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WELDED INTERIOR BEAM-COLUMN CONNECTIONS

DIRECT-WELDED TWO-WAY BEAM-COLUMN CONNECTIONS

by

A.N. Sherbourne and C.D. Jensen

This is Progress Report No. 1 of an investigation at Lehigh University sponsored by the American Institute of Steel Construction.

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Fritz Engineering Laboratory

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

August 1957

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WELDED INTERIOR BEAM-COLUMN CONNECTIONS

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1. INTRODUCTION

Previous researches on restraining beam-column connections have not been carried to the point where definite conclusions, suitable for the designer, could be reached. In particular, information is lacking on the effect of restraining connections on column capacity, and also as to whether or not column stiffening is required and, when needed, how to design it. Information is also lacking concerning the designer's ability to estimate the moment-rotation capacity of a connection, the degree of restraint, and the reserve strength of a designed assembly. This report, confined to the study of two-way direct-welded connections,

is designed to obtain information on these Items.

Heretofore, tests of beam-column connections have usually disregarded the axial column loads. In the present program, of which this report is a part, the column is subjected to an axial compression comparable to that existing in practice; further at one stage of the tests, the column is subject to 1.65 times the working axial load, while simultaneously carrying the two-beam working load reactions and moments. At the conclusion of the load applications to the beams, and before the jack loads are removed, the column load is increased to 2.0 times the working load and the specimen is examined for signs of physical distress.

1.1 Previous Investigations

The present program is an extension of work previously carried out at Lehigh University on the subject of beam-column connections. Johnston & Hechtman⁽¹⁾ conducted a project on the study of "semi-rigid" connections, and evolved a method of analysis which effected a reduction required The anout of De of the section modulus of a beam, depending upon the ratio of its stiffness to the sum of the stiffnesses of all members meeting at a joint, and the degree of restraint developed at the connection. It was found that savings of fifteen to twenty per cent by weight resulted as a direct application of this method. This work was followed by a program of tests carried out by Brandes and Mains which laid the foundation for the present researches being conducted at Lehigh University. A total of seventeen tests were conducted on top plate and seat connections, eleven being of the "semi-rigid" type, i.e., possessing, according to their definition, from twenty to ninety per cent restraint, and six of the "flexible" type, i.e., designed for less than twenty per cent restraint. The criteria used in designing their connections were the following:

- "The lightest column section into which the beams could frame was selected in order to put the connection at its greatest disadvantage."
- 2. "The seat was designed to' resist the shear by a standard procedure."
- 3. The top plate was designed to carry a direct force arising from the applied moments on the beams. The magnitude of this force was obtained by dividing the moment of the depth of the beam section; the butt weld joining the plate to the column flange was designed to resist this same force, as was the fillet weld connecting the plate to the top flange of the beam.

- 4. The lower flange of the beam was fillet welded to the seat to carry the same force described above.
- 5. The beam was designed on the basis of fifty per cent restraint at its ends, which, for a uniformly distributed load, gives a midspan moment of WL/12.

Pilot tests were conducted on top plates to obtain a basis for predicting their behavior under actual test conditions, and the specimens were tested by loading a pair of beam stubs which framed into a short column stub. (See Figure 32). No axial loading of the column was considered, and at no time were differential moments set up in the connection. Of course this did not preclude the possibility of one of the beams yielding sconer than the other, due to local variations in shape or material. However, this condition was compensated for by allowing the column stub to rotate freely in space, thus keeping the magnitude of the applied loads equal at all times.

3

Consequent upon the findings of Brandes and Mains, a pilot test was performed by Pray and Jensen⁽³⁾ to determine a suitable profile of top plate in the standard plate and seat connections. They attempted to predict the behavior of the top plate on the basis of a simple tension test. Two types of plate were testeds - flared at one end only, and flared at both ends - and a beam-column specimen was fabricated and tested to determine the adequacy of the plate selected on the basis of the tension test. Horizontal stiffeners were introduced into the column to eliminate flange distortion and web crippling. In designing the specimen, Pray and Jensen used the criteria developed by Brandes and Mains in that the beam was designed for fifty per cent end restraint and the connection for seventy-five per cent restraint. However, they went a step further than Brandes and Mains, in that they recognized that the actual connection restraint would be greater than the designed value,

and designed the butt weld between the plate and column flange to carry this increased load, flaring out the top plate as necessary to prevent overstressing the butt welds under working load.

1.2 The Present Investigation.

The present report is confined to studying the action of twoway, interior beam-to-column building connections. Attempts are made to simulate actual conditions that exist in a building frame, and column sections were chosen to duplicate these conditions. Axial stresses have also been introduced in the column to obtain a more realistic condition and to determine the effect on the capacity of the connection.

The primary purpose is the study of the connection under the following items:

- a. <u>Stiffening requirements</u>. What are the factors involved in the behavior of the connection with and without stiffeners? These assume significance in the application of "plastic analysis" to the design of tier buildings. To assure the formation of plastic hinges in the beams, the connection should be capable of sustaining a plastic moment in excess of, or at least equal to the plastic moment value of the beams. In elastic analysis, the problem-is-one of elimination such <u>detrimental</u> effects as dolumn flange distortion and column web buckling where light column sections are employed. The types of stiffening used (Fig. 3) were chosen with a view to simplicity, economy, and possible use in fourway welded connections.
- b. <u>Rotation capacity</u>. This is another important feature in the "plastic" analysis of structures since it expresses the ability of the connection to sustain a full plastic moment <u>Canage Notation of</u> through the required hinge angle.

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Fig. 1 General View of Test in Progress

c. <u>Reserve strength of the designed assembly</u>. This is a measure of the strength of the connection above the working load. The study of reserve strength applies to both beams and columns; and both members were at times subject to loads in excess of their working value in order to assess their behavior under these conditions of everytrain.

The beams were welded directly to the columns for three reasons:

- 1. The direct-welded connection has certain advantages and may eventually be much used in practice.
- 2. The emphasis in this investigation being the study of the stresses and strains in the column at the intersection, the elimination of top plates and seat angles removed a few unnecessary variables.
- 3. The direct-welded connection, without seat angles, represents the severest loading on the column at the connection.

2. TEST PROGRAM

This program consisted of the design, preparation and testing of specimens as shown in Table I and Figures 2 & 3 for the purpose of determining the behavior and stress distributions in the connection and its component members. Attention was limited primarily to the study of what was considered to be the most important practical problem viz. column stiffening requirements, although other aspects of the problem merited consideration. As previously mentioned, beam and column sizes were chosen to duplicate conditions existing in a tier building. Three basic column sizes were chosen. The first size used was an 8WF31 column which was loaded to simulate conditions existing at the top of a building frame where axial loads are small compared to beam loads. The second group utilized 8WF67 and 12WF40 & 65 columns on the basis of beam and column

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Fig. 2 - TEST ARRANGEMENT - TWO-WAY CONNECTIONS

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THE TEST SERIES OF TWO-WAY BEAM COLUMN CONNECTIONS

Fig. 3

loads being of the same order of magnitude. The third size was a 12WF99 column used under conditions representing the lower tiers of a frame where axial loads are high in comparison with beam loads. One size of beam was selected throughout this program to eliminate beam size as a variable and, as a further argument, because it is likely that floor loadings will be constant throughout throughout a building.

The test program was divided into four groups of tests depending upon the type of stiffening employed. (See Figure 3). Each group was designated series A, B, C or D, and will be discussed individually.

Series A

In this group no stiffening was provided and the tests ranged from the very light thin-web &WF31 column to the heavy thick-web 12WF99 section. The problem was essentially one of crippling of the column web under an applied beam moment, and four tests were performed in this series to determine a critical web thickness beyond which no stiffening need be provided.

<u>Series</u> B

Horizontal stiffeners were introduced across the column flanges at the level of the beam flanges. These stiffeners were initially of a thickness equal to the beam flanges although in a later test in this group, the thickness of stiffeners was reduced after consideration of the unital earlier test results and a theoretical anlaysis. At first sight this would appear to be the "ideal" in stiffening, and test results confirmed the strength of this assembly. However, this type of stiffening becomes complicated when beams of different sizes frame into the column flanges, and horizontal stiffening is to be provided at different levels on the column.

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The colum load was increased when

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In one of these

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Furthermore, when a four-way connection is involved, the amount of welding and fabricating on this type of connection becomes considerable.

Series C

The stiffening provided in this series of tests consisted of plates positioned vertically near the edges of the column flange. The stiffeners were arbitrarily made the same thickness as the column web, thus effectively three column webs were provided to resist horizontal forces from the beams. This type of stiffening was considered with a view to the four-way connection.

