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Chapter 4 – Local Stability

- The strength corresponding to any overall **buckling mode**, however, such as **flexural buckling**, cannot be developed if the elements of the cross-section are so thin that **local buckling occurs**.
- This type of instability is a **localized buckling** or **wrinkling** at an isolated location.

- If it occurs, the cross-section is no longer fully effective, and the member has failed.

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Chapter 4 – Local Stability

- **I-shaped cross sections** with thin flanges or webs are susceptible to this phenomenon, and their use should be avoided whenever possible.
- Otherwise, the compressive strength given by **AISC Equations E3-2 and E3-3** must be **reduced**.
- The measure of this susceptibility is the **width-to-thickness** ratio of each cross-sectional element.

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- Two types of elements must be considered:
 - unstiffened elements**, which are unsupported along one edge parallel to the direction of load

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Chapter 4 – Local Stability

- Two types of elements must be considered:
 - unstiffened elements**, which are unsupported along one edge parallel to the direction of load
 - stiffened elements**, which are supported along both edges.

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Chapter 4 – Local Stability

- For compression members, shapes are classified as **slender** or **nonslender**.
- If a shape is **slender**, its strength limit state is **local buckling**, and the corresponding **reduced strength must be computed**.
- The **width-to-thickness ratio** is given the generic symbol λ
- If λ is greater than a specific limit λ_r , the shape is **slender**.
- If $\lambda < \lambda_r$, the shape is **nonslender**.

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Chapter 4 – Local Stability

- AISC Table B4.1a shows the upper limit λ_r for *nonslender* members of various cross-sectional shapes.
- The table is divided into two parts: *unstiffened* elements and *stiffened* elements.
- For beams, a shape can be *compact*, *noncompact*, or *slender*, and the limiting values are λ given in AISC Table B4.1b.
- We cover *beams* in Chapter 5.

Case	Description of Element	Width-to-Thickness Ratio (λ) (noncompact/slender)	Limiting Width-to-Thickness Ratio (λ_r)	Examples
Unstiffened Elements	(1) Flanges of rolled I shapes (a) Flange projecting from (b) Flange between webs (c) Flange between webs, nonuniformly tapered (d) Flange of angles (e) Flange of tees	b/t	$0.56 \sqrt{E/F_y}$	
	(2) Flanges of built-up (a) Flange projecting from (b) Flange between webs (c) Flange between webs, nonuniformly tapered (d) Flange of angles (e) All other unstiffened elements	b/t	$0.56 \sqrt{E/F_y}$	
	(3) Lags of single angles (a) Lags of angles (b) All other unstiffened elements	b/t	$0.56 \sqrt{E/F_y}$	
	(4) Stems of tees	h/t	$0.75 \sqrt{E/F_y}$	
Stiffened Elements	(5) Webs of doubly symmetric I-shapes and built-up I-shapes channels and channels	d/t_w	$1.49 \sqrt{E/F_y}$	
	(6) Webs of rectangular HSS	d/t	$1.49 \sqrt{E/F_y}$	
	(7) Flange cover plates between flanges of I-shapes or tees	b/t	$1.49 \sqrt{E/F_y}$	
	(8) All other stiffened elements	b/t	$1.49 \sqrt{E/F_y}$	
(9) Round HSS	D/t	$0.11 \sqrt{E/F_y}$		

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Chapter 4 – Local Stability

- AISC Table B4.1a is two parts: *Unstiffened* and *Stiffened*.

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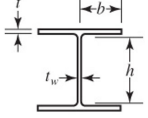
- AISC Table B4.1a is two parts: *Unstiffened* and *Stiffened*.
- Unstiffened*
- Stiffened*

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9

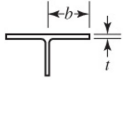
Chapter 4 – Local Stability

- The appropriate compression member limit, λ_r , from AISC B4.1 is given for each case.

