



Braced Steel Column Verification Example

AISC Design Examples
AISC 13th Edition

Example H.1b W-shape Column Subjected to Combined Compression and Bending Moment About Both Axes (braced frame)

Verify if an ASTM A992 W14×99 has sufficient available strength to support the axial forces and moments listed below, obtained from a second order analysis that includes second-order effects. The unbraced length is 14 ft and the member has pinned ends. $KL_x = KL_y = L_b = 14.0$ ft

LRFD	ASD
$P_u = 400$ kips	$P_a = 267$ kips
$M_{ux} = 250$ kip-ft	$M_{ax} = 167$ kip-ft
$M_{uy} = 80.0$ kip-ft	$M_{ay} = 53.3$ kip-ft

Solution:

Material Properties:

ASTM A992 $F_y = 50$ ksi $F_u = 65$ ksi

Manual
Table 2-3

Take the available axial and flexural strengths from the Manual Tables

LRFD	ASD	
at $KL_y = 14.0$ ft, $P_c = \phi_c P_n = 1130$ kips	at $KL_y = 14.0$ ft, $P_c = P_n / \Omega_c = 751$ kips	Manual Table 4-1
at $L_b = 14.0$ ft, $M_{cx} = \phi M_{nx} = 642$ kip-ft	at $L_b = 14.0$ ft, $M_{cx} = M_{nx} / \Omega = 428$ kip-ft	Manual Table 3-10
$M_{cy} = \phi M_{ny} = 311$ kip-ft	$M_{cy} = M_{ny} / \Omega = 207$ kip-ft	Manual Table 3-2
$\frac{P_u}{\phi_c P_n} = \frac{400 \text{ kips}}{1,130 \text{ kips}} = 0.354$	$\frac{P_a}{P_n / \Omega_c} = \frac{267 \text{ kips}}{751 \text{ kips}} = 0.356$	
Since $\frac{P_u}{\phi_c P_n} > 0.2$, use Eqn. H1.1a	Since $\frac{P_a}{P_n / \Omega_c} > 0.2$, use Eqn. H1.1a	
$\frac{P_r}{P_c} + \frac{8}{9} \left(\frac{M_{rx}}{M_{cx}} + \frac{M_{ry}}{M_{cy}} \right) \leq 1.0$	$\frac{P_r}{P_c} + \frac{8}{9} \left(\frac{M_{rx}}{M_{cx}} + \frac{M_{ry}}{M_{cy}} \right) \leq 1.0$	Eq. H1.1a
$\frac{400 \text{ kips}}{1130 \text{ kips}} + \frac{8}{9} \left(\frac{250 \text{ kip-ft}}{642 \text{ kip-ft}} + \frac{80.0 \text{ kip-ft}}{311 \text{ kip-ft}} \right)$ $= 0.354 + \frac{8}{9} (0.389 + 0.257) = 0.929 < 1.0$	$\frac{267 \text{ kips}}{751 \text{ kips}} + \frac{8}{9} \left(\frac{167 \text{ kip-ft}}{428 \text{ kip-ft}} + \frac{53.3 \text{ kip-ft}}{207 \text{ kip-ft}} \right)$ $= 0.356 + \frac{8}{9} (0.390 + 0.257) = 0.931 < 1.0$	
o.k.	o.k.	

GEOMETRY

Column Designation	W14X99
Steel Yield Strength F_y	50.0 ksi
Modulus of Elasticity E_s	29000 ksi
Member Length L	14.00 ft
Effective Length K_x -factor	1.00
Effective Length K_y -factor	1.00
Unbraced Length L_b	14.00 ft OK

PROPERTIES

Area	29.1 in ²	S_x	157.0 in ³
Depth	14.2 in	Z_x	173.0 in ³
b_f	14.6 in	r_x	6.17 in
t_w	0.49 in	I_y	402.0 in ⁴
t_f	0.78 in	S_y	55.2 in ³
k_{des}	1.38 in	Z_y	83.6 in ³
I_x	1110.0 in ⁴	r_y	3.71 in

SERVICE LOADS (ASD)

Loads from a General 2nd-Order Analysis

Axial Load P	267.0 kip
Max. Moment x-x	167.0 k-ft
Max. Moment y-y	53.3 k-ft

LOCAL BUCKLING

Flanges in Flexure	Non-compact
Flanges in Compression	Non-slender
Web in Flexure	Compact
Web in Compression	Non-slender

COMPRESSION

Slenderness Ratio $K_x L / r_x$	27.2
Slenderness Ratio $K_y L / r_y$	45.3
Max. Slenderness Ratio	45.3 OK

