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# The effect of flange restraint on web crippling strength

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# CIVIL ENGINEERING STUDY 92-1

# COLD-FORMED STEEL SERIES

# FINAL REPORT

THE EFFECT OF FLANGE RESTRAINT ON WEB CRIPPLING STRENGTH

by

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A Research Project Sponsored by

Metal Building Manufacturers Association

and

American Iron and Steel Institute

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#### **PREFACE**

When considering the web crippling strength of a coldformed steel member, the current edition of the AISI Specification for the Design of Cold-Formed Steel Structural Members does not distinguish between the behavior of a member having its flanges attached to <sup>a</sup> support member, and <sup>a</sup> member not attached to its support. To enhance the industry and design professional's understanding of web crippling, <sup>a</sup> pilot study was initiated at the University of Missouri-Rolla to explore the influence of flange attachment. The financial assistance for this research was provided by the Metal Building Manufacturers Association (MBMA) and the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI).

This research consisted of <sup>52</sup> web crippling tests on identical specimens, 26 specimens were bolted to a support beam and 26 were not attached to the support beam. This enabled direct comparison and evaluation of flange attachment. The results were compared with two design criteria, i.e., the 1986 AISI Specification and the 1986 Automotive Steel Design Manual. Because this was <sup>a</sup> pilot study, there are no new design recommendations, however, suggestions are proposed for future study.

This report is based on the thesis presented to the

Faculty of the Graduate School of the University of Missouri-Rolla (UMR) in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Masters of Science in civil Engineering.

This investigation was sponsored by the Metal Building Manufacturer's Association (MBMA) and the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI). The technical guidance provided by the AISI Subcommittee on Flexural Members and the AISI Staff is gratefully acknowledged. Members of the AISI Subcommittee are: J. N. Nunnery (chairman), R. E. Albrecht, R. E. Brown, D. S. Ellifritt, E. R. Estes, Jr., T. V. Galambos, M. Golovin, <sup>R</sup> B. Heagler, D. L. Johnson, K. H. Klippstein, R. A. LaBoube, J. N. Macadam, T. B. Pekoz, R. M. Schuster, T. W. Trestain, and W. W. Yu. The AISI Staff include R. B. Haws and K. L. Cole. Thanks are also extended to G. S. Harris of the Metal Building Manufacturers Association for his assistance.

Appreciation is also expressed to Shannon Hopkins, Greg Schulte, Jeff Lambert, Scott Fletcher and the staff of the Civil Engineering Department for their valuable assistance in the preparation and performance of the tests.

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#### **LIST OF SYMBOLS**

- $E$  = modulus of elasticity of steel = 29,500 ksi (203,373 MPa) ;
- <sup>e</sup> = clear distance between edges of adjacent opposite bearing plates, in.;
- $F_y$  = yield strength, ksi;
- <sup>h</sup> = clear distance between flanges measured along plane of web, in.;
- $L = total$  length of specimen, in.;
- $N = actual length of bearing, in.;$
- $P_a$  = the allowable design load using AISI Specification, kips;
- $P_c$  = governing ultimate web-crippling load using Santaputra's equations, kips;
- $P_{cb}$  = ultimate web-crippling load due to web buckling, kips;
- $P_{cy}$  = ultimate web-crippling load due to overstressing under bearing plate, kips;
- $P_f$  = tested web-crippling load with flanges fastened to supports, kips;
- = tested web-crippling load with flanges unfastened to supports, kips;
- $R =$  inside bend radius, in.;
- <sup>t</sup> <sup>=</sup> base steel thickness, in.;
- <sup>Z</sup> = distance between edge of bearing plate to near end of beam, in.;

#### I. INTRODUCTION

### A. GENERAL

The use of cold-formed steel members in designs of buildings, warehouses, even automotive components has been increasing quite extensively during the past fifty years. Many analytical, as well as experimental studies, have been performed in an attempt to accurately predict the strength and the behavior of these members. Researchers have developed design equations that should predict, with fairly good accuracy, the actual strength of the members under various loading conditions. These equations are not always developed using actual field practice, as is the case for the web crippling limit states for the cold-formed steel members.

The web crippling limit states equations given in the AISI Specification (1986) and the Automotive Steel Design Manual (1986) were primarily developed based on test results for which the flange was not attached to the support beams. This may not accurately represent field practice for all cases, because flanges are typically fastened by bolts or welds to their support beam. Due to the restraining effect of these fasteners, the Specification equations may be underestimating the web crippling strength of the member. Therefore, <sup>a</sup> pilot study was initiated in 1990 to study the load-carrying capacity of the webs with restrained and unrestrained flanges.

## B. PURPOSE OF INVESTIGATION

The main purpose of this experimental study was not to develop new equations, but rather to determine if restraint on flanges of the members increased the web crippling strength of that member. It was intended to use the research findings as <sup>a</sup> justification for possible future research in the development of new design equations or modification of the current design equations.

# C. SCOPE OF INVESTIGATION

This study consisted primarily of experimental investigations of the cold-formed steel members with flanges restrained to supports and members with flanges not restrained to supports. These members were subjected to web crippling only. Test specimens included channels, I-Sections, unlapped Z-Sections, lapped Z-Sections, long span roof decks (hat sections), and floor decks.

Since this was <sup>a</sup> pilot study to investigate the effect of flange restraint on web crippling strength, the number of tests were limited. During the period from December 15, 1990 through April 30, 1991, <sup>a</sup> total of fifty-two web crippling tests were conducted for members either with or without flange restraint. Both single web and double web beam members were tested. The single web members tested were channels and unlapped Z-Sections, SUbjected to end-one-flange loading

(EOF) • The double web members tested included I-Sections (back-to-back CiS) and lapped Z-Sections, for interior-oneflange loading (IOF). Roof deck sections were tested for both EOF and IOF loading. The length of each test specimen was chosen such that the clear distance between the edges of the bearing plates would be no less than 1.5 h, where <sup>h</sup> is the flat portion of the web, as defined by the AISI Specification. For all EOF loaded specimens, the bearing length, N, was held constant at 2.625 inches. The bearing length was chosen as 5.25 inches for all IOF loaded specimens.

In addition to the beam tests, the mechanical properties of each test specimen were determined by standard coupon tests per American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM) A370 procedures (ASTM, 1977).

This publication summarizes the geometry and test results for the different types of test specimens. The failure loads have been evaluated to determine the effect of flange restraint. <sup>A</sup> comparison between tested and computed web crippling loads is also presented. The web crippling strength was evaluated by using the 1986 AISI Specification and equations developed by Santaputra (Santaputra, Parks, and Yu, 1989) . The equations are summarized in Subsection D of Section II. Based on the findings of this study, conclusions are drawn regarding the effect of flange restraint on the web crippling strength of beam web elements, and the accuracy of the prediction equations to estimate the web crippling strength.

As the first step of the investigation, the available research reports and technical publications relative to web crippling strength of cold-formed steel members were studied. section II (Review of Literature) contains <sup>a</sup> summary of the literature search.

The experimental study concerning the different members subjected to web crippling is discussed in Section III (Experimental Investigation). Details of test specimens, and test procedures are also discussed in this section.

Section IV (Discussion of Results) discusses the evaluation of the results obtained by comparing the tested loads with the computed loads (based on AISI Specification and Automotive Design Manual). This section also discusses the results obtained from the study by comparing the results of the tests with beam's flanges fastened to supports to the results of the tests with beam's flanges unfastened to supports. Each type of section tested is discussed thoroughly.

Finally, sections V (Proposed Recommendations) and VI (Conclusion) list some proposed recommendations for future research and summarize the results of this particular study, respectively.

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### II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

### A. GENERAL

In this phase of the investigation, several publications and research reports have been carefully studied. They are related to previous analytical and experimental studies of the strength of web plates subjected to web crippling and <sup>a</sup> combination of web crippling and bending moment, the latter is not discussed since this particular study concentrated on plates subjected to web crippling only. A brief review of the history of analytical and experimental studies is discussed in the next section as well as present available design criteria for determining web crippling strength are discussed in detail.

## B. ANALYTICAL STUDIES

To discuss the theoretical background for the problem of web crippling, <sup>a</sup> brief overview of the elastic-plastic theory is presented. In the elastic-plastic theory, even though the web and the flange of the section are interactive, it is useful to consider the behavior of idealized separate rectangular flat plates subjected to locally distributed inplane edge forces. The elastic buckling capacity of <sup>a</sup> plate is related to the dimensions of the plate, the elastic properties of the plate (Young's Modulus), the nature of

stress distribution and the boundary conditions at the perimeter of the plate. Solving Bryan's differential equation can lead to determining the critical buckling stress of <sup>a</sup> rectangular plate (Yu, 1991). Solving this equation based on the small deflection theory (i.e., the significant deflection at buckling is of the order of the thickness of the plates or less) as follows:

$$
\frac{\partial^4 \omega}{\partial X^4} + 2 \frac{\partial^4 \omega}{\partial X^2 \partial Y^2} + \frac{\partial^4 \omega}{\partial Y^4} + \frac{f_x t}{D} \frac{\partial^2 \omega}{\partial X^2} = 0
$$
 (Eq. 1)

Where,

$$
D = \frac{Et^3}{12(1-\mu^2)}
$$
 (Eq. 2)

- $E =$  Modulus of Elasticity (29,500 ksi for steel) <sup>t</sup> = thickness of the plate
- $\mu$  = Poisson's ratio (0.3 for steel in elastic range)
- $\omega$  = deflection of the plate perpendicular to surface
- $f_x$  = compression stress in the x-direction

The steps involved in solving this equation are explained in detail by W. W. Yu (Yu, 1991).