Series D

Only one test was performed in this group; the connection was a modification of the C type using split beam stiffeners instead of plates. The split beam stiffener, while devised principally for use in a fourway beam-column connection, actually served to eliminate buckling of both the stiffeners and the column web. It might be considered as an expensive detail for ordinary two-way connections. Its merits will be investigated more thoroughly, however, in the forthcoming program of four-way tests.

3. TEST ARRANGEMENT

The specimen consisted of two 16WF36 beams stubs welded directly to the flanges of WF column sections as shown in Figure 1 & 2. Stiffening was provided as indicated in Figure 3, and the column and stiffener sizes were as indicated in Table I. All testing was done on an 800 kip Riehle screw machine working axial stress of 1h.5 ksi was maintained in the column throughout the test except at two stages, when states of overstress were induced in the column with working stresses in the beams? The column working

Test	Column		Beam				Stiffener	
No.	Shape	Web*	Flange*	Shape	Web*	Flange*	Stiffening	Dimension
A-1	8wF31	0.288	0.433	16 WF 36	0.299	0.428	None	None
A-2	8wF67	0.575	0.933	11	in 11	11	11	
A-4	12 wF 65	0.,390	0.606	11	11	· 11	19	
A- 5	12WF99	0.580	0.921	11	11	11	11	
B-6	8WF31	0.288	0.433	11	11	11	Horiz. plate	3.9" x 7/16"
B⊸ 8	12 WF 40	0.294	0.516	11	11	11	level of ten-	2
		8 1					pression flanges	'3.9" x 1/4"
C- 9	8wF31	0.288	0.433	11	11	81	Vertical	5/16" x 22"
	1.09	:					plate stiff- eners at edges of col.	
							flanges	
C-11	12WF40	0.294	0.516	31	11	11		5/16" x 22"
D-12	12 WF 40	0.294	0.516	11	89	11	Split tee stiffener	ST6WF325 22" long
	L	Ļ	L	!		<u> </u>	l,	

TABLE I PROGRAM OF TWO-WAY DIRECT-WELDED BEAM-COLUMN TESTS

* Indicates AISC Handbook Value

stress was derived from a consideration of the AISC formula for axially loaded columns with , viz' g = 17000-0.485 (L/r)². An L/r of 72 was selected 1/r < 120the indicated as a nominal value, and the axial stress of 14.5 ksi computed p ed-to-a working load on each column.

The beam stubs were each μ^{\dagger} 6" long and directly welded to the column flanges as shown in Figure 2 through butt welds at the beam flanges and fillet welds at the beam web. The point of load application on the beams was at a distance of μ^{\dagger} 0" from the face of the column flange corresponding to the point of inflection for a fully fixed-ended beam over a span of approximately 20' 0" (L/d = 15).



Fig. 4 Specimen B-8 As Welded, Showing Rotation Posts



Fig. 5 Specimen D-12 As Welded, Showing Split Beam Stiffener

Heren den sind wildet by the Barger

-13 The test specimen was inverted in the testing machine to permit the use of mechanical compression jacks which were mounted on dynamometers (see Figures 1 MC). The dynamometers, in turn, were set on bearing blocks seated on the table of the testing machine In this way, with column load, , applied through the testing machine and beam load, V, applied through each jack, the one portion of the column suspained load P while the other portion sustained a load of P-2V. Upon increasing V, failure beam loading was finally obt 3.1 Fabrication fillet welded to base and cap plates before Common and he testing mathine. ABeams were I lame cut lengthø insertion in beam webs and the flange given a 45° bever to receive the butt-welds All welds were-in-accordance-with-AWS-specifications-and-ald-welding-was-done-by qualified personnel. Figures 4 and 5 are close-up views of two of the connections after welding, The sequence of fabrication was: MAR Ĥ .l. Beams and columns flame cut to length Base and cap plates fillet welded to columna 3/8" plate 1 2. stiffeners, welded to beams at points of load application; -beam-flanges-bevelled at 45 to receive butt-welds; cut-UPAR outs made at junction of beam web and flange to allow for insertion of back up plate for the top flange butt welds and for welding past the web in the bottom flange weld. were Ston M. Beams fitted square to column flanges 21" x 1/4" back-up 7 3% with hal man in any plates tack welded to beam flanges with 3/16" min. root blaces carried out beyond ledge of flange. gap; Begin flanges were built welded the totalum Ele interface/ -9190 comedi, the to tu Au fillet welds explean webscolumn flanges interface, were wade in the hampentical position your would Helding in downhand position using 3/16" dia. E6020 electrodes. This welding was done by gralified welders uni

5. Posts for rotation dials and lateral supports welded in position.

3.2 Strain Measurements

Extensive use was made of electrical strain resistance gages (SR-4) in determining strain distribution throughout the connection. (For type and positioning of the gages see Figures 6 to 9). Attention was focused on the following points of interest:

- a. Strain distribution in beams: A-l type gages were used to measure strains in beam flanges and webs. The gages were positioned as near to the connection as possible, yet far enough away as to avoid any local effect arising out of residual stresses in the butt welds.
- b. Strain distribution in column web: In early tests type AR-1 strain Rosettes were used in evaluating principal strains in the column web. These were later replaced by type AX-5 strain gages which measured strains in a vertical and horizontal direction only.
- c. Strain distribution in stiffeners: Type A-l gages were employed in the B, C and D series of tests. In the B series the strain distribution was mapped across the tension and compression stiffeners; in the C and D series the distribution of horizontal strains was mapped on or near the center line of the vertical stiffeners.

3.3 Deflections

A theodolite and scales were used to determine the vertical deflection of the beams and also the axial shortening of the column. Scales were mounted vertically on the column flange and also on the beam stiffeners above the point of load application and were read to the



-16



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FIG. 7 - Instrumentation Plan - Series B



Fig. 8 - INSTRUMENTATION PLAN - SERIES C.



FIG. 9 - Instrumentation Plan - Series D

nearest 0.01". Deflections were observed through the telescope of the theodolite with reference to a horizontal plane maintained by sighting on a bench mark some distance from the specimen.

Lateral deflections of the column, resulting from an increase in the axial loads, were observed by noting the deviation of a horizontal scale from a vertical plane through the theodolite and the bench mark.

3.4 Local Buckling

Local buckling of the beam compression flanges and distortions of the column flanges for Series A were measured using a dial gage, in the locations moted in Figures 6 to 9. In preparation for measuring these values, center punch marks were made on the flange near the outer edge and on the fillet between web and flange. A portable dial gage indicated any change in the distance between these two points which was a measure of the local buckling.

of the local buckling. from B In the C and D series of tests, buckling measurements were confined to the compression flanges of the beam since the use of vertical stiffeners free were measurable column flange distortion.

In all instances where local buckling of the beam compression Selete lange was observed, readings were taken at a distance of 4 and 8 inches from the face of the column flange.

3.5 Lateral Buckling

Lateral support was provided by anchoring the compression flange of the beams to the frame of the testing machine at points 3' from the column as shown in Figure 1 and 2. No other support was provided other than that inherent in the column with its "fixed" ends. Dynamometers were inserted in the support to measure the intensity of the lateral forces produced; the supports were also fitted with turnbuckles to permit adjustment. Although the Ld/bt value of the particular beams chosen



16WF36 - was below 600, it was believed that lateral buckling might become a problem in the plastic range. the maximum As that based lateral force measured was of the order of 2 to 3 kips. on Ty = 33 ksi., this lateral force is 2 to 3% of force in top flange, and obsenation à comoiste prti o mi with previous tes 3.6 Rotation Measurements vittin -The overell rotation of the connection and measured using dial gages, mounted horizontally, as shown in Figure 1 and 15 (specimen-C2). of tests. the (In the A and B series rtin of the notation in the orthographic is and the resured. portion of the notation In the C and D series, only the overall rotation of the connection was measured. K

Average unit rotations were expressed as angle changes in radians per inch. The angle change was determined by adding the changes Upper and for tensile and compressive effects and dividing by the vertical distance between the dial gages. To obtain the rotation per inch, the angle change was divided by the horizontal distance between dial supports.

Rotation data was taken through the elastic and part way through the plastic ranges. Readings were discontinued when local buckling of either the beam flange or web at or near the rotation post caused obviously erroneous results.

3.7 Test Procedure

Before proceeding with the test, the column was checked for axial alignment by observing the strains in four electrical strain gages located at the same level in the column and mounted at the outer edges of each column flange. The maximum variation permitted in the gage readings was about 10% at full column working load.