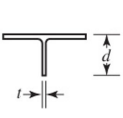


$$b/t = 0.56 \sqrt{E/F_y}$$

$$h/t_w = 1.49 \sqrt{E/F_y}$$



$$b/t = 0.56 \sqrt{E/F_y}$$

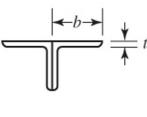


$$d/t = 0.75 \sqrt{E/F_y}$$

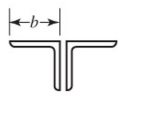
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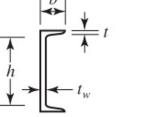
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$$b/t = 0.56 \sqrt{E/F_y}$$



$$b/t = 0.45 \sqrt{E/F_y}$$



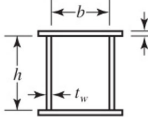
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$$h/t_w = 1.49 \sqrt{E/F_y}$$

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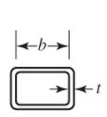
Chapter 4 – Local Stability

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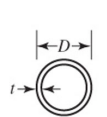


$$b/t = 1.40 \sqrt{E/F_y}$$

$$h/t_w = 1.40 \sqrt{E/F_y}$$



$$b/t = 1.40 \sqrt{E/F_y}$$



$$D/t = 0.11 (E/F_y)$$

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Chapter 4 – Local Stability

➤ The length of *stiffened* and *unstiffened* elements is discussed in **AISC B4.1(b)** and in **Part 1** of the Manual (1-6).

1-6 DIMENSIONS AND PROPERTIES

example, an HSS10.000x0.500 is nominally 10 in. in diameter with a 1/2 in. nominal wall thickness.

Per AISC Specification Section B4.2, the wall thickness used in design, t_{des} , is taken as 0.93 times the nominal wall thickness for HSS conforming to ASTM A500/A500M. The rationale for this requirement is explained in the corresponding AISC Specification Commentary Section B4.2.

In calculating the b/t and h/t ratios in Tables 1-11 and 1-12, each outside corner radius is taken as $1.5t_{des}$ for rectangular and square HSS. This is in conformity with AISC Specification Section B4.1b(4). In Table 1-11, b is the lesser value, and h is the greater value of the outside dimensions. When using AISC Specification Table B4.1a, Case 6, with Table 1-11, b/t should be taken from the b/t column in the table. In other tabulated properties, each corner radius is taken as $2t_{des}$. In the tabulated workable flat dimensions of rectangular (and square) HSS, the outside corner radii are taken as $2.25t_{nom}$. The term workable flat refers to a reasonable flat width or depth of material for use in making connections to HSS. The workable flat dimension is provided as a reflection of current industry practice, although the tolerances of ASTM A500/A500M allow a greater maximum corner radius of $3t_{nom}$.

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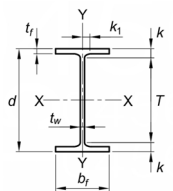
Chapter 4 – Local Stability

➤ **Example 4-3:** A **W14 x 53** of **A992** steel ($F_y = 50 \text{ ksi}$ and $F_u = 65 \text{ ksi}$) has a length of **15 ft**, and the ends are pinned.

➤ Investigate the flange for local stability.

$b_f = 8.06 \text{ in}$
 $t_f = 0.660 \text{ in}$

$$\frac{b_f}{2t_f} = \frac{8.06 \text{ in}}{2(0.660 \text{ in})} = 6.11$$

$$\lambda = 0.56 \sqrt{\frac{E}{F_y}} = 0.56 \sqrt{\frac{29,000 \text{ ksi}}{50 \text{ ksi}}} = 13.49 > 6.11 \quad \text{OK}$$


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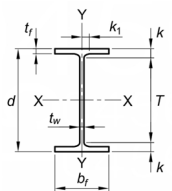
Chapter 4 – Local Stability

➤ **Example 4-3:** A **W14 x 53** of **A992** steel ($F_y = 50 \text{ ksi}$ and $F_u = 65 \text{ ksi}$) has a length of **15 ft**, and the ends are pinned.

