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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

- Of the factors influencing a tension member, the way it is connected is the most important.
- A **connection** almost always weakens the member, and the measure of its influence is called the **joint efficiency**.
- This factor is a function of the ductility of the material, fastener spacing, stress concentrations at holes, fabrication procedure, and a phenomenon known as **shear lag**.

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

- Of the factors influencing a tension member, the way it is connected is the most important.
- A **connection** almost always weakens the member, and the measure of its influence is called the **joint efficiency**.
- All contribute to reducing the effectiveness of the member, but **shear lag** is the most important.

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

- **Shear lag** occurs when some elements of the cross section are not connected, as when only one leg of an angle is bolted to a gusset plate.

- The consequence of this partial connection is that the connected element becomes **overloaded**, and the unconnected part is **not fully stressed**.

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

- **Shear lag** occurs when some elements of the cross section are not connected, as when only one leg of an angle is bolted to a gusset plate.

- Lengthening the connected region will reduce this effect.
- Research suggested that **shear lag** be accounted for by using a reduced, or **effective**, net area.

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

- **Shear lag** occurs when some elements of the cross section are not connected, as when only one leg of an angle is bolted to a gusset plate.

- Because **shear lag** affects both bolted and welded connections, the **effective net area** concept applies to both types of connections.

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

➤ **Shear lag** occurs when some elements of the cross section are not connected, as when only one leg of an angle is bolted to a gusset plate.

Labels:  $P_n$ , Rupture Plane, Length of Connection

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

➤ **Shear lag** occurs when some elements of the cross section are not connected, as when only one leg of an angle is bolted to a gusset plate.

Labels:  $P_n$ , Distribution of forces through the section, Length of Connection

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

➤ **Shear lag** occurs when some elements of the cross section are not connected, as when only one leg of an angle is bolted to a gusset plate.

Labels:  $P_n$ , Section carrying tension forces, Length of Connection

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

➤ **Shear lag** occurs when some elements of the cross section are not connected, as when only one leg of an angle is bolted to a gusset plate.

Labels:  $P_n$ , Area not Effective in Tension Due to Shear Lag, Effective Net Area in Tension, Length of Connection

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

➤ For bolted connections, the **effective net area** is

$$A_e = A_n U \quad \text{AISC Equation D3-1}$$

➤ For welded connections, we refer to this reduced area as the **effective area** (rather than the effective net area), given by

$$A_e = A_g U$$

where **U** is the reduction factor, given in **AISC D3, Table D3.1**

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

➤ **AISC Equation D3-1**

**Case 1**

All tension members where the tension load is transmitted directly to each of the cross-sectional elements by fasteners or welds (except as in Cases 4, 5, and 6).

$$U = 1.0$$

Case	Description of Element	Shear Lag Factor, U	Examples
1	All tension members where the tension load is transmitted directly to each of the cross-sectional elements by fasteners or welds (except as in Cases 4, 5, and 6).	U = 1.0	—
2	All tension members, except HSS, where the tension load is transmitted to some, but not all, of the cross-sectional elements by fasteners or welds (except as in Cases 4, 5, and 6).	$U = 1 - \frac{x}{l}$	
3	All tension members where the tension load is transmitted only by transverse welds to some, but not all, of the cross-sectional elements.	U = 1.0	
4a	Plates, angles, channels with single line of fasteners, or plates with fasteners and channels with fasteners, where the tension load is transmitted by end fasteners only. See Case 2 for definition of A.	$U = \frac{A_n}{A_g}$	
4b	Plates, angles, channels with single line of fasteners, or plates with fasteners and channels with fasteners, where the tension load is transmitted by end fasteners only. See Case 2 for definition of A.	$U = \frac{A_n}{A_g}$	
5	Round and rectangular HSS with single coplanar gusset through axis in the HSS.	$U = \frac{A_n}{A_g}$	
6	Rectangular HSS with two side gusset plates.	$U = \frac{A_n}{A_g}$	

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

➤ **AISC Equation D3-1**

**Case 2**

All tension members, except HSS, where the tension load is transmitted to some but not all of the cross-sectional elements by fasteners or by longitudinal welds in combination with transverse welds.