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The sequence of loading in the test was arranged in **Cour** stages as follows:

- The column load was increased in five equal increments (1)to working load, Pw, with no load on the beams. (This load was the same in the "upper" and "lower" portions of the column).
- (2) The beam load was increased in four equal increments to working load, Vw, while maintaining working load, P., at all times in the portion of the column below the beams.
 - At the conclusion of this stage) " this condition the upper portion of the column sustained

See? ~

12 13

a load equal to $P_W = 2V_W$ where

 P_{w} = the column working load and

- V_{w} = the applied beam working load (3) The column was subjected to a first overload which increased the load in the lower portion to 1.65 times the working load and which increased the load in the upper portion correspondingly. This was done in three equal increments with working load Thecolumn load was subsequently reduced to working load in is left the spearin under the sound load nection was under a condition the lower portion, and t of loading similar to that which existed at the end of
 - stage 2.

connection was reach

C Occurred (4) The beams were loaded in increments until failure

In applying beam loads in the elastic range, the jacks were pumped evenly in increments of 1 kips at a time. Readings of strain, deflection, buckling, and rotation were taken in 6 kip increments of beam load. Beam loads were brought up to 5 kips, the column load was

* [hostingte added to define "upper" and "lower"

adjusted to working load by varying the load applied by the testing machine, and the final kip was added on the jacks. No difficulty was experienced in the elastic range in realizing predetermined load increments on beams or column. In the inelastic range however, where creep was quite evident, a criterion of 20.10 kip drift in five minutes was used as the maximum allowable variation in beam load before measurements for a particular load increment were taken. Also column loads were adjusted to a tolerance of 21 kip where increments of axial load were applied.

At all stages of testing, equal loads were maintained on both beams to keep the connection under equal moments and shears. However, in a few cases where it was evident that one beam was stronger than the other, a criterion of equal deflection was used to determine the load deflection relationship of each beam. This was particularly necessary at loads in excess of the predicted ultimate load of the beams.

Control curves of beam load vs. end deflection and column load vs. lateral deflection were maintained throughout the test, to show the state of deflection of the beams and to indicate any excessive buckling of the column.

As a last step in the testing with the connections damaged as shown in Figures 14 to 16 and with the last beam load still in the jacks, the column was subjected to a second overload equal to twice the working axial load.

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4. TEST RESULTS

Of the data obtained from the nine tests conducted in this research program, curves are plotted illustrating the following points of interest with regard to the behaviour of the connections.

1. Summary of test results. Beam load ver beam deflections. 1. Beam load vs. and deflections.

- 2 2. Moment-rotation relationships for the welded connections and the column webs.
- 3 X. Stress distribution in beam flanges and resulting distribution in horizontal stiffener plates.
 - **4** 7. Distribution of the horizontal strains in the column web and in the vertical stiffener plates.

Summary chart. Momento vos bobal por robarions

The summary of the beam deflections, Figure 10, is expressed in terms of a non-dimensional curve of applied beam load, V/V_{y} , versus end vertical deflection, d/d_y , where V_y and d_y are respectively the theoretical beam load and beam deflection at first yielding of the beam. In Figure 10, average values of load and end deflection for each pair of beams are plotted, while in Figures 11 to 13 the actual experimental values of load and deflection for each beam are plotted. These latter figures illustrate the variation in behavior between the two beams of a pair and also indicate the type of failure experienced in each test. The actual load-deflection curves were plotted as the data was obtained, and served as a control.

The connections were said to have failed and formal testing was concluded when the beam strength decreased approximately 85% of the ultimate load. The single exception occurred in test C-ll when a weld failure was experienced at one end of the tension flange butt welds owing either to failure of the welder to weld out completely onto the run-out pad or to stress concentrations caused by the stiffener.



Desj requirement of the beam at maxim land For comparison with a test for clash out the rule: $V_{y} \times 48' = 055 = (39.2)$ $V_{y} = \frac{(39.2)}{(48.0)} = 46.0$ (48.0) = 46.0 K What load is on the beam stude when the flang is loaded to the print assumed in the theory 1/5 V>46.0+ 11.2

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Fig. 12 - BEAM LOAD VS END DELFECTIONS



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Fig. 13

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- BEAM LOAD VS END DEFLECTIONS

Connection A-1, with its thin-webbed column, failed by column-web buckling (see Figure 14) at a load slightly above the working load on the beams, namely, 1.12 $V_{w^{\circ}}$. Connection A-4, with a slightly thicker column (0.390") failed by excessive strains, both tension and compression, in the column webs opposite the beam flanges and by column web buckling at a beam load of 44 kips, which is 1.82 $V_{w^{\circ}}$. In both instances the decrease in beam capacity was quite rapid. Test A-4 was carried out to a fairly high deflection until the capacity reduction criterion was fully realized; test A-1, on the other hand, was curtailed rather prematurely and as a result its behavior on unloading can only be surmised. In neither case was local buckling of the beam flanges experienced, although in test A-4 the column flanges deformed considerably on the second column overload.

Specimens A-2 and A-5 behaved extremely well without stiffening. As before, the tests were carried to excessive deflections with the incidence of local buckling at 2.08 V_w and 2.26 V_w respectively. However, this buckling occurred at the beginning of the strain hardening range and the specimens were therefore able to carry increased load with little trouble. The loss of beam strength was quite gradual and the specimens sustained large rotations before the tests were concluded. Upon application of the second column overload additional deformation of the column flanges was noted, but no other effect on the column was observed that would indicate that the column failure was imminent.

Specimens B-6 and B-8, employing horizontal plate stiffeners, exhibited excellent load and rotation capacities. Both specimens suffered local buckling of the beam compression flanges at the onset of the strain hardening range and the increase in beam load above this level was slight. The decline of strength from the maximum value was gradual as jacking continued and no harmful effects were observed in the column stiffeners beyond the presence




A-1









A-5

Fig 14 Photographs of Tests A-1, -2, -4, & -5



B-6



B-8 .30



C-9



D-12

Fig. 15 Photographs of Tests B-6, -8, C-9, & D-12



C-11 Top View





C-11 Side View

A-4 At Maximum Load of 44 Kips on Each Beam

Fig. 16 Photographs of Tests C-11 and A-4

of a few strain lines. The connections appeared to be quite elastic, the principal deformations occurring in the beams.

The two tests in the C-series (vertical stiffener plates), shown in Figure 13, carried the required loads and showed fairly good rotation capacity. This latter item is shown more satisfactorily in Figure 31, Summary Chart: Moment Vs. Total Joint Rotation.

In both tests of the C-series there was evidence of some slight local buckling on the beam compression flanges at loads of approximately 2.17 V_w (see Figure 16). In both tests too, the web of column between the beam compression flanges buckled. The critical load at which this effect was first noticed was 1.97 V_w for specimen C-9 and 2.18 V_w for specimen C-11. In test C-9 the connection continued to carry load until at approximately 2.16 V_w the south stiffener plate buckled (Figure 15). From this point the load fell off fairly rapidly until the test was concluded. Test C-11 was stopped when the weld fracture occurred. It is expected that the beam strength decrease would be similar to D-12, west, Figure 13.

Connection D-12 was found to be extremely stiff, the column flanges being stiffened with an STGWF 32.5 having a flange thickness 5/8" as shown in Figure 5. A marked difference was noted in the behavior of the two beams of the specimen and, as in the C-series, weld tears were observed in the beam tension flanges at loads greater than those required to cause buckling in the beams. The primary cause of failure (see Figure 15) was the local buckling of the beam compression flanges which became large at loads in excess of 2.22 V_w. Although large deformations occurred in the beams, the connection, the column and its stiffeners, appeared to remain elastic and little strain was observed in the flange of the stiffener.

The relationship between the rotation and the applied moment is shown in Figures 17 and 18. Rotations were plotted in terms of the angle change

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With That for the Beam: Series A



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Fig. 18 - COMPARISON OF COLUMN AND CONNECTION ROTATION CHARACTERISTICS WITH THAT FOR THE BEAM: SERIES B. C. & D

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per inch of horizontal distance between the gage supports. In determining the unit column web rotation for Series A, under the action of the applied beam moments, only the dial gages spanning across the column web were used. In determining the overall unit rotation of the connection, however, the sum of the three rotations was used and properly averaged; in this way the deformation of the column flanges and its effect on the behavior of the connection were included. The overall unit rotation thus determined was an average value which included one inch of beam, the welded joint, and the column flanges and web. In calculating the applied moment a lever arm of four feet was used, the distance from the point of load application to the face of the column flange. Where stiffening was provided as in the B, C and D series of tests (Figure 18) the only item of interest was the overall behavior of the connection. Rotation readings were taken throughout the test for every increased increment of beam loading, but were discontinued when local buckling of the beam flanges became excessive and tended to rotate the dial gage supports, which were mounted at the junction of beam web and flange. In each test, the experimental data is compared with the theoretical moment-rotation characteristics for a 16WF36 beam section, the latter obtained on the basis of an idealized stress-strain and M- \emptyset relationship.

