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Chapter 3.5 – Block Shear

- For certain connection configurations, a segment or “**block**” of material at the end of the member can **tear out**.
- For example, the connection of the single-angle tension member shown below is susceptible to this phenomenon, called **block shear**.

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- For the case illustrated, the **shaded block** would tend to fail.
- By **shear** along the longitudinal section **ab**.
- And by **tension** on the transverse section **bc**.

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- For certain arrangements of bolts, **block shear** can also occur in gusset plates.

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- In this connection, **block shear** could occur in both the gusset plate and the tension member.

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- For the gusset plate, **tension** failure would be along **df**.
- **Shear** failure would occur on two longitudinal surfaces, **de** and **fg**.

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➤ **Block shear** failure in the plate tension member would be:
Tension on *ik*.
Shear on both *hi* and *jk*.

Plate tension member

Block shear in gusset plate Block shear in tension member

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➤ Potential block shear failure modes of a tension member.

Case 1: U-shaped section with two shear lines and three tension lines.

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➤ Potential block shear failure modes of a tension member.

Case 1: U-shaped section with two shear lines and three tension lines.

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➤ Potential block shear failure modes of a tension member.

Case 2: T-shaped section with two shear lines and three tension lines.

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➤ Potential block shear failure modes of a tension member.

Case 2: T-shaped section with two shear lines and three tension lines.

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➤ Potential block shear failure modes of a tension member.

Case 3: L-shaped section with one shear line and one tension line.

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- Potential block shear failure modes of a tension member.

Case 3: L-shaped section with one shear line and one tension line.

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- This topic is not covered explicitly in *AISC Chapter D* (“Design of Members for Tension”) but in *Chapter J* (“Design of Connections”), **Section J4.3**, “Block Shear Strength.”

16.1-146 AFFECTED ELEMENTS OF MEMBERS AND CONNECTING ELEMENTS [Sect. J4.]

3. Block Shear Strength

The available strength for the limit state of block shear rupture along a shear failure path or paths and a perpendicular tension failure path shall be determined as follows:

$$R_n = 0.60F_u A_{nv} + U_{ts} F_u A_{nt} \leq 0.60F_y A_{gv} + U_{ts} F_u A_{nt} \quad (J4-5)$$

$\phi = 0.75$ (LRFD) $\Omega = 2.00$ (ASD)

where
 A_{nv} = net area subjected to tension, in.² (mm²)
 Where the tension stress is uniform, $U_{ts} = 1$; where the tension stress is nonuniform, $U_{ts} = 0.5$.

User Note: Typical cases where U_{ts} should be taken as equal to 0.5 are illustrated in the Commentary.

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- The model used in the *AISC Specification* assumes that failure occurs by **rupture** on the **shear area** and **rupture** on the **tension area**.
- Both surfaces contribute to the total strength, and the resistance to **block shear** will be the sum of the strengths of the two surfaces.
- The shear rupture stress is taken as 60% of the tensile ultimate stress, so the **nominal strength in shear** is:

$$0.60F_u A_{nv}$$

where A_{nv} is the net area along the **shear** surface or surfaces

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- The model used in the *AISC Specification* assumes that failure occurs by **rupture** on the **shear area** and **rupture** on the **tension area**.
- Both surfaces contribute to the total strength, and the resistance to **block shear** will be the sum of the strengths of the two surfaces.
- The **nominal strength in tension** is:

$$F_u A_{nt}$$

where A_{nt} is the net area along the **tension** surface

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- This gives a total nominal strength of:

$$R_n = 0.60F_u A_{nv} + F_u A_{nt}$$

- The *AISC Specification* uses the above equation for angles and gusset plates.
- For certain types of coped beam connections (to be covered in Chapter 5), the second term is reduced to account for nonuniform tensile stress.

$$R_n = 0.60F_u A_{nv} + 0.5F_u A_{nt}$$

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- The *AISC Specification* limits the $0.6F_u A_{nv}$ term to $0.6F_y A_{gv}$ where A_{gv} is the gross area along the shear surface, and $0.6F_y$ is the shear yield stress.
- The *AISC Equation J4-5* is:

$$R_n = 0.60F_u A_{nv} + U_{bs} F_u A_{nt} \leq 0.60F_y A_{gv} + U_{bs} F_u A_{nt}$$

where $U_{bs} = 1$ when the tension stress is uniform (angles, gusset plates, and most coped beams) and $U_{bs} = 0.5$ when the tension stress is nonuniform.

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➤ The **AISC Specification** limits the $0.6F_u A_{nv}$ term to $0.6F_y A_{gv}$ where A_{gv} is the gross area along the shear surface, and $0.6F_y$ is the shear yield stress.

➤ The **AISC Equation J4-5** is:

$$R_n = 0.60F_u A_{nv} + U_{bs} F_u A_{nt} \leq 0.60F_y A_{gv} + U_{bs} F_u A_{nt}$$

➤ Although **AISC Equation J4-5** is expressed in terms of bolted connections, block shear can also occur in **welded connections**, especially in gusset plates.