$$U = 1 - \frac{\bar{x}}{l}$$

$\bar{x}$  = eccentricity of connection  
 $l$  = length of connection

Case	Description of Connection	Effective Area Factor, U	Examples
1	All tension members where the tension load is transmitted equally to each of the cross-sectional elements by fasteners or by longitudinal welds in combination with transverse welds in accordance with Cases 1, 3, and 5.	$U = 1.0$	
2	Tension members except HSS where the tension load is transmitted to some but not all of the cross-sectional elements by fasteners or by longitudinal welds in combination with transverse welds. Alternatively, Case 7 is permitted for W, M, and HP shapes and Case 8 is permitted for angles.	$U = 1 - \frac{\bar{x}}{l}$	
3	All tension members where the tension load is transmitted to all of the cross-sectional elements.	$U = 1.0$	
4	Angles, tees, channels, and shapes.	$U = 1 - \frac{\bar{x}}{l}$	
5	Round and rectangular HSS with single longitudinal welds in combination with transverse welds. See Case 2 for definition of U.	$U = 1 - \frac{\bar{x}}{l}$	
6	Rectangular HSS with two side girth welds.	$U = 1 - \frac{\bar{x}}{l}$	

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

➤ **AISC Equation D3-1**

**Case 2**

All tension members, except HSS, where the tension load is transmitted to some but not all of the cross-sectional elements by fasteners or by longitudinal welds in combination with transverse welds.

$$U = 1 - \frac{\bar{x}}{l}$$

$\bar{x}$  = eccentricity of connection  
 $l$  = length of connection

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

➤ **AISC Equation D3-1**

**Case 2**

Alternatively, Case 7 is permitted for W, M, S, and HP shapes, and Case 8 is permitted for angles.

$$U = 1 - \frac{\bar{x}}{l}$$

$\bar{x}$  = eccentricity of connection  
 $l$  = length of connection

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

➤ **AISC Equation D3-1**

**Case 2**

If a member has two symmetrically located planes of connection,  $\bar{x}$  is measured from the centroid of the nearest one-half of the area.

If the two connecting plates are placed on both sides of one element in a cross-section, the distance is measured from the centroid of the element.

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

➤ **AISC Equation D3-1**

**Case 2**

The length  $l$  is the length of the connection in the direction of the load.

For bolted connections, the measurement is taken from the center of the bolt at one end of the connection to the center of the bolt at the other end.

(a) Bolted  
 (b) Welded

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

➤ **AISC Equation D3-1**

**Case 2**

The length  $l$  is the length of the connection in the direction of the load.

For welds, it is measured from one end of the weld to the other.

If there are weld segments of different lengths in the direction of the load, use the average length.

(a) Bolted  
 (b) Welded

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

AISC Equation D3-1

Case 3

All tension members where the tension load is transmitted only by transverse welds to some but not all of the cross-sectional elements.

$$U = 1.0$$

$A_n$  = area of the directly connected elements.

Case	Description of Element	Shear Lag Factor, U	Examples
1	All tension members where the tension loads is transmitted directly by bolts or the bolts connected elements. See Cases 1, 3, and 6.	$U = 1.0$	
2	All tension members, except HSS, where the tension load is transmitted to some but not all of the cross-sectional elements by longitudinal or transverse welds. Alternatively, Case 3 is permitted for W, M, S, and HP shapes and Case 6 is permitted for angles.	$U = 1 - \frac{\bar{x}}{l}$	
3	All tension members where the tension load is transmitted only by transverse welds to some but not all of the cross-sectional elements.	$U = 1.0$	
4	Plates, angles, channels with welds to connected elements, where the tension load is transmitted by longitudinal welds only. See Case 2 for definition of $\bar{x}$ .	$U = \frac{3l^2}{3l^2 + w^2} \left( 1 - \frac{\bar{x}}{l} \right)$	
5	Round and rectangular HSS with single concentric gusset through slots in the HSS.	$U = \frac{3l^2}{3l^2 + w^2} \left( 1 - \frac{\bar{x}}{l} \right)$	
6	Rectangular HSS with two side gusset plates.	$U = \frac{B_U + HU_H}{H + B}$	

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

AISC Equation D3-1

Case 4

Plates, angles, channels with welds at heels, tees, and W-shapes with connected elements, where the tension load is transmitted by longitudinal welds only. See Case 2 for the definition of  $\bar{x}$ .

