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## Five Useful Stability Concepts

Presented by  
Joseph Yura, Ph.D., P.E.  
Emeritus Professor  
University of Texas, Austin, TX



There's always a solution in steel.



## FIVE USEFUL STABILITY CONCEPTS

**Joseph A. Yura**  
**University of Texas at Austin**

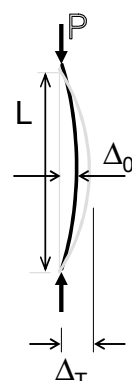


### FIVE STABILITY CONCEPTS

- loss of stiffness as the buckling load is approached
- inelastic column behavior
- $\Sigma P$  for system buckling
- importance of end connection details in built-up columns
- stiffness and strength required for braces

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**IMPERFECT MEMBERS**

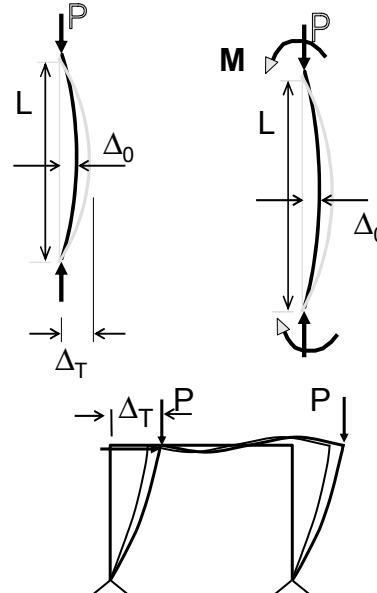


$$\Delta_T = \frac{\Delta_0}{1 - \frac{P}{P_{cr}}}$$

$$P_{cr} = \frac{\pi^2 EI}{L^2}$$

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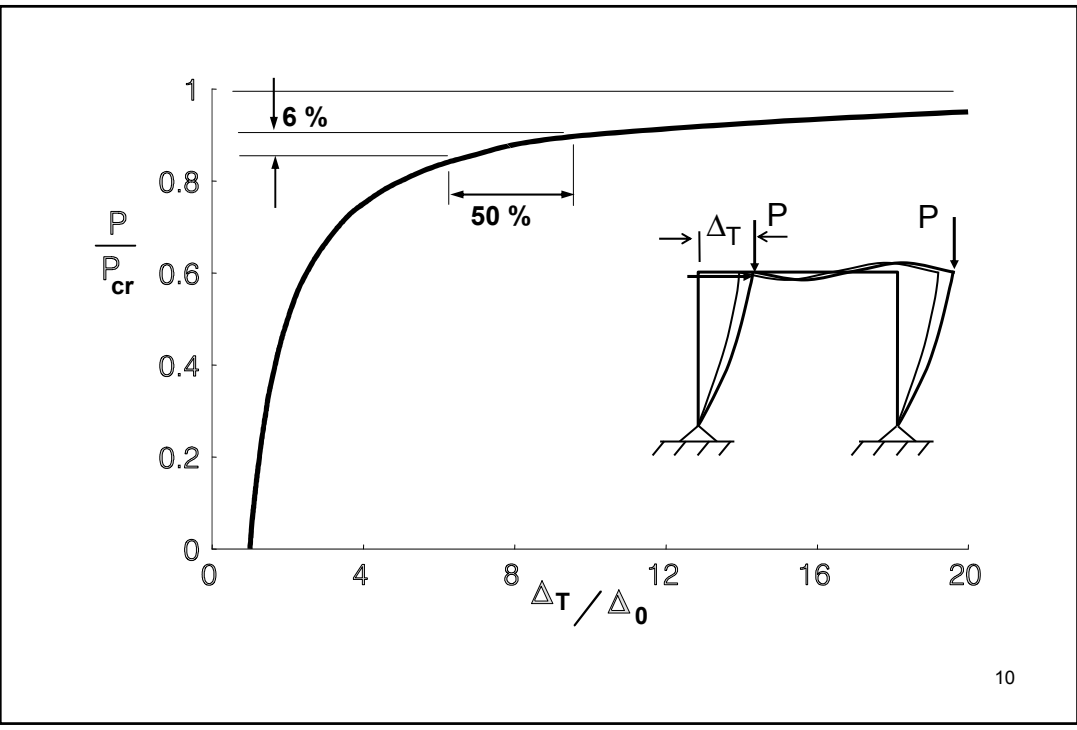
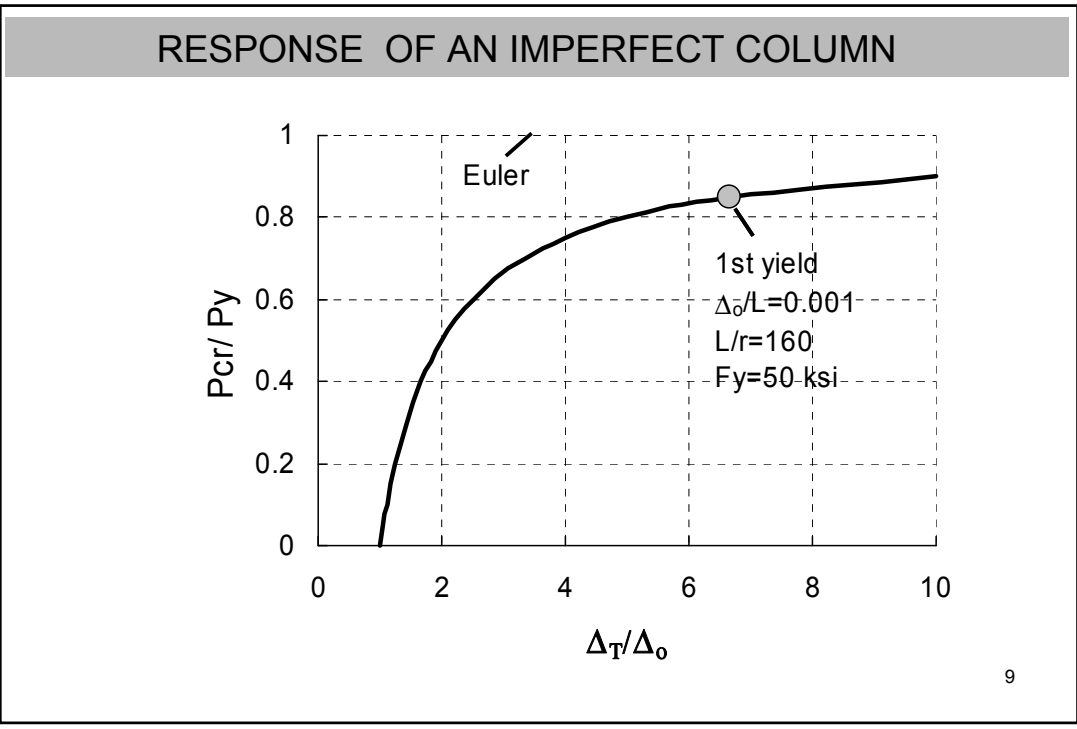
**IMPERFECT MEMBERS**

