

# CIVIL 369: “Structural Stability”



**School of Architecture, Civil & Environmental Engineering  
Civil Engineering Institute  
Resilient Steel Structures Laboratory (RESSLab)**

## **Lateral Torsional Buckling of Open Cross-Sections**

Instructor: Prof. Dr. Dimitrios G. Lignos

GC B3 485 (bâtiment GC)

E-mail: [dimitrios.lignos@epfl.ch](mailto:dimitrios.lignos@epfl.ch)

# EPFL Objectives of Today's Lecture

To introduce:

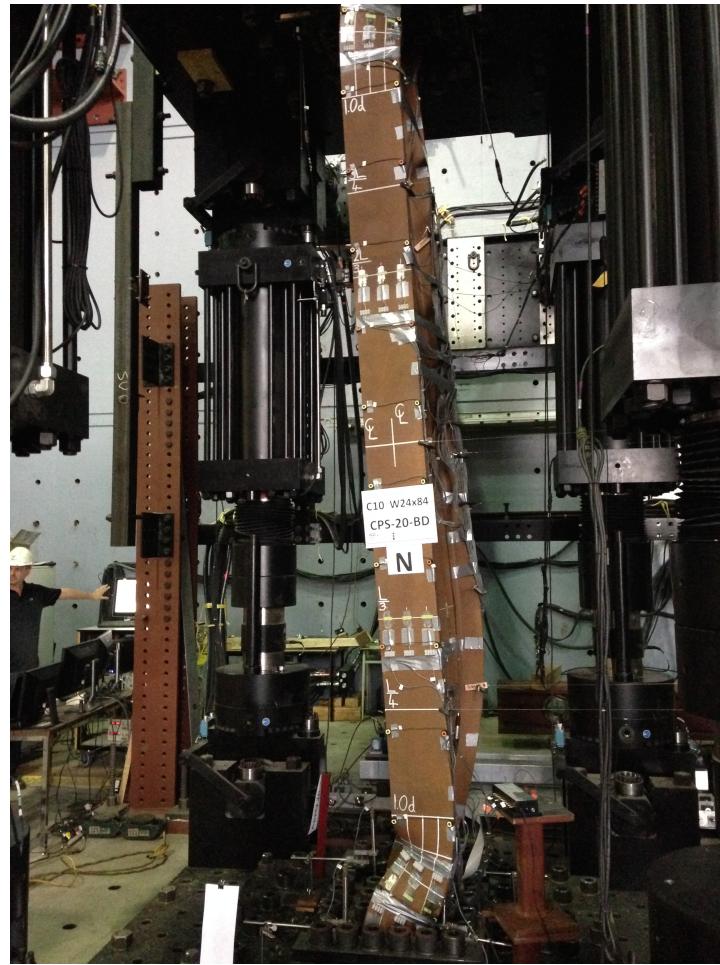
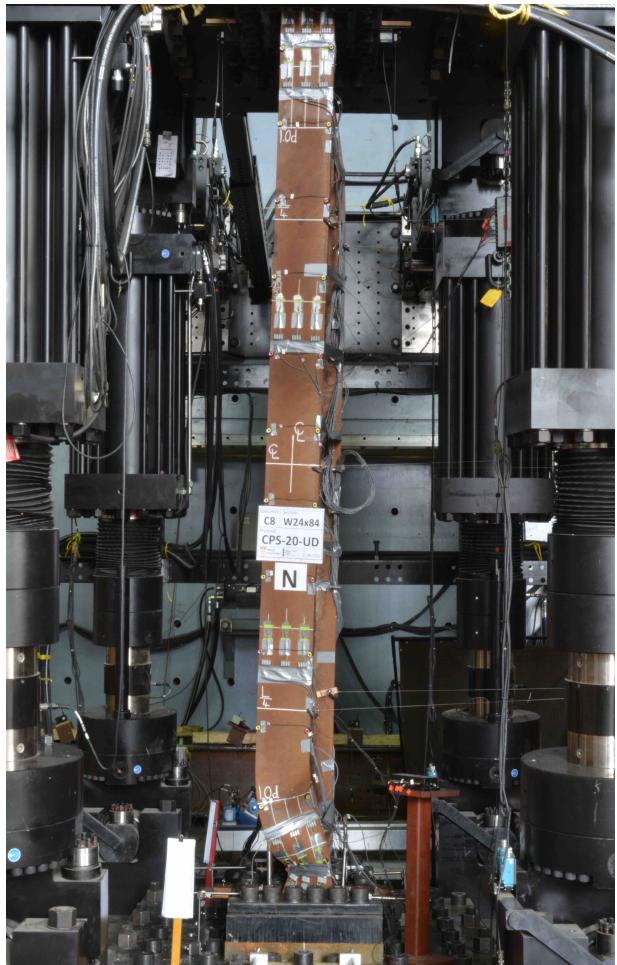
- ✧ Need for lateral stability of members
- ✧ Famous failures due to lateral torsional buckling
- ✧ Torsion, warping
- ✧ Fundamental equations for lateral torsional buckling
- ✧ Effects of end restraints
- ✧ Effects of loading conditions and point of load application
- ✧ Singly symmetric cross-sections

# EPFL Lateral Stability

## -Lateral Torsional Beam Buckling due to Fire

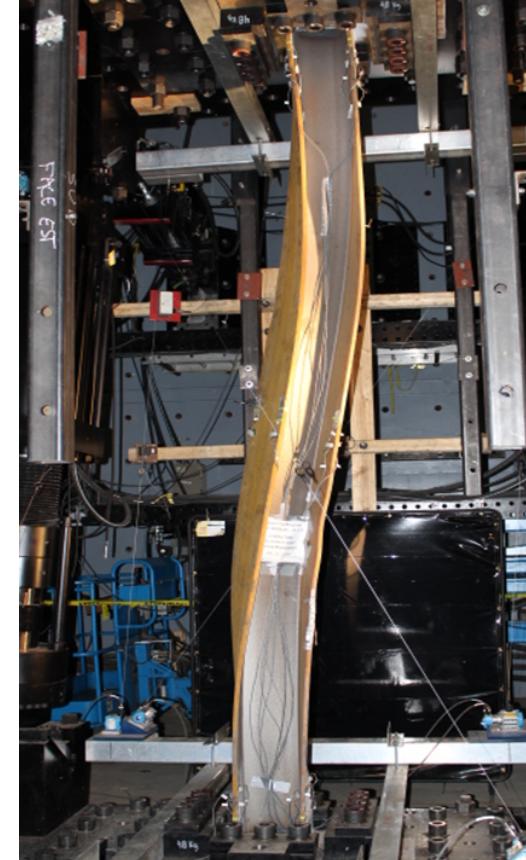
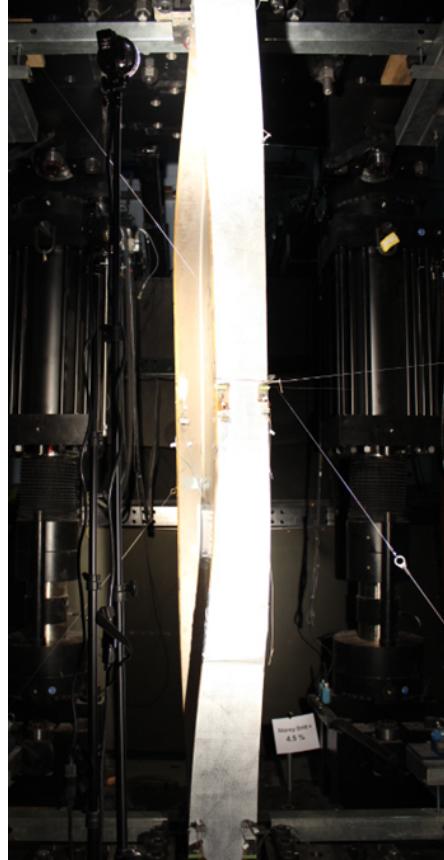
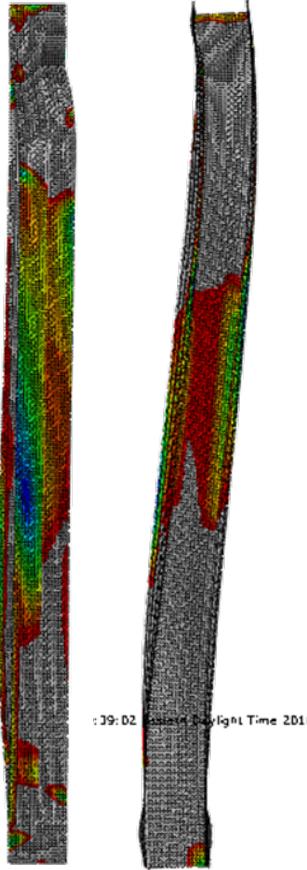
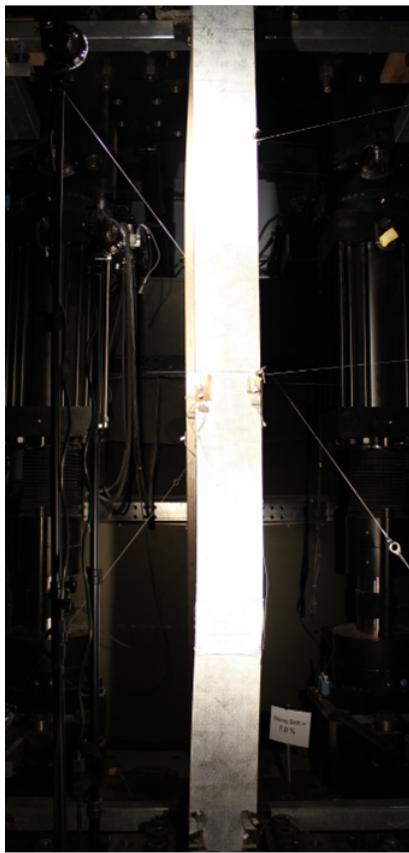