$$U = \frac{3l^2}{3l^2 + w^2} \left( 1 - \frac{\bar{x}}{l} \right)$$

Case	Description of Element	Shear Lag Factor, U	Examples
1	All tension members where the tension loads is transmitted directly by bolts or the bolts connected elements. See Cases 1, 3, and 6.	$U = 1.0$	
2	All tension members, except HSS, where the tension load is transmitted to some but not all of the cross-sectional elements by longitudinal or transverse welds. Alternatively, Case 3 is permitted for W, M, S, and HP shapes and Case 6 is permitted for angles.	$U = 1 - \frac{\bar{x}}{l}$	
3	All tension members where the tension load is transmitted only by transverse welds to some but not all of the cross-sectional elements.	$U = 1.0$	
4	Plates, angles, channels with welds to connected elements, where the tension load is transmitted by longitudinal welds only. See Case 2 for definition of $\bar{x}$ .	$U = \frac{3l^2}{3l^2 + w^2} \left( 1 - \frac{\bar{x}}{l} \right)$	
5	Round and rectangular HSS with single concentric gusset through slots in the HSS.	$U = \frac{3l^2}{3l^2 + w^2} \left( 1 - \frac{\bar{x}}{l} \right)$	
6	Rectangular HSS with two side gusset plates.	$U = \frac{B_U + HU_H}{H + B}$	

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

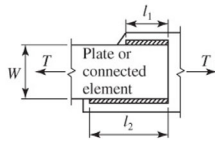
AISC Equation D3-1

Case 4

Plates, angles, channels with welds at heels, tees, and W-shapes with connected elements, where the tension load is transmitted by longitudinal welds only. See Case 2 for the definition of  $\bar{x}$ .

$$U = \frac{3l^2}{3l^2 + w^2} \left( 1 - \frac{\bar{x}}{l} \right)$$

$$l = \frac{l_1 + l_2}{2} \quad \text{where } l_1 \text{ and } l_2 \text{ shall not be less than 4 times the weld size.}$$



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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

AISC Equation D3-1

Case 5

Round and rectangular HSS with a single concentric gusset through slots in the HSS.

$$U = \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{\bar{x}}{l} \right)^{3.2} \right]^{-1.0}$$

$$\bar{x} = \frac{R \sin \theta}{\theta} - \frac{1}{2} t_p \theta \quad \theta \text{ in rad}$$

Case	Description of Element	Shear Lag Factor, U	Examples
1	All tension members where the tension loads is transmitted directly by bolts or the bolts connected elements. See Cases 1, 3, and 6.	$U = 1.0$	
2	All tension members, except HSS, where the tension load is transmitted to some but not all of the cross-sectional elements by longitudinal or transverse welds. Alternatively, Case 3 is permitted for W, M, S, and HP shapes and Case 6 is permitted for angles.	$U = 1 - \frac{\bar{x}}{l}$	
3	All tension members where the tension load is transmitted only by transverse welds to some but not all of the cross-sectional elements.	$U = 1.0$	
4	Plates, angles, channels with welds to connected elements, where the tension load is transmitted by longitudinal welds only. See Case 2 for definition of $\bar{x}$ .	$U = \frac{3l^2}{3l^2 + w^2} \left( 1 - \frac{\bar{x}}{l} \right)$	
5	Round and rectangular HSS with single concentric gusset through slots in the HSS.	$U = \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{\bar{x}}{l} \right)^{3.2} \right]^{-1.0}$	
6	Rectangular HSS with two side gusset plates.	$U = \frac{B_U + HU_H}{H + B}$	

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

AISC Equation D3-1

Case 6

Rectangular HSS with two side gusset plates.

$$U = \frac{BU_B + HU_H}{H + B}$$

$$U_B = \frac{3l^2}{3l^2 + B^2}$$

$$U_H = \frac{3l^2}{3l^2 + H^2}$$

Case	Description of Element	Shear Lag Factor, U	Examples
1	All tension members where the tension loads is transmitted directly by bolts or the bolts connected elements. See Cases 1, 3, and 6.	$U = 1.0$	
2	All tension members, except HSS, where the tension load is transmitted to some but not all of the cross-sectional elements by longitudinal or transverse welds. Alternatively, Case 3 is permitted for W, M, S, and HP shapes and Case 6 is permitted for angles.	$U = 1 - \frac{\bar{x}}{l}$	
3	All tension members where the tension load is transmitted only by transverse welds to some but not all of the cross-sectional elements.	$U = 1.0$	
4	Plates, angles, channels with welds to connected elements, where the tension load is transmitted by longitudinal welds only. See Case 2 for definition of $\bar{x}$ .	$U = \frac{3l^2}{3l^2 + w^2} \left( 1 - \frac{\bar{x}}{l} \right)$	
5	Round and rectangular HSS with single concentric gusset through slots in the HSS.	$U = \frac{3l^2}{3l^2 + w^2} \left( 1 - \frac{\bar{x}}{l} \right)$	
6	Rectangular HSS with two side gusset plates.	$U = \frac{BU_B + HU_H}{H + B}$	

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

AISC Equation D3-1

Case 7

W-, M-, S-, or HP-shapes, or tees cut from these shapes.