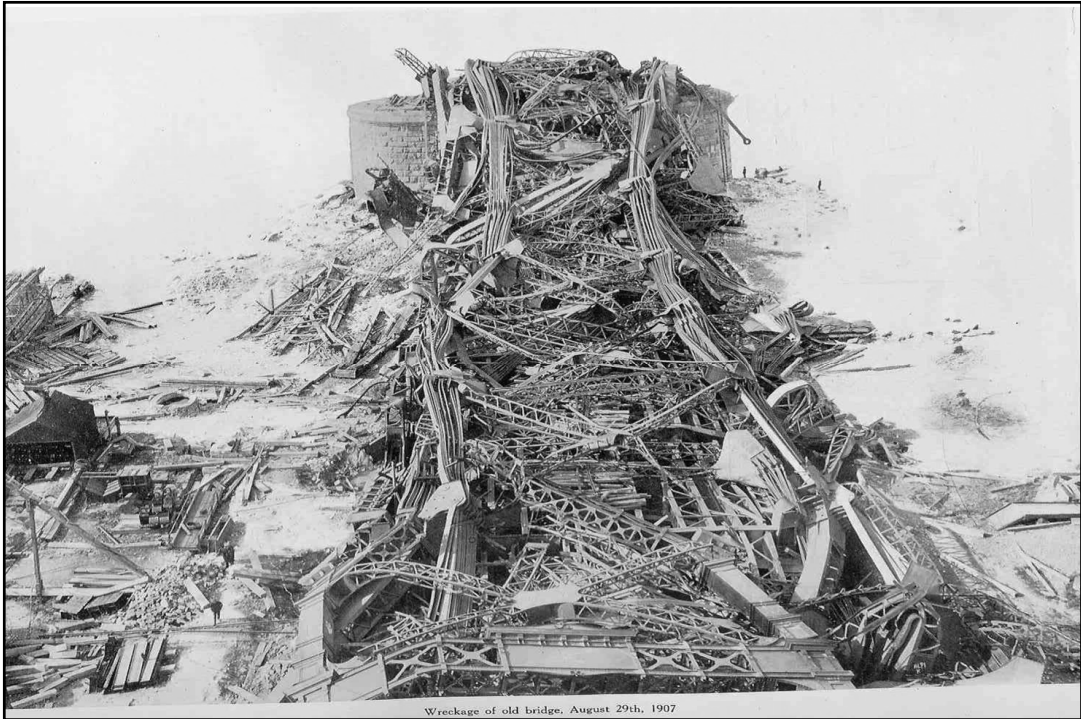
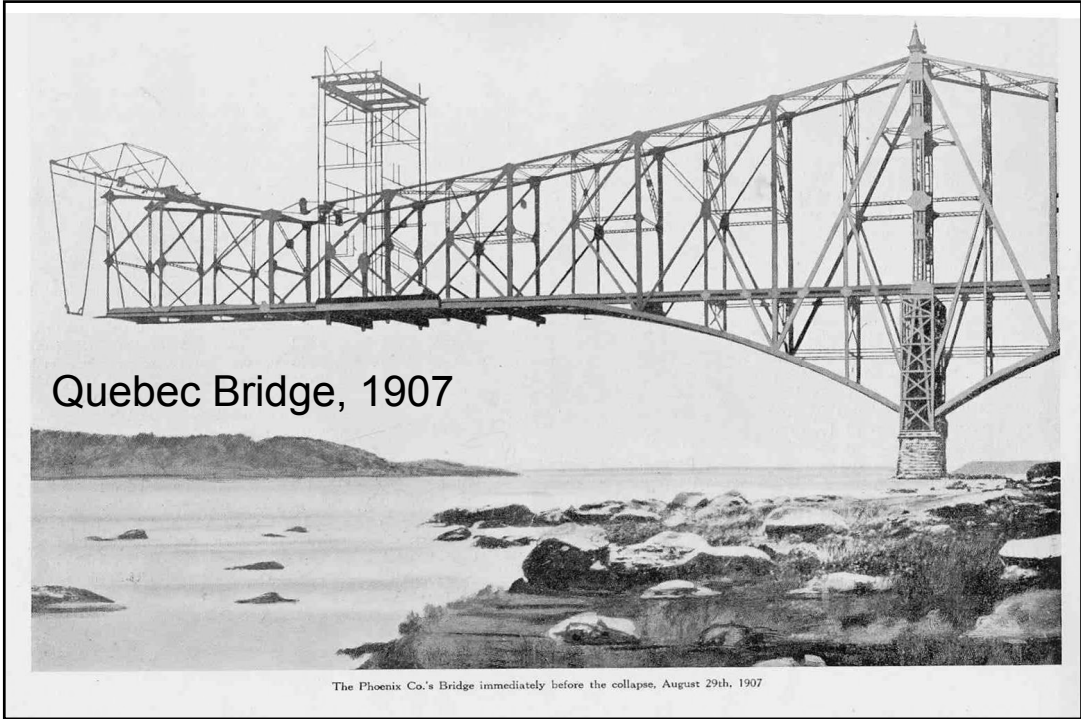


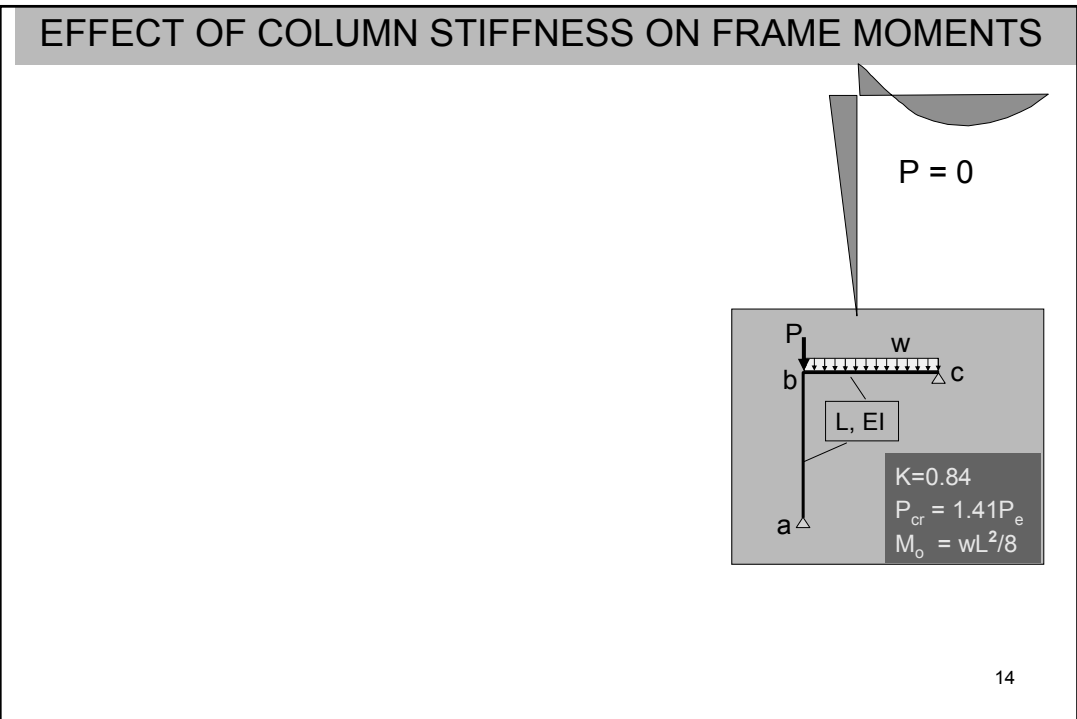
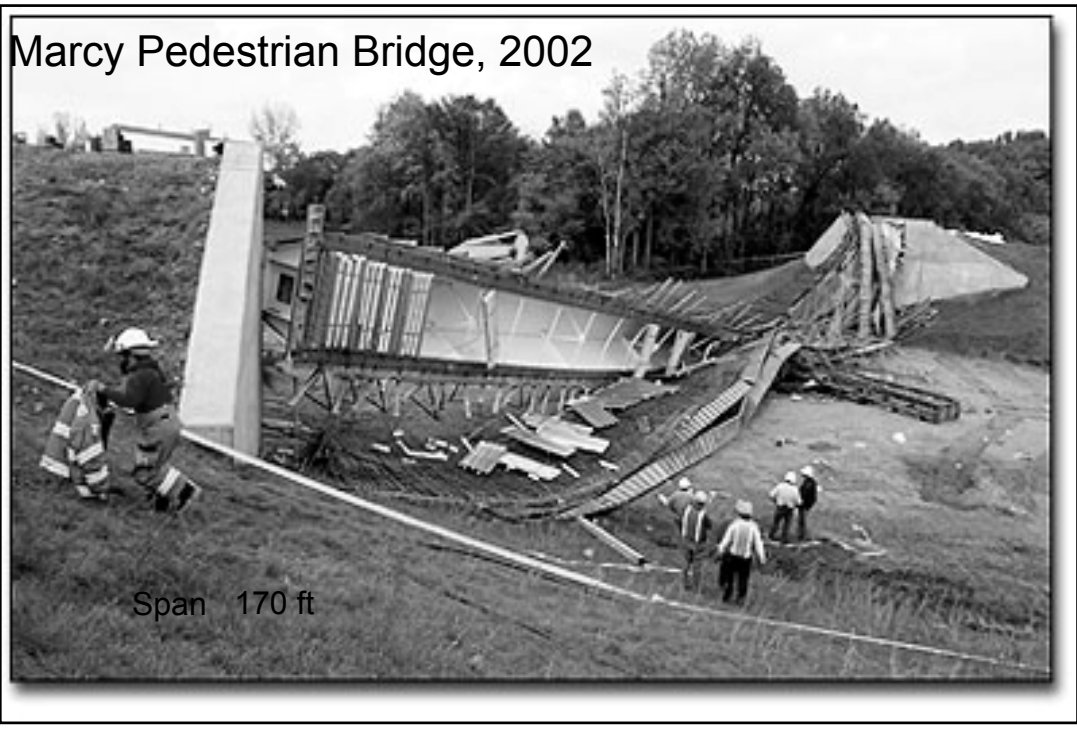
$$\Delta_T = \frac{\Delta_0}{1 - \frac{P}{P_{cr}}}$$