Limit States

Nominal P_n

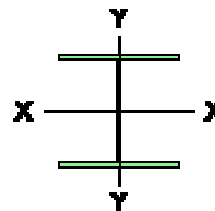
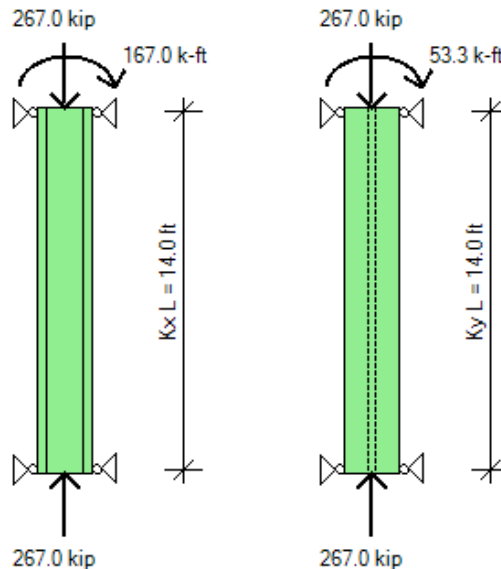
Flexural Buckling	1252.4 kip	✓
Torsional Buckling	1277.1 kip	
Flexural-Torsional Buckling	N.A. kip	
Nominal Strength P_n	1252.4 kip	
Safety Factor Ω	1.67	
Allowable Strength P_n/Ω	750.0 kip	
$P / P_n/\Omega$ Design Ratio	0.36	OK

BENDING ABOUT Y-Y

Limit States

Nominal M_n

Yielding	348.3 k-ft	
Lateral-Torsional Buckling	N.A. k-ft	
Flange Local Buckling	345.7 k-ft	✓
Web Local Buckling	N.A. k-ft	
Nominal Strength M_n	345.7 k-ft	
Safety Factor Ω	1.67	
Allowable Strength M_n/Ω	207.0 k-ft	
$M / M_n/\Omega$ Design Ratio	0.26	OK

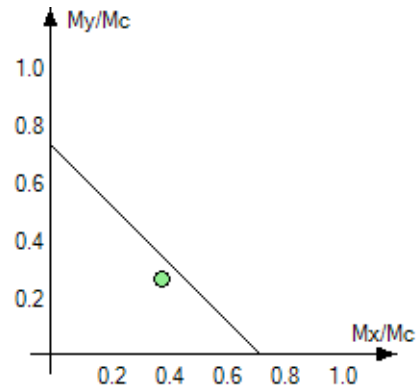
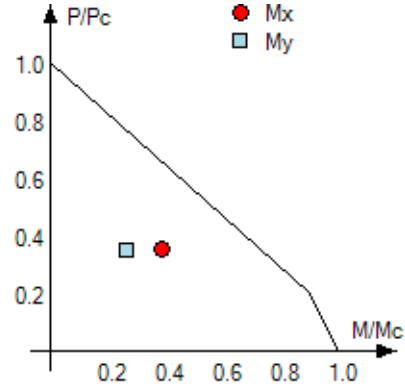


BENDING ABOUT X-X

Moment at 1/4 point of Lb ...	N.A.	k-ft
Moment at 1/2 point of Lb ...	N.A.	k-ft
Moment at 3/4 point of Lb ...	N.A.	k-ft
L. T. Buckling Cb-factor	1.75	
Limit States		Nominal Mn
Yielding	N.A.	k-ft
Lateral-Torsional Buckling	720.8	k-ft
Flange Local Buckling	717.2	k-ft ✓
Web Local Buckling	N.A.	k-ft
Nominal Strength Mn	717.2	k-ft
Safety Factor Ω	1.67	
Allowable Strength Mn/ Ω ...	429.5	k-ft
M / Mn/ Ω Design Ratio	0.39	OK

COMBINED FORCES

AISC Equation {H1-1a}	0.93	OK
AISC Equation {H1-1b}	N.A.	