➤ Investigate the web for local stability.

$d = 13.9 \text{ in}$
 $t_w = 0.370 \text{ in}$
 $k_{des} = 1.25 \text{ in}$

$$\frac{h}{t_w} = \frac{d - 2k_{des}}{t_w} = \frac{13.9 \text{ in} - 2(1.25 \text{ in})}{0.370 \text{ in}} = 30.81$$

$$\lambda = 1.49 \sqrt{\frac{E}{F_y}} = 1.49 \sqrt{\frac{29,000 \text{ ksi}}{50 \text{ ksi}}} = 35.88 > 30.81 \quad \text{OK}$$


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Chapter 4 – Local Stability

➤ In **Example 4.3**, the width-to-thickness ratios $b_f/2t_f$ and h/t_w were computed.

➤ This is **not necessary**, because these ratios are tabulated in the dimensions and properties table.

➤ In addition, shapes that are **slender** for compression are indicated with a footnote (**footnote c**).

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Chapter 4 – Local Stability

Table 1-1 (continued) W-Shapes Dimensions												Table 1-1 (continued) W-Shapes Properties											
Shape	Nominal Depth, A	Depth of Section, A	Web Thickness, t_w	Flange Thickness, t_f	Flange Width, b_f	Flange-to-Web Distance, k_1	Total Flange-to-Web Distance, k	Nominal Depth, A	Area, A_g	Moment of Inertia, I_x	Moment of Inertia, I_y	Section Modulus, S_x	Section Modulus, S_y	Torsional Constant, J	Polar Moment of Inertia, C_p	W-t	W-t	W-t	W-t	W-t	W-t		
																						W-t	W-t
W14x53	14	13.9	0.370	0.660	8.06	1.25	13.9	53.0	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.8	

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Table 1-1 (continued) W-Shapes Dimensions												Table 1-1 (continued) W-Shapes Properties											
Shape	Nominal Depth, A	Depth of Section, A	Web Thickness, t_w	Flange Thickness, t_f	Flange Width, b_f	Flange-to-Web Distance, k_1	Total Flange-to-Web Distance, k	Nominal Depth, A	Area, A_g	Moment of Inertia, I_x	Moment of Inertia, I_y	Section Modulus, S_x	Section Modulus, S_y	Torsional Constant, J	Polar Moment of Inertia, C_p	W-t	W-t	W-t	W-t	W-t	W-t	W-t	
																							W-t
W14x53	14	13.9	0.370	0.660	8.06	1.25	13.9	53.0	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.8	

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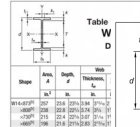


Table 1-1 (continued)
W-Shapes
Dimensions

Shape	Area, A	Depth, d	Web		Flange		Distance					
			Thickness, t _w	L _w / 2	Width, b _f	Thickness, t _f	k	k ₁	k ₂	T		
	in. ²	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.
W14x90	267	14.5	0.510	7 1/8	10.1	0.855	7/8	1.45	1 1/8	1 1/8	10 1/8	5 1/8
W14x82	24.0	14.3	0.510	7 1/8	10.1	0.855	7/8	1.45	1 1/8	1 1/8	10 1/8	5 1/8
W14x74	21.8	14.2	0.450	7 1/8	10.1	0.785	5/8	1.38	1 3/8	1 1/8	11 1/8	5 1/8
W14x68	20.0	14.0	0.415	7 1/8	10.0	0.720	3/4	1.31	1 5/8	1 1/8	11 1/8	5 1/8
W14x61	17.9	13.9	0.375	7 1/8	10.0	0.645	3/4	1.24	1 5/8	1 1/8	11 1/8	5 1/8
W14x53	15.6	13.9	0.370	7 1/8	8.06	0.660	1 1/8	1.25	1 5/8	1 1/8	10 1/8	5 1/8
W14x48	14.1	13.8	0.340	7 1/8	8.03	0.595	3/4	1.19	1 5/8	1 1/8	10 1/8	5 1/8
W14x42	12.6	13.7	0.305	7 1/8	8.00	0.530	1/2	1.12	1 5/8	1 1/8	10 1/8	5 1/8