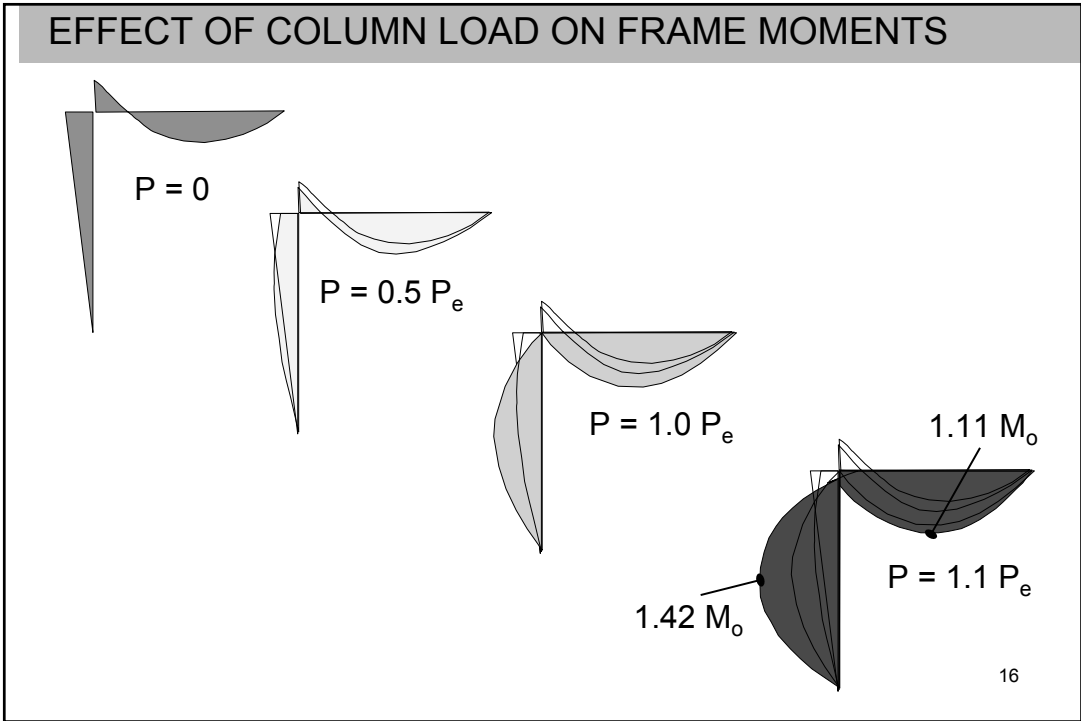
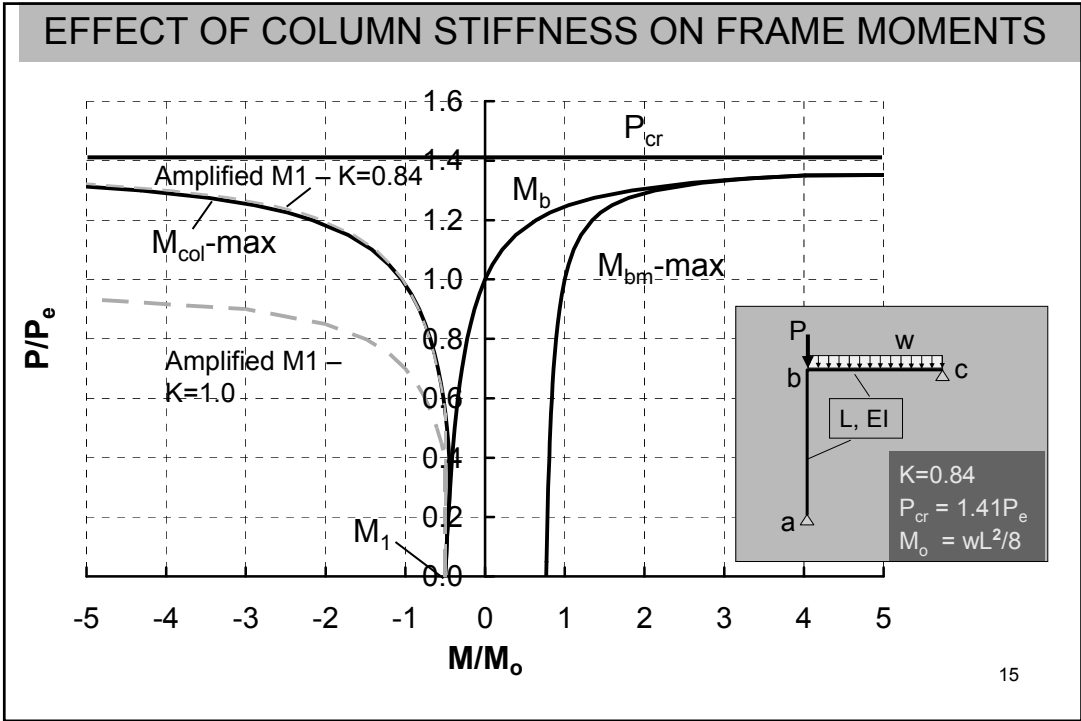
$$P_{cr} = \frac{\pi^2 EI}{L^2}$$

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### FIVE STABILITY CONCEPTS

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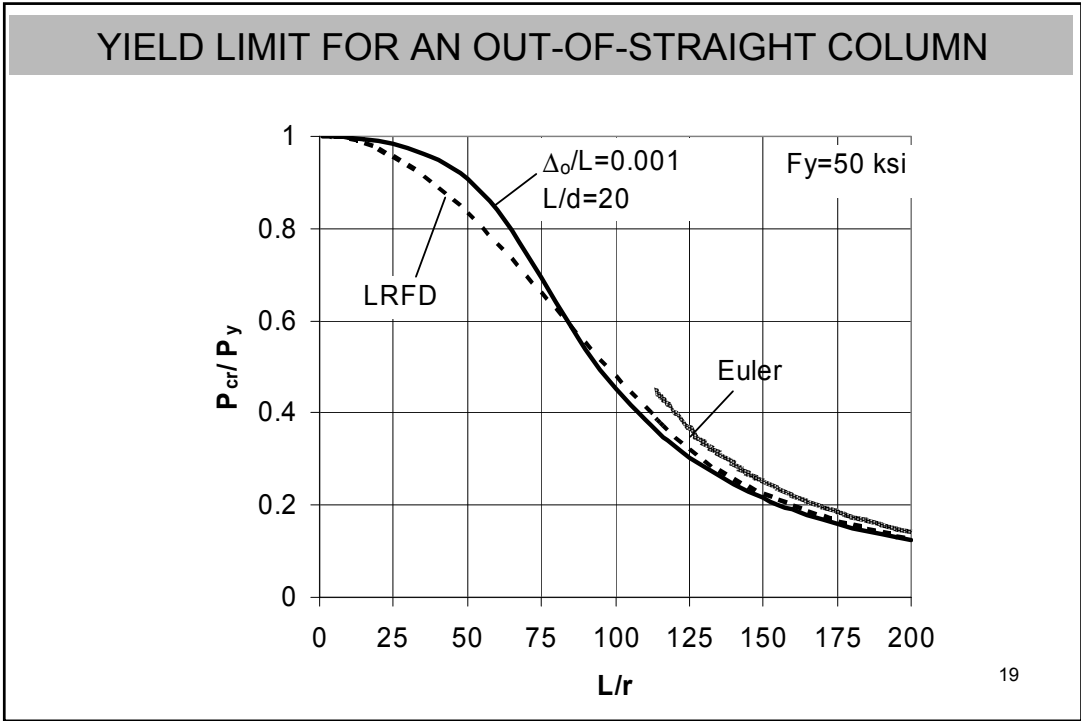
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### STRENGTH OF AN IMPERFECT COLUMN