## -Steel Columns: Lateral Torsional Buckling



(Elkady and Lignos, 2015)

## -Steel Columns: Lateral Torsional Buckling



(Images courtesy of Prof. Tremblay)

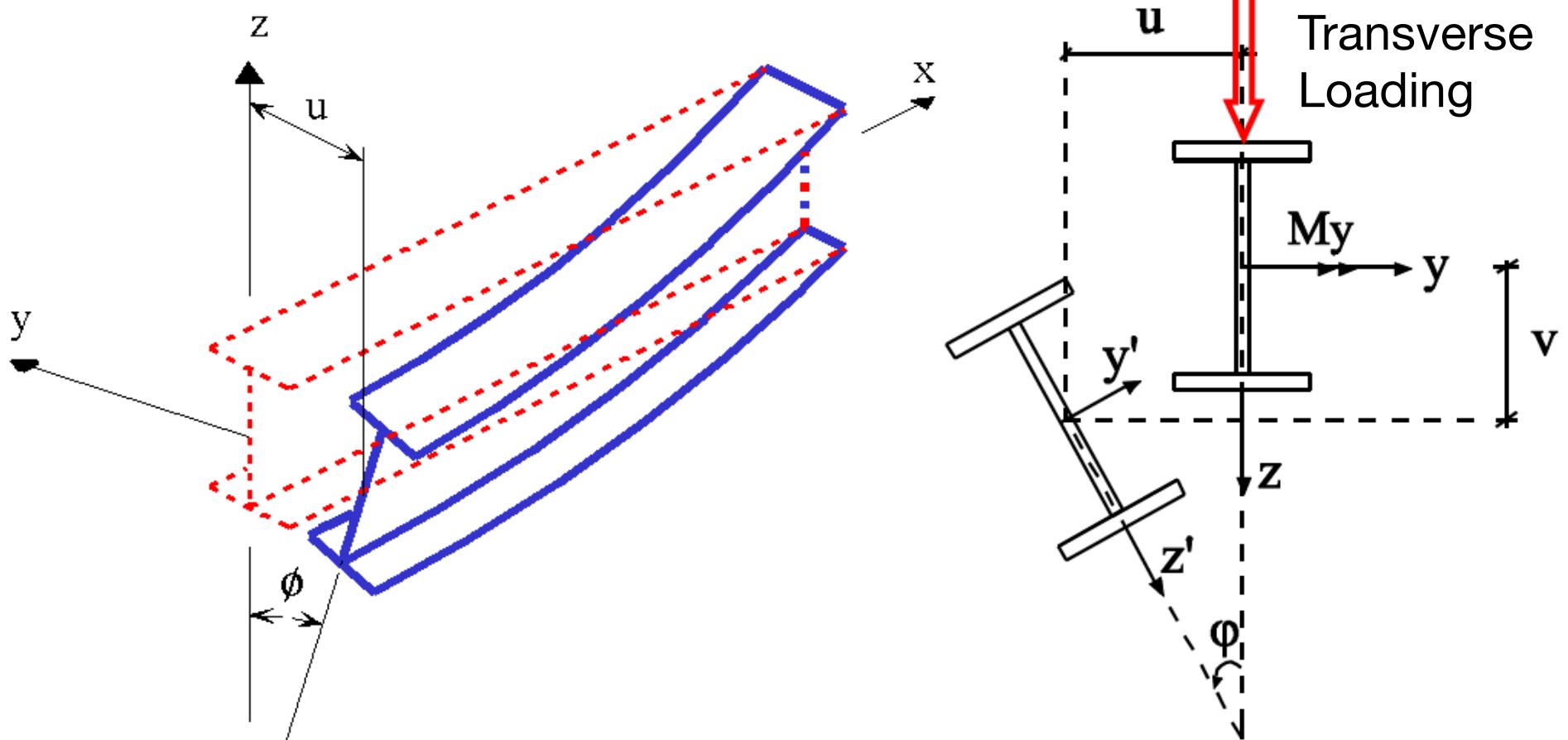


## -Lateral Torsional Beam Buckling – Bridge Girders

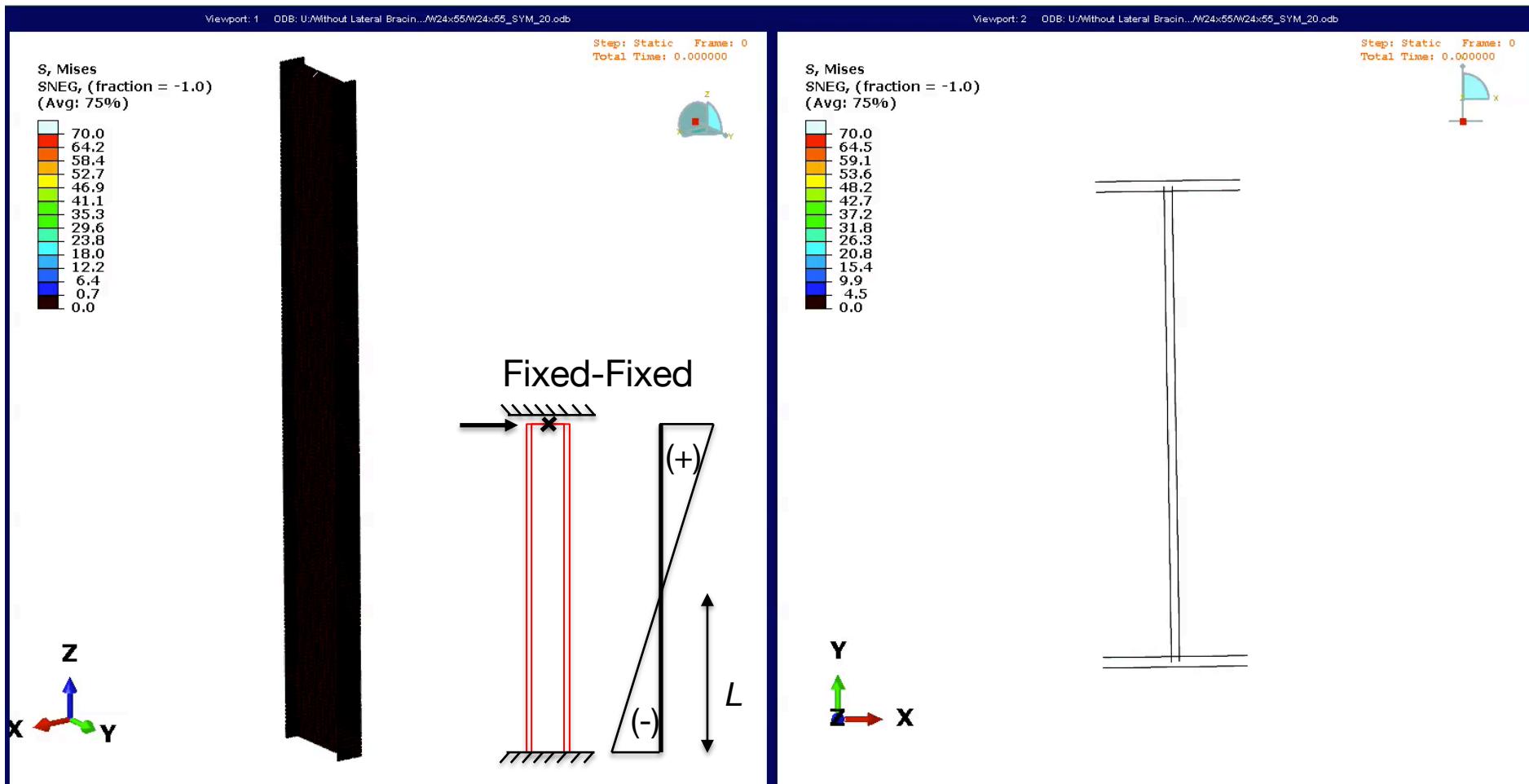


Edmonton Bridge, Canada

# EPFL Lateral Torsional Buckling

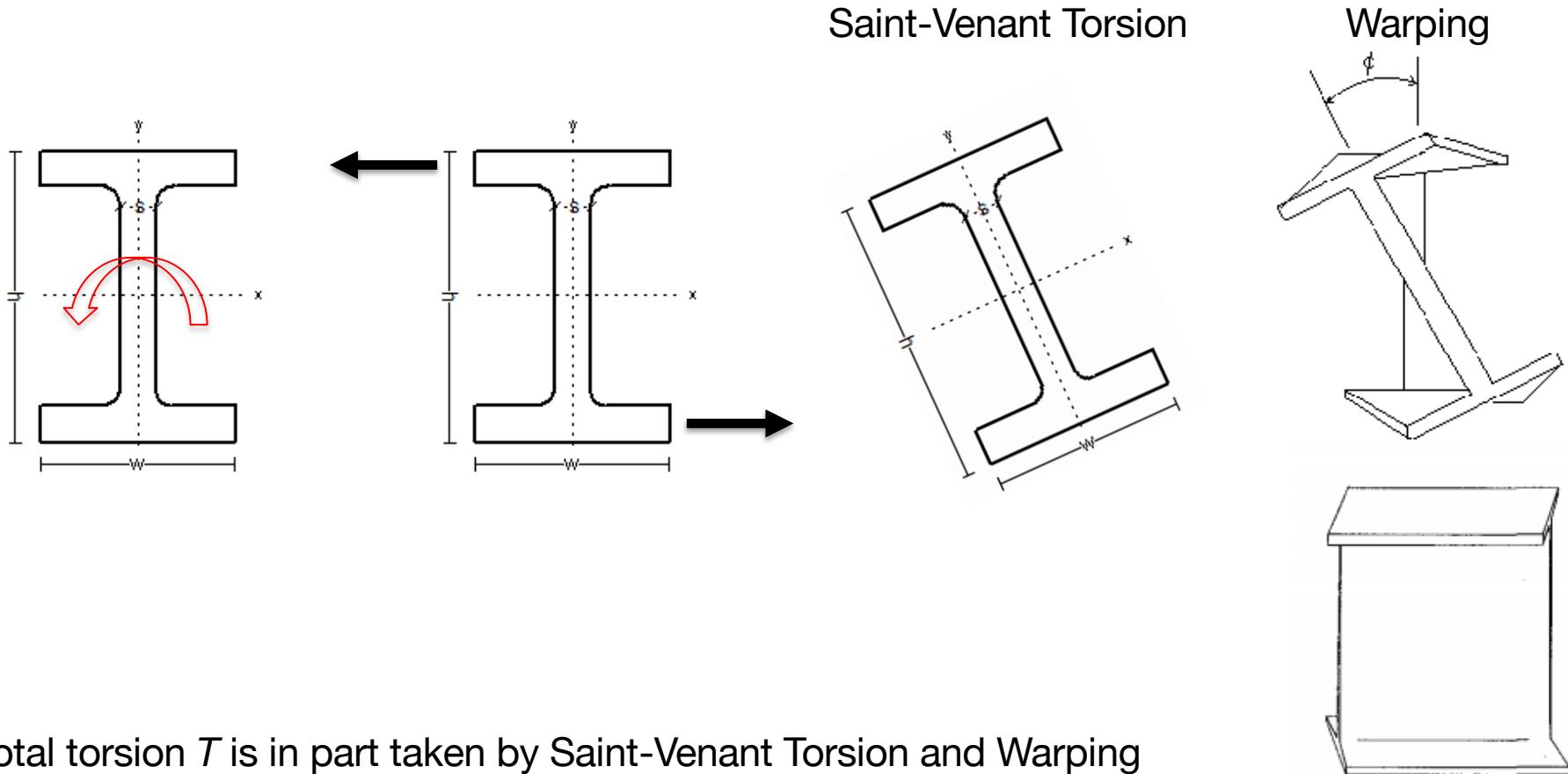