GEOMETRY

Column Designation	W14X99
Steel Yield Strength Fy	50.0 ksi
Modulus of Elasticity Es	29000 ksi
Member Length L	14.00 ft
Effective Length Kx-factor ..	1.00
Effective Length Ky-factor ..	1.00
Unbraced Length Lb	14.00 ft OK

PROPERTIES

Area ..	29.1 in ²	Sx ...	157.0 in ³
Depth	14.2 in	Zx ...	173.0 in ³
bf	14.6 in	rx	6.17 in
tw	0.49 in	ly	402.0 in ⁴
tf	0.78 in	Sy ...	55.2 in ³
k des ..	1.38 in	Zy ...	83.6 in ³
lx	1110.0 in ⁴	ry	3.71 in

SERVICE LOADS (ASD)

Loads from a General 2nd-Order Analysis

Axial Load P	267.0 kip
Max. Moment x-x	167.0 k-ft
Max. Moment y-y	53.3 k-ft

LOCAL BUCKLING

Flanges in Flexure	Non-compact
Flanges in Compression	Non-slender
Web in Flexure	Compact
Web in Compression	Non-slender

DESIGN FOR COMPRESSION

Slender unstiffened Qs = 1.00 , Slender stiffened Qa = 1.00 , Q = Qs * Qa = 1.00 AISC E7

Slenderness ratio $KxL / rx = 1.00 * 14.00 / 6.17 = 27.2$

Slenderness ratio $KyL / ry = 1.00 * 14.00 / 3.71 = 45.3$

Maximum slenderness ratio = Max (27.2, 45.3) = 45.3 AISC E3

Elastic buckling $Fe = \frac{\pi^2 * E}{(KL/r)^2} = \frac{3.14^2 * 29000}{45.3^2} = 139.6$ ksi AISC Eq. E3-4

$Fe \geq 0.44 * Q * Fy$ (139.6 \geq 0.44 * 1.00 * 50.0 = 22.0)

Flexural buckling stress $Fcr = Q * Fy * (0.658)^{Q * Fy / Fe}$ AISC Eq. E3-2
 $Fcr = 1.00 * 50.0 * (0.658)^{1.00 * 50.0 / 139.6} = 43.0$ ksi

$Fe = [\frac{\pi^2 * E * Cw}{(KyL)^2} + G * J] \frac{1}{Ix + Iy}$ AISC Eq. E4-4
 $= [\frac{\pi^2 * 29000 * 18000.0}{(1.00 * 14.0 * 12)^2} + 11200 * 5.4] \frac{1}{1110.0 + 402.0} = 160.5$ ksi

$Fe \geq 0.44 * Q * Fy$ (160.5 \geq 0.44 * 1.00 * 50.0 = 22.0)

Torsional buckling $Fcr = Q * Fy * (0.658)^{Q * Fy / Fe}$ AISC Eq. E3-2
 $Fcr = 1.00 * 50.0 * (0.658)^{1.00 * 50.0 / 160.5} = 43.9$ ksi

Compressive strength $Pn = Fcr * Ag = 43.0 * 29.1 = 1252.4$ kip AISC Eq. E3-1

Controlling limit state: Flexural Buckling

Compressive design ratio = $\frac{P}{Pn / \Omega} = \frac{267.0}{1252.4 / 1.67} = 0.36 < 1.0$ OK AISC E1

DESIGN FOR FLEXURE

$C_b = 1.75$ (User-defined)

- Lateral-Torsional Buckling

$$L_p = 1.76 \cdot r_y \cdot \sqrt{\frac{E}{F_y}} = 1.76 \cdot 3.7 \cdot \sqrt{\frac{29000}{50}} \quad L_p = 157.3 \text{ in} \quad \text{AISC Eq. F2-5}$$

$$r_{ts} = \sqrt{\frac{\sqrt{I_y \cdot C_w}}{S_x}} = \sqrt{\frac{\sqrt{402 \cdot 18000}}{157}} \quad r_{ts} = 4.1 \text{ in} \quad \text{AISC Eq. F2-7}$$

$$h_o = d - t_f = 14.2 - 0.8 = 13.4 \text{ in}$$

$c = 1.0$ (doubly symmetric I-shape) AISC Eq. F2-8a

$$L_r = \frac{1.95 \cdot r_{ts} \cdot E}{(0.7 \cdot F_y)} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{J \cdot c}{(S_x \cdot h_o)} + \sqrt{\left(\frac{J \cdot c}{(S_x \cdot h_o)}\right)^2} + 6.76 \cdot \left(\frac{0.7 \cdot F_y}{E}\right)^2} \quad \text{AISC Eq. F2-6}$$

$$\frac{1.95 \cdot 4.1 \cdot 29000}{0.7 \cdot 50} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{5.4 \cdot 1}{157 \cdot 13.4} + \sqrt{\frac{5.4 \cdot 1}{157 \cdot 13.4}^2} + 6.76 \cdot \frac{0.7 \cdot 50^2}{29000}} \quad L_r = 543.0 \text{ in}$$

$$F_{cr} = \frac{C_b \cdot \pi^2 \cdot E}{(L_b / r_{ts})^2} \sqrt{1 + \frac{0.078 \cdot J \cdot c}{(S_x \cdot h_o)} \cdot \left(\frac{L_b}{r_{ts}}\right)^2} \quad \text{AISC Eq. F2-4}$$

$$= \frac{1.75 \cdot \pi^2 \cdot 29000.0}{(14.0 \cdot 12 / 4.1)^2} \sqrt{1 + \frac{0.078 \cdot 5.4 \cdot 1}{157 \cdot 13.4} \cdot \frac{14^2}{4.1}} \quad F_{cr} = 350.3 \text{ ksi}$$