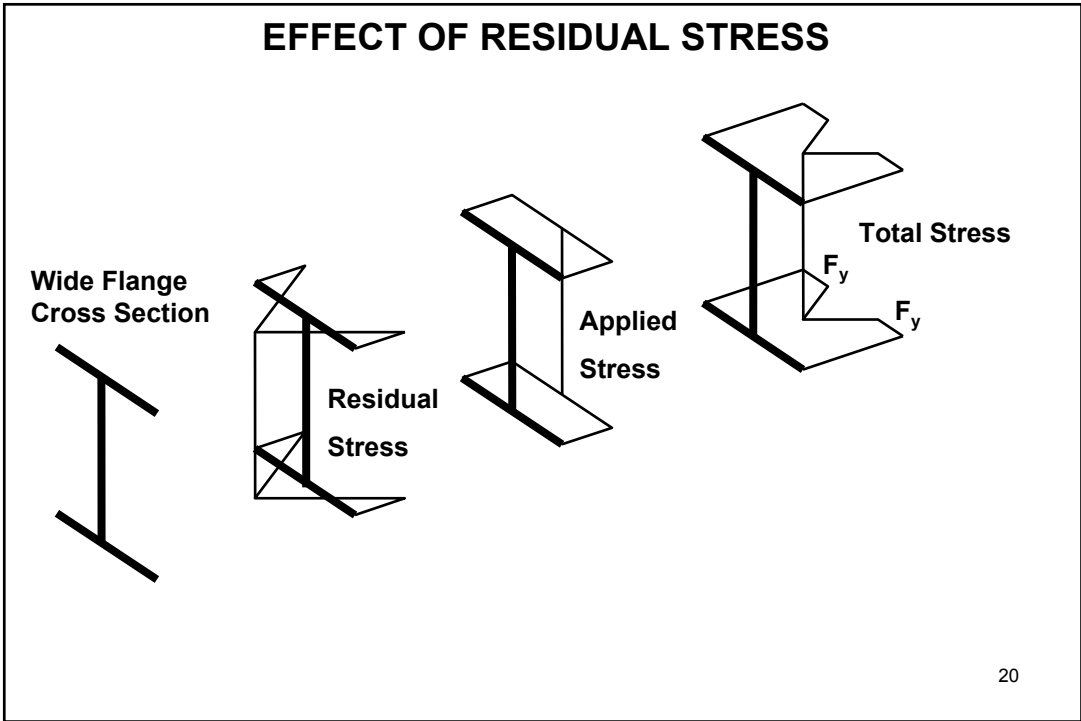
$$\frac{P}{A} + \frac{Mc}{I} = F_y$$

where  $M = P\Delta_T = \frac{P\Delta_0}{1 - P/P_{cr}}$

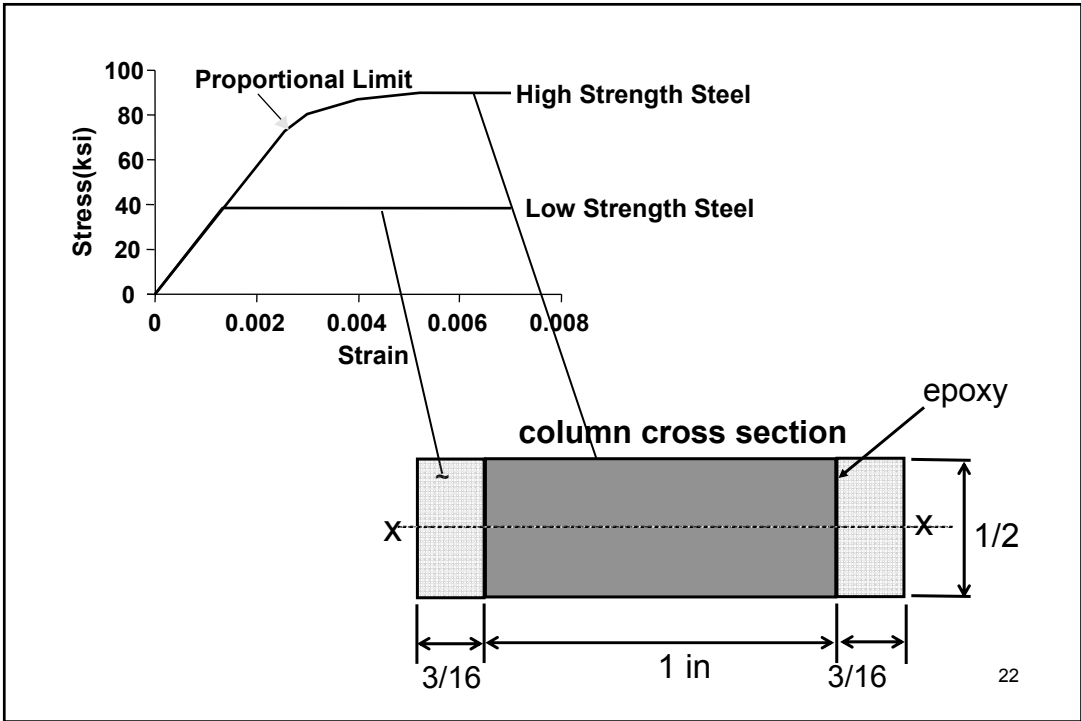
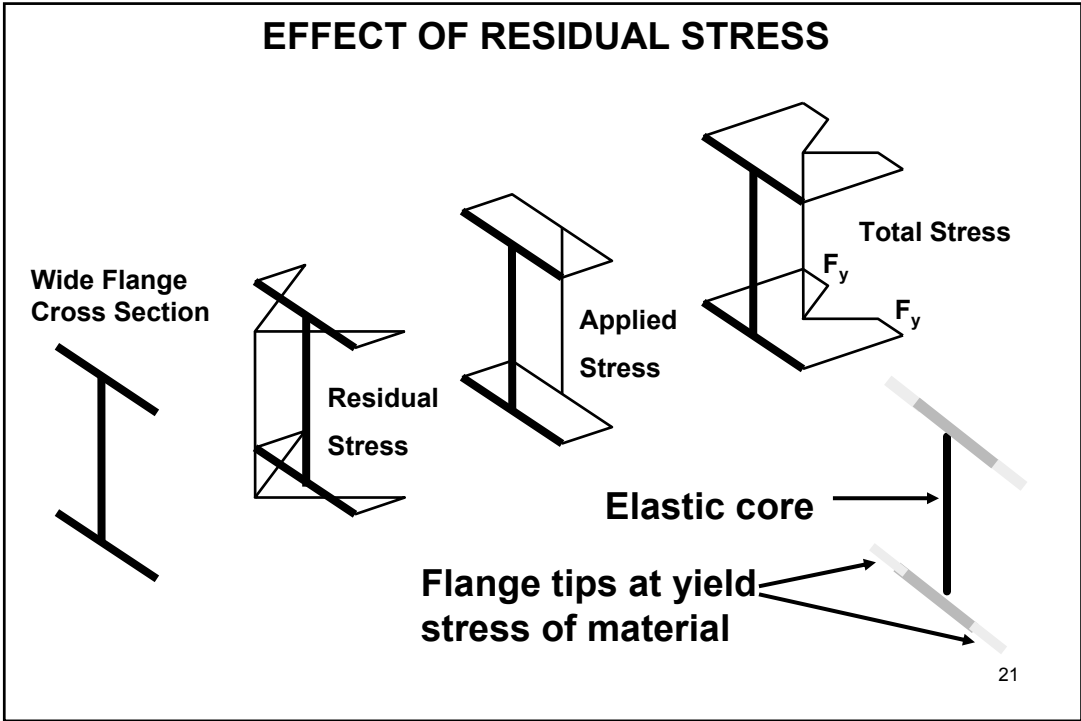
18