The distribution of the stress in the beam flange was plotted for each of the nine specimens (Figures 19 to 21). The distribution was confined to a section at which longitudinal strain gages were positioned, and curves were plotted for both the tension and compression flanges. Where horizontal stiffeners were used as in the B series, a plot of the distribution in the stiffener itself was also included, and superimposed on the stress distribution in the beam flanges. In this way the intensities of the stress entering the connection could be compared with those taken by the stiffener plates and by inference the stress carried by the column web could be determined.



Fig. 19 - STRESS DISTRIBUTION IN BEAM FLANGES: SERIES A

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STRESS DISTRIBUTION.



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Fig. 20 - STRESS DISTRIBUTION IN BEAM FLANGES AND COLUMN STIFFENER: FOR SERIES B & C



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The strain gages measuring the strains induced in the beam flanges were positioned at a section about 4 inches away from the face of the columns 'flange in order to minimize the local residual effects of the butt welds, yet be sufficiently close to the column flanges to obtain a distribution of the strains induced from beam moments, and deformation of the column flange.

The above curves (Figures 19 to 21) were plotted showing the stress distribution with working load, V_w , and 1.5 V_w on the beams. The stresses, if in the elastic range, were obtained simply by multiplying the unit strain by the modulus of elasticity. In the case of inelastic strains the strain plot was first drawn; this was then converted to a stress plot by an appropriate change of scale and by cutting off the strains where they crossed the yield stress of the material. The condition of working load on the beams corresponded to a stress of slightly less than 20 Ksi (the actual stress was 20 x 44/48 = 18.35 Ksi) at that section on the beam where strain gages were positioned. The second condition of loading, with 1.5 V on the beams, was quite arbitrarily selected, more with a view to showing any build up in stress concentrations, etc. which might develop at loads in excess of working load. Perhaps a more meaningful value might have been 1.65 V_w (derived from the factor of safety against first yield assuming a yield point stress of This, however, would have involved interpolation of the test data 33 Ksi). in a region beyond the limit of proportionality and would have been open to question. In plotting the distribution of stress an average value of the measured strain in both beams was used and the curves are laid out so as to give a ready comparison between all specimens in a particular series.

The A-series of tests (Figure 19) show high stress concentrations at the center of the beam tension flanges, a condition which becomes more aggravated at values above working load. In specimen A-1 no distribution

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of stress could be plotted for the condition 1.5 V_w since the specimen failed much below this value. For the B-series, Figure 20, it was possible to show the stress distribution both across the beam flanges and across the The results were not too conclusive. In the compression areas stiffeners. the stress distribution was uniform on the whole; while in the tension areas the stresses were somewhat higher in the center. For the C-series the distribution of stress was uniform in both tension and compression flanges; while at 1.5 $V_{\rm tr}$ high tensile stresses occurred at mid-flange with uniform distribution in the compression flange. Specimen C-ll appeared to suffer from some eccentric effects as indicated by the higher stresses on one side of the flange. This may have been due to the effect of initial imperfections e.g. initial flange distortion or non-parallel flanges, or some mis-alignment Specimen D-12, Figure 21, showed of the beams in fabricating the specimen. uniform distribution of tensile stresses in the beam flanges, and uniform, but eccentric as described for C-ll, stress distribution for the compression flanges.

To show the composite effect on the column webs of the beam moments and shears and of the column axial loads it was felt desirable to show a strain plot rather than a stress plot. These are presented in Figures 22 to 26. In the case of the C tests it was also possible to include the strain distribution in the stiffeners; while for the D-12 test it was considered impracticable to measure the column web strains, thus this test shows the distribution only in the stiffeners. Included in these figures are dashed lines showing the theoretical strain distribution had the column cross-Musical by the Source bounding forces been replaced by a 10 WF 36.

From this a comparison is afforded between the relative rotations of the column, stiffened or unstiffened, and a theoretical beam section. Also shown in Figures 22 and 23 are full lines showing the strain distribution,







FIG. 24 - Distribution of Horizontal Strain in Column Web: Tests B-6 & B-8



FIG. 25 - Distribution of Strain in Column Web and in Stiffeners: Tests C-9 and C-11



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computed by the elastic theory as developed by Boussinesq. This is discussed under THEORETICAL ANALYSIS.

The results in Figures 22 and 23 show that the columns of the A specimens, with no stiffeners, are not as stiff against rotation as are the 16WF36 beams which framed to the columns. The increased tensile strains and the decreased compressive strains are due to the Poisson effect of the axial compression in the column. In the B-tests, Figure 24, the stiffeners provide the equivalent of beam flanges to the columns, and the columns became as stiff against rotation as the framing-in beams. The same applies to the C-tests as shown in Figure 25. Form an inspection of these C-test strain plots, it can be noted that the column web carried a major part of the applied load, approximately 2-1/2 to 3 times as much as the plate stiffeners at beam working load. Note in Figure 26 that the gages in measuring the strains on Specimen D-12 were offset in order to clear the fillet at the junction of the flange and the stem of the tee.

In the control tests, Al, B6, and C9, type AR-1 strain rosettes were used extensively to determine the principal stresses in the web. Upon reducing the data it was found that the principal stresses did not differ much in direction from the horizontal and vertical. In later tests, type AX-5 strain gages were employed in place of rosettes; These gages measured strain in the horizontal and vertical directions only. In this way an evaluation of the stresses could, if desired, be made in the horizontal direction with due allowance for Poisson's effect arising from stresses in a direction at right angles.

5. THEORETICAL ANALYSIS

In a beam-column welded connection there are several regions which are subject to local overstress and therefore, it appears pertinent before undertaking the analyses to define a satisfactory connection. It is defined as one which is capable of developing the theoretical maximum moment of resistance of the beams (the "plastic moment") when working axial load is on the column.

A desirable additional quality of a satisfactory connection is one that maintains its moment capacity for a considerable rotation past the The Notation Agained at plastic lines (Namely, the "big agles") ultimate load. At the present time a quantitative value of the necessary for a vanish of practical structures had been don't filling of the necessary rotation capacity cannot be specified, but it is hoped that a Ph. D.

dissertation in progress at Henigh University will supply this information.

The analysis, then, should determine those items which are necessary at the joint to ensure development of the plastic moment at the connection and, if possible, adequate rotation capacity. Potential items for backyots are (1) the stresses in the welds at the beam-column joint (2) the deformations in the column web opposite the points where the beam flanges are welded to the columns (2) the deformations of the column flanges at these same points where the beam flanges are welded to the column (2) the stresses and deformations in stiffeners, if used, and (2) the possibility of of buckling in three areas: the column web the otiffeners, and the possibility of flanges (the deformation of axial and beading stresses).

From a study of previous researches (2) & (10) and from observation of the test results in the present tests, the critical item appears to be the concentration of web stresses in the column immediately opposite the contact points of the beam flanges. This applies to both the tension and of the beam flanges, the compression flanged because of the sensequent buckling which may take place after the web becomes





24.3 ksi -49 /28.2 26.8 17.1 ksi Y.P. stress 21.9 5.2 ksi 19.5 20 ksi increment Line A Shaded area stressed above Y.P. when beam flange is ksi łł stressed to 20 ksin n .200pm .180pm .150pm .140pm .130pm .120pm Q, 。250pm 070pm 110pm ,100pm "090pm 080pm Web 5 2 side .060 pm-Tension side Compr .050 pm 040 pm $^{-1}$ B Line .030 pm[⊥] Notes: Y.P. of col.web=34.4ksi p=20.0ksim(ratio of beam is f flg. width to` .020 pmcol. web t)=12.2 Correc-Stress scale: tion for 1" =20.0k Poisson effect due to col. KS. axial loads in areas subjected to 20 ksi ∠.010 pm beam tensions Ditto for FIG. 28 - Specimen A-2 (8WF67) Section beam com-Theoretical stress disц О pressions. **Q** tribution in column web Mid-depth by elastic stress theory Column (Boussinesq).

