams have been compared with large numbers of experimental results, and show excellent agreement. The strut analysis has not been compared with experimental results for postbuckling behaviour, although as has been shown the buckling behaviour is accurately predicted by theory. An indication of the postbuckling behaviour predicted theoretically may be obtained from Fig. 13 which shows load-end displacement paths for lipped channels with various flange/web ratios loaded in uniform compression. The buckle half wavelengths used were those which gave minimum buckling load. As can be seen, the slope of the post-buckling curves is greatest if the flange widths are approximately half the web width. This is illustrated more clearly in Fig. 14 which shows the ratio of postbuckling to prebuckling stiffness of the struts against end compression. Also shown in this figure are the corresponding results for plain channels. The curve for plain channels is quite different from that for lipped channels. In the case of plain channels the post-buckling stiffness has a minimum when the flange/web ratio is about 0.35.

## COMBINED COMPRESSION AND BENDING

Around this flange/web ratio the flanges and the web buckle simultaneously with more or less simple support conditions at the boundaries. In the case of the lipped channels the ratio of postbuckling to prebuckling stiffness is at its lowest when the web and flange widths are approximately equal, which also indicates simultaneous flange and web buckling. Therefore in general it can be deduced that the reduction in section stiffness is a maximum if the component plates are of such dimensions that local buckling occurs simultaneously in all plates.

#### CONCLUSIONS

The buckling analysis has been shown to predict accurately the local buckling loads for plain channels, lipped channels and trapezoidal sections under combinations of bending and compression. No account is taken in the analysis of buckling in any mode other than the local buckling mode, so that the curves shown do not include the effects of Euler buckling, torsional buckling, etc.

The buckling analysis can be used as a first step in an examination of the post-buckling behaviour of a section. Further experimental work is required to evaluate the accuracy of the theoretical post-buckling predictions for struts, although the analysis has been shown in previous publications to be accurate for beam behaviour.

APPENDIX 1

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APPENDIX 2	
Notation	Coefficient
A <sub>n</sub>	Coefficient
b <sub>i</sub>	Width of the ith plate
D	Plate flexural rigidity factor $(=\frac{Et^3}{12(1+t^2)})$
Е	Young's modulus of rigidity
e	Ratio of buckle half-wavelength to half width of reference plate
I <sub>y</sub> , I <sub>z</sub>	Second moments of area about the y and z axes
М	Moment
Р	Load
t	Thickness of plate
x, y <sub>i</sub> , z	Co-ordinates
Υ <sub>i</sub>	Deflected form across the ith plate
<sup>w</sup> i	Deflections in the ith plate
α.	Factor prescribing eccentricity of stress variation
~	Stress in the x-direction

Stress in the x-direction in the reference plate

 $\frac{\sigma_{\mathbf{x}}}{\sigma}$ 

v	Poisson's ratio (taken as 0.3 for all numerical calculations)
<sup>f</sup> ln, <sup>g</sup> ln, <sup>f</sup> ln <sup>f</sup> 2n, <sup>g</sup> 2n	Indices used in deflection functions
$\beta_{1n}, \gamma_{1n}, \beta_{2n}, \delta_{2n}, c_n$	Coefficients used in deflection functions

Other symbols are defined where they first appear in the text.

Primes denote differentiation with respect to  $y_i$ 

e.g. 
$$Y''_{in} = \frac{d^2 Y_{in}}{d y_i^2}$$



FIG. 1



FIG. 2.







FIG. 4





FIG. 6.





FIG. 8.







END PLATES FOR ECCENTRIC

FIG. 10







FIG. 12.



FIG. 13



FIG 14