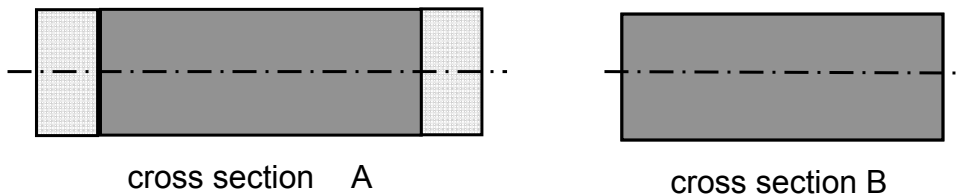
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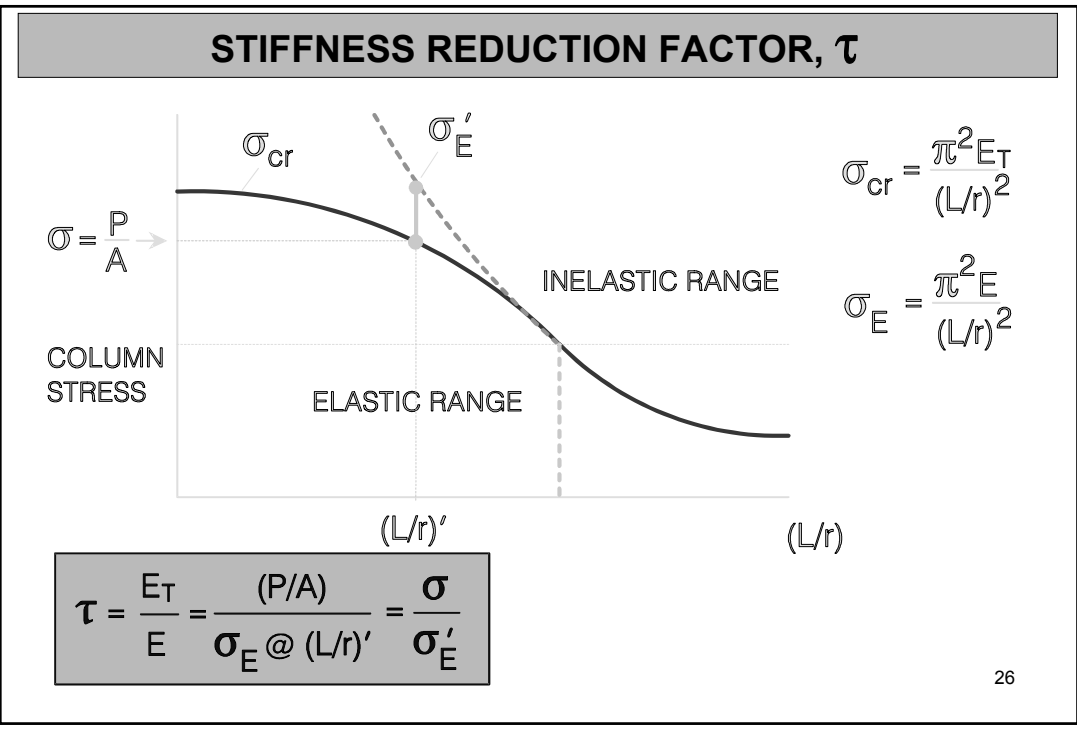
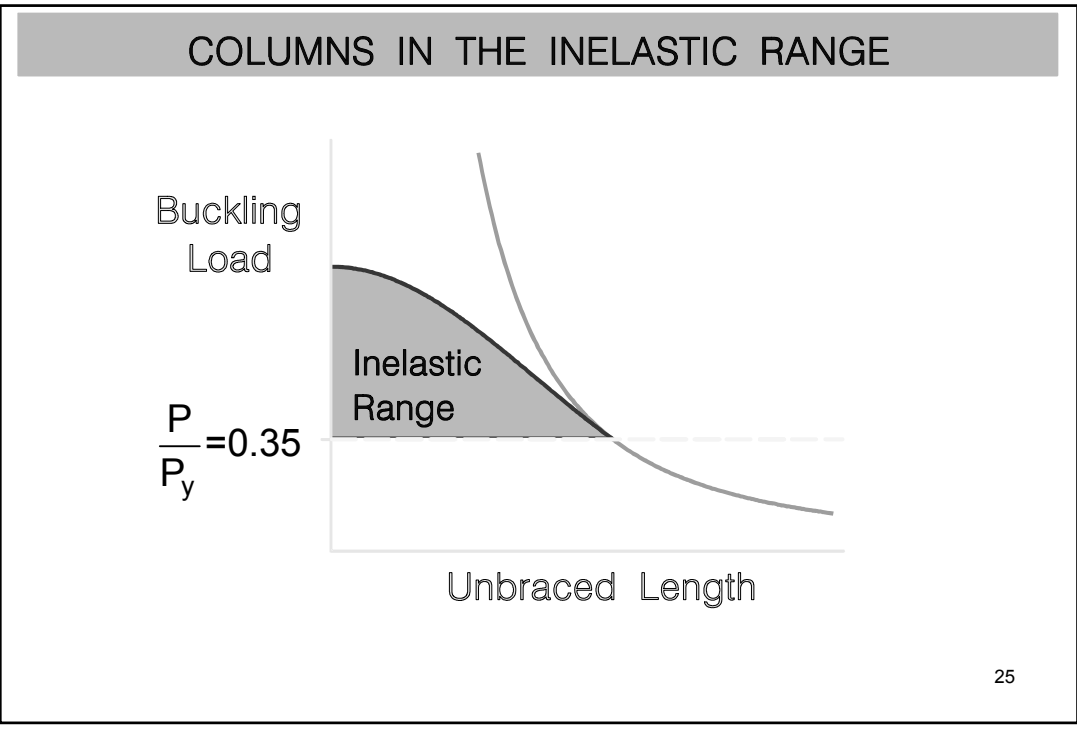
COLUMN TESTS WERE CONDUCTED WITH EACH OF THE CROSS SECTIONS SHOWN. FOR A COLUMN LENGTH OF 9.5 IN., THE BUCKLING LOAD WAS THE SAME EVEN THOUGH SECTION A IS 38% LARGER THAN SECTION B. AT L = 19 IN. THE BUCKLING LOAD FOR COLUMN A WAS 40% HIGHER THAN B.



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**Any yielded portion of a steel column contributes nothing to the buckling strength of that member even though the entire cross section supports the load**

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## CURRENT LRFD METHOD

$$\phi P_n = 0.90 F_{cr} A$$

where  $F_{cr} = 0.877 F_e = 0.877 \left( \frac{\pi^2 EI}{(KL/r)^2} \right)$  when  $F_e \leq 0.44 F_y$

and

$$F_{cr} = 0.658 \left( \frac{F_y}{F_e} \right) F_y \quad \text{when } F_e > 0.44 F_y$$

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## LRFD EQUIVALENT METHOD

$$\phi P_n = 0.90(0.877) \frac{\pi^2 EI}{(KL)^2} \tau = 226000 \frac{I}{(KL)^2} \tau$$

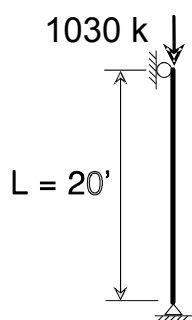
$$\tau = 1.0 \quad \text{for } \frac{P}{P_y} \leq 0.35$$

$$\text{and } \tau = -6.97 \left( \frac{P}{P_y} \right) \log \left( \frac{P}{0.9 P_y} \right) \quad \text{if } \frac{P}{P_y} > 0.35$$

$$P_y = F_y A$$

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## ALTERNATIVE COLUMN DESIGN



What column size is required?

Try a W12x120 ( $F_y = 50\text{ ksi}$ ):  $A = 35.3\text{ in}^2$   
 $I_y = 345\text{ in}^4$

$$\frac{P_u}{P_y} = \frac{1030}{(35.3\text{ in}^2 \times 50\text{ ksi})} = 0.584 > 0.35(\text{inelastic})$$

$$\tau = -6.97(0.584)\log\left(\frac{0.584}{0.9}\right) = 0.764$$

$$\phi P_n = 226000 \frac{345}{(20 \times 12)^2} 0.764 = 1034\text{ k}$$

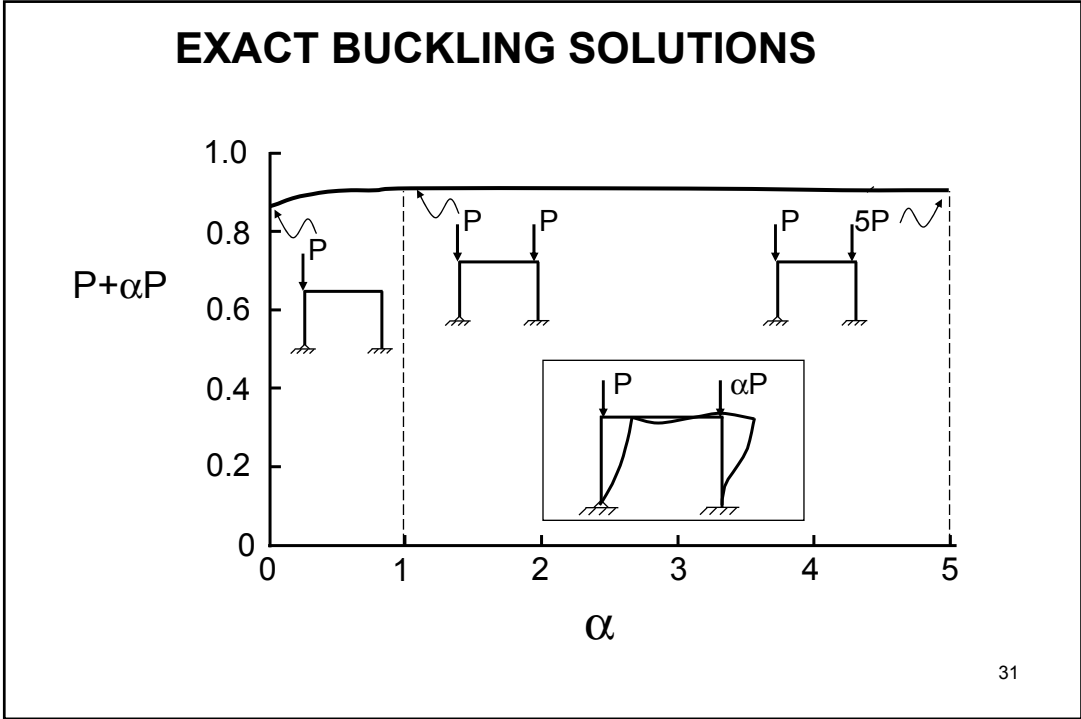
(1030 in tables)

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## FIVE STABILITY CONCEPTS

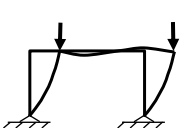
- loss of stiffness as the buckling load is approached
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- stiffness and strength required for braces

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### ΣP CONCEPT

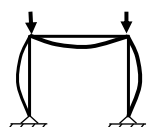
- **FOR SWAY BUCKLING OF A STORY:**



$$\sum P_{\text{Story Column Loads}} \leq \sum P_{cr i}$$

Sway Buckling Load of each column using Alignment Chart K-Factor

- **EACH COLUMN MUST SUPPORT ITS OWN LOAD IN THE NO-SWAY MODE (ie. WITH K=1.0)**



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### LEAN - ON SYSTEMS

Diagram showing two columns of length  $L$ . The left column is fixed at base  $B$ . The right column is fixed at base  $A$  and has a load  $P$  applied at its top. The columns are connected at their tops by a rigid joint.