# EPFL Lateral Torsional Buckling -Illustration



# EPFL Lateral Torsional Buckling

## -Dependence on Torsional and Warping Properties

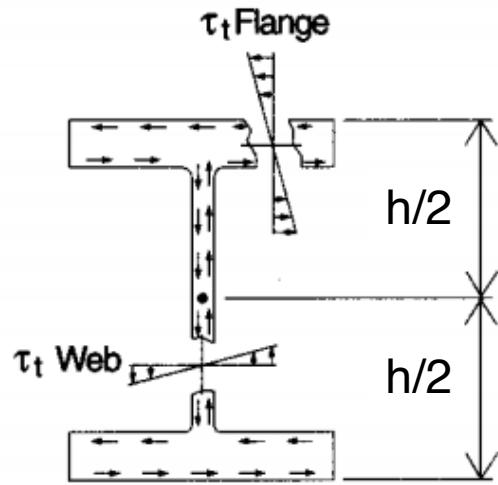


Total torsion  $T$  is in part taken by Saint-Venant Torsion and Warping

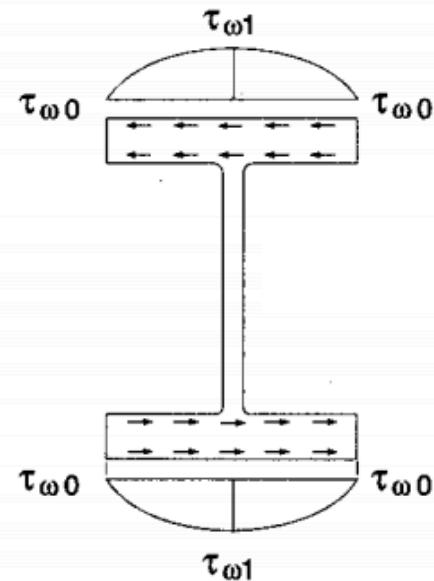
$$T = T_t + T_\omega$$

# EPFL Lateral Torsional Buckling

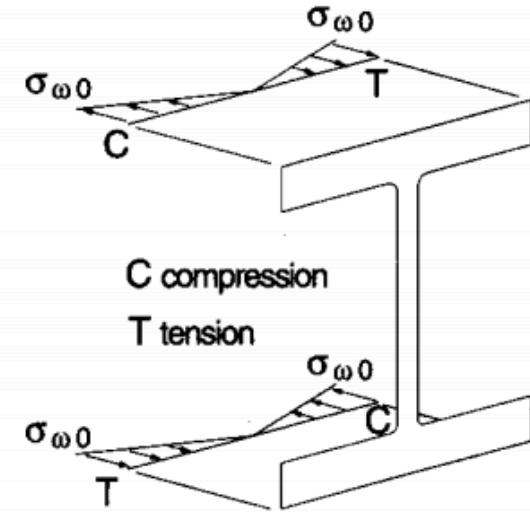
## -Stress Distribution due to Torsion and Warping