The members under study must be considered to be composed of <sup>a</sup> series of flat plates. As discussed above, each plate's buckling capacity is <sup>a</sup> function of the plate's boundary conditions and the nature of loading on the member. The boundary conditions for <sup>a</sup> plate element within <sup>a</sup> cross section will depend on the shape of the cross section and the location of the plate within the cross section.

Two basic types of flat plates may exist, <sup>a</sup> flat plate can be a "stiffened compressive element" or an "unstiffened compressive element"; each may fail either in yielding or local buckling (Yu, 1991). <sup>A</sup> stiffened element is <sup>a</sup> flat plate or an element of <sup>a</sup> cross section which is supported on both edges parallel to the direction of the compressive stress. The supports can be any element of a cross section that have sufficient stiffness perpendicular to edge of a plate. These supports are generally assumed as simple supports. An example of a stiffened element within a cross section would be a web of a channel, I-Section, Z-Section, or <sup>a</sup> hat section, <sup>a</sup> web is also considered <sup>a</sup> stiffened element with stress gradient. An unstiffened compressive element is <sup>a</sup> flat plate or an element of <sup>a</sup> cross section which is supported on only one edge parallel to the direction of the compressive stress. An example of this can be the flange of an I-Section (Yu, 1991).

Several researchers have studied the problem of plate buckling and have developed equations to predict the elastic critical buckling load. The history of this research is discussed in detail in a report by Santaputra and Yu (Santaputra and YU, 1986).

Recent analytical study outside of the united States have been conducted regarding cold-formed steel members. Research by Bakker, Pekoz, and Stark at Eindhoven University of Technology in the Netherlands presents a mechanism approach for analyzing the web crippling behavior of thin-walled

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members subjected to the combined action of a concentrated load and a bending moment (Bakker, Pekoz, and Stark, 1990). The approach was based on yield line analysis of failure mechanism and it was found that the corner radius largely influenced the type of mechanism that takes place.

### C. EXPERIMENTAL STUDIES

The current design equations used in the united States for web crippling are all based on empirical studies. This is due to the mathematical difficulties encountered in deriving a solution for web crippling load.

The AISI design equations used in the early editions of the specification were primarily based on research by Winter, Pian, and Zetlin at Cornell University during the 1940's and 1950's (Winter, Pian, and Zetlin). The first phase of their study was an investigation of the I-Section (I-beams). These I-beams, which provide <sup>a</sup> high degree of restraint against rotation, were tested under various loading conditions. The results indicated that the ultimate web crippling loads of Ibeams depend primarily on the ratio of N/t and  $F_v$ . See List of Abbreviations.

The second phase studied the cold-formed steel sections having single unreinforced webs, such as channels, Z-Sections, hat sections and rectangular tubes. The parameters primarily controlling the ultimate web crippling load for these sections were found to be ratios  $N/t$ ,  $R/t$ ,  $h/t$  and  $F_y$ . See List of

Abbreviations. Empirical expressions were derived on the basis of the Cornell research findings for predicting the ultimate web crippling load for each type of section. These formulas were used as <sup>a</sup> basis for the design criteria in the AISI Specifications (AISI, 1968).

Research performed by Hetrakul and Yu (Hetrakul and Yu, 1978) at University of Missouri-Rolla (UMR) during the 1970's was used to modify the design equations in the 1968 AISI Specification. Additional research at UMR in the 1980's by Santaputra and Yu (Santaputra and Yu, 1986) resulted in the development of an entirely new set of equations for web crippling capacities. These new empirical equations distinguishes web crippling failure caused by overstressing (bearing failure) and web buckling. These equations have been incorporated in the 1986 Automotive Steel Design Manual as an alternate method to the same procedure used in the 1986 AISI Specification for determining the web crippling capacities and the combination of web crippling and bending moment. These equations are presented later in this report. They introduced two additional parameters in the modification, Z (distance between the edge of the bearing plate of reaction or a concentrated load and the free end of the beam), and e (distance between the adjacent opposite bearing plates of concentrated loads or reactions).

Research performed by Rolfes at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (Rolfes, 1990) evaluated the web crippling and combined bending and web crippling capacities of the lapped Z-

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Sections over a support. This research incorporated the effects of lapping and bolting of the Z-sections over the interior supports (as is typically done with continuous purlin systems), and the bolting of the bearing flange of the Z-shape to the flange of the supporting rafter (also typically done with purlin systems). Based on the results of the tests, the web crippling strength of lapped Z-Sections may be accurately predicted by adding the web crippling strengths of the individual Z-sections multiplied by an adjustment factor. This adjustment factor (AF) is <sup>a</sup> function of the web depth to thickness ratio  $(h/t)$  as shown below:

$$
AF = [0.48 + 0.0046 \left( \frac{2h}{\sum \text{thicknesses}} \right)] \le 1.0
$$
 (Eq. 3)

where,

<sup>h</sup> = the flat width to thickness ratio for the web of the Z-Sections<br>Ethicknesses = sum sum of thicknesses of each lapped Z-Sections.

Studies outside of the United States have been performed primarily targeting the multi-web deck sections. Research by Wing and Schuster at university of Waterloo, ontario, Canada performed some web crippling tests on deck sections (Wing and Schuster, 1982). The test data was compared with the 1980 AlSl Specification web crippling expressions and the comparison resulted in <sup>a</sup> scatter much larger than twenty percent, and in many cases the AlSl expressions underestimated the load carrying capacity by an average of seventy-five percent (Wing and Schuster, 1982). This comparison resulted in new equations developed by Wing and Schuster and these new equation predicted the web crippling loads for their study within the commonly accepted scatter range of twenty percent.

Research by Studnicka at Czech Technical University in Prague, Czechoslovakia investigated the load resistance of multi-web deck sections subjected to end and interior reaction loading (Studnicka, 1990). The results of the tests were compared to both 1986 AISI Specification and the Canadian - 1986 Standard (Studnicka, 1990). Based on the results of the tests, the following conclusions were made. For the interior support condition, both the AISI and the Canadian Specification predicted the web crippling capacities within twenty percent. For the end support condition, a new modified equation was developed to better predict the web crippling capacity. Another finding was that the distance from the edge of the bearing plate to the end of multi-web deck can bring substantial increases for the web crippling capacity (Studnicka, 1990).

# D. CURRENT DESIGN CRITERIA

<sup>A</sup> total of five types of cold-formed steel members were tested in this investigation. Therefore, careful attention had to be placed on choosing the appropriate equation(s) to be used in the computation of the predicted failure loads. Two

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different design specification were used to compute the web crippling strength of the different test specimens, the 1986 AISI Specification and the 1986 Automotive Steel Design Manual. (Note: From here on, the set of equations used from the 1986 Automotive Steel Design Manual will be referred to as Santaputra's equations (Santaputra, Parks, and Yu, 1989)). First, the equations from the 1986 AISI Specification will be discussed followed by the Santaputra's equations.

1. 1986 AISI Specification:

a. Beams Having Single Unreinforced Webs: These specimens include channels, unlapped Z-Sections, floor decks, and long span roof decks, all under the EOF loading condition; and lapped Z-sections under the IOF loading condition. The following sets of equations are taken from Section C3 of the AISI Specification (AISI, 1986).

Stiffened Flanges (EOF):

$$
P_a = t^2 k C_3 C_4 C_6 [179 - 0.33(h/t)] [1+0.01(N/t)] \quad (\text{Eq. 4})
$$

## Unstiffened Flanges (EOF):

$$
P_{\rm s} = t^2 k C_{\rm s} C_{\rm s} C_{\rm d} \left[ 117 - 0.15 \left( \frac{h}{t} \right) \right] \left[ 1 + 0.01 \left( \frac{N}{t} \right) \right] \qquad \text{(Eq. 5)}
$$

when  $N/t$  > 60, the factor  $[1+0.01(N/t)]$  may be increased to  $[0.71+0.015(N/t)].$ 

Stiffened Flanges (IOF):

$$
P_a = t^2 k C_1 C_2 C_0 [291 - 0.40 (h/t)] [1+0.007 (N/t)] \quad (Eq. 6)
$$

when  $N/t > 60$ , the factor  $[1+0.007(N/t)]$  may be increased to  $[0.75+0.011(N/t)]$ .

where,

- $P_a$  = the allowable design load per web, kips (with a factor of safety of 1.85)
- $C_1 = (1.22 0.22k)$
- $C_2 = (1.06 0.06(R/t)) \le 1.0$
- $C_3 = (1.33 0.33k)$
- $C_{\mu} = 0.50 < (1.15 0.15R/t) \leq 1.0$
- $C_e$  = 0.7 + 0.3( $\theta$ /90)<sup>2</sup>
- $\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{y}}$  = Design yield stress of the web, ksi
- $k = F_v / 33$
- $\theta$  = Angle between the plane of the web and the plane of the bearing surface  $\geq$  45°, but not more than 90°.
- b. I-Sections (IOF):

$$
P_a = t^2 F_y C_5 [0.88 + 0.12m] [7.50 + 1.63\sqrt{N/\tau}]
$$
 (Eq. 7)

where,

 $P_a$  = the allowable design load per web, kips (with a factor of safety of 2.00)