$\neq$

Diagram showing an equivalent fixed-fixed column of length  $L$  with three springs representing the interaction between the columns.

Graph showing the relationship between the ratio of column stiffnesses  $I_B / I_A$  (x-axis, 0 to 20) and the ratio of loads  $P / P_e$  (y-axis, 0 to 1.0). The curve is linear from (0,0) to (15.3, 1.0) and then constant at 1.0. A value of 15.3 is marked on the x-axis.

$$P_e = \frac{\pi^2 E I_A}{L^2}$$

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### USE $\Sigma P$ CONCEPT

Diagram showing two columns of length  $L$ . The left column is fixed at base  $B$ . The right column is fixed at base  $A$  and has a load  $P$  applied at its top. The columns are connected at their tops by a rigid joint.

USE  $\Sigma P$  CONCEPT

Diagram showing an equivalent fixed-fixed column of length  $L$  with a load  $P$  applied at its top.

$$\frac{\pi^2 E I_A}{(4L)^2} + \frac{\pi^2 E I_B}{(4L)^2} = \frac{\pi^2 E I_A}{L^2}$$

$$I_B = 15 I_A$$

(15.3  $I_A$  exact)

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### LEAN-ON SYSTEM EXAMPLE

sway mode

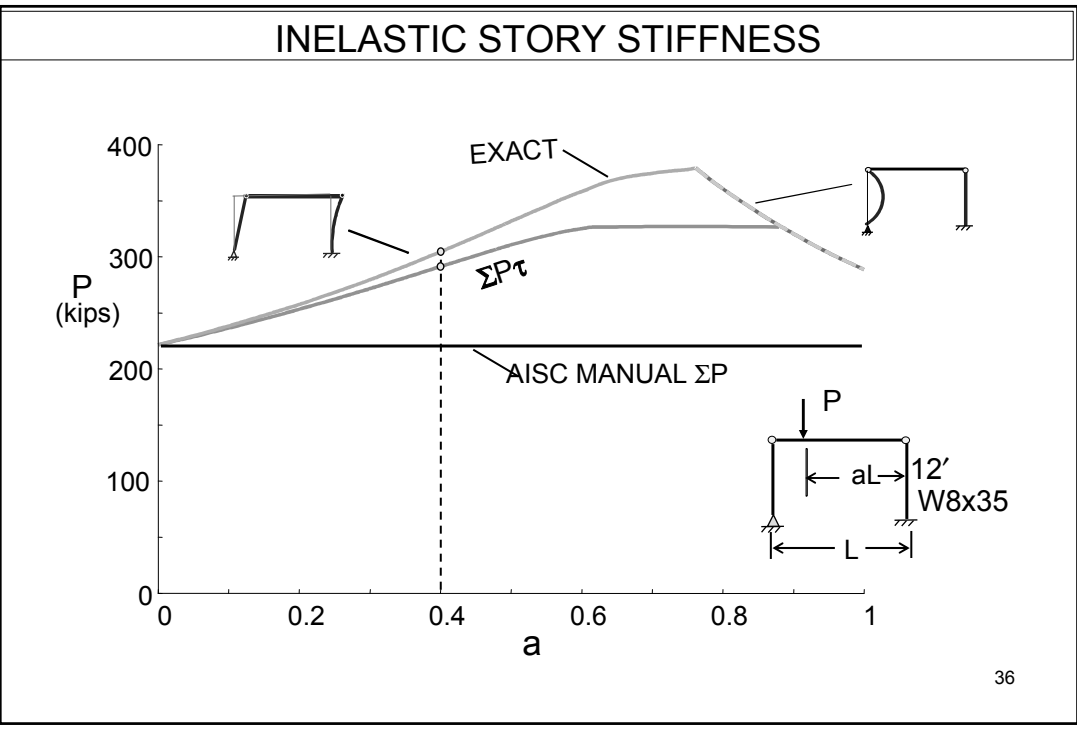
AISC-LRFD Spec.,  $F_y = 50$  ksi, factored loads  
Is the W12x26 capable of bracing the W12x40 ?

From the AISC Manual,  $\phi P_n = 439$  k for  $L = 8$  ft  
 $\Sigma P$  concept: W12x40,  $A = 11.7$  in<sup>2</sup>,  $I_y = 44.1$  in.<sup>2</sup>  
 W12x26,  $A = 7.65$  in<sup>2</sup>,  $I_x = 204$  in.<sup>2</sup>

Col A:  $P_A/F_y A = 439/(50 \times 11.7) = 0.75 > 0.35 \therefore$  inelastic  
 $\tau = -6.97(0.750)\log(1.111 \times 0.750) = 0.414$   
 $\phi P_A = 0.414 (226000) 44.1 / 288^2 = 49.7$  k

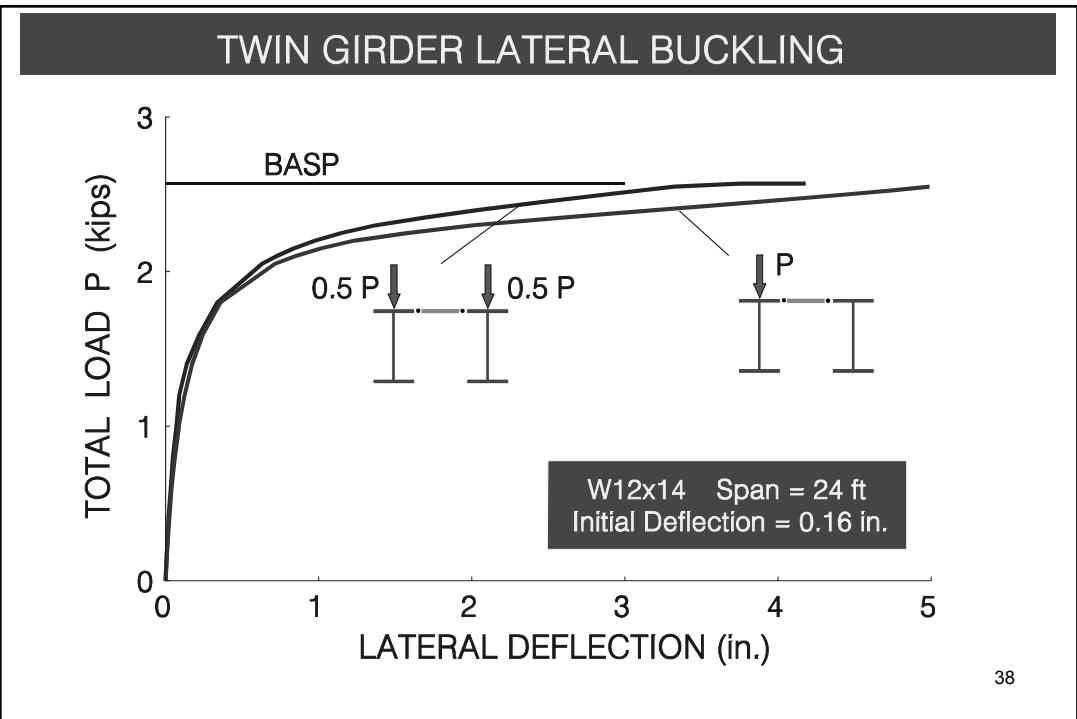
Col B:  $P_B/F_y A = 70/(50 \times 7.65) = 0.183 < 0.35 \therefore \tau = 1.0$   
 $\phi P_B = 1.0 (226000) 204 / 288^2 = 556$  k

$\Sigma P_{cr} = 50 + 556 = 606 > \Sigma P = 439 + 70 = 509$  k **OK<sub>35</sub>**



The “capacity” of an individual column in an unbraced frame determined from an alignment chart K-factor should be viewed only as a contribution to the story buckling stiffness, not as a load limit on that particular column.