(If U is calculated per Case 2, the larger value is permitted to be used.)

\*with flange connected with three or more fasteners per line in the direction of loading

$$U = 0.90 \quad \text{if } b_f \geq \frac{2}{3}d$$

$$U = 0.85 \quad \text{if } b_f < \frac{2}{3}d$$

Case	Description of Element	Shear Lag Factor, U	Examples
7	W-, M-, S-, or HP-shapes, or tees cut from these shapes. (If U is calculated per Case 2, the larger value is permitted to be used.)	$U = 0.90$ if $b_f \geq \frac{2}{3}d$ $U = 0.85$ if $b_f < \frac{2}{3}d$	
8	Single bolted lap joints. (If U is calculated per Case 2, the larger value is permitted to be used.)	$U = 0.80$	
9	Double bolted lap joints. (If U is calculated per Case 2, the larger value is permitted to be used.)	$U = 0.85$	

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

AISC Equation D3-1

Case 7

W-, M-, S-, or HP-shapes, or tees cut from these shapes.

(If  $U$  is calculated per Case 2, the larger value is permitted to be used.)

\*with web connected with four or more fasteners per line in the direction of loading

$$U = 0.70$$

Case	Description of Element	Shear Lag Factor, $U$	Examples
6	W-, M-, S-, or HP-shapes, or tees cut from these shapes. If $U$ is calculated per Case 2, the larger value is permitted to be used.	With three or more fasteners per line in the direction of loading: $U = 0.90$ $U = 0.85$ With four or more fasteners per line in the direction of loading: $U = 0.70$	—
7	Single and double angles. If $U$ is calculated per Case 2, the larger value is permitted to be used.	$U = 0.80$	—
8	Single and double angles. If $U$ is calculated per Case 2, the larger value is permitted to be used.	$U = 0.60$	—

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

AISC Equation D3-1

Case 8

Single and double angles.

(If  $U$  is calculated per Case 2, the larger value is permitted to be used.)

\*with four or more fasteners per line in the direction of loading

$$U = 0.80$$

Case	Description of Element	Shear Lag Factor, $U$	Examples
6	W-, M-, S-, or HP-shapes, or tees cut from these shapes. If $U$ is calculated per Case 2, the larger value is permitted to be used.	With three or more fasteners per line in the direction of loading: $U = 0.90$ $U = 0.85$ With four or more fasteners per line in the direction of loading: $U = 0.70$	—
7	Single and double angles. If $U$ is calculated per Case 2, the larger value is permitted to be used.	$U = 0.80$	—
8	Single and double angles. If $U$ is calculated per Case 2, the larger value is permitted to be used.	$U = 0.60$	—

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

AISC Equation D3-1

Case 8

Single and double angles.

(If  $U$  is calculated per Case 2, the larger value is permitted to be used.)

\*with three fasteners per line in the direction of loading (with fewer than three fasteners per line in the direction of loading, use Case 2)

$$U = 0.60$$

Case	Description of Element	Shear Lag Factor, $U$	Examples
6	W-, M-, S-, or HP-shapes, or tees cut from these shapes. If $U$ is calculated per Case 2, the larger value is permitted to be used.	With three or more fasteners per line in the direction of loading: $U = 0.90$ $U = 0.85$ With four or more fasteners per line in the direction of loading: $U = 0.70$	—
7	Single and double angles. If $U$ is calculated per Case 2, the larger value is permitted to be used.	$U = 0.80$	—
8	Single and double angles. If $U$ is calculated per Case 2, the larger value is permitted to be used.	$U = 0.60$	—

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

The *Commentary of the AISC Specification* further illustrates  $\bar{x}$  and  $l$ .

Figure C-D3.1 shows some special cases for  $\bar{x}$ , including channels and I-shaped members connected through their webs.

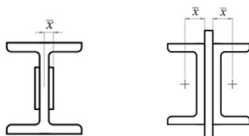
For I-shaped members and tees connected through the web, we can also use Case 2 or Case 7 of Table 3.1.

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

The *Commentary of the AISC Specification* further illustrates  $\bar{x}$  and  $l$ .

To compute  $\bar{x}$  for these cases, the *Commentary* uses the concept of the plastic neutral axis to explain the procedure. Since this concept is not covered until Chapter 5, we will use  $\bar{x}$  for these cases as shown below.



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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

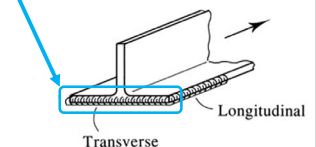
For bolted plates,  $U = 1.0$ .

This is logical, since the cross-section has only one element, and it is connected.