Shear stress due to  
pure torsion



Shear stress due to  
warping



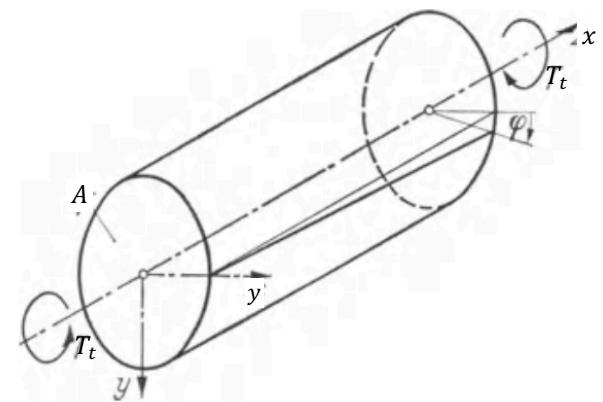
normal stress due to  
warping

## Uniform torsion – definitions

Consider  $x$  the longitudinal axis of the member and  $\varphi$  the cross-section rotation.

Uniform torsion is defined by being proportional to the change in cross-section rotation along its length, that is,

$$T_t = GK \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial x} = GK\varphi' \quad [N.m]$$



[adapted from Kollbrunner & Basler, 1969]

where  $G [N.m^{-2}]$  is the shear modulus and  $K [m^4]$  is a proportionality constant, also known as the torsion constant.

## Warping constant – general definition

Consider  $w[m]$  the displacement along  $x$  and  $v[m]$  the displacement along arc  $s$ . Then,

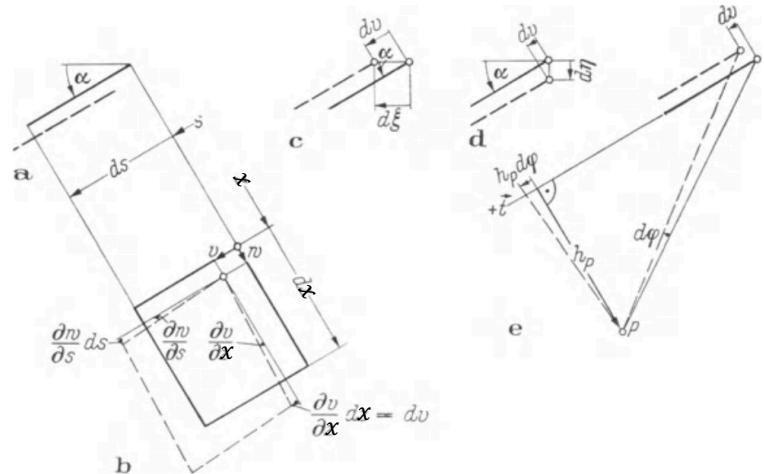
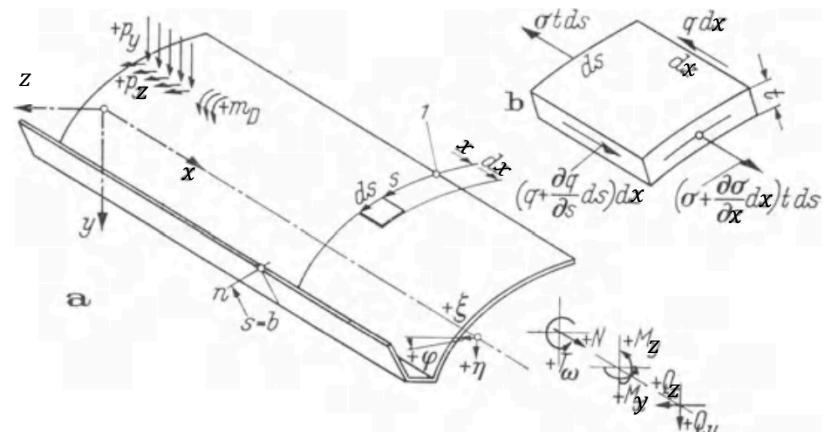
$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} = \frac{d\varphi}{dx} h_p = \varphi' h_p$$

Assuming negligible distortion,  $\gamma = 0$ , then,

$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial s} = -\frac{\partial v}{\partial x}$$

Making  $w(s)[m]$ , equal to

$$w(s) = -\varphi' \int h_p(s) ds + w_0$$



[adapted from Kollbrunner & Basler, 1969]

## Warping constant – general definition

Consider  $\Omega[m^2]$  as the non-normalized sectorial coordinate:

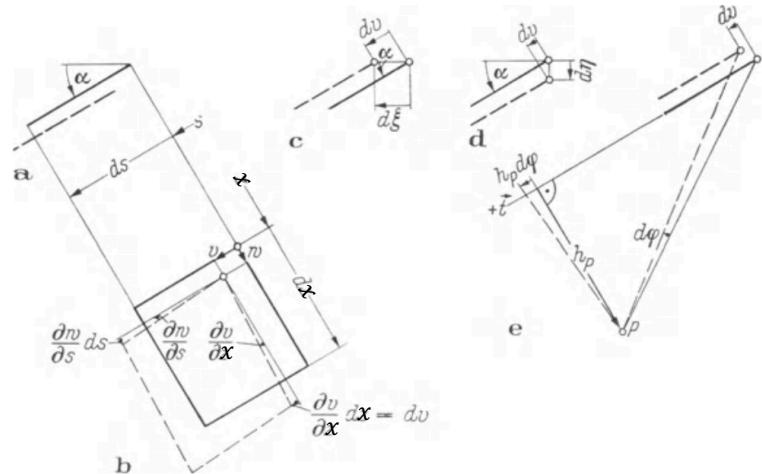
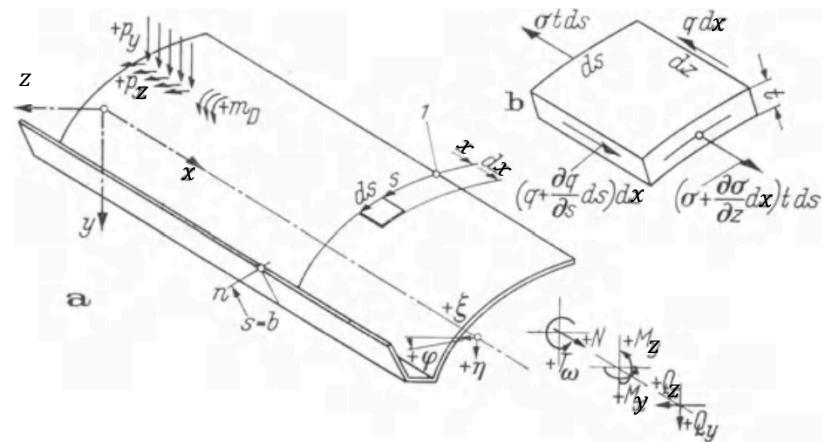
$$d\Omega(d\omega) = h_p ds \Rightarrow \Omega(s) = \int h_p(s) ds$$

and also consider that

$$\sigma_x = E\varepsilon_x = E \frac{dw}{dx}$$

which yields,

$$\sigma_x = -\varphi''\Omega + Ew'_0$$



[adapted from Kollbrunner & Basler, 1969]