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**EFFECT OF SLIP ON BUILT-UP COLUMNS**

Consider Three Cases:

$$\frac{P_{cr}}{2} = \frac{\pi^2 E \left( \frac{1}{12} b d^3 \right)}{L^2}$$

$$P_{cr} = \frac{\pi^2 E b d^3}{6L^2}$$

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### EFFECT OF SLIP ON BUILT-UP COLUMNS

Consider Three Cases:

**CASE A: No Connectors**  
K = 1.0

$$\frac{P_{cr}}{2} = \frac{\pi^2 E \left(\frac{1}{12} b d^3\right)}{L^2}$$

$$P_{cr} = \frac{\pi^2 E b d^3}{6 L^2}$$

**CASE B: Fully Connected**  
K = 1.0

$$P_{cr} = \frac{\pi^2 E \left(\frac{1}{12} b (2d)^3\right)}{L^2}$$

$$P_{cr} = \frac{4 \pi^2 E b d^3}{6 L^2}$$

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### EFFECT OF SLIP ON BUILT-UP COLUMNS

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**CASE A: No Connectors**  
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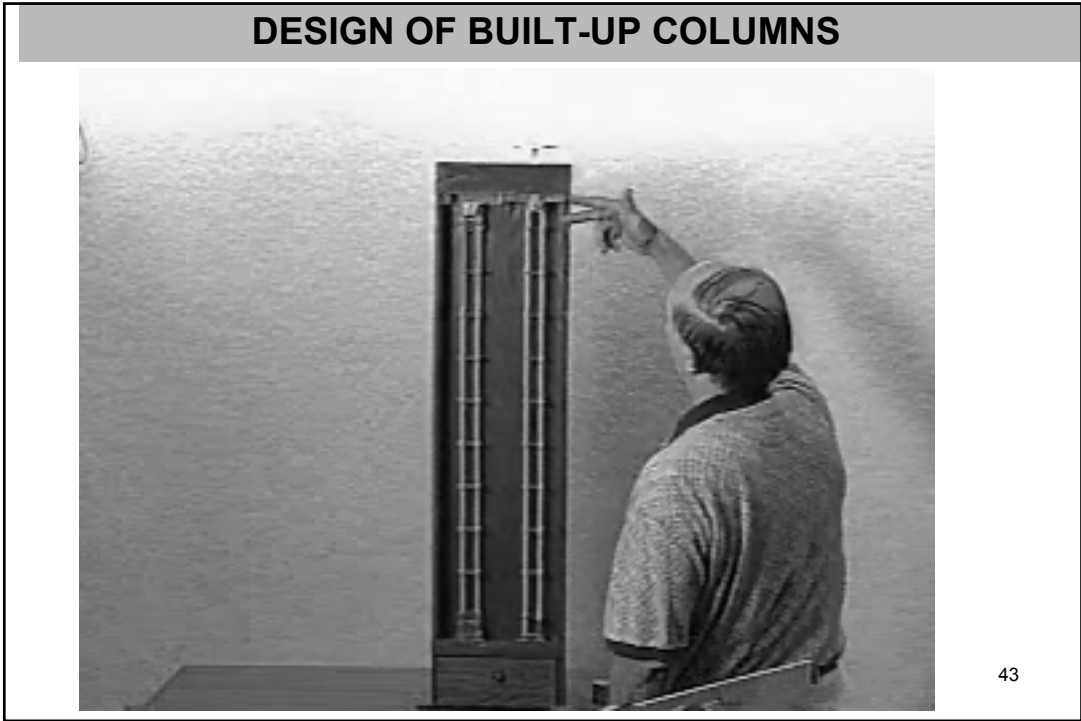
$$P_{cr} = \frac{4 \pi^2 E b d^3}{6 L^2}$$

**CASE C: Connectors at Ends Only**  
K = 0.5

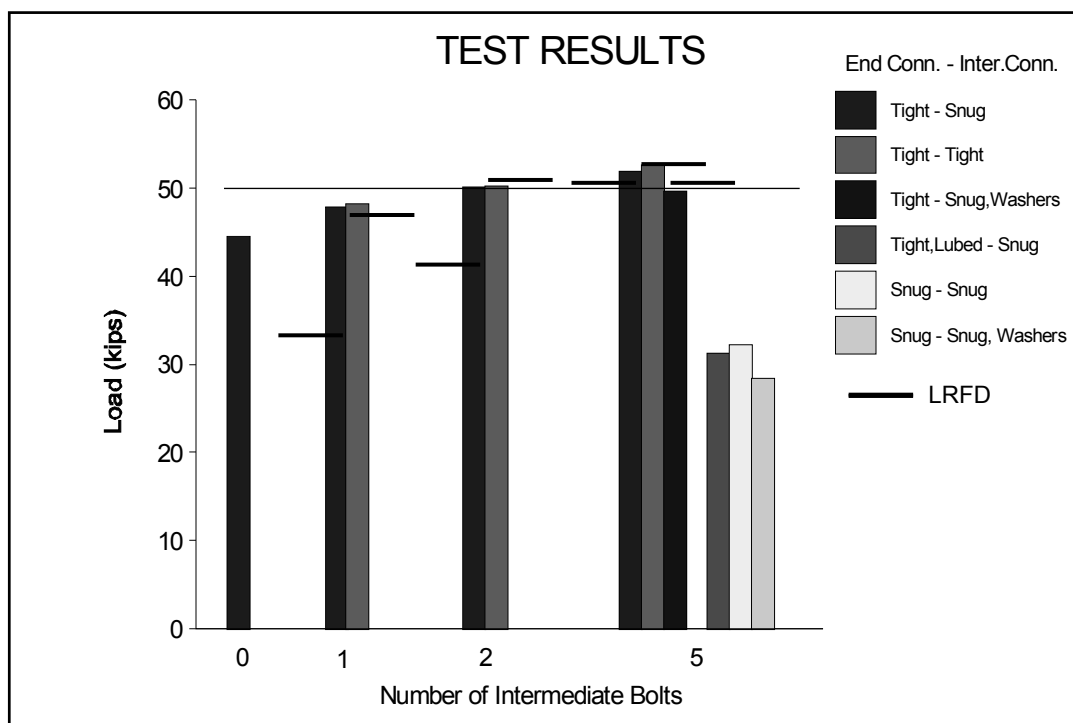
$$\frac{P_{cr}}{2} = \frac{\pi^2 E \left(\frac{1}{12} b d^3\right)}{(0.5L)^2}$$

$$P_{cr} = \frac{4 \pi^2 E b d^3}{6 L^2}$$

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**2L 5 x 3 x 1/4 LLBB**  
**F<sub>y</sub> = 36 ksi L = 150 in.**  
**3/8 in. separation**



### COMPRESSION MEMBERS - LRFD

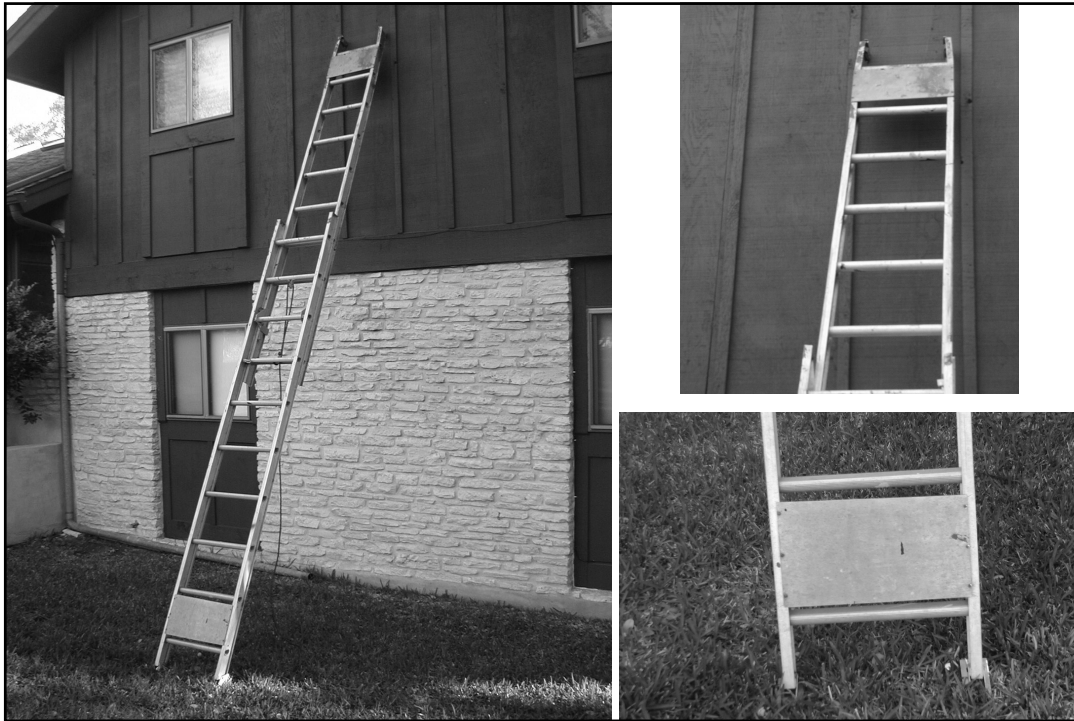
- (a) For intermediate connectors that are snug-tight bolted the modified column slenderness of the built-up member is:

$$\left(\frac{Kl}{r}\right)_m = \sqrt{\left(\frac{Kl}{r}\right)_0^2 + \left(\frac{a}{r_i}\right)^2} \quad (\text{E6 - 1})$$