 $C_5$  = (1.49 - 0.53k)  $\geq$  0.6

 $m = t/0.075$ 

2. Santaputra's Equations (1986 Automatic Steel  
\nDesign Manual):  
\na. Beams Having single Unreinforced Website:  
\nEnd-one-Flange loading:  
\n
$$
P_{cy} = 9.9 t^2 F_y C_{11} C_{12} (\sin \theta)
$$
 (Eq. 8)  
\n $P_{cb} = 0.047 t^2 E t^2 C_{41} C_{51} (\sin \theta)$  (Eq. 9)  
\nInterior-one-Flange loading:  
\n $P_{cy} = 7.80 t^2 F_y C_{12} C_{22} (\sin \theta)$  (Eq. 10)  
\n $P_{cb} = 0.028 E t^2 C_{32} C_{42} C_{52} (\sin \theta)$  (Eq. 11)  
\nb. I-sections (IOF):  
\n $P_{cy} = 15 t^2 F_y C_{12}$  (Eq. 12)  
\n $P_{cb} = 0.032 E t^2 C_{36} C_{46}$  (Eq. 13)  
\n $C_{11} = 1 + 0.0122(N/t) \le 2.22$ 

$$
C_{12} = 1 + 0.217 (N/t)^{0.5} \le 3.17
$$
  
\n
$$
C_{22} = 1 - 0.0814 (R/t) \ge 0.43
$$
  
\n
$$
C_{32} = 1 + 2.4 (N/h) \le 1.96
$$
  
\n
$$
C_{36} = 1 + 1.318 (N/h) \le 1.53
$$
  
\n
$$
C_{41} = 1 - 0.00348 (h/t) \ge 0.32
$$
  
\n
$$
C_{42} = 1 - 0.0017 (h/t) \le 0.81
$$

where,

$$
C_{51} = 1 - 0.298 (e/h) \ge 0.52
$$
  

$$
C_{52} = 1 - 0.120 (e/h) \ge 0.40
$$

E = 29,500 ksi

 $P_c$ = governing ultimate web-crippling load per web (lower of  $P_{cy}$  or  $P_{cb}$ ), kips

$$
P_{cb}
$$
 = ultimate web-crippling load due to buckling, kips

$$
P_{cy}
$$
 = ultimate web-crippling load due to overstressing under bearing plate, kips

#### III. EXPERIMENTAL INVESTIGATION

#### A. GENERAL

As stated in the Introduction, the current available design criteria for determining web crippling strength of cold-formed steel members were developed with the flanges unfastened to the supporting beams. Usual field practice is to bolt the flanges of the cold-formed steel members to their supporting beams. In order to determine if <sup>a</sup> change occurs in the web crippling strength due to the flange restraint, this pilot study was proposed to the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) and the Metal Building Manufactures Association in 1989.

The objective of this experimental investigation was to determine if for cold-formed steel members subjected to web crippling, is there an increase in web crippling strength with the flanges restrained? The test program included the study of the following types sections (see Figures 1 to 6):

> - Channels - I-sections - Z-sections - Long Span Roof Decks - Floor Decks

As summarized in Table I, <sup>a</sup> total of <sup>52</sup> tests were performed. The test specimens were subjected to the following two types of loading cases (see Figure 7):







**Figure 2. Cross section View of an I-Section Specimen.**

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**Figure 3. Cross section View of an Unlapped Z-section Specimen.**



**Figure 4. Cross section view of a Lapped Z-Section Specimen.**

**18**



**Figure 5. Cross Section View of a Long Span Roof Deck Specimen.**



**Figure 6. Cross section view of a Floor Deck Specimen.**



# **Table I** TEST PROGRAM

TOTAL

52

# 1. End one-flange loading (EOF)

2. Interior one-flange loading (IOF)

The EOF loading condition was used in testing twelve channel sections, eight unlapped z-Sections, four long span roof decks (hat sections) and four floor decks. The IOF loading condition was used for testing twelve I-Sections, eight lapped Z-Sections, and four floor decks. See Figures 8 and 9 for definitions of the variables e and Z used in Santaputra's



**Fiqure 7. Web Crippling Loading Conditions.**



**Pigure 8.** Definitions of the Parameters e and Z Used in Santaputra's Equations for EOF Loading.



**pigure 9.** Definitions of the Parameters e and Z Used in santaputra's Equations for rOF Loading.
Equations as they apply to both the EOF and IOF loading conditions, respectively.

All tests were performed on the 120,000 pound Tinius Olsen universal testing machine (Figure 10) located in the Engineering Research Laboratory of the University of Missouri-Rolla. All test specimens were cold-formed steel specimens, the supporting beams were hot-rolled I-beams.

During the initial phase of this study, pertinent mechanical properties were determined. Table II shows the mechanical properties and thicknesses of the test specimens used in this investigation. The mechanical properties were determined by Standard Coupon tests per ASTM A370 procedures (ASTM, 1977).

#### B. TEST SPECIMENS

The nominal dimensions of the cross sections are shown in Tables III through VIII, in which all dimensions are defined in Figures 1 through 6, respectively. Test specimens were cut to length from 20 to 25 feet long sections by using a chop saw. During the process of cutting short sections from longer sections, residual stresses were released in the test specimens. This caused some minor twisting initially between the flanges and the webs of the specimens. This initial twisting sometimes resulted in slight rotation of the test specimen under loading, but braces were placed in appropriate



**Figure 10.** Photograph of the Tinius Olsen Testing Machine.

locations to keep the twisting at <sup>a</sup> minimum. These braces did not effect the outcome of the tests.

The length of the beam specimen was selected so that only the effect of web crippling rather than the combined bending and web crippling effect was realized. The equations used to determine the length, L, of the specimens were as follows:



#### **Table II** MATERIAL PROPERTIES AND THICKNESSES OF SECTIONS USED IN THE EXPERIMENTAL STUDIES

\* Elongation was measured over a 2-in. gage length.

EOF Loading Condition:

$$
L=2(1.5h) + 2N + 5\frac{1}{4}''
$$
 (Eq. 14)

IOF Loading Condition:

$$
L=2(1.5h) + N+2(5\frac{1}{4}^{''})
$$
 (Eq. 15)

where,  $h =$  length of the web, inches  $N =$  bearing length, inches





NOTE: Refer to Figure <sup>1</sup> for definitions.

| Specimen<br>No. | t<br>(in.) | <b>B1</b><br>(in.) | B2<br>(in.) | D1<br>(in.) | D <sub>2</sub><br>(in.) | D <sub>3</sub><br>(in.) | $\mathbf R$<br>(in.) | N<br>(in.) | L<br>(in.) |
|-----------------|------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|------------|------------|
|                 |            |                    |             |             |                         |                         |                      |            |            |
| $I1-F$          | 0.109      | 2.576              | 2.571       | 7.973       | 0.923                   | 0.976                   | 0.156                | 5.250      | 39.750     |
| $I2-F$          | 0.109      | 2.573              | 2.586       | 7.964       | 0.904                   | 0.965                   | 0.156                | 5.250      | 39.750     |
| I3              | 0.109      | 2.571              | 2.575       | 7.967       | 0.962                   | 0.906                   | 0.156                | 5.250      | 39.750     |
| I4              | 0.109      | 2.570              | 2.525       | 7.973       | 0.900                   | 0.953                   | 0.156                | 5.250      | 39.750     |
| $I5-F$          | 0.064      | 2.566              | 2.554       | 7.861       | 0.872                   | 0.855                   | 0.156                | 5.250      | 39.750     |
| $I6-F$          | 0.064      | 2.575              | 2.576       | 7.888       | 0.864                   | 0.873                   | 0.156                | 5.250      | 39.750     |
| 17              | 0.064      | 2.571              | 2.568       | 7.884       | 0.870                   | 0.849                   | 0.156                | 5.250      | 39.750     |
| I8              | 0.064      | 2.561              | 2.580       | 7.870       | 0.865                   | 0.886                   | 0.156                | 5.250      | 39.750     |
| $I9-F$          | 0.063      | 3.105              | 2.920       | 9.195       | 0.949                   | 0.688                   | 0.313                | 5.250      | 42.750     |
| $110-F$         | 0.063      | 3.005              | 2.947       | 9.000       | 0.959                   | 0.721                   | 0.313                | 5.250      | 42.750     |
| <b>I11</b>      | 0.063      | 3.008              | 2.921       | 9.019       | 0.933                   | 0.705                   | 0.313                | 5.250      | 42.750     |
| I12             | 0.063      | 3.025              | 2.931       | 9.013       | 0.904                   | 0.746                   | 0.313                | 5.250      | 42.750     |

**Table IV** MEASURED DIMENSIONS OF I-SECTIONS

NOTE: Refer to Figure <sup>2</sup> for definitions.



**Table V** MEASURED DIMENSIONS OF UNLAPPED Z-SECTIONS

NOTE: Refer to Figure <sup>3</sup> for definitions.





NOTE: Refer to Figure <sup>4</sup> for definitions.

 $\hat{\mathbf{v}}$ 



**Table VII** MEASURED DIMENSIONS OF LONG SPAN ROOF DECKS

NOTE: Refer to Figure <sup>5</sup> for definitions.