## Warping constant – general definition

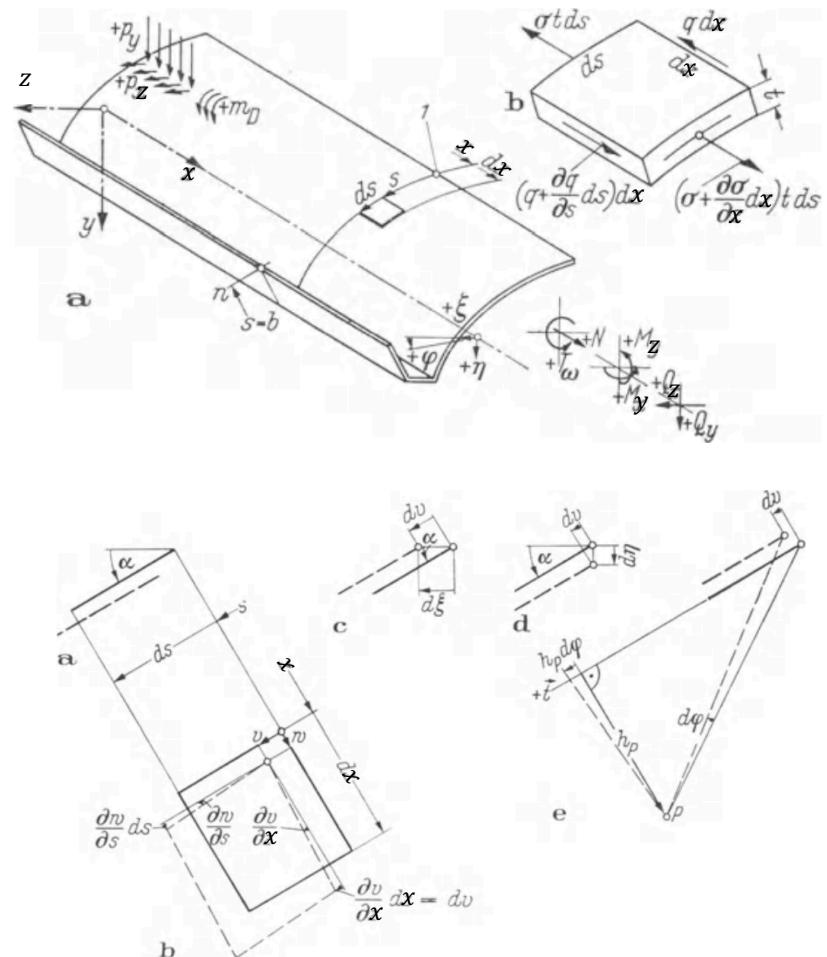
Given that for an applied torque there should be no axial force in our cross-section,

$$t \int \sigma_x \, ds = 0 \Rightarrow$$

$$-E\varphi'' \int \Omega \, dA + Ew'_0 \int dA = 0$$

which allows us to express the integration constant as,

$$w'_0 = \varphi'' \frac{\int \Omega \, dA}{A}$$



[adapted from Kollbrunner & Basler, 1969]

## Warping constant – general definition

Making the axial stress along the arc,

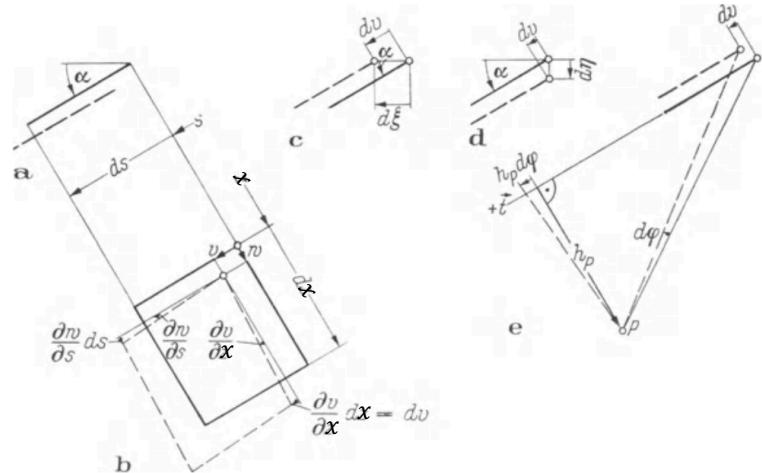
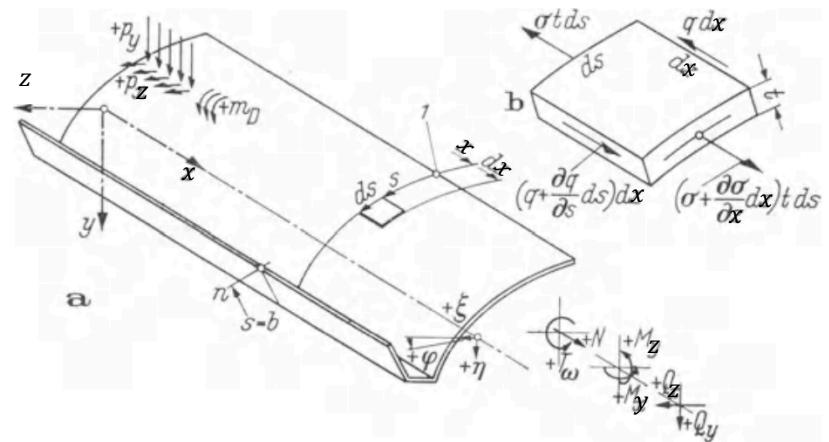
$$\sigma_x = -E\varphi'' \left( \Omega - \frac{\int \Omega \, dA}{A} \right)$$

Defining the normalized sectorial coordinate  $\omega$ ,

$$\omega = \Omega - \frac{\int \Omega \, dA}{A}$$

The axial stress is simply,

$$\sigma_x = -E\varphi''\omega$$



[adapted from Kollbrunner & Basler, 1969]

## Warping constant – general definition

Lastly, the torsion due to warping about point P can be quantified as,

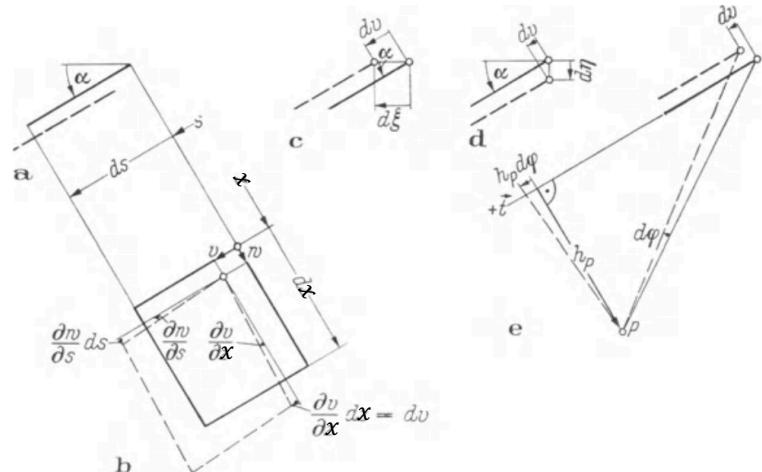
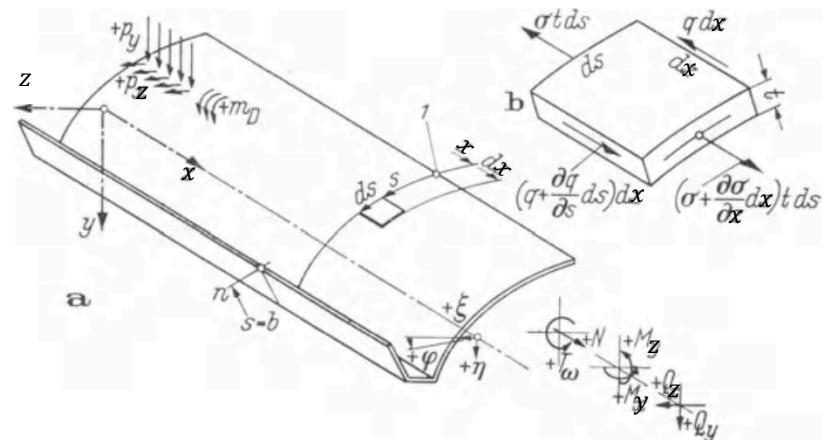
$$T_\omega = t \int \tau \cdot h_p ds = \int q \cdot h_p ds = \int q d\omega$$

integrating by parts,

$$T_\omega = \int q d\omega = q\omega \Big|_{s=0}^{s=b} - \int \frac{dq}{ds} \omega ds$$

which from equilibrium of the infinitesimal square,

$$T_\omega = \int \frac{d\sigma_x}{dx} t \omega ds$$



[adapted from Kollbrunner & Basler, 1969]