 $(A_{f} \times 33) = 99^{k}$

 $V_{y} = M_{y}$ $V_{y} = \frac{M_{y}}{a} = \frac{5}{4s''}$ (34)(



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is hiscursed in the following This substitut, Sterm 2 and 3 above section, S.I. Herry sand & above are discussed in sector Colum melostrosses and betornation -50 and Stilleanth plastic. 5.1 bigh concentrations of stress in the column web an elastic To sho te-be exact because of certain assumpanalysis was made, which ca tions, but which does show clearly the nature of the problem encountered. In 1885 Boussinesq presented a solution for the stress distribution in a semiinfinite mass owing to a point loading at the surface. This theory has been extended to cover the case of a strip loading on a semi-infinite mass one (solution available in most of the texts in soil mechanics). This theory is also presented by Timoshenko (12) (beginning on p. 62) which covers the case of a plate with concentrated or uniform loading on one edge. The principal assumption is that the theory of the stress distribution for a plate with an edge loading applies equally to a wide flange section, however, with this assumption in mind, the Boussines method, when applied to the encoimens-under consideration, does show the problem with considerable clarity, and does check reasonably well with the test measurement Figures 27 and 28 show the Boussinesq method applied to Specimens A-1 and A-2. Similar studies have been made of Specimens A-4 and A-5. Since he most important element causing stresses in the column web is the strip loading from the beam flanges there prove of first and the resulting lines of equal horizontal stress, labeled 0.010 pm, 0.020 pm, etc., are given in the figures. For the two given cases, and with a beam flange stress of 20 ksi., there are areas (shown shaded) which show stresses above the yield point of the steel. The distribution of stress by this elastic methodobviously does not apply in the immediate zones of inelastic strains, but the pupple of reveal trend it is around that. the given load and a semi-circular-cut section which envelops the shaded inclastic area. that the theory remains food in the elastic region. In the case of Figure 27 (Test A-1) a large area of inelastic straining takes place and one can

infer that, to compensate, the stresses will actually spread out at a considerably wider angle in this immediate area, while in the case of the small area of inelastic strains encountered in Figure 28 (Test A-2) the spreading of the forces from the strip loading into the column web will be but slightly wider than indicated in the figure. Considering the early failure of Test A-1 and the ability of the column in Test A-2 to serve without benefit of stiffeners, it is apparent that at least a general check is afforded on this Boussinesq approach. Line A in each figure shows the theoretical stress distribution in the column web directly in line with the applied strip (flange) loads, inward from the flange to mid-depth of the column. Line B in each figure shows the distribution of stress along the axis (mid-depth) of the column due only to the strip loading from the beam flange.

There are two additional effects causing horizontal strains in the column web. The first of these is the added effect of the compression, or tension, from the beam web. The second is the Poisson effect from the axial load on the column. These two increments are shown in the figures. To give some sort of check on this Boussinesq method as applied to a wide flange section, the resultant computed strains have been plotted on Figures 22 and 23.

To arrive at a workable design procedure on the assumption that the column web stress as described above is the critical item, two lines of approach have been made. For convenience of identification these approaches will be labeled the Modified A.I.S.C. approach and the Plastic Analysis approach.

The Modified A.I.S.C. approach acknowledges that a small area of inelastic strains in the column web immediately opposite the beam flange is not dangerous, that it merely causes a redistribution or spreading out of the stresses as they are transmitted into the column web. This is

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verified by Test A-2 with its small area of inelastic strains as shown in Figure 28; and in which the column web proved entirely adequate without stiffeners. The present A.I.S.C. specification, Sec: 26h, requires that the computed column web stress, σ_c , must not exceed 24 Ksi., where σ_c is computed from the formula

$$\mathcal{O}_{c} = \frac{R}{t_{c} (N+2k)}$$

where R = concentrated load from the beam flange

 $t_c = column$ web thickness

N & k are shown in Figure 29

From an inspection of Figure 29 it is shown that the stresses from the beam flange are assumed to spread out into the column web at an angle of 45° until the end of the flange-to-web fillet is reached. This, on inspection of Figures 27 and 28, is in close agreement with the actual elastic distribution of stress into the column web as determined by the Boussinesq method. However, when inelastic stress distribution is considered it appears equally obvious (and borne out by the tests) that a wider distribution of stress can be safely considered. The proposal here is to change the 45° angle (a 1:1 slope) to a 2:1 slope and to otherwise leave the A.I.S.C. formula unchanged. The modified A.I.S.C. formula would then read:

For the case where horizontal plate stiffeners are added the formula is modified to:

$$\Box_{c} = \frac{R}{t (N+ijk) + Stiffener area}$$
 (for series (3)
B tests)

and for the case of a pair of vertical plate stiffeners formula (2) is

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(1)



FIG. 30 - Analysis of Column Web Stresses by Plastic Analysis Approach



modified by changing t_c to $(t_c + 2t_s)$ where t_s is the thickness of a stiffener to read:

$$\mathcal{O}_{c} = \frac{R}{(t_{c} + 2t_{s})(N + 4k)} \qquad (for Series C \& D tests)$$
(4)

If desired the above formulas can be put in form to solve for the required thickness as follows:

$$t_c = \frac{R/2l_4}{N + l_4k}$$
 (for Series A tests) (5)

where R is expressed in kips.

For series B tests, the stiffener area in (3) may be approximated as $t_s \propto beam$ flange width, b, thus:

$$t_{s} = \frac{\left[\frac{R}{24}\right] - \left[t_{c} \left(N + \frac{1}{4k}\right)\right]}{4k} \qquad (6)$$
As a further limitation, to sharely be at least $\frac{1}{16^{11}}$ of the stiffener width.

Similarly for the Series C and D tests:

$$t_{s} = \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{R/2L}{N+Lk} - t_{o} \right]$$
(7)

The Plastic Analysis approach assumes a stress distribution in the beam, loaded to its capacity, M_p, as shown by Section a - a in Figure 30. The corresponding stress distribution in the column web at the end of the flangeto-web fillet is shown by Section b-b. This procedure, suggested by Lynn S. Beedle, results in the following analysis.

Unstiffened Columns www.kun wount applied by the been is legual 1. Assume the beam is developing its plastic moments, Mp. It plastic moments, Mp.

For the compression flange the pressure against the column will be approximately as shown in Figure 30.

-54

(8)

 $t_sb + W_c \sigma_s \left[\frac{d_b}{2} + k_c\right]$

•.

 $C_w = total \text{ compression in column web, opposite } C_{b}^{\bullet}$

This equals $C_w = c_y t_c (\frac{d_b}{2} + 3k)$ where: $W_c =$ thickness of col. web $d_b =$ depth of beam

Now $C_{b} = C_{w}$

Equating (1) & (2), $t_c = \frac{A_b}{d_b + 2k}$ (10)

where t_c is the required thickness. If the actual thickness exceeds this, no stiffeners are required.

B. Columns with Horizontal Plate Stiffeners (Series B).

Same as (A) except that the compression in the column is carried jointly by the web and the pair of stiffeners.

Let b = total width of the pair of stiffeners (approx. equal to the

width of the beam flange).

 t_s = thickness of the stiffeners

$$C_{\rm b} = C_{\rm u} + C_{\rm s} \tag{11}$$

where C_s = that portion of the compression carried by the stiffeners

$$C_{s} = A_{s} O_{y} = t_{s} b$$
 (12)

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substituting in (11) and reducing:

Req'd.
$$t_s = \frac{1}{b} \left[\frac{Ab}{2} - \left(\frac{ab}{2} * 3k \right) t_c \right]$$

= $\frac{1}{2b} \left[A_b - \left(d_b + 6k \right) t_c \right]$ (13)

C. Columns with Vertical Stiffeners (Series C & D)

Same procedure as in (B)

Let $t_b = thickness$ of the beam flange

 $C_{\rm h} = C_{\rm w} + C_{\rm s}$

$$\frac{A_{b}}{2} \mathcal{O}_{y} = \mathcal{O}_{y} t_{c} \left(\frac{d_{b}}{2} + 3k\right) + \mathcal{O}_{y} 2t_{s} \left(t_{b} + 3k\right)$$
(14)

(The 2 k in the last term is an approximation for convenience).

-55

(9)

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. . .