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➤ The **AISC Specification** limits the $0.6F_u A_{nv}$ term to $0.6F_y A_{gv}$ where A_{gv} is the gross area along the shear surface, and $0.6F_y$ is the shear yield stress.

➤ The **AISC Equation J4-5** is:

$$R_n = 0.60F_u A_{nv} + U_{bs} F_u A_{nt} \leq 0.60F_y A_{gv} + U_{bs} F_u A_{nt}$$

➤ An alternative formulation is:

$$R_n = \min[0.60F_u A_{nv}; 0.60F_y A_{gv}] + U_{bs} F_u A_{nt}$$

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➤ Summary of **LRFD** tension **strength limit states**:

$$P_u \leq \phi_t P_n \quad \text{or} \quad \phi_t P_n \geq P_u$$

1. **Yielding** of gross area: $\phi_t P_n = \phi_t F_y A_g = 0.90F_y A_g$

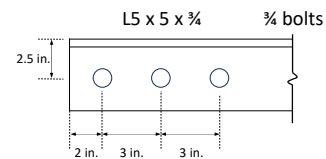
2. **Rupture** of effective area: $\phi_t P_n = \phi_t F_u A_e = 0.75F_u A_e$

3. **Block shear** rupture:
 $\phi_t P_n = 0.75(\min[0.60F_u A_{nv}; 0.60F_y A_{gv}] + U_{bs} F_u A_{nt})$

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➤ **Example 3-10:** Compute the block shear strength of the tension member shown below. The holes are for $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch bolts and **A572, Grade 50**, steel with $F_y = 50$ ksi and $F_u = 65$ ksi.



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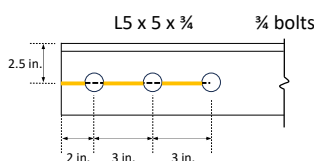
➤ **Example 3-10:** The shear areas are:

$$A_{gv} = (\frac{3}{4} \text{ in.})(2 \text{ in.} + 3 \text{ in.} + 3 \text{ in.}) = 6 \text{ in}^2$$

$$A_{nv} = (\frac{3}{4} \text{ in.})(8 \text{ in.} - 2.5(\frac{3}{4} \text{ in.} + \frac{1}{8} \text{ in.})) = 4.359 \text{ in}^2$$

2.5 bolt holes

Hole diameter



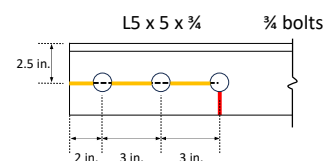
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➤ **Example 3-10:** The shear areas are:

$$A_{nt} = (\frac{3}{4} \text{ in.})(2.5 \text{ in.} - 0.5(\frac{3}{4} \text{ in.} + \frac{1}{8} \text{ in.})) = 1.547 \text{ in}^2$$

1/2 bolt hole

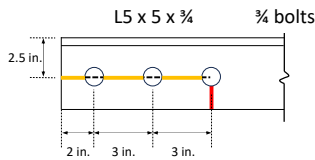


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➤ **Example 3-10:** Since the block shear occurs in an angle, $U_{bs} = 1$.

$$\begin{aligned}
 R_n &= 0.60F_u A_{nv} + U_{bs} F_u A_{nt} \\
 &= 0.60(65\text{ksi})(4.359\text{ in}^2) + (1)(65\text{ksi})(1.547\text{ in}^2) \\
 &= \boxed{270.6\text{k}}
 \end{aligned}$$



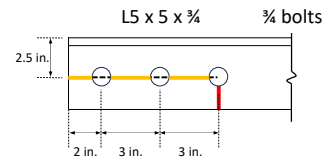
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➤ **Example 3-10:** With an upper limit of:

$$\begin{aligned}
 R_n &= 0.60F_y A_{gv} + U_{bs} F_u A_{nt} \\
 &= 0.60(50\text{ksi})(6\text{ in}^2) + (1)(65\text{ksi})(1.547\text{ in}^2) \\
 &= \boxed{280.6\text{k}}
 \end{aligned}$$

The nominal block shear strength is therefore $\boxed{270.6\text{k}}$



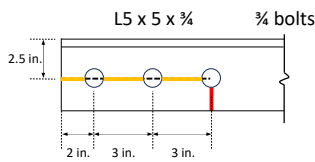
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➤ **Example 3-10:** Alternative computation:

$$\begin{aligned}
 P_n &= \min[0.60F_u A_{nv}; 0.60F_y A_{gv}] + U_{bs} F_u A_{nt} \\
 &= \min[0.60(65\text{ksi})(4.359\text{ in}^2); 0.60(50\text{ksi})(6\text{ in}^2)] + (1)(65\text{ksi})(1.547\text{ in}^2) \\
 &= \min[170.0\text{k}; 180.0\text{k}] + 100.56\text{k} = \boxed{270.6\text{k}}
 \end{aligned}$$

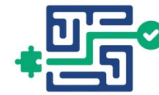
The nominal block shear strength is therefore $\boxed{270.6\text{k}}$



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Let's work on some problems



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Any questions?



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