Note: If Shape is slender for compression with F_y = 50 ksi.
 # Shape exceeds the compact limit for flexure with F_y = 50 ksi.
 † The actual axis, combination, and orientation of flange components should be compared with the geometry of the cross section to ensure compatibility.
 ‡ Flange thickness is greater than 2 in. Special requirements may apply per AISC Specification Section A3.1d.

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Chapter 4 – Local Stability

- It is permissible to use a cross-sectional shape that does not satisfy the width-to-thickness ratio requirements, but such a member may **not be permitted** to carry as large a load as one that does satisfy the requirements.
- In other words, the **strength could be reduced** because of **local buckling**.
- The procedure for making this investigation is given in **AISC E7**.

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Chapter 4 – Local Stability

- The nominal strength based on the limit state of local buckling is:

$$P_n = F_n A_e$$

AISC Equation E7-1

 where A_e is a reduced **effective** cross-sectional area
- The reduced area of each slender element is $b_e t$
 where t is the thickness of the element, and
 b_e is a reduced effective width of the element.
 (Note: for tees, this is d_e ; for webs, this is h_e .)

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Chapter 4 – Local Stability

- The reduced effective area of the cross-section is the gross area minus the reduction in area.
- The reduced area of each slender element is shown in the Specification User Note in **AISC E7** as:

$$bt - b_e t = (b - b_e) t$$
- So, the **effective net area** of the cross-section is:

$$A_e = A_g - \sum (b - b_e) t$$
- The summation is for the case where there is more than one slender element.

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Chapter 4 – Local Stability

- In **Table B4.1a**, the notation b/t is a generic form of the width-to-thickness ratio.
- The dimension b can be a **width** or a **depth**.
- The reduced effective width is obtained as follows:

$$\lambda \leq \lambda_r \sqrt{\frac{F_y}{F_n}} \Rightarrow b_e = b$$

AISC Equation E7-2

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Chapter 4 – Local Stability

- In **Table B4.1a**, the notation b/t is a generic form of the width-to-thickness ratio.
- The dimension b can be a **width** or a **depth**.
- The reduced effective width is obtained as follows:

$$\lambda > \lambda_r \sqrt{\frac{F_y}{F_n}} \Rightarrow b_e = b \left(1 - c_1 \sqrt{\frac{F_{el}}{F_n}} \right) \sqrt{\frac{F_{el}}{F_n}}$$

AISC Equation E7-3

 where c_1 is the effective width imperfection adjustment factor from **AISC Table E7.1**.

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Chapter 4 – Local Stability

- In **Table B4.1a**, the notation b/t is a generic form of the width-to-thickness ratio.
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AISC Equation E7-3

$$F_{el} = \left(c_2 \frac{\lambda_r}{\lambda} \right)^2 F_y \quad \text{Elastic local buckling stress}$$

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Chapter 4 – Local Stability

- In **Table B4.1a**, the notation b/t is a generic form of the width-to-thickness ratio.
- The dimension b can be a **width** or a **depth**.
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AISC Equation E7-3

$$c_2 = \frac{1 - \sqrt{1 - 4c_1}}{2c_1}$$

The factor c_2 is also tabulated in **AISC Table E7-1**.