NOTE: Please refer to Figure <sup>6</sup> for definitions.

Figure 11 shows typical bearing conditions of the EOF loading condition and the IOF loading condition. The clear span distance between the bearing was kept slightly greater than 1.5h to maintain one-flange loading.

All I-beam specimens were fabricated by adjoining the webs of two identical channels sections. The two channels were connected by bolts as shown in Figure 12. The lapped Zsections were also connected using a bolted connection, as shown in Figure 13. Test specimens of channels, unlapped Zsections, and lapped Z-Sections required bracing to maintain <sup>a</sup> constant cross section. <sup>A</sup> complete explanation of the test specimen geometry is given under Test Procedure.

In order to cause <sup>a</sup> particular type of failure to occur at particular locations, stiffeners were added on the specimens. For example, for the case of EOF loading, the portion of the web directly under the concentrated load was stiffened to force the failure on the ends. The opposite was done for the case of IOF loading, for which the portions of the web directly above the end supports were stiffened to force the failure to occur under the interior support.

As stated earlier, <sup>a</sup> total of fifty-two tests were performed under these two types of loading conditions. Onehalf of the fifty-two tests were with the flanges fastened to the supports and the other half without flanges fastened. The fasteners used for restraining the flanges were 1/2 inch diameter A307 bolts. They were fastened to the support beams on center. For the EOF loading case the fasteners were placed



b) IOF Loading Condition

**Fiqure 11.** Typical Bearing Conditions for a) EOF Loading condition and b) IOF Loading Condition.

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**Figure 12. Typical Bolt Pattern for I-Sections.**



**Figure 13. Typical Bolt Pattern for Lapped Z-sections.**

on the end supports and for the IOF loading case the fasteners were placed under the applied concentrated load.

The measured dimensions of the test specimens and the important parameters used in calculations are presented in Tables III through XIII. The cross section dimensions of the tested specimens were measured from photocopies of the cross section.

| Specimen<br>No. | t<br>(in.) | h/t     | R/t   | N/t    | N/h   | $F_y$<br>(ksi) | $P_t$<br>(kips) |
|-----------------|------------|---------|-------|--------|-------|----------------|-----------------|
| $C1-F$          | 0.109      | 68.271  | 1.433 | 24.083 | 0.353 | 56.740         | 4.575           |
| $C2-F$          | 0.109      | 69.294  | 1.431 | 24.083 | 0.348 | 56.740         | 4.706           |
| C <sub>3</sub>  | 0.109      | 68.991  | 1.431 | 24.083 | 0.349 | 56.740         | 4.269           |
| C <sub>4</sub>  | 0.109      | 68.775  | 1.431 | 24.083 | 0.350 | 56.740         | 4.244           |
| $C5-F$          | 0.064      | 115.914 | 2.438 | 41.016 | 0.354 | 59.990         | 1.863           |
| $C6-F$          | 0.064      | 115.984 | 2.438 | 41.016 | 0.354 | 59.990         | 1.663           |
| C7              | 0.064      | 115.813 | 2.438 | 41.016 | 0.354 | 59.990         | 1.525           |
| C8              | 0.064      | 115.781 | 2.438 | 41.016 | 0.354 | 59.990         | 1.550           |
| $C9-F$          | 0.063      | 131.365 | 4.960 | 41.667 | 0.317 | 62.680         | 1.494           |
| $C10-F$         | 0.063      | 131.508 | 4.960 | 41.667 | 0.317 | 62.680         | 1.488           |
| C11             | 0.063      | 131.254 | 4.960 | 41.667 | 0.317 | 62.680         | 1.494           |
| C12             | 0.063      | 131.492 | 4.960 | 41.667 | 0.317 | 62.680         | 1.513           |

**Table IX** PARAMETERS AND TEST DATA OF CHANNELS

<sup>F</sup> = Represents flanges fastened to supports.  $N = 2.625$  inches.



**Table X** PARAMETERS AND TEST DATA OF I-SECTIONS



F <sup>=</sup> Represents flanges fastened to supports.  $N = 5.25$  inches.

## C. TEST PROCEDURE

All specimens tested were loaded to failure. Details of the test arrangement under each loading condition are summarized as follows:

1. Channels: A total of twelve channel sections were tested as simply supported members subjected primarily to web crippling by <sup>a</sup> concentrated load applied at midspan. All of the channel sections were tested under the EOF loading condition. The test arrangement and the test set-up are shown in Figures <sup>14</sup> and 15. All of the specimens were loaded at



## **Table XI** PARAMETERS AND TEST DATA OF Z-SECTIONS

L =<br>F =<br>N =<br>N = 2.625 inches (unlapped sections). 2.025 inches (andapped sections).





 $F =$  Represents flanges fastened to supports.  $N = 2.\overline{625}$  inches (EOF Tests).



**Table XIII** PARAMETERS AND TEST DATA OF FLOOR DECKS

<sup>F</sup> = Represents flanges fastened to supports.

N = 2.625 inches (EOF Tests).

 $N = 5.25$  inches (IOF Tests).

mid-span with the clear distance between the opposite bearing plates being 1.5h. Three different types of channel sections were tested. They varied in their h/t ratio as follows: h/t  $\approx$  69, h/t  $\approx$  116, and h/t  $\approx$  132. Four test specimens for each h/t ratio were tested, two tests with flanges fastened to supports and two with flanges unfastened to supports.

For all tests, <sup>a</sup> 2-5/8" bearing length was used at the ends and a 5-1/4" bearing length was used under the applied concentrated load. All specimens were braced by 3/4 X 3/4 X 1/8 in. aluminum angles at every 1/3 points on both the compression and the tension side of the beam to maintain a constant cross section during the test. Smaller cold-formed steel channel sections were used as stiffeners by means of self-tapping screws directly under the applied concentrated load to force the failure to occur on the ends.

During the test, the geometry of the sections caused some rotation in the specimen as the applied load increased. To minimize this problem <sup>a</sup> strip of metal (12 <sup>X</sup> 3/4 <sup>X</sup> 0.05 in.) was added by connecting one of the flanges of the test specimen to the flanges of the end support (I-beam). The ultimate test loads were very similar with or without this adaptation.

2. I-Sections: A total of twelve I-Sections were subjected to web crippling loads. The application of the concentrated load was the same as the channel sections except that the I-sections were tested under the IOF loading condition. The I-Sections were fabricated from two channels

connected back-to-back. See Figures 4, 16 and 17. A typical industry type bolt pattern was used to connect the two channels, as shown by Figure 12. As explained earlier, the member length was chosen to ensure <sup>a</sup> minimum of 1.5h between the edge of the bearing plates. Four test specimens were fabricated for each h/t ratio (same as the channels sections), two with flanges fastened to the support member and two with flanges unfastened. Two fasteners, 1/2-inch A307 bolts, were attached to the flanges of the specimen and the I-beam used as the concentrated load in the interior as shown on Figure 18.



**piqure** 16. photograph of <sup>a</sup> Typical I-Section Specimen Subjected to IOF Loading with unrestrained Flanges.



**Figure 17. Photograph of a Typical I-section Specimen SUbjected to IOF Loading with Restrained Flanges.**



**Figure 18. Top View of <sup>a</sup> Typical Connection of an I-Section with Flanges Restrained.**

The IOF loading condition was achieved by adding the small channel sections as transverse web stiffeners on the ends of the specimen to force the failure directly under the applied interior concentrated load.

For all I-Section test specimens, <sup>a</sup> 5-1/4" bearing length was used under the interior load as well as at the end supports. Test parameters and results are discussed in section IV.

3. Z-sections: <sup>A</sup> total of sixteen z-section specimens were tested, eight of these were unlapped sections and the remaining were lapped sections. The test arrangement for each case is discussed as follows:

a. Unlapped Z-Sections: The eight unlapped Zsections tested were all under the EOF loading condition. The Z-sections were braced to each other by 3/4 X 3/4 X 1/8 inch angles attached to both the tension and the compression flanges. The bracing interval was selected to preclude lateral movement of the individual section. Once again, the member length was chosen to provide a minimum of 1.5h distance between the edges of bearing plates. From the eight sections tested, four were with flanges fastened to supports and four with flanges unfastened. The fasteners, 1/2-inch diameter A307 bolts were attached to the flanges on the ends of the specimen and the end supports. See Figures <sup>19</sup> and <sup>20</sup> for test set-up of the unlapped Z-Sections subjected to the EOF loading condition.

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**Piqure 19.** Photograph of a Typical Failure of an Unlapped Z-section SUbjected to EOF Loading with Unrestrained Flanges. house of the teat



**Piqure 20.** photograph of <sup>a</sup> Typical Failure of an Unlapped Z-section subjected EOF Loading with Restrained Flanges.

For all tests, <sup>a</sup> 2-5/8" bearing length was used for the end supports and <sup>a</sup> 5-1/4" bearing length under the interior applied concentrated load. Test parameters and results are discussed in section IV.

b. Lapped Z-sections: The eight lapped Z-Sections tested were all under the IOF loading condition. The bracing and the member length used were based on the same guidelines as used for the unlapped sections. Four out of the eight tests were with flanges fastened to the support (applied concentrated load) and the remaining four were without fasteners. Because this was an IOF loading condition, the fasteners were placed to attach the flanges of the test specimen and the concentrated load beam. The two lapped Z-Sections were connected by 1/2-inch diameter A307 bolts. A typical industry standard lap was employed as shown by Figure 13. See Figures <sup>21</sup> and <sup>22</sup> for test set-up of lapped Z-Sections subjected to IOF loading.