- (b) For intermediate connectors that are welded or fully tensioned bolted the modified column slenderness of the built-up member is :

$$\left(\frac{Kl}{r}\right)_m = \sqrt{\left(\frac{Kl}{r}\right)_0^2 + 0.82 \frac{\alpha^2}{(1 + \alpha^2)} \left(\frac{a}{r_{ib}}\right)^2} \quad (\text{E6 - 2})$$

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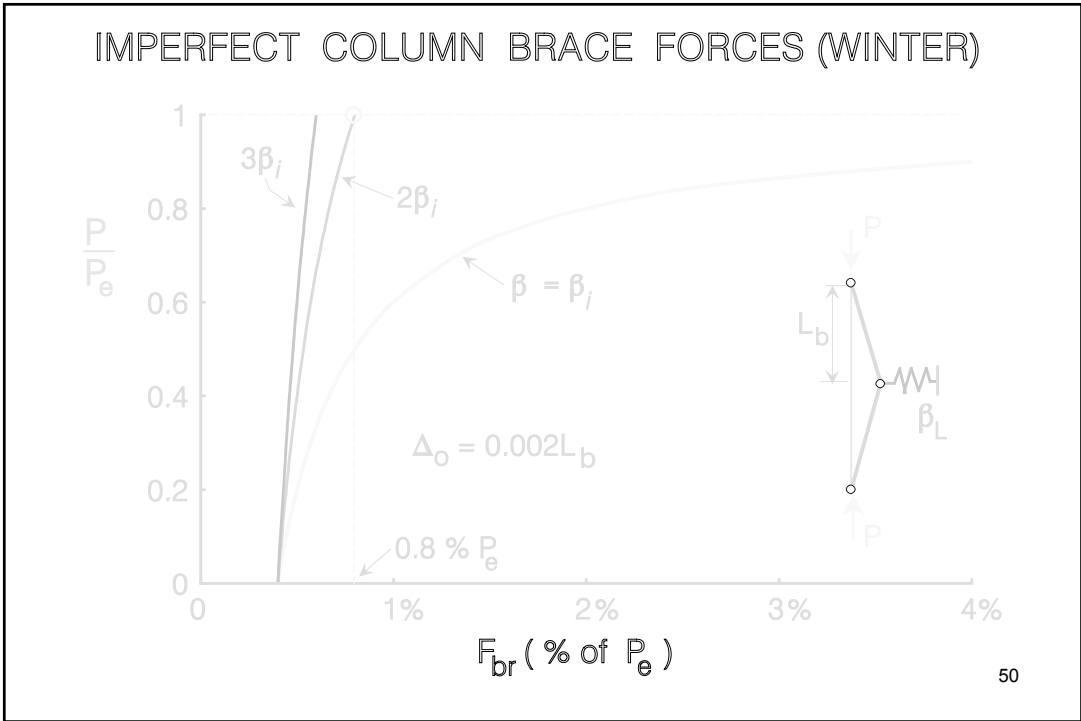
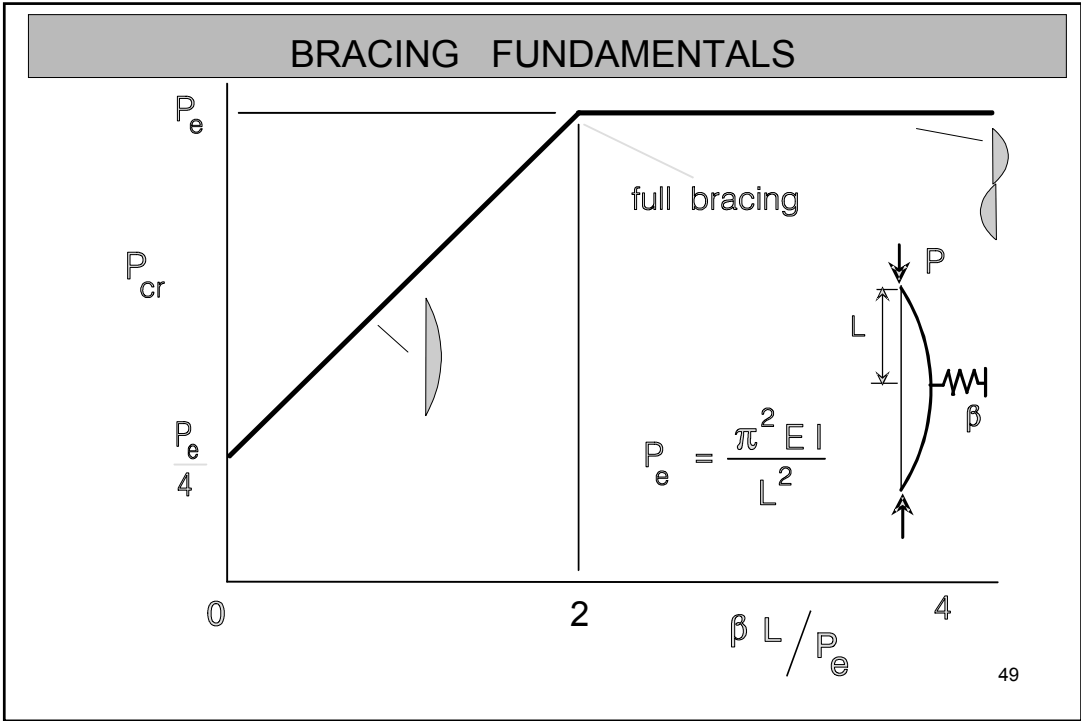


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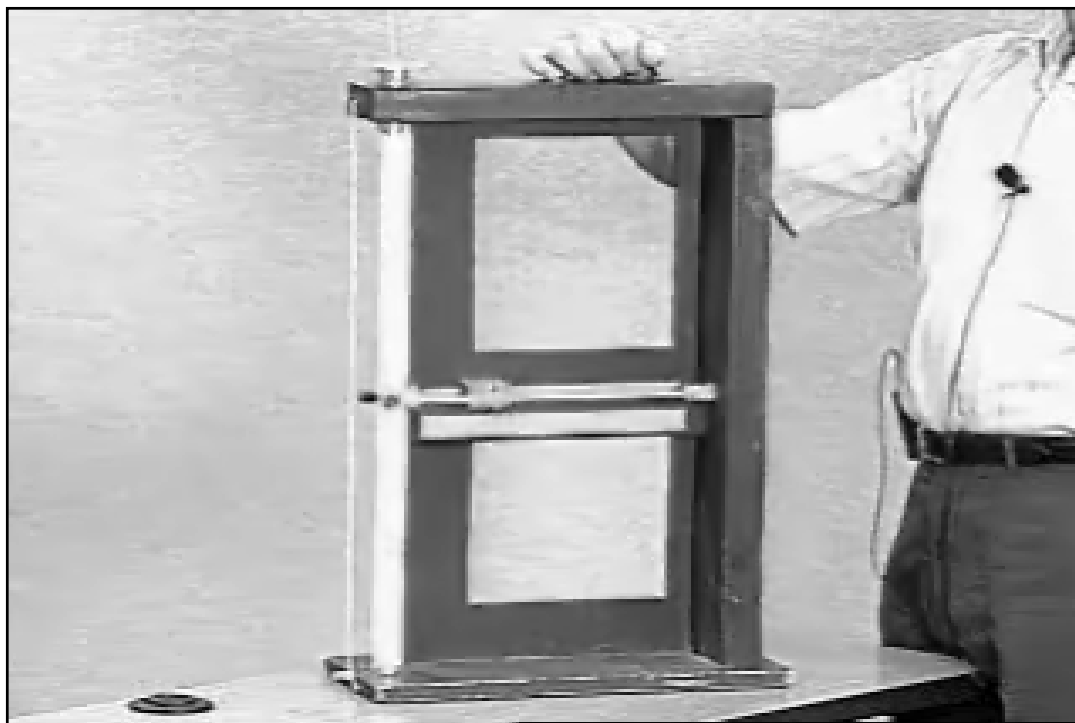




## SIMPLE RULE

- USE BRACE SYSTEM STIFFNESS AT LEAST TWICE THE IDEAL VALUE
- BRACE FORCE IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE MAGNITUDE OF THE INITIAL OUT-OF-STRAIGHTNESS
- DESIGN THE BRACE AND ITS CONNECTIONS FOR 1% OF THE COMPRESSIVE FORCE ( $\Delta_1 = 0.002L$ )

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### SUMMARY

- loss of stiffness as the buckling load is approached
- inelastic column behavior
- $\Sigma P$  for system buckling
- importance of end connection details in built-up columns
- stiffness and strength required for braces

***REMAIN STABLE***

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**Thank You!**