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Chapter 4 – Local Stability

- In **Table B4.1a**, the notation b/t is a generic form of the width-to-thickness ratio.
- The dimension b can be a **width** or a **depth**.
- The reduced effective width is obtained as follows:

Case	Slender Element	c_1	c_2
(a)	Stiffened elements except walls of square and rectangular HSS	0.18	1.31
(b)	Walls of square and rectangular HSS	0.20	1.38
(c)	All other elements	0.22	1.49

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Chapter 4 – Local Stability

- **Example 4-4:** A **HSS 6 x 3 x 1/8** of **A500 Grade C** steel ($F_y = 50 \text{ ksi}$ and $F_u = 62 \text{ ksi}$) has a length of **10 ft**, and the ends are pinned. Compute the flexural buckling strength.
- From **Table 1-11: Rectangular HHS**

$$L_c = (10 \text{ ft})(12 \text{ in / ft}) = 120 \text{ in}$$

$$\frac{L_c}{r} = \frac{120 \text{ in}}{1.27 \text{ in}} = 94.49 < 200 \quad \text{OK}$$

$$4.71 \sqrt{\frac{E}{F_y}} = 4.71 \sqrt{\frac{29,000 \text{ ksi}}{50 \text{ ksi}}} = 113.4$$

$$\frac{L_c}{r} \leq 4.71 \sqrt{\frac{E}{F_y}} \Rightarrow F_n = (0.658^{F_y/F_e}) F_y$$

$$\begin{aligned} r_y &= 1.21 \text{ in} \\ h/t &= 48.7 \\ b/t &= 22.9 \\ A_g &= 2.00 \text{ in}^2 \end{aligned}$$

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Chapter 4 – Local Stability

- **Example 4-4:** A **HSS 6 x 3 x 1/8** of **A500 Grade C** steel ($F_y = 50 \text{ ksi}$ and $F_u = 62 \text{ ksi}$) has a length of **10 ft**, and the ends are pinned. Compute the flexural buckling strength.

$$F_e = \frac{\pi^2 E}{(L_c/r)^2} = \frac{\pi^2 (29,000 \text{ ksi})}{(94.49)^2} = 32.06 \text{ ksi}$$

$$F_n = (0.658^{50 \text{ ksi}/32.06 \text{ ksi}})(50 \text{ ksi}) = 26.03 \text{ ksi}$$

$$P_n = F_n A_g = 26.03 \text{ ksi} (2.00 \text{ in}^2) = \boxed{52.06 \text{ k}}$$

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Chapter 4 – Local Stability

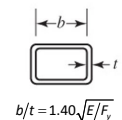
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- Check width-to-thickness ratios: $h/t = 48.7 \quad b/t = 22.9$

- From **AISC Table B4.1a**, Case 6, the upper limit for nonslender elements is

$$\lambda_r = 1.40 \sqrt{\frac{E}{F_y}} = 1.40 \sqrt{\frac{29,000 \text{ ksi}}{50 \text{ ksi}}} = 33.72$$

$$h/t = 48.7 > 33.72$$



- Since $\lambda > \lambda_r$, the larger dimension element is **slender**, and the **local buckling strength** must be computed.

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Chapter 4 – Local Stability

- **Example 4-4:** A HSS 6 x 3 x 1/8 of A500 Grade C steel ($F_y = 50 \text{ ksi}$ and $F_u = 62 \text{ ksi}$) has a length of 10 ft, and the ends are pinned. Compute the flexural buckling strength.
- Although the limiting width-to-thickness ratio is labeled b/t in the table, it applies to h/t as well.
- Determine h_e for the 6-inch side:

$$\lambda \leq \lambda_r \sqrt{\frac{F_y}{F_n}} \Rightarrow h_e = h \quad \text{AISC Equation E7-2}$$

$$\lambda_r \sqrt{\frac{F_y}{F_n}} = 33.72 \sqrt{\frac{50 \text{ ksi}}{26.03 \text{ ksi}}} = 46.73$$

$$\lambda = \frac{h}{t} = 48.7 > 46.73 \quad \text{AISC Equation E7-3}$$

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Chapter 4 – Local Stability

- **Example 4-4:** A HSS 6 x 3 x 1/8 of A500 Grade C steel ($F_y = 50 \text{ ksi}$ and $F_u = 62 \text{ ksi}$) has a length of 10 ft, and the ends are pinned. Compute the flexural buckling strength.
- Determine h_e using AISC Equation E7-3

$$h_e = h \left(1 - c_1 \sqrt{\frac{F_{el}}{F_n}} \right) \sqrt{\frac{F_{el}}{F_n}}$$