For all tests, <sup>a</sup> 5-1/4" bearing length was used for all support attachments. Test parameters and results are discussed in section IV.

4. Long Span Roof Decks (LSRD): A total of four long span roof deck (hat sections) sections were tested, all under the EOF loading condition. Two specimens were with flanges fastened to the end supports and two without any fasteners. The test set-up remained the same as used in previous tests. See Figures 23 and 24. The member length was chosen to ensure a minimum of 1.5h between the edges of the bearing plates.



**Fiqure 21.** Photograph of a Pnotograpn or a<br>Subjected to IOF Flanges. Typical Loading Lapped Z-Section with Unrestrained



**Fiqure 22.** Photograph of <sup>a</sup> Typical Failure of <sup>a</sup> Lapped Z-Photograph of a lypical fulface of a Expediate<br>section Subjected IOF Loading with Restrained Flanges.



**Piqure 23.** Photograph of a Typical Photograph of the ripples **Unrestrained Flanges.** Failure of a LSRD EOF Loading with



**Figure 24.** Photograph of a Typical Failure of a LSRD Specimen Subjected to Restrained Flanges.

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All four test specimens were for  $h/t \approx 145$ . The EOF loading condition was achieved by adding stiffeners under the concentrated load to force the failure on the ends.

For all tests, <sup>a</sup> 2-5/8" bearing length was used on the end supports and <sup>a</sup> 5-1/4" bearing length at the interior support. Test parameters and results are discussed in section IV.

5. Floor Decks: <sup>A</sup> total of eight floor decks were tested under two different loading conditions. Four tests were performed under the EOF loading condition and four tests were performed under the IOF loading condition. The test arrangement for each case is discussed as follows:

a. EOF Loading Condition: A minimum of 1.5h distance between the edges of the bearing plate was again provided. The four test specimens were all of  $h/t \approx 103$ , with two specimens having flanges fastened to end supports and two with flanges unfastened. The EOF loading condition was achieved by adding stiffeners under the concentrated load. The stiffeners used for floor decks were 5-1/4" wide sections of the same floor deck simply placed over the test specimen and connected with self-tapping screws. See Figures 25 for a typical test set-up.

For all four tests, the bearing length on the end supports was 2-5/8" and under the applied concentrated load beam a 5-1/4" bearing length was used. Test parameters and results are discussed in section IV.

b. IOF Loading Condition: The four test specimens prepared were of  $h/t \approx 103$ . The member length guidelines were the same as for the EOF loading condition. The IOF loading condition was achieved by placing the floor deck stiffener at the ends of the test specimen. For all four tests, the bearing length was 5-1/4" at the end supports as well as under the applied concentrated load beam. See Figure 26. Test parameters and results are discussed in Section IV.



**Fiqure 25.** photograph of a Typical Failure of a Floor Deck Specimen SUbjected to EOF Loading with Unrestrained Flanges.

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**Figure 26.** Photograph of a Typical Failure of a Floor Deck Specimen Subjected to IOF Loading with Unrestrained Flanges.

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### IV. DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

All test specimens were loaded to failure. The tested failure load values and the nature of the failure modes were recorded and appear to be very consistent for identical specimens. For each type of section tested, the total failure load was divided by the number of webs responsible for carrying the applied load. The tested load values per web are denoted by P., and the computed load values per web are denoted by P<sub>c</sub>. The results are recorded in Tables XIV through XXXI.

The following discussion will summarize the findings obtained from this research as they apply to each of the cross section types. A comparison of the computed load value, from both the AISI Specification and Santaputra's equations, versus the tested load value is presented along with the comparison of the tested load values of specimens with flanges restrained versus specimens with flanges unrestrained. Also, the behavior of the test specimens under either the EOF or the IOF loading conditions is presented.

## A. CHANNELS

<sup>A</sup> total of twelve channel specimens were tested for EOF loading. Four specimens for each h/t ratio were tested, two tests with the flanges fastened to the supports and two without fasteners. Table III summarizes the dimensions of the

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test specimens, and Figure <sup>1</sup> shows the typical cross section of the test specimen. The equations used to compute the web crippling strength,  $P_c$ , were Equation 4 (AISI) and Equations 8 and 9 (Santaputra). The value computed from the AISI equation was mUltiplied by 1.85 to consider the factor of safety. Test parameters and results are given in Tables IX, XIV, and xv.

| Specimen<br>No. | h/t     | $P_t$<br>(kips) | $P_c$<br>(kips) | $P_t/P_c$ | $P_f/P_{uf}$<br>(avg.) |
|-----------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|------------------------|
| $C1-F$          | 68.271  | 4.575           | 5.232           | 0.874     |                        |
| $C2-F$          | 68.294  | 4.706           | 5.222           | 0.901     |                        |
| C <sub>3</sub>  | 68.991  | 4.269           | 5.226           | 0.817     |                        |
| C <sub>4</sub>  | 68.775  | 4.244           | 5.228           | 0.812     | 1.090                  |
| $C5-F$          | 115.914 | 1.863           | 1.566           | 1.190     |                        |
| $C6-F$          | 115.984 | 1,663           | 1.565           | 1.063     |                        |
| C <sub>7</sub>  | 115.813 | 1.525           | 1.566           | 0.974     |                        |
| C8              | 115.781 | 1.550           | 1.566           | 0.990     | 1.147                  |
| $C9-F$          | 131.365 | 1.494           | 0.943           | 1.584     |                        |
| $C10-F$         | 131.508 | 1.488           | 0.942           | 1.580     |                        |
| C11             | 131.254 | 1.494           | 0.943           | 1.584     |                        |
| C12             | 131.492 | 1.513           | 0.942           | 1.606     | 0.992                  |

**Table XIV** CHANNELS (EOF): COMPARISON OF RESULTS BASED ON AISI SPECIFICATION

 $F =$  Represents flanges fastened to supports.

Test load per web.

Computed load per web.

 $F = 1$ <br>P<sub>t</sub> =  $P_c$  =  $P_f$ Test load with flanges fastened to supports.

 $P_{\sf uf}^{'}$  = Test load with flanges rascence to supports.





F<br>P<sub>C</sub>P<sub>c</sub> = =<br>P<sup>C</sup><br>Pf = =  $P_{\text{uf}} =$  $F =$  Represents flanges fastened to supports. Test load per web. Computed load per web. Test load with flanges fastened to supports. Test load with flanges instence to supports.

For the four test specimens having h/t  $\approx$  70 and R/t  $\approx$ 1.4, the tested and computed loads are listed in Tables XIV and XXI. The accuracy of the prediction equations is represented by the ratio of  $P_t/P_c$ . The AISI equation (Table XIV) overestimated the web crippling strength by as much as 18%, while santaputra's equations (Table XV) overestimated the strength by as much as 24% for specimens C3 and C4. There was

an average increase of nine percent in web crippling strength for the specimens with fastened flanges versus the specimens having unfastened flanges, as indicated by the ratio of  $P_{t}/P_{\mu}$ (Tables XIV and XV).

Four specimens were also tested for  $h/t \approx 115$  and R/t  $\approx$ 2.4 (Tables XIV and XV). The tested loads and computed loads correlated well for both the AISI and Santaputra's equations for specimens C7 and C8. An increase in the web crippling strength of 14.7 percent was obtained for the specimens having their flanges fastened to the support member.

For channels having an h/t  $\approx$  131 and R/t  $\approx$  5 (Table XIV and XV) there existed a 58 percent conservatism in the computed value when the AISI equation was used. This is considerably more conservative than the other channels section tested, but it is still well within the scatter of data points of previous research (Figure 24 of Hetrakul and YU, 1978). Using Santaputra's equations resulted in about a 25 percent conservative estimate for the web crippling strength. There was no increase in strength resulting from flange restraint, i.e.,  $P_f/P_{uf}$  equals 0.992.

All web crippling failures for the channel specimens occurred directly above the end supports. The specimens with the flanges unfastened to the supports showed <sup>a</sup> relatively large vertical deflection of the bottom flanges at the end supports combined with lateral deformation in the webs. The test specimens with the flanges fastened to the end supports behaved differently. The fasteners prevented the bottom

flanges from deflecting under loading, therefore there was slightly more lateral deformation in the webs as shown in Figure 15.

There was some concern with some test specimens encountering twisting in the specimens. To minimize this problem, <sup>a</sup> metal strip was attached to the specimen and the end support. There was initial concern that this may lead to invalid comparisons with tested load values with and without this adaptation. However, two identical channel sections were tested in which one specimen had some twisting problems and the other did not, and the ultimate tested loads were very similar, as evidenced by the results of test specimens C3 and C4 (Table IX) which yielded results of 4.269 kips per web and 4.244 kips per web, respectively.

### B. I-SECTIONS

sections used to fabricate the channel specimens were also used to fabricate the I-sections. Four test specimens were fabricated for each h/t value, two with flanges fastened to the support member and the remaining two specimens with flanges unfastened. Equation 7 (AISI) was used for the computed loads along with Equations 12 and 13 (Santaputra). A factor of safety of 2.0 in the AISI equation was accounted for by multiplying the AISI equation results by the value of the factor of safety. Test parameters and results are given in Tables X, XVI, and XVII.