## Warping constant – general definition

From slide 16,

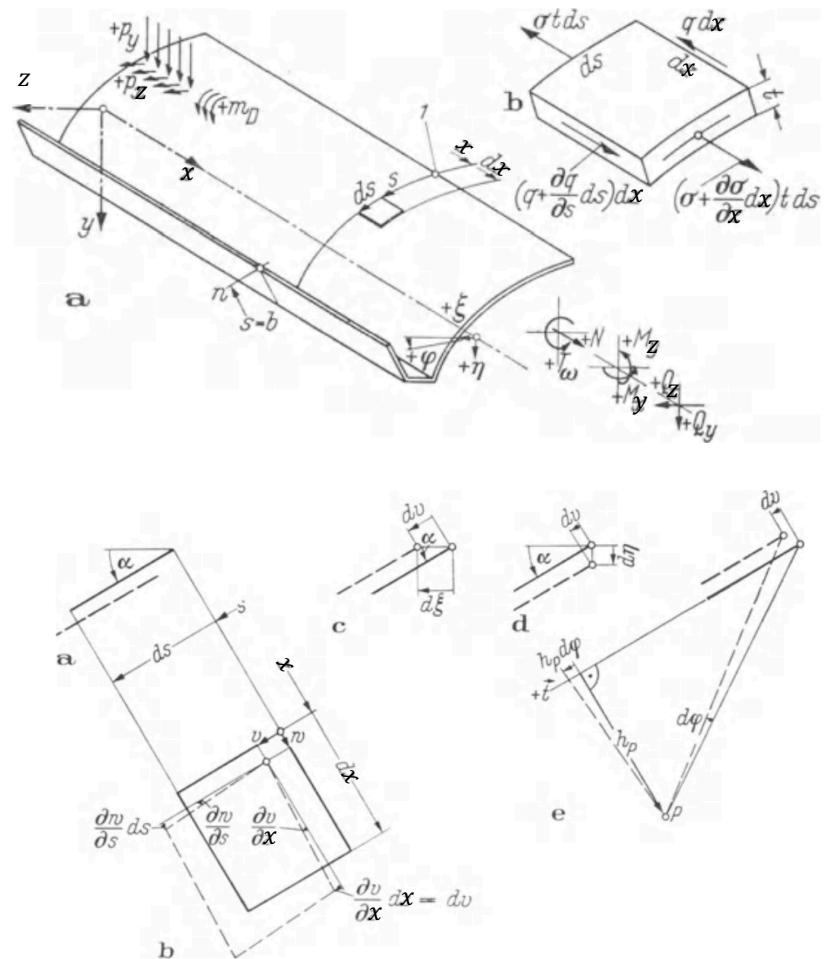
$$\sigma_x = -E\varphi''\omega \Rightarrow \frac{d\sigma_x}{dx} = -E\varphi''' \omega$$

and so,

$$\begin{aligned} T_\omega &= -\int E\varphi''' \omega^2 t ds = \\ &= -E\varphi''' \int \omega^2 dA \end{aligned}$$

The warping constant is then defined as,

$$I_\omega = \int_A \omega(s)^2 dA$$



[adapted from Kollbrunner & Basler, 1969]

# EPFL Properties Critical For Torsion and Warping

Warping constant

$$I_\omega = \int_A \omega(s)^2 dA \quad [m^6]$$

Bi-moment

$$M_\omega = \int_A \sigma \omega \, dA = -EI_\omega \varphi'' \quad [N.m^2]$$

Warping moment

$$T_\omega = \frac{\partial M_\omega}{\partial x} = -EI_\omega \varphi''' \quad [N.m]$$

Moment of inertia

$$I_y = \int_A y^2 dA \quad [m^4]$$

Bending moment

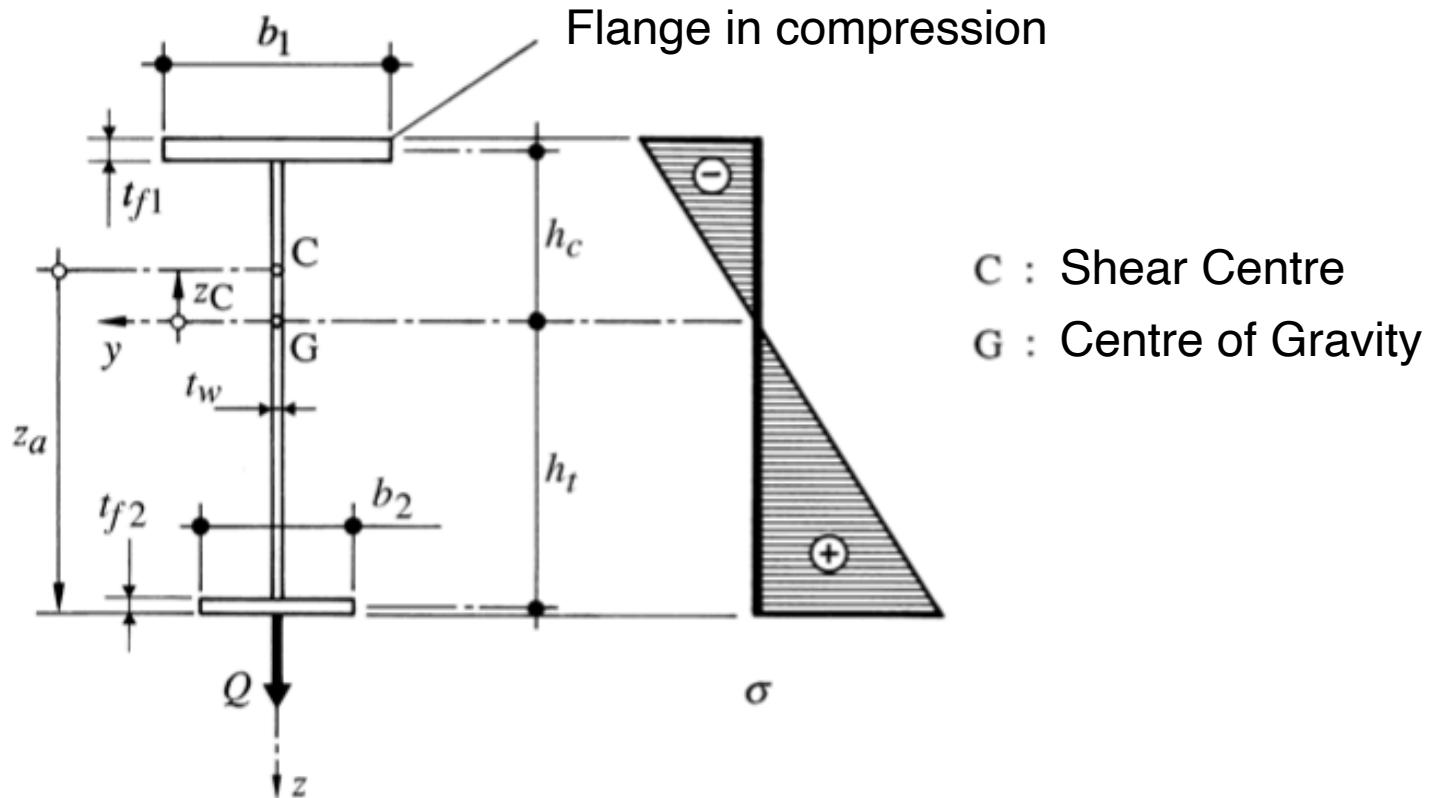
$$M_y = \int_A \sigma y \, dA = -EI_y v'' \quad [N.m]$$