Whence
$$t_s = \frac{A_b}{2} - t_c (\frac{d_b}{2} + 3k)$$

 $2(t_b + 2k)$

or Req¹d.
$$t_s = \frac{1}{4} \left[\frac{A_b - t_c (d_b + b_k)}{t_b + 2k} \right]$$
 (15)

These two proposed methods of analyzing a connection for stiffener requirements have been applied to the present series of two-way tests with results as shown in Table II. The present unmodified A.I.S.C. Specimen 26h is so manifestly conservative that its application to the tests has been omitted. A study of these results may be summarized as follows:

A. Modified A.I.S.C. Approach

- 1. For Test A-l formula (2) requires that the column web be 0.694" thick. The actual thickness was 0.288 and the column failed at a load slightly in excess of working load as shown in Figure 11.
- 2. For Test A-2 the formula requires a t of 0.449", while the column had an actual t of 0.575". This column proved entirely adequate without stiffeners.
- 3. Similarly for A-4, the required t_c is 0.492" while the actual t_c was less. This column failed to reach the required ultimate load.
- 4. The formula shows A-5 to be entirely adequate without stiffeners and it so proved to be.
- 5. For B=6 and B=8, formula (3) shows thin stiffeners to be required. In the tests there was no evidence of overstress in the stiffeners actually supplied, except for a few strain lines in the B=8 stiffeners. At working load the measured stresses in these B=8 stiffeners were just below 20 ksi. It is not
$\frac{(6,99)(.428)}{(.428)+(6,99)+2k_{\varphi}}$ $W_c > \frac{A_F}{l_b + b + 2k_c}$ 88 ARANT 2.98 7.42+2kc Wc > 699 .42 $\frac{R/24}{N+4k} = \frac{(6.99)(.428)(.833)}{(.284)+4k}$ = <u>3,49</u> = ,284+4k 1.62 7.42 9.04 2 2.674 7.42 10.09

= 10.59 15.85+2 kc tb+2kc 12wF99: 4ke 1059 Ake db14kc d I 40 3,25 19.10 AI 21.13 5,28 AL 2,3,1 14 15 Yw 20.60 4.75 6.0 21,85 KL 60

TABLE II. APPLICATION OF THE PROPOSED METHODS OF ANALYSIS TO THE TWO-WAY TESTS Hike unsatisfact A. Modified A. I.S.C. Approach Hauselooch									
Specimen	N+4k	masure	b	Req '	d /	M _c	el í	ACTUAL TEST Results	Regid
A-1* * A-2 A-4* * A-5	3.68 5.68 5.18 6.43	.284 .587 .417 .580	ø	.694 .449 .492 .397		•288 •575 •390 •580		Col. web buckled ""OK ""weak ""OK	.33
B=6 * B=8 *	3.68 4.93	.284 .300	6.99 "		.21)4 .153		•437 •25	Stiffened	
C-9 # C-11 *	3.68 4.93	.284 .300			.205** .109**		•312 . 11	Satisfactory	
			1	1 ·					1

В.	Plastic	Analvsis	Approach

		Column		Req ¹ d		Actual				
Specimen	A _b	d_b	b	t _b	k	₩ _c	€ .c	ts	∖ ^t c	ts
A-l*	10.59	15.85	6.99	<u></u> 28	.812	•288	. 606		. 288	i.
A-2	11	п	11	н	1.312	.575	.573		•575	
A 4*	11	11	u.	н	1.188	.390	•580		•390	
A-5	u	11	11	11	1,500	•580	610	- 1 ⁵	.580	
	ľ						.560			
-B6	н	н.,	11	n	0.812	.288	2	.398		·437·
B-8	ii i	. 11	้น	u	1,125	29)		.377		25
							N 11	• - 1 - 1		
C-9	11	н.	11 🕸		0.812	-288		-635-		,312
/C-11	п	11	н		1,125	291		192		.312
	·		•					0-47 - 7		•)==
D-12	ii	. 11	11	11	1.125	•294	-	•492		.606
{ 	•	· · ·	· · ·		· · · · · ·			• •		
** Not p	assab	le with	out sti	ffener	s	An	= se	ctional	l area o	f beam
** A.I.	C. st	ecs. f	or com	ressie	<u>n</u>	dh	= de	oth of	beam	-
membe	rs re	uire a	t-least	1/4	here.	b	= fl	ange wi	idth	
. 1	t e	dia	ad Lo		4	tu	= th:	ickness	s of beau	m flg.
* These	value	la smak	123, 42	range	¥	-D				
to	ala	int 4"	-P	h		AA.	_	1.	~ ~	Wb = .20

Triaty the transm steffers plate as a colon, a conservation undt - Kich natio 1 30 Caned be derived 45

C-D

.10

k = 0.75



known how much thinner these stiffeners could have been made and still serve their purpose.

- 6. For the C and D tests formula (4) gives obviously too small values and it could be predicted that stiffeners of this size would fail by buckling. A.I.S.C. specifications for compression members (Section 18 (c)) limits the thickness to 1/40th of the clear distance between flanges (in these cases above)
- B. Plastic Analysis Approach
 - 1. Same comment as in (A-1) except that the required t_c is 0.606,. This analysis likewise shows the web thickness entirely inadequate.
 - 2. 3. 4. Same comments as above for Tests A-2, A-4 and A-5 except for the slightly changed required t_s.
 - 5. For Test B=6, same comments as above, but for B=8 the required t_s is somewhat greater than that actually supplied. Since the test results indicate a balanced design it indicates that the Plastic Analysis formula may be slightly conservative in this case.
- 6. For test D-12 the supplied stiffener plates were greater than required by formula and since the stiffeners were obviously not stressed to capacity no check on the analysis is afforded; however, for Tests C-9 and C-11 the formula requires a thicker pair of plates than actually supplied. Since the stiffener plates did eventually buckle after a satisfactory ultimate load was reached this discrepancy is not regarded as serious and again indicates this analysis to be slightly conservative. When there will be the stiffener will be the stiffener of High Stresses.

unequal distribution of stress in the butt welds connecting beam flanges to

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a columnes

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After the research covered by this raport wes completed it was noted that a column web which according to formula, was in need of stiffening, could be reinforced by means of a doubler plate, placed on one the column web Such and late want feeth prevent ueb-erippling, the question then arises whether the nonuniform stress distribution in the butt weld connecting beam tension flange to the dispropertionately than column flange would cause premature failure before full development of the plastic moment of the beam. This pecial case of the light-section column with "beefed-up" web requires additional study and investigation. Investigation to day geems to indicate that hot-rolled columns have proportions such that, if a column web is not in need of stiffeners, its flanges will be thick enough to provide a suitable distribution of stresses in the butt welds connecting beam fienpes to column Tlangos.

/If required B-type stiffeders could be welded to the column web only, omitting the welding of the stiffeners to the column planges. The advantage of this procedure is that it would

the columns. The stresses being most severe at mid-length of the welds, not and by A stress concentration at the end of -a-wold at the ends. time-after-time-to-be-a-potential-source-for_early_failure-in_a_test_underan increasing load application, but not when the concentration is at mide attributable to his otress. Concentration were encountered in the present prolength. No weld failures of this ject; moreover, a study of past researches reveals that the few times weld failures were encountered at mid-length of a butt weld the fault was attrito buted of insufficient root gap and consequent poor penetration into the bottom of the joint. In those cases the connections carried adequate test tarken of -except-in-one_case_where_the_factorof safety of loads, in the charles é . A Considering test experience it is advocated that was olightly under non-unitorn the unfavorable stress distribution which obtains in these butt welds in at workin load unstiffened columns not be made a criterion in the determination of whether ned by the or not stiffeners are required. No analyses are presented attempting to combine the deformations, which tari yari -0_take place at the connection at the latter stages of a test to failure, with le Area time to the column axial loads. The fact, that each column \neg except A-5 where the machine capacity was reached) was subjected to and safely withstood an axial stress of 29 Ksi. after the connection was severely deformed by test to failure of the beams, appears to be satisfactory evidence that an analysis is unnecessary. 6. DISCUSSION OF TEST RESULTS

A significant feature of the tests was the ability of the connections to develop the strength of the beams. In all cases except two --- where column, web crippling was responsible for failure --- the beams were not only able to reach their predicted ultimate load, but were able to sustain this load over considerable rotation. This is necessary in the design of structures using an ultimate load method, for not only would plastic hinges

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form at the ends of the beams, but adequate rotation capacity would permit the formation of hinges in other parts of the structure until a mechanism would be reached.

Local buckling is a factor which might influence the value of the plastic moment of a beam section. Haaijer⁽⁷⁾ has determined the properties of sections that will buckle just at the onset of strain hardening. The width to thickness ratio of the beam flange, b/t, must not exceed 17, and the depth of beam to web thickness ratio, d/w, must not, exceed 55. The beam section chosen was just within these values in both these respects, with the result that local buckling, as predicted by Haaijer, coincided with the beginning of strain hardening and was not detrimental to the strength of the connection.

As far as rotation capacity is concerned (Figures 17 & 18), there is little to choose between the unstiffened connection employing the light thin-webbed column reinforced with horizontal stiffeners (B-6 & B-6) or the C and D series connections that had vertical stiffeners.

In comparing the theoretical and experimental moment-rotation curves (Figures 17 & 18) in the elastic range, the connections are not as stiff as the 16WF36 beams. This flexibility is of course due to strains in the column. These were greatest in Specimen A-1, with A-4, B-6, and C-9 also showing noticeable deviation from the theoretical curve.