For all twelve test specimens, as indicated by Tables XVI and XVII, the tested loads were significantly lower than the computed loads by using both the AISI and Santaputra equations. There was no significant increase in strength between fastened and unfastened flange specimens, as indicated by the ratio of  $P_y/P_{\text{ref}}$ .

The poor correlation between the tested and computed web crippling loads may be attributed to the limited number of fasteners attaching the webs together and the location of the fasteners. Because an insufficient number of fasteners were used to attach the channel's webs, and because the fasteners were not located near the beam flange, the sections were prevented from developing the increase in web crippling strength that is typically exhibited by <sup>a</sup> built-up cross section.

The failure modes of all twelve test specimens, under the IOF loading condition, were observed to be a local bearing type failure directly under the applied concentrated load. See Figures 17 and 18. There did not appear to be a great difference in the failure pattern in the I-Section with the flanges fastened versus flanges unfastened to supports, and as <sup>a</sup> result no significant increase in the load carrying capacity of the latter type specimen as discussed above.

| Specimen<br>No. | h/t     | $P_t$<br>(kips) | $_{\rm P_c}$<br>(kips) | $P_t/P_c$      | $P_f/P_{uf}$<br>(avg.) |
|-----------------|---------|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
|                 |         |                 |                        |                |                        |
| $I1-F$          | 68.284  | 13.200          | 16.046                 | 0.823          |                        |
| $I2-F$          | 68.202  | 13.600          | 16.046                 | 0.848          |                        |
| I3              | 68.229  | 13.100          | 16.046                 | 0.816          |                        |
| <b>I4</b>       | 68.284  | 13.750          | 16.046                 | 0.857          | 0.998                  |
| $15-F$          | 115.953 | 4.600           | 6.449                  |                |                        |
| $16-F$          | 116.375 | 4.800           | 6.449                  | 0.713          |                        |
| I7              | 116.313 | 4.775           | 6.449                  | 0.744          |                        |
| I8              | 116.094 | 4.750           | 6.449                  | 0.740<br>0.737 | 0.987                  |
| $I9-F$          | 134,016 | 4.763           | 6.572                  | 0.725          |                        |
| $I10-F$         | 130.921 | 4.838           | 6.572                  | 0.736          |                        |
| I11             | 131.222 | 4.538           | 6.572                  | 0.691          |                        |
| I12             | 131.127 | 4.463           | 6.572                  | 0.679          | 1.067                  |

**Table XVI** I-SECTIONS (IOF): COMPARISON OF RESULTS BASED ON AISI SPECIFICATION

 $F =$  Represents flanges fastened to supports.

Test load per web.

Computed load per web.

Test load with flanges fastened to supports.

F = P t = Pc = Pf = Puf = The load with flanges instence to supports.

# C. Z-SECTIONS

<sup>A</sup> total of sixteen z-section specimens were tested, eight of these were unlapped sections and eight were lapped sections. The unlapped Z-sections were all subjected to an EOF loading and the lapped sections were all subjected to an

| Specimen<br>No. | h/t     | $P_t$<br>(kips) | $\mathtt{P_c}$<br>(kips) | $P_t/P_c$ | $P_f/P_{uf}$<br>(avg.) |
|-----------------|---------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| $I1-F$          | 68.284  | 13.200          | 16.302                   | 0.810     |                        |
| $I2-F$          | 68.202  | 13.600          | 16.302                   | 0.834     |                        |
| I3              | 68.229  | 13.100          | 16.302                   | 0.804     |                        |
| I4              | 68.284  | 13.750          | 16.302                   | 0.843     | 0.998                  |
| $I5-F$          | 115.953 | 4.600           | 5.593                    | 0.822     |                        |
| $16-F$          | 116.375 | 4.800           | 5.592                    | 0.858     |                        |
| I7              | 116.313 | 4.775           | 5.592                    | 0.854     |                        |
| I8              | 116.094 | 4.750           | 5.592                    | 0.849     | 0.987                  |
| $I9-F$          | 134.016 | 4.763           | 5.371                    | 0.887     |                        |
| $110-F$         | 130.921 | 4.838           | 5.379                    | 0.899     |                        |
| I11             | 131.222 | 4.538           | 5.378                    | 0.844     |                        |
| <b>I12</b>      | 131.127 | 4.463           | 5.378                    | 0.830     | 1.067                  |

**Table XVII** I-SECTIONS (IOF): COMPARISON OF RESULTS BASED ON SANTAPUTRA'S EQUATIONS

 $F =$  Represents flanges fastened to supports.

 $P_t$  = Test load per web.

Computed load per web.

F<br>P<sub>t</sub> = =<br>P<sub>f</sub> = =  $\tilde{P_f}$  = Test load with flanges fastened to supports.

 $P_{uf}$  = Test load with flanges unfastened to supports.

IOF loading. Equation <sup>4</sup> (AISI), and Equations <sup>8</sup> and <sup>9</sup> (Santaputra) were used for the unlapped sections. Equation 6 (AISI) and Equations 10 and 11 (Santaputra) were used for the lapped sections. The results of the AISI equations were mUltiplied by 1.85 to account for the factor of safety. Test parameters and results are given in Tables XI, XVIII, XIX, XX, and XXI. Tables IV and V give the cross section dimensions. The unlapped sections will be discussed first, followed by the

lapped sections. Two sets of Z-Sections were tested with varying h/t ratios, h/t  $\approx$  133 and h/t  $\approx$  72.

1. Unlapped Sections: For the specimens having an h/t  $\approx$  132, two tests were conducted with flanges fastened to the support and two with flanges unfastened. The results of these tests indicated <sup>a</sup> 33.9 percent increase in strength between the fastened and the unfastened flange specimens (Tables XVIII and XIX). As indicated by the ratio of  $P_{t}/P_{c}$ , the tested loads for the unfastened flange test specimens (No. Zl and Z2), were approximately 24 percent greater than the AISI predictions, while Santaputra's equations yielded good correlation with the failure load. The fastened flange test specimens showed an even greater difference between test and computed failure loads. The tested loads were approximately 65 percent higher than the AISI equation would predict (Table XVIII), while for the same test specimens, Santaputra's equations were about 32 percent less than the tested load (Table XIX).

For the four test specimens having an  $h/t \approx 72$ , there was an increase of 27.1 percent in strength between the fastened and the unfastened flange specimens (Tables XVIII and XIX) . For the test specimens No. Z5 and Z6, with the flanges unfastened, there was good correlation between the tested and the computed failure loads, using both the AISI and santaputra equations. For the specimens with the flanges attached to the support beam (No. Z7-F and Z8-F) , the tested loads were 25 to 30 percent larger than the predicted value as given by the
For the same specimens, Santaputra's equations underestimated the failure load by AISI equation (Table XVIII). about 45 percent (Table XIX).

For the EOF loading of the Z-sections there was a significant increase in strength when the restraining effect of <sup>a</sup> fastened flange is considered. Based on this limited study, the increase in load capacity can be as much as 27 percent.

The failure modes of these unlapped Z-Sections were very similar to those of the channel specimens discussed earlier. <sup>A</sup> combination of vertical deflection of the bottom flanges and lateral deformation in the webs (reverse curvature of the web) was observed directly above the end supports for specimens with the flanges unrestrained. The test specimens with the flanges restrained were limited to only lateral deformation in the webs. See Figures 19 and 20. Once again, there was some twisting problem encountered in some of the test specimens and this was resolved by using the same solution as discussed for the channel specimens.

2. Lapped Sections: Eight specimens have been tested for the lapped Z's (Tables XI, XX and XXI). A typical industry lap was employed, as shown by Figure 13. All eight lapped Z-section specimens were subjected to the IOF loading condition.

For the four test specimens having  $h/t \approx 132$ , the tested loads compared favorably with the predictions from AISI (Table

XX) and santaputra (Table XXI). As indicated by the ratio of  $P_{i}/P_{i,f}$ , there was only an increase of 4.5 percent in web crippling strength between the fastened flange specimens and the unfastened flange specimens.

For the four test specimens having  $h/t \approx 72$ , the computed loads for both the AISI and Santaputra equations were within twenty percent of the tested loads. There was only an increase of 3.0 percent in strength between the fastened and the unfastened flange specimen.

| Specimen<br>No. | h/t     | $P_t$<br>(kips) | (kips) | $P_t/P_c$ | $P_f/P_{uf}$<br>(avg.) |
|-----------------|---------|-----------------|--------|-----------|------------------------|
| Z1              | 132.614 | 1.394           | 1.122  | 1.242     |                        |
| Z <sub>2</sub>  | 132.429 | 1.388           | 1.123  | 1.236     |                        |
| $Z3-F$          | 132.729 | 1.894           | 1.122  | 1.688     |                        |
| $Z4-F$          | 132.521 | 1.831           | 1.122  | 1.632     | 1.339                  |
| Z <sub>5</sub>  | 72.110  | 3.125           | 3.158  | 0.990     |                        |
| Z6              | 72.050  | 3.219           | 3.159  | 1.019     |                        |
| $Z7-F$          | 72.950  | 4.113           | 3.159  | 1.302     |                        |
| $Z8-F$          | 71.860  | 3.950           | 3.160  | 1.250     | 1.271                  |

**Table XVIII** UNLAPPED Z-SECTIONS (EOF): COMPARISON OF RESULTS BASED ON AISI SPECIFICATION

 $F =$  Represents flanges fastened to supports.