Shear

$$Q_z = \frac{\partial M_y}{\partial x} = -EI_y v''' \quad [N]$$

Analogy

# EPFL Geometric Properties Critical For Torsion and Warping - Singly Symmetric cross-sections



# EPFL Cross-Sectional Properties for Torsion/Warping

Sectorial Characteristic of Cross-Section  
( $\beta=0$  for doubly symmetric cross-sections)

$$\beta = z_C + \frac{1}{2I_y} \left[ h_t \left( \frac{b_2^3 t_{f2}}{12} + b_2 t_{f2} h_t^2 + \frac{h_t^3 t_w}{4} \right) - h_C \left( \frac{b_1^3 t_{f1}}{12} + b_1 t_{f1} h_c^2 + \frac{h_c^3 t_w}{4} \right) \right]$$

Location of Shear Center

$$z_C = \frac{b_1^3 h_c t_{f1} - b_2^3 h_t t_{f2}}{b_1^3 t_{f1} - b_2^3 t_{f2}}$$

Warping Constant

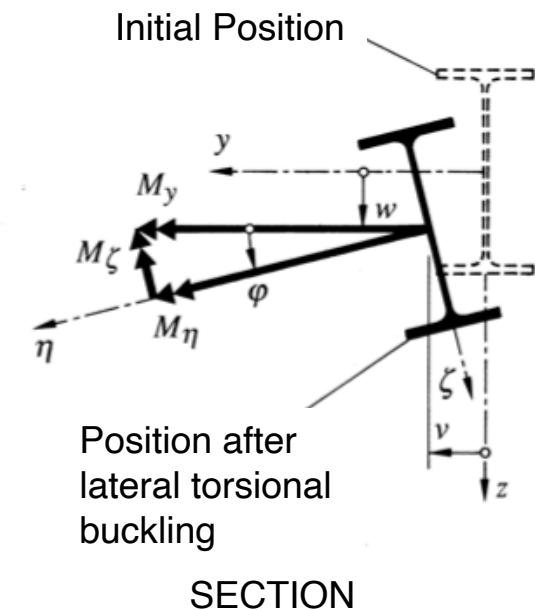
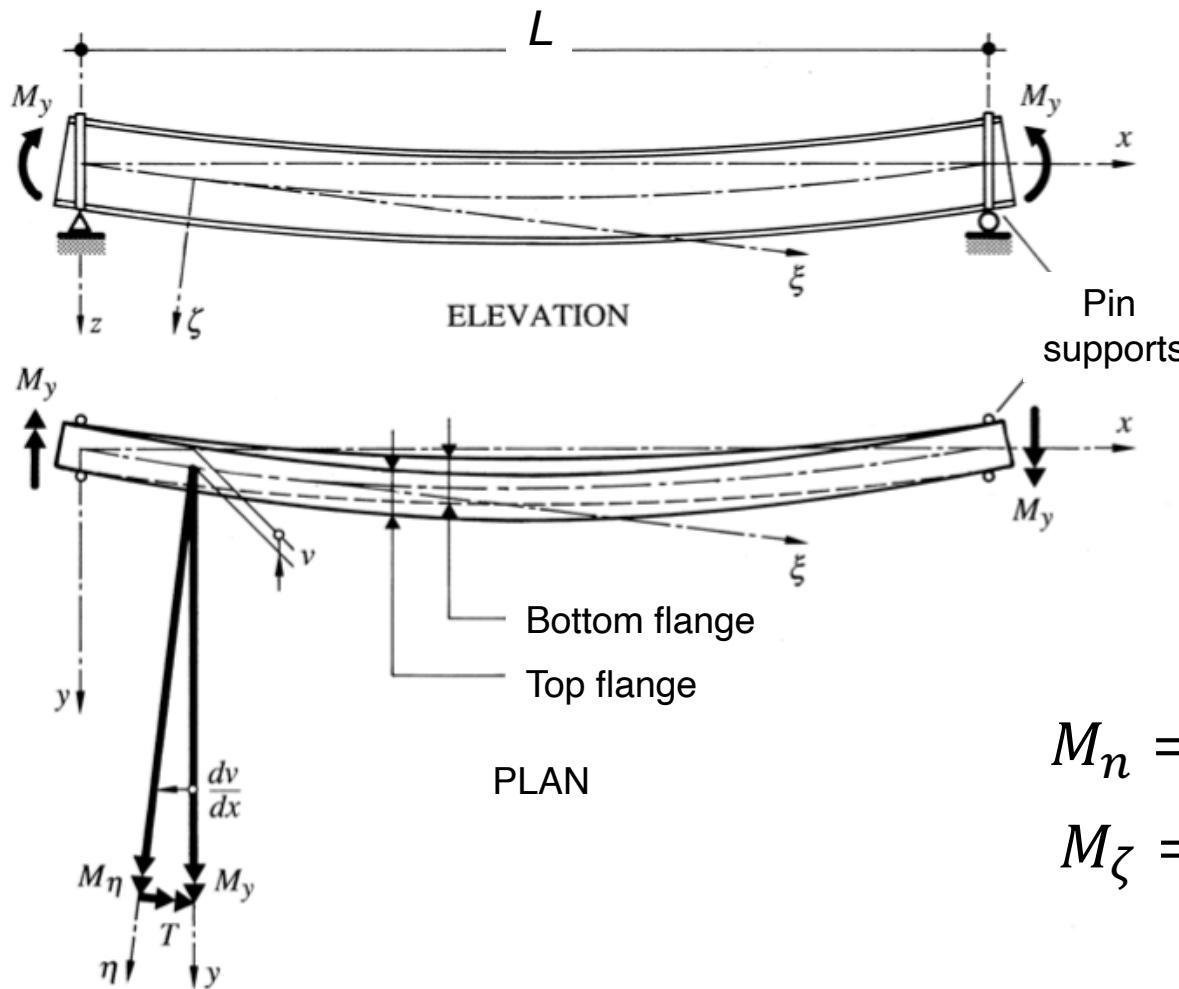
$$I_\omega = \frac{(h_c + h_t)^2 b_1^3 t_{f1} b_2^3 t_{f2}}{12[b_1^3 t_{f1} + b_2^3 t_{f2}]}$$

Torsional Moment of Inertia

$$K = \frac{1}{3} [b_1 t_{f1}^3 + b_2 t_{f2}^3 + (h_c + h_t) t_w^3]$$

# EPFL Lateral Torsional Buckling

-Reference Case: Simple Supported Beam Subjected to Uniform Bending



$$M_n = M_y \cos \varphi \approx M_y$$

$$M_\zeta = M_y \sin \varphi \approx M_y \varphi$$

# EPFL Lateral Torsional Buckling

-Reference Case: Beam Subjected to Uniform Bending

Equilibrium requires that these moments are equal to the internal moments, resulting in the following differential equation for bending about  $y$  axis,