The structural adequacy of a particular type of welded connection can be ascertained in part by comparing the moment and rotation capacity of the beams with that for the column with the consideration that the column must have equal or greater moment capacity than the beam but it need not necessarily be as stiff. When the column has the requisite strength the desired rotation capacity is supplied jointly by the column and the end portions of the beams. Specimen A-1 with its unstiffened, thin-web column

section is a notable example where column web buckling was the principal cause for the high rotations at low moments. In border line cases, as for example A-4, the buckling of the column web did not become excessive and in Figure 14 it is noted that the deformations are due to a combination of high inelastic strains in the column web in areas of both high tension and compression and to some web buckling. Thus this investigation clearly demonstrates the importance of the column web opposite the compression flanges of the beams and in some cases opposite the tension flanges.

Another point of interest-is that the sections of maximum tension and compression in the column-web are located not at the level of the beam flanges but rather nearer the center of the connection. This is particularly true in the unstiffened connections. Yet where horizontal stiffeners are provided the sections of maximum tensile and compressive effect occur at the level of the beam flanges. It is shown in Figure 25 that the vertical plate stiffeners of Series C in the elastic range, each transmitted only about 3/16ths of the forces coming in from the beam flanges and the web transmitted 5/8ths. However, since the prime purpose of this type of connection is to afford a convenient four-way connection, the plate needs to be positioned for the purpose, as near to the edge of the column flange as possible.

The distribution of stress in the butt welds between the beam flanges and the column, Figures 19 to 21, is of much interest to the designer in the case of no stiffeners (Series A) or of the vertical plate stiffeners (Series C & D). However, it is noted that in both this investigation and in that by Brandes-Mains (Figure 32), no weld failures occurred until after excessive rotation had taken place.

The criterion has been proposed that the plastic moment shall be realized. To show this condition in the same manner as in previous investigations a

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different plot of moment-rotation curves is presented, Figure 31, in which the rotation plotted is the total joint rotation, that is, the total angular rotation from the butt welds, connecting the beams and columns, to the center line of the column. This plot is similar in nature to Figure 32 which summarizes three pertinent tests from the Brandes-Mains investigation. It should be obvious by inspection that all beams in this investigation except A-1 and A-4 pass this criterion with an ample margin.



FIG. 31 SUMMARY CHART: MOMENT VS. TOTAL JOINT ROTATION

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Fig. '32 - THREE TESTS BY BRANDES AND MAINS

Three test specimens from the Brandes-Mains investigation are particularly pertinent and the results are reproduced here (Figure 29). Specimens 5, 9, and 10 consisted of stub 12WF65 columns with 18WF85 beams framing onto the column flanges. No column stiffening was provided for Specimens 5 and 9, while a pair of plate stiffeners was added opposite the beam tension flanges for 10, as shown in the figure. The photograph, Figure 30, shows Specimens 5 and 10 after failure. Note in the momentrotation curves that Specimen 5 failed to develop the full plastic moment, while 9 and 10 just reached it. Specimen 5 had the handicap of a weak seat angle which deformed under the shearing load.





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These analyses to determine whether or not stiffeners are required in the column web in the region of high compression, when applied to the above three specimens for the Brandes-Mains investigation, indicated a state of overstress for Specimens 5 and 9 in both the tension and compression zones and for Specimen 10 a state of overstress in the compression zone; therefore, since the connections were satisfactory except for No. 5, there is good indication that both methods are conservative.

7. SUMMARY OF TEST RESULTS

1. Stress concentrations were found in the unstiffened column webs opposite the beam flanges as shown in Figures 27 and 28. These concentrations caused the columns (in the A series) to have less stiffness against rotation than the test beam. However, these stresses in themsleves did not cause the connection to fail to meet the criteria of developing the full plastic moment of the beams except for A-l and A-l where the column web failed to carry the required beam moments partly because of inelastic yielding of the column web and partly through buckling.

2. The columns showed no particular signs of distress when subjected to an axial load of 1.65x working load (an average axial stress of 24 ksi) at a time when beam working-load moments were also applied to them. Note that this conclusion is limited to rolled WF columns. (d/w is maximum of about 40 and in this condition will develop almost the yield stress of without buckling.)

3. Further, at the end of each test, with the final beam loads still applied, 2x working column load (29 ksi) was applied with no marked evidence of distress to the column.

4. The horizontal plate stiffeners yielded efficient and satisfactory service when used in these two-way beam-column connections. Formulas (6) and (13) appear to be entirely safe when used with A.I.S.C. Spec. 18 (c) which limits the thickness of a diaphragm to $\frac{1}{4}$ 0th of the clear distance between flanges.

5. These tests on the vertical plate stiffeners (Series C & D) must be considered as preliminary ones only, since the vertical plate stiffeners were conceived for use with three or four-way connections. However, the vertical plate stiffeners tested did serve satisfactorily. Of the two types of vertical plates, the split beam type (D-12) showed the greater promise since the stem of the STGWF 32.5 effectively prevented both the column web and the stiffeners themselves from buckling in the latter stages of the tests. Moreover, in contemplated use in a four-way connection the stem of the tee would serve to stiffen and strengthen the connection between the column and the beams framing to the column webs.

6. The present criterion, whether column stiffeners are required or not, A.I.S.C. specification 26 (h), that the computed stress, from $\frac{R}{t(N+2k)}$, must not exceed 24 ksi., - is much too conservative and could well be replaced by the same general formula but replacing the denominator by t(N+4k).

7. A plastic analysis approach, expressed by formulas (10), (13) and (15), shows much promise of being a practical, slightly conservative criterion.

8. The beam-column connections tested had several points of stress concentrations including those existing in the butt welds connecting beams welded to the flanges of unstiffened columns, but it has been shown that these are not the critical items in determining stiffening requirements.

8. DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

From experience obtained in this test program a review is made of current design formulas and techniques which might usefully be employed in designing direct-welded two-way column connections.

A Series-Unstiffened Connections

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This is probably the most difficult connection to analyse due to a high localized concentration of stress in the column web at the beam flanges. Also there is always the possibility of web buckling if the column web is thin. The current A.I.S.C. specifications clause 26 (h) can be used to give some idea as to when stiffening may be required, but the results obtained are very conservative. A more reasonable determination of stiffening requirements may be obtained by changing the 2k in the A.I.S.C. formula to $\frac{R}{t(N+4k)}$ must not exceed 24 ksi. It is recommended that this apply to both tension and compression areas, pending further tests.

The plastic analysis approach is also recommended for use in the design of direct-welded two-way beam-column connections. This approach in practical form is expressed by equations (10), (13) and (15).

<u> B Series - Horizontal Plate Stiffening</u>

This is the most efficient means of stiffening a column in that it eliminates web and flange distortion. Two methods of design may be used as follows:

1. Employ stiffeners of thickness equal to the beam flanges. This may be quite uneconomical of material.

2. Determine the thickness of the stiffeners from a consideration of the modified A.I.S.C. or the plastic analysis approaches from formulas given therein, but no stiffener should be thinner than 1/40th of the clear distance between column flanges.

C & D Series - Vertical Plates or Tee-Type Stiffeners

Since these stiffeners are suggested for three or four-way connections no recommendations are made at present except that if they are used for twoway connections the applicable formulas may be used except that the t (thickness) should be checked for minimum thickness as given above for the B-type stiffeners.

This investigation is by no means complete. The suggested modification of the web-crippling formula and the new plastic analysis approach are not based on sufficient tests. They are however, believed to be safe. No tests have been made with column web stiffeners in the compression area but omitting those in the tension area. This has interesting possibilities. Further, the beam moments in the present two-way tests have been of equal magnitude. It is presently believed that recent tests on columns subjected to combinations of axial load and moment adequately cover this point of the design procedure when the beam moments are unequal. The influence of wind moment is another factor. Finally, there is the behavior of the three and four-way connections when subjected at the same time to an axial load. It is hoped that this progress report will be useful and will give designers the needed information on determining whether or not column stiffeners are required, and if required--how to design them.