Nominal strength $M_{nx} = C_b \cdot [M_{px} - (M_{px} - 0.7 \cdot F_y \cdot S_x) \cdot (L_b - L_p) / (L_r - L_p)]$ AISC Eq. F2-2

$$M_{nx} = 1.75 \cdot [(8650.0 - (8650.0 - 0.7 \cdot 50.0 \cdot 157.0)(14.0 \cdot 12 - 157.3) / (543.0 - 157.3)] / 12 = 720.8 \text{ k-ft}$$

- Compression Flange Local Buckling

$$\lambda = b_f / (2 \cdot t_f) = 14.6 / (2 \cdot 0.8) = 9.4$$

$$\lambda_{pf} = 0.38 \sqrt{\frac{E}{F_y}} = 0.38 \cdot \sqrt{\frac{29000}{50}} = 9.2$$

$$\lambda_{rf} = 1.0 \cdot \sqrt{\frac{E}{F_y}} = 1.0 \cdot \sqrt{\frac{29000}{50}} = 24.1$$

$$M_{nx} = (M_{px} - (M_{px} - 0.7 \cdot F_y \cdot S_x) \cdot (\lambda - \lambda_{pf}) / (\lambda_{rf} - \lambda_{pf})) / 12 \quad \text{AISC Eq F3-1}$$

$$= (8650.0 - (8650.0 - 0.7 \cdot 50.0 \cdot 157.0) \cdot (9.4 - 9.2) / (24.1 - 9.2)) / 12 = 717.2 \text{ k-ft}$$

X - Controlling limit state: Flange Local Buckling

$$X - \text{Flexural design ratio} = \frac{M_x}{M_{nx} / \Omega} = \frac{167.0}{717.2 / 1.67} = 0.39 < 1.0 \text{ OK} \quad \text{AISC F1}$$

- Yielding

$$M_{py} = \text{Min}(F_y \cdot Z_y, 1.6 \cdot F_y \cdot S_y) = \text{Min}(50.0 \cdot 83.6, 1.6 \cdot 50.0 \cdot 55.2) = 4180.0 \text{ k-in}$$

$$\text{Nominal strength } M_{ny} = M_{py} / 12 = 348.3 \text{ k-ft}$$

- Flange Local Buckling

$$M_{ny} = (M_{py} - (M_{py} - 0.7 \cdot F_y \cdot S_y) \cdot (\lambda - \lambda_{pf}) / (\lambda_{rf} - \lambda_{pf})) / 12 \quad \text{AISC Eq. F6-1}$$

$$= (4180.0 - (4180.0 - 0.7 \cdot 50.0 \cdot 55.2) \cdot (9.4 - 9.2) / (24.1 - 9.2)) / 12 = 345.7 \text{ k-ft} \quad \text{AISC Eq F6-2}$$

Y - Controlling limit state: Flange Local Buckling

$$Y - \text{Flexural design ratio} = \frac{M_y}{M_{ny} / \Omega} = \frac{53.3}{345.7 / 1.67} = 0.26 < 1.0 \text{ OK} \quad \text{AISC F1}$$

DESIGN FOR COMBINED FORCES

Allowable axial strength $P_c = \frac{P_n}{\Omega} = \frac{1252.4}{1.67} = 750.0 \text{ kip}$ AISC E1

Allowable flexural strength $M_{cx} = \frac{M_{nx}}{\Omega} = \frac{717.2}{1.67} = 429.5 \text{ kip}$ AISC F1

Allowable flexural strength $M_{cy} = \frac{M_{ny}}{\Omega} = \frac{345.7}{1.67} = 207.0 \text{ kip}$ AISC F1

Combined forces ratio = $\frac{P}{P_c} + 8/9 \left[\frac{M_x}{M_{cx}} + \frac{M_y}{M_{cy}} \right]$ AISC Eq. H1-1a

= $\frac{267.0}{750.0} + 8/9 \left[\frac{167.0}{429.5} + \frac{53.3}{207.0} \right] = 0.93 < 1.0$ **OK**