There are some exceptions for welded plates.

When the load is transmitted by *transverse* welds only (no longitudinal welds),  $A_n$  = the area of the connected element.

This case is *not common*.

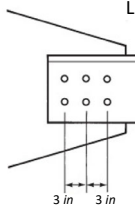


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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

➤ **Example 3-4:** Determine the effective net area for the tension member shown below.



**Table 1-7 (continued)**  
**Angles**  
**Properties**

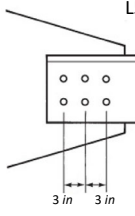
Shape	Axis Y-Y					Axis Z-Z					Tan α
	<i>I</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>r</i>	$\bar{x}$	<i>Z</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>r</i>	$\bar{y}$	<i>Tan α</i>	
L5x5x3/8	17.8	5.16	1.49	1.52	8.14	0.805	2.60	3.44	0.972	1.00	

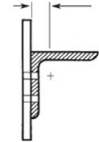
$A_g = 6.98 \text{ in}^2$        $\bar{x} = 1.52 \text{ in}$

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

➤ **Example 3-4:** Determine the effective net area for the tension member shown below.



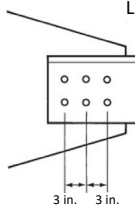


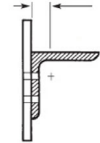
$$A_n = A_g - A_{holes} = 6.98 \text{ in}^2 - \frac{3}{4} \text{ in} \left( \frac{5}{8} \text{ in} + \frac{1}{8} \text{ in} \right) (2 \text{ holes}) = 5.86 \text{ in}^2$$

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

➤ **Example 3-4:** Determine the effective net area for the tension member shown below.





Only one element (one leg) of the cross-section is connected, so the **net area must be reduced**.

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

➤ **Example 3-4:** Determine the effective net area for the tension member shown below.

From the properties tables in **Part 1 of the Manual**, the distance from the centroid to the outside face of the leg of an **L5 x 5 x 3/8** is:  $\bar{x} = 1.52 \text{ in}$ .

The length of the connection is:  $l = 3 \text{ in} + 3 \text{ in} = 6 \text{ in}$

$$U = 1 - \frac{\bar{x}}{l} = 1 - \left( \frac{1.52 \text{ in}}{6 \text{ in}} \right) = 0.747$$

$$A_e = A_n U = 5.86 \text{ in}^2 (0.747) = 4.375 \text{ in}^2$$

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

➤ **Example 3-4:** Determine the effective net area for the tension member shown below.

The alternative value of **U** could also be used.

Because this angle has three bolts in the direction of the load, the reduction factor **U** can be taken as 0.60, therefore

$$A_e = A_n U = 5.86 \text{ in} (0.60) = 3.516 \text{ in}^2$$

Either **U** value is acceptable, and the **Specification** permits the larger one to be used.

However, the results from the equation are more accurate.

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

➤ **Example 3-4:** Determine the effective net area for the tension member shown below.

The alternative value of **U** could also be used.

Because this angle has three bolts in the direction of the load, the reduction factor **U** can be taken as 0.60, therefore

$$A_e = A_n U = 5.86 \text{ in} (0.60) = 3.516 \text{ in}^2$$

The alternative values of **U** can be useful during the preliminary design, when actual section properties and connection details are not known.

For this example:  $A_e = 4.375 \text{ in}^2$

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

➤ **Example 3-5:** If the tension member is welded as shown below, determine the effective area.

Only part of the cross-section is connected, and a reduced effective area must be used.

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

➤ **Example 3-5:** If the tension member is welded as shown below, determine the effective area.

$$U = 1 - \frac{\bar{x}}{l} = 1 - \left( \frac{1.52 \text{ in}}{4.5 \text{ in}} \right) = 0.662$$

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

➤ **Example 3-5:** If the tension member is welded as shown below, determine the effective area.

$$A_e = A_n U = 6.98 \text{ in}^2 (0.662) = 4.622 \text{ in}^2$$

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

➤ **Example 3-5:** If the tension member is welded as shown below, determine the effective area. *Increasing the weld length.*

$$U = 1 - \frac{\bar{x}}{l} = 1 - \left( \frac{1.52 \text{ in}}{6 \text{ in}} \right) = 0.747$$

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

➤ **Example 3-5:** If the tension member is welded as shown below, determine the effective area. *Increasing the weld length.*

$$A_e = A_n U = 6.98 \text{ in}^2 (0.747) = 5.212 \text{ in}^2$$

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### Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area

Let's work on some problems.

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**Chapter 3.3 – Effective Area**

Any questions?