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Section	Mark	E ksi	OpL ksi	Suy ksi	ر ksi	f ult ksi	EST in/in	Remarks
7/16" plate	59E/8/3 t 59E/5/3 t 59E/2/3 t	30,000 29,500 30,200	-	35.6 35.8	34.8 34.2 34.6	59 . 2 59 . 6 60 . 0	1.5x10 ⁻²	
1/2" plate 5/16" plate	68E/6/3 t 48/9/3 t 18/3/3 t	30,000 29,900 31,700	-	33.1 38.2 38.2	32.1 37.2 37.8	56.0 62.5 61.3	•• ••	
l/2" plate	68E/6/1 c 68E/6/2 c	29,800 30,600	24.1 26.7	32.8 33.6	, - -	-	-	Notes
12WF40 -	38G/1 tf 38G/2 tf 38G/3 tw 38G/4 tf		35.2 34.3 42.8 36.6	36.9 36.3 ЦЦ.0 38.3	37.3 36.5 42.8 37.6	62.0 61.7 65.4 61.9	1.66x10 ⁻² 1.7 2.02 1.9	E in range 25000 <e<30000 ksi<br="">Measured on automatic S/S Recorder</e<30000>
8wF <u>3</u> 1	54E31/1tf 54E31/2tf 54E31/3tw		34.7 36.3 35.4	39 . 4 39 . 7	37.8 38.1 38.3	63.4 63.0 63.0	1.72 1.94 1.98	<pre>t = tension coupon c = compression coupon tf = tension flange coupon tw = tension web coupon fet = strain at strain</pre>
16w F 36	53E939/ltf 53E939/2tf 53E939/3tw 53E939/4tf	•	33.5 38.2 41.4	40.8 43.5 39.6	40.0 39.5 42.7 39.2	61.7 61.8 64.5 61.2	2.16 2.22 2.17 1.94	hardening
8 WF67	54E67/1 tf 54E67/2 tf 54E67/3 tw 54E67/4 tf	• •	28.5 _	32.4 35.2 38.8 34.1	32.2 34.6 37.7 33.2	61.4 61.9 60.6 61.3	1.18 1.25 1.94 1.44	Sult = Oltimate Est in range 300< E _{st} <700 ksi
12WF99	55 E/ 2 tf 55 E/ 4 tf		31.3 34.3	34.6 36.7	34.5 35.8	62 .5 63 . 7	1.31 1.41	
12 WF 65	42E/1 tf 42E/2 tf 42E/3 tw 42E/4 tf	T	-	37.2 36.4 40.6 37.1	36.4 36.1 38.8 36.1	62.0 62.1 61.5 62.2	1.61 1.55 1.43 1.48	

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Summary of Coupon Test Results

2/23/56

-A1

APPENDIX

Calculations for Design of Specimen

Columns

Working stress on columns = 14.5 ksi

derived from AISC eq
$$(\frac{P}{A}) = 17000 - 0.405 (\frac{L}{P})^2$$
 for $L/2$

Structural Section Details

Column Size	Area o" *	Area as messured	Pw kips	1.65 Pw	2 x Pw	Test No.
8WF31 8WF67 12WF40 12WF/65 12WF 99	9.12 19.70 11.77 19.11 29.09	9.01 19.94 11.31 18.66 28.45	132 286 171 278 422	218 472 283 459 696	264 572 344 550 800k(*)	A1,B6,C9 A2 B8,C11,D12 A4 A5
* AISC handb (a) Testing	ook value. Machine capac	1 :ity ∞ 800 k			+	

Analysis of Beams and Beam-Column flange welds

All dimension of sections as measured on specimens Beams 16WF36 Sworking = 20 ksi

Bending

 $M_{W} = \mathcal{O}_{W}S = V_{W}L$ $V_{W} = \frac{\mathcal{O}_{W}S}{L} = \frac{20x56.4}{48} = 23.5 \text{ kips}$ $V_{y} = \frac{\mathcal{O}_{Y}S}{48}, \quad \text{Oy} (avg. \text{ for } 16\text{WF36}) = 39.6 \text{ ksi}$ $V_{y} = \frac{39.6 \text{ x} 56.4}{48} = 46.5 \text{ kips}$ $V_{u} = \frac{\mathcal{O}_{Y}Z}{48}, \quad \text{Z} = \text{ plastic Modulus}$ $= \frac{39.6 \text{ x} 63.76}{48} = 52.5 \text{ kips}$

Elastic Analysis of welds at working beam load

Butt welds to carry applied moment Fillst weld to carry applied shear

$$W_{V} = 24 \times 1.8 \text{ k}^{"}, \quad d_{V} = 15.91 - 0.43 = 15.48^{"}$$

$$F_{V} = \frac{W_{V}}{d_{V}} = \frac{21 \times 1.8}{15.48} = 74.5 \text{ kips}$$

$$C = \frac{V}{d_{V}} = \frac{74.5}{15.48} = 24.4 \text{ ksi} > 20 \text{ ksi} \text{ [overstressed]}$$

$$V_{W} = 24 \text{ k} \quad L \text{ welds} = 26^{"} \quad 1/4" \text{ fillet weld}$$

$$q = \frac{V_{W}}{L} = \frac{21}{26} = 0.922 \text{ k/"}$$

$$q_{wlow} (1/4" \text{ fillet}) = 9.60 = 9.6 \times \frac{1}{4} = 2.4 \text{ kips/in.} \text{ [OK]}$$

$$\frac{3\text{hear}}{L} \text{ (in plastic range)} = 18 \text{ wde}^{2} = 18(0.29)15.91 = 83 \text{ kips} > 52.5 \text{ k}$$

$$V_{U} (\text{predicted}) = 52.5 \text{ kips}$$
(in elastic range) = 13 wd = 13(0.29)15.91 = 60 \text{ kips} > 24 \text{ k} \text{ [OK]}
$$\frac{53.76}{1.8} < \frac{(11.94)(0.29)}{1.732} \text{ or } 1.33 < 2.5 \text{ [OK]}$$

$$\frac{63.76}{48} < \frac{(11.94)(0.29)}{1.732} \text{ or } 1.33 < 2.5 \text{ [OK]}$$

$$\frac{1}{V} < \frac{V_{V}}{V_{S}} \frac{1}{V_{S}} = \frac{96 \times 15.91}{7.09 \times 0.431} = 500 < 600$$

$$\frac{1}{V} = \frac{96 \times 15.91}{7.09 \times 0.431} = 500 < 600$$

$$\frac{1}{V} = \frac{96 \times 15.91}{7.09 \times 0.431} = 500 < 600$$

$$\frac{1}{V} = \frac{96 \times 15.91}{7.09 \times 0.431} = 500 < 600$$

$$\frac{1}{V} = \frac{92}{2}, \text{ Actual } \frac{1}{V} = \frac{7.09}{0.431} = 16.45 < 32 \text{ [OK]}$$
To reach strain hardening $\frac{1}{V} \le 17^{(4)}$

$$\frac{1}{V} \text{ beams critical for local flange buckling in plastic range}$$

$$To reach strain hardening $\frac{1}{2} \le 5^{\frac{V_{1}}{V}} \text{ for web}$$$

 $\frac{d}{w} = \frac{15.91}{0.29} = 54.8$... beams critical for local buckling in plastic range

Deflections

Selastic =
$$\frac{12}{3EI}$$
 - assuming complete restraint
Sy = $\frac{VyL^3}{3EI}$ Vy = 46.5 kips
L = 48"
E = 30 x 10³ ksi
I = 448.96 in.⁴
 $\frac{16.5 (48)^3}{3 x 30 x 10^2 x 448.96}$
= 0.127"
Sum 52.5 x 0.127 = 0.1141" - assuming idealised S-
and N-2 relationship.

E

In nondimensional form;

At yield $\frac{V}{Vy} = 1 \approx \frac{\delta}{\delta y}$ At ultimate $\frac{Vu}{Vy} = \frac{58.5}{46.5} = 1.13 = \frac{\delta u}{\delta y}$

Beam Rotations

The rotation of the beam can be expressed as a change in slope of the point of load application with respect to the connection assuming the latter to develop complete restraint.

Applying the Moment Area Theorems We Obtain:

77.3

 $\Theta_{\text{end}} = \frac{1}{2} L \frac{VL}{KI} = \frac{VL^2}{2KI}$

 $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{9}{2}$ and $\frac{7}{2} \frac{2}{1} \frac{9}{1} \frac{9}{1}$

But Vy = <u>JEI</u> Sy

$$\frac{1}{L^3} = \frac{3}{2EI} = \frac{3}{2} \frac{5}{2} \frac{1}{2}$$

Material Dimensions & Properties -average values



ъ = 8.36^н



3.545 10635 14180 1-2.78 1.527893 3.054

(1)

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μα αΩ/βα (γα π λ i ≠ Φ° (Φ

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b/ limit can be met without vierra (1)of ano by cutty down on b' /(2) $\frac{D}{t} = 16$ would be Supported Caturally) adaquate if no plaitin How to justify stability of Type C connection V(3)d 145 (=.3b $\sqrt{4}$ book who is do not $\frac{L}{,3b} = 40$ Web plate we ful owner Erste L=12 (5) Ur Jovos' all get out that old avaluation by a taropeon referred to by wright in his thesis V (6) (7) is Ws = Wc too safe ? pm/5 () Chech _____ Cont section Report to be read, published? (9)