 $F = P_t$ <br>  $P_c$  = =  $P_t$  = Test load per web.

Computed load per web.

Test load with flanges fastened to supports.

 $P_f$  = Test load with flanges rassemed to supports.<br> $P_{uf}$  = Test load with flanges unfastened to supports.

| Specimen<br>No.  | h/t     | $P_t$<br>(kips) | $P_c$<br>(kips) | $P_t/P_c$ | $P_f/P_{uf}$<br>(avg.) |
|------------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|------------------------|
| <b>Z1</b>        | 132.614 | 1.394           | 1.383           | 1.008     |                        |
| $\mathbf{z}_{2}$ | 132.429 | 1,388           | 1.383           | 1.004     |                        |
| $Z3-F$           | 132.729 | 1.894           | 1,383           | 1.369     |                        |
| $Z4-F$           | 132.521 | 1.831           | 1.383           | 1.324     | 1.339                  |
| Z5               | 72.110  | 3.125           | 2.714           | 1.151     |                        |
| Z6               | 72.050  | 3.219           | 2.714           | 1.186     |                        |
| $Z7-F$           | 72.950  | 4.113           | 2.714           | 1.515     |                        |
| $Z8-F$           | 71.860  | 3.950           | 2.714           | 1.455     | 1.271                  |

**Table XIX** UNLAPPED Z-SECTIONS (EOF): COMPARISON OF RESULTS BASED ON SANTAPUTRA'S EQUATIONS

 $F$  = Represents flanges fastened to supports.

 $P_t$  = Test load per web.

 $P_c =$  Computed load per web.

 $P_f^c$  = Test load with flanges fastened to supports.<br> $P_f^c$  = Test load with flanges unfastened to support

 $P_{\text{uf}}$  = Test load with flanges unfastened to supports.

These eight specimens experienced very little deflection in the flanges under the applied concentrated load. The primary deformation occurred was a combination of some flange curling and lateral deformation of the webs. There was no noticeable difference in the failure modes between specimens with flanges restrained and specimens with flanges unrestrained. Figures 21 and 22 shows a typical set-up and failure mode of <sup>a</sup> lapped Z-sections under the IOF loading condition.

| Specimen<br>No. | h/t     | $P_t$<br>(kips) | $P_c$<br>(kips) | $P_t/P_c$ | $P_f/P_{uf}$<br>(avg.) |
|-----------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|------------------------|
| ZL1             | 132,800 | 4.025           | 3.834           | 1.050     |                        |
| ZL2             | 132.771 | 3.750           | 3.834           | 0.978     |                        |
| $ZL3-F$         | 132.886 | 4.375           | 3.833           | 1.141     |                        |
| $ZL4-F$         | 132.771 | 3.750           | 3.834           | 0.978     | 1.045                  |
| ZL5             | 72.550  | 7.950           | 8.828           | 0.901     |                        |
| ZL6             | 72.180  | 7.875           | 8.833           | 0.892     |                        |
| $ZL7-F$         | 72.020  | 8.450           | 8.835           | 0.956     |                        |
| $ZL8-F$         | 72.150  | 7.850           | 8.833           | 0.889     | 1.030                  |

**Table XX** LAPPED Z-SECTIONS (IOF): COMPARISON OF RESULTS BASED ON AISI SPECIFICATION

 $L$  = Represents lapped sections.<br> $F$  = Represents flanges fastened

= Represents flanges fastened to supports.

- 
- $P_t$  = Test load per web.<br> $P_t$  = Computed load per  $P_c =$  Computed load per web.

 $P_f^c$  = Test load with flanges fastened to supports.

 $P_{\text{uf}}$  = Test load with flanges unfastened to supports.

### D. LONG SPAN ROOF DECKS

<sup>A</sup> total of four specimens were tested under the EOF loading condition, all with a h/t ratio of  $h/t \approx 145$ . Two specimens were with the flanges fastened to the supports and two without fasteners. Equation 5 (AISI) and Equations 8 and <sup>9</sup> (Santaputra) were used to compute the web crippling strength. The value from the AISI Equation was multiplied by 1.85 to account for the factor of safety. Test parameters and results are given in Tables XII, XXII and XXIII.



**Table XXI** LAPPED Z-SECTIONS (IOF): COMPARISON OF RESULTS BASED ON SANTAPUTRA'S EQUATIONS

 $L =$  Represents lapped sections.<br> $F =$  Represents flanges fastened

= Represents flanges fastened to supports.

 $P_t$  = Test load per web.

 $P_c^t$  = Computed load per web.

 $P_f =$  Test load with flanges fastened to supports.

 $P_{\text{uf}}$  = Test load with flanges unfastened to supports.

The tested and the computed loads are listed in Tables XXII and XXIII. For this very limited study, the AISI Equation underestimates the web crippling strength by almost 70%, while Santaputra's equations underestimated by as much as 25%. There was a significant increase in the web crippling strength with flanges restrained. An average increase of 37.4% in web crippling strength was sighted with the flanges fastened to supports versus flanges unfastened to supports, as indicated by the  $P_f/P_{uf}$  ratio in Table XXII.

The failure mode was similar to that of the unlapped Z-Sections. Figures <sup>23</sup> and 24 shows typical failure modes of <sup>a</sup> LSRD under the EOF loading condition.

**Table XXII** LONG SPAN ROOF DECKS (EOF): COMPARISON OF RESULTS BASED ON AISI SPECIFICATION

| Specimen<br>No. | h/t     | (kips) | (kips) | $P_t/P_c$ | (avg.) |
|-----------------|---------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|
| RD1             | 145.429 | 0.688  | 0.406  | 1.695     |        |
| RD <sub>2</sub> | 145.306 | 0.681  | 0.406  | 1.677     |        |
| $RD3-F$         | 145.367 | 0.931  | 0.406  | 2.293     |        |
| $RD4-F$         | 145.449 | 0.950  | 0.406  | 2.340     | 1.374  |

 $F =$  Represents flanges fastened to supports.

Test load per web.

Computed load per web.

 $F = P_t$ <br>  $P_c$  = = Test load with flanges fastened to supports.

 $P_{\sf uf}^{'}$  = Test load with flanges unfastened to supports.

## E. FLOOR DECKS

The two cases of loading conditions used in floor decks were the EOF loading condition and the IOF loading condition. Each is explained in the following discussion.

1. EOF Loading: Four specimens tested under this loading case were for  $h/t \approx 103$  with two specimen's flanges

| Specimen<br>No. | h/t     | (kips) | (kips) | $P_t/P_c$ | $P_f/P_{uf}$<br>(avg.) |
|-----------------|---------|--------|--------|-----------|------------------------|
| RD1             | 145.429 | 0.688  | 0.551  | 1.249     |                        |
| RD <sub>2</sub> | 145.306 | 0.682  | 0.551  | 1.238     |                        |
| $RD3-F$         | 145.367 | 0.932  | 0.551  | 1.691     |                        |
| $RD4-F$         | 145.449 | 0.950  | 0.551  | 1.724     | 1.374                  |

**Table XXIII** LONG SPAN ROOF DECKS (EOF): COMPARISON OF RESULTS BASED ON SANTAPUTRA'S EQUATIONS

 $F = 0$ <br>P<sub>t</sub> =  $P_c$ <br>P<sub>f</sub> =  $P_{uf}$  = Test load with flanges unfastened to supports.  $F =$  Represents flanges fastened to supports.  $P_t$  = Test load per web. Computed load per web. Test load with flanges fastened to supports.

fastened to supports and two specimens with flanges unfastened to supports. Equation <sup>4</sup> (AISI) and Equations <sup>8</sup> and <sup>9</sup> (Santaputra) were used to compute the theoretical value. The AISI equation underestimated the tested value by almost 50% and Santaputra's equations underestimated the tested value by 25%. This is also very consistent with results of previous research. There was an increase of 21.3% in web crippling strength with flanges fastened to supports as opposed to flanges without fasteners. *See* Tables XIII, XXIV, and xxv.

All four test specimens experienced <sup>a</sup> buckling failure in the webs of the specimens. For the four test specimens, the flanges on the ends had very little deflection, while the interior flanges had some flange curling. However, lateral



**Table XXIV** FLOOR DECKS (EOF): COMPARISON OF RESULTS



Represents flanges fastened to supports.

F<br>P<sub>t</sub> = =<br>P<sup>c</sup> = = Test load per web.

Computed load per web.

Test load with flanges fastened to supports.

 $P_{\sf uf}^{'}$  = Test load with flanges unfastened to supports. deformation of the webs directly above the end supports was the controlling failure mode for all specimens. Refer to Figure 25 for a typical failure of a floor deck under the EOF loading condition.

2. IOF Loading: The four test specimens tested under the IOF loading condition were for  $h/t \approx 103$ . Equation 6 (AISI) and Equations 10 and 11 (Santaputra) were used to determine the computed load values of web crippling strength. The AISI Specification underestimated the tested value by 53% and Santaputra's equations underestimated the tested values by about 70%. There was no significant increase in the web crippling strength with fastened flanges and unfastened flanges. See Tables XIII, XXVI and XXVII.

The four test specimens experienced <sup>a</sup> combination of flange curling and lateral deformation of the webs directly under the applied concentrated load. Figure 26 shows an example of this failure mode.