- From Table E7.1, Case b: $c_1 = 0.20$ $c_2 = 1.38$

$$F_{el} = \left(c_2 \frac{\lambda_r}{\lambda} \right)^2 F_y = \left(1.38 \left(\frac{33.72}{48.7} \right) \right)^2 50 \text{ ksi} = 45.64 \text{ ksi}$$

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Chapter 4 – Local Stability

- **Example 4-4:** A HSS 6 x 3 x 1/8 of A500 Grade C steel ($F_y = 50 \text{ ksi}$ and $F_u = 62 \text{ ksi}$) has a length of 10 ft, and the ends are pinned. Compute the flexural buckling strength.
- From AISC B4.1(b) and the discussion in Part 1 of the Manual (1-6), the unreduced length of the 6-inch side between the corner radii is:

$$h = 6 \text{ in} - 3t = 6 \text{ in} - 3(0.116 \text{ in}) = 5.652 \text{ in} \quad t = 0.116 \text{ in}$$

$$h_e = h \left(1 - c_1 \sqrt{\frac{F_{el}}{F_n}} \right) \sqrt{\frac{F_{el}}{F_n}}$$

$$= 5.652 \text{ in} \left(1 - 0.20 \sqrt{\frac{45.64 \text{ ksi}}{26.03 \text{ ksi}}} \right) \sqrt{\frac{45.64 \text{ ksi}}{26.03 \text{ ksi}}}$$

$$= 5.502 \text{ in}$$

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Chapter 4 – Local Stability

- **Example 4-4:** A HSS 6 x 3 x 1/8 of A500 Grade C steel ($F_y = 50 \text{ ksi}$ and $F_u = 62 \text{ ksi}$) has a length of 10 ft, and the ends are pinned. Compute the flexural buckling strength.
- The effective cross-sectional area is:

$$A_g = 2.00 \text{ in}^2$$

$$A_e = A_g - \sum (h - h_e) t = 2.00 \text{ in}^2 - 2(5.652 \text{ in} - 5.502 \text{ in})(0.116 \text{ in})$$

$$= 1.965 \text{ in}^2$$

Two 6 in. sides

$$P_n = F_n A_e = (26.03 \text{ ksi}) 1.965 \text{ in}^2 = 51.15 \text{ k}$$

- Since this is less than the flexural buckling strength of 52.06 k, **local buckling** controls.

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Chapter 4 – Local Stability

- **Example 4-4:** A HSS 6 x 3 x 1/8 of A500 Grade C steel ($F_y = 50 \text{ ksi}$ and $F_u = 62 \text{ ksi}$) has a length of 10 ft, and the ends are pinned. Compute the flexural buckling strength.
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$$= 1.965 \text{ in}^2$$

Two 6 in. sides

$$P_n = F_n A_e = (26.03 \text{ ksi}) 1.965 \text{ in}^2 = 51.15 \text{ k}$$

- If a cross-section has **slender** element(s), the local flexural buckling strength is calculated, and it will be the **final answer**.

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Chapter 4 – Local Stability

- **Example 4-4:** A HSS 6 x 3 x 1/8 of A500 Grade C steel ($F_y = 50 \text{ ksi}$ and $F_u = 62 \text{ ksi}$) has a length of 10 ft, and the ends are pinned. Compute the flexural buckling strength.
- **LRFD** design strength is: $\phi_c P_n = 0.90(51.15 \text{ k}) = 46.04 \text{ k}$
- **ASD** allowable strength is: $P_n / \Omega = 51.15 / 1.67 = 30.63 \text{ k}$

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Let's work on some problems



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Any questions?



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