To summarize the results of the comparison of the Ptested values versus the  $P_{\mathsf{computed}}$  values for all tests performed, Figures 27 through 32 and Tables 28 through 31 have been created. Figures 27 through 32 summarizes the results in a graphical format. A plot of  $P_{\text{tested}}$  versus  $P_{\text{computed}}$  is shown for all tests under the EOF and IOF loading conditions. Two sets of graphs are created, one with  $P_{\mathsf{computed}}$  based on the AISI Specification equations and the other with  $P_{\mathsf{computed}}$  based on Santaputra's equations.

| Specimen<br>No. | h/t     | (kips) | P <sub>c</sub><br>(kips) | $P_t/P_c$ | (avg.) |
|-----------------|---------|--------|--------------------------|-----------|--------|
| FD5             | 103.000 | 0.738  | 0.489                    | 1.509     |        |
| FD6             | 102.769 | 0.758  | 0.489                    | 1.550     |        |
| $FD7-F$         | 102.769 | 0.788  | 0.489                    | 1.611     |        |
| $FDS-F$         | 102.846 | 0.779  | 0.489                    | 1.593     | 1.047  |

**Table XXVI** FLOOR DECKS (IOF): COMPARISON OF RESULTS BASED ON AISI SPECIFICATION

F = Represents flanges fastened to supports.

 $P_{\rm t}$  = Test load per web.

 $P_c$  = Computed load per web.

 $P_f =$ Test load with flanges fastened to supports.

 $P_{\sf uf}$  = Test load with flanges unfastened to supports.





P = Represents flanges fastened to supports.

 $\frac{p}{t}$  = Test load per web.

 $\frac{5}{3}$ c = Computed load per web.

Test load with flanges fastened to supports.

 $\int_{0}^{3} f f =$  $\frac{1}{2}$  uf  $\frac{1}{2}$ Test load with flanges substanced to supports.

Tables 28 through 31 shows a summary of the  $P_t/P_c$  ratios for all tests performed. The tables are separated into categories of tests with unrestrained flanges and tests with restrained flanges for both AISI and Santaputra comparison.



Plot of  $P_t$  vs.  $P_c$  of all EOF Tests with  $P_c$  Based on<br>AISI Specification. Figure 27.



Plot of  $P_t$  vs.  $P_c$  of all EOF Tests with  $P_c$  Based on Santaputra's Equations. Figure 28.



Plot of P<sub>t</sub> vs. P<sub>c</sub> of I-Sections with P<sub>c</sub> Based on AISI Specification. Figure 29.



Figure 30. Plot of P<sub>t</sub> vs. P of I-Sections with P<sub>c</sub> Based on Plot of it to receptions.



**Figure 31.** Plot of P<sub>t</sub> vs. P<sub>c</sub> of all IOF Tests (excluding I-<br>Pages on AISI Specification. Plot of  $P_t$  vs.  $I_c$  or deep and AISI Specification.



Plot of  $P_t$  vs.  $P_c$  of all IOF Tests (excluding I-<br>Sections) with  $P_c$  Based on Santaputra's Equations. Figure 32.



# **Table XXVIII** COMPARISON BETWEEN AISI AND SANTAPUTRA EQUATIONS FOR UNRESTRAINED FLANGE SPECIMENS

| Specimen<br>No.                   | <b>AISI</b><br>$P_t/P_c$ | Santaputra<br>$P_t/P_c$ |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Unlapped Z-Sections, EOF Loading  |                          |                         |
| Z1                                | 1.242                    | 1.008                   |
| Z <sub>2</sub>                    | 1.236                    | 1.004                   |
| Z5                                | 0.990                    | 1.151                   |
| Z6                                | 1.019                    | 1.186                   |
| Mean                              | 1.122                    | 1.087                   |
| Lapped Z-Sections, IOF Loading    |                          |                         |
| ZL1                               | 1.050                    | 0.976                   |
| ZL2                               | 0.978                    | 0.910                   |
| ZL5                               | 0.901                    | 0.838                   |
| ZL6                               | 0.892                    | 0.830                   |
| Mean                              | 0.955                    | 0.889                   |
| Long Span Roof Decks, EOF Loading |                          |                         |
| RD1                               | 1.695                    | 1.249                   |
| RD <sub>2</sub>                   | 1.677                    | 1.238                   |
| Mean                              | 1.686                    | 1.244                   |
| Floor Decks, EOF Loading          |                          |                         |
| FD1                               | 1.491                    | 1.255                   |
| FD <sub>2</sub>                   | 1.461                    | 1.229                   |
|                                   |                          | 1.242                   |
| Mean                              | 1.476                    |                         |
|                                   |                          |                         |
| Floor Decks, IOF Loading          | 1.509                    | 1.681                   |
| FD5<br>FD6                        | 1.550                    | 1.727                   |
|                                   |                          |                         |
| Mean                              | 1.530                    | 1.704                   |
|                                   |                          |                         |

**Table UXX** COMPARISON BETWEEN AISI AND SANTAPUTRA EQUATIONS FOR UNRESTRAINED FLANGE SPECIMENS



#### **Table XXX** COMPARISON BETWEEN AISI AND SANTAPUTRA EQUATIONS FOR RESTRAINED FLANGE SPECIMENS

| Specimen<br>No.                   | <b>AISI</b><br>$P_t/P_c$ | Santaputra<br>$P_t/P_c$ |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Unlapped Z-Sections, EOF Loading  |                          |                         |
| $Z3-F$                            | 1.688                    | 1.369                   |
| $Z4-F$                            | 1.632                    | 1.324                   |
| $Z7-F$                            | 1.302                    | 1.515                   |
| $Z8-F$                            | 1.250                    | 1.455                   |
| Mean                              | 1.468                    | 1.416                   |
| Lapped Z-Sections, IOF Loading    |                          |                         |
| $ZL3-F$                           | 1.141                    | 1.061                   |
| $ZL4-F$                           | 0.978                    | 0.910                   |
| $ZL7-F$                           | 0.956                    | 0.890                   |
| $ZL8-F$                           | 0.889                    | 0.827                   |
| Mean                              | 0.991                    | 0.922                   |
| Long Span Roof Decks, EOF Loading |                          |                         |
| $RD3-F$                           | 2.293                    | 1.691                   |
| $ED4-F$                           | 2.340                    | 1.724                   |
| Mean                              | 2.317                    | 1.708                   |
| Floor Decks, EOF Loading          |                          |                         |
| $FD3-F$                           | 1.763                    | 1.483                   |
| $FD4-F$                           | 1.820                    | 1.531                   |
|                                   | 1.792                    | 1.507                   |
| Mean                              |                          |                         |
| Floor Decks, IOF Loading          |                          |                         |
| $FD7-F$                           | 1.611                    | 1.795                   |
| $FDS-F$                           | 1.593                    | 1.774                   |
| Mean                              | 1.602                    | 1.785                   |
|                                   |                          |                         |

**Table XXXI** COMPARISON BETWEEN AISI AND SANTAPUTRA EQUATIONS FOR RESTRAINED FLANGE SPECIMENS

# V. PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results of this study, the following recommendations are made for future research:

- An in depth study of web crippling capacities of 1- Sections, subjected to IOF loading, to better define a built-up section.
- Additional study to better quantify the capacities of Z-sections, long span roof decks, and floor decks subjected to EOF loading condition when flanges are fastened to supports.
- Further study of the web crippling capacities of long span roof decks and floor decks subjected any type of loading condition to improve the prediction equations as necessary.
- Future studies should address the broad range of parameters that influence the web crippling strength, i.e., N/t, R/t, h/t, Fy.

#### VI. CONCLUSIONS

This pilot study had as its objectives, to investigate experimentally the influence of flange restraint on the web crippling capacity of beam web elements, and to evaluate the accuracy of the design recommendations of AISI and Santaputra to predict the web crippling strength. Based on <sup>a</sup> limited number of tests conducted in this pilot study, the following conclusions are developed:

Influence of Flange Restraint:

- Channels and I-Sections, SUbjected to either the EOF or IOF loading, showed little increase in strength when the flanges were fastened to the support beams. Also, the I-sections did not achieve their computed web crippling capacities because of an insufficient number and the location of web connectors to form a built-up section.
- For the EOF loading, Z-sections experienced an average increase of 30 percent in strength with the flanges restrained by bolting to the support beam.
- For the IOF loading condition, the Z-sections exhibited only a 3 percent increase in strength when the flanges were fastened.
- For the long span roof decks (EOF), an average increase of over 37 percent in strength was

experienced with flanges restrained by bolting to the support beam.

For the floor decks under the EOF loading experienced an average increase of over 20 percent in strength with flanges restrained by bolting to the support beam. No significant increase was observed for the floor decks under IOF loading.

Test versus Computed Web Crippling strength:

- For the test specimens with unrestrained flanges formed from C and Z shaped sections, the equations of Santaputra, on the average, yielded <sup>a</sup> better estimate of the web crippling failure load. See Tables XXVIII through XXXI.
- For the <sup>C</sup> and <sup>Z</sup> shaped test specimens with restrained flanges, the web crippling equations of Santaputra, on the average, provided <sup>a</sup> better prediction of the web crippling strength. See Tables XXVIII through XXXI.
- For the two types of deck sections tested, the equations of Santaputra, on the average, provided a better prediction of the web crippling strength. See Tables XXIX and XXXI.

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