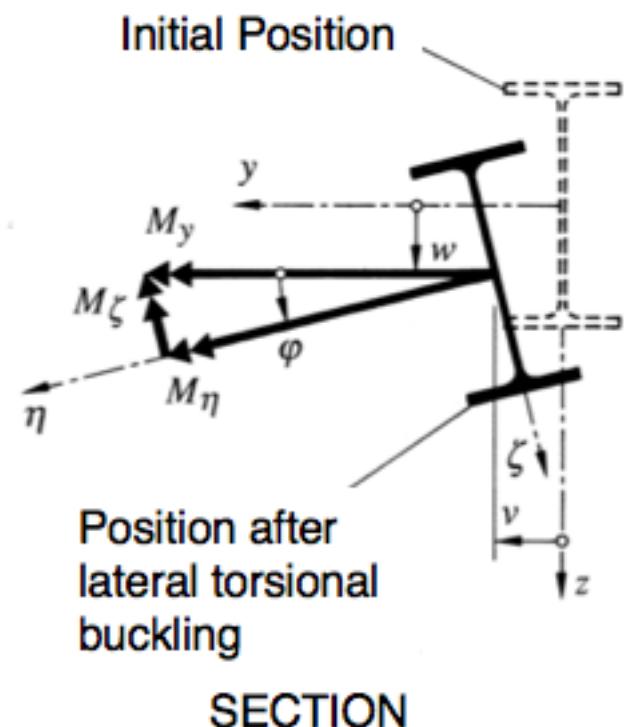
$$M_y = -EI_y \frac{d^2w}{dx^2}$$

Flexure due to bending with respect to the  $\zeta$  axis,

$$M_\zeta = -EI_z \frac{d^2v}{dx^2}$$

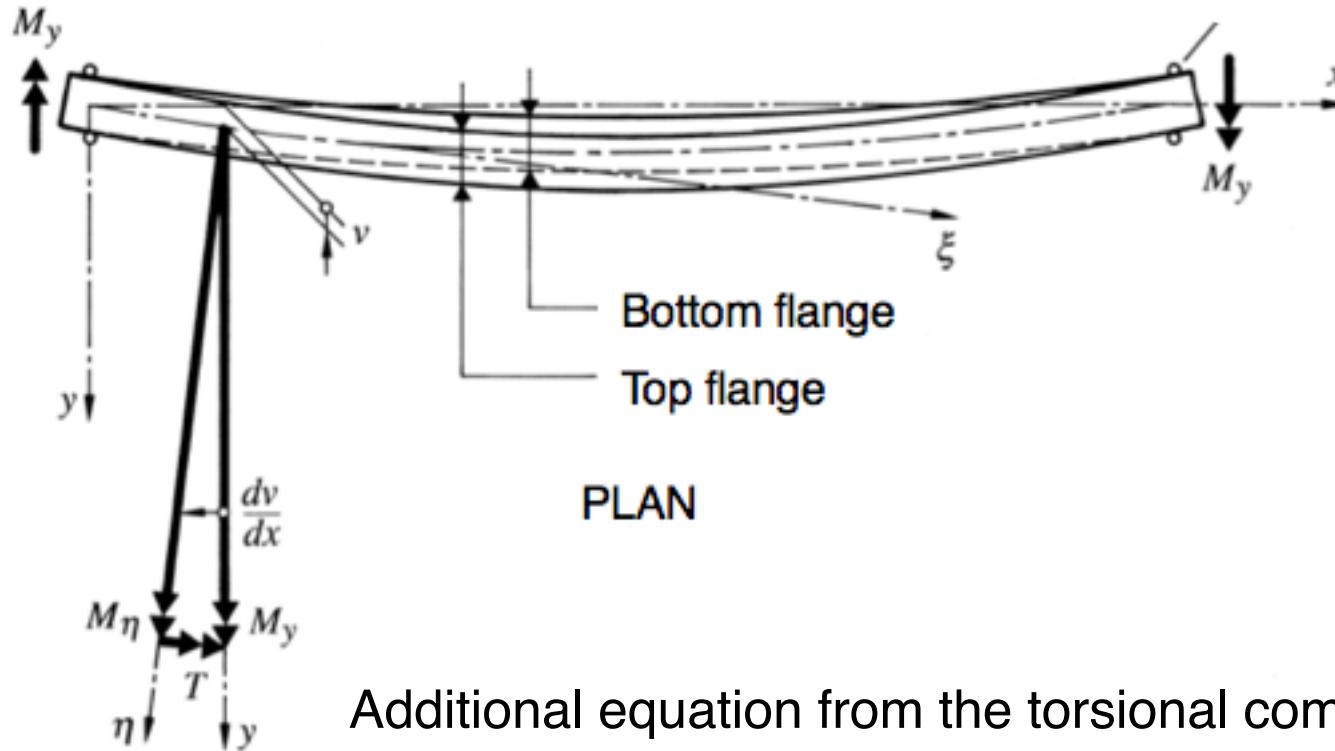
$$M_\zeta = M_y \sin \varphi \approx M_y \varphi$$

$$M_y \varphi + EI_z \frac{d^2v}{dx^2} = 0$$



# EPFL Lateral Torsional Buckling

-Reference Case: Beam Subjected to Uniform Bending



$$T = M_y \sin\left(\frac{dv}{dx}\right) \approx M_y \cdot \frac{dv}{dx}$$

# EPFL Lateral Torsional Buckling

## -Reference Case: Beam Subjected to Uniform Bending

The internal moment of torsion consists of a warping and a uniform torsion component.  $G$  is the shear modulus,  $I_\omega$  is the warping constant, and  $K$  is the St. Venant's torsion constant.

$$EI_\omega \varphi''' - GK\varphi' + M_y \frac{d\nu}{dx} = 0$$

The two differential equations involving the lateral-torsional displacements  $\nu$  and  $\varphi$  are then equal to,

$$M_y\varphi + EI_z \frac{d^2\nu}{dx^2} = 0$$

$$EI_\omega \varphi''' - GK\varphi' + M_y \frac{d\nu}{dx} = 0$$

# EPFL Lateral Torsional Buckling

## -Reference Case: Beam Subjected to Uniform Bending

Therefore,

$$\frac{d^2\nu}{dx^2} = -\frac{M_y\varphi}{EI_z}$$

Differentiation of the second equation with respect to  $x$  and substitution results in the following equation,

$$EI_\omega \frac{d^4\varphi}{dx^4} - GK \frac{d^2\varphi}{dx^2} - \frac{M_y^2\varphi}{EI_z} = 0$$

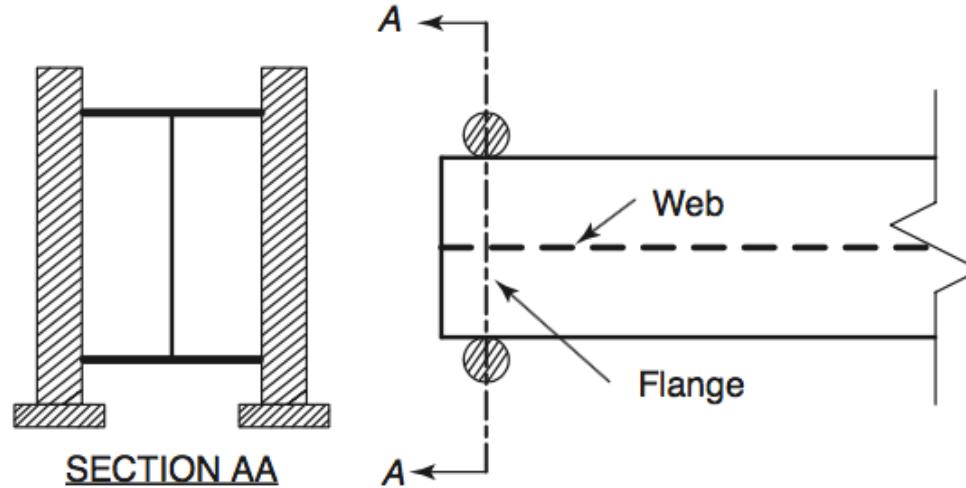
$$\frac{d^4\varphi}{dx^4} - \frac{GK}{EI_\omega} \frac{d^2\varphi}{dx^2} - \frac{M_y^2\varphi}{E^2 I_z I_\omega} = 0$$

$$\left( \lambda_1 = \frac{GK}{EI_\omega}, \lambda_2 = \frac{M_y^2}{E^2 I_z I_\omega} \right) \quad \frac{d^4\varphi}{dx^4} - \lambda_1 \frac{d^2\varphi}{dx^2} - \lambda_2 \varphi = 0$$

# EPFL Lateral Torsional Buckling

-Reference Case: Beam Subjected to Uniform Bending

Boundary conditions,



The lateral deflection and the angle of twist equals zero at each end,

$$v(0) = v(L) = \varphi(0) = \varphi(L) = 0$$

There is no moment about the z-axis at both ends and they are free to warp,

$$v''(0) = v''(L) = \varphi''(0) = \varphi''(L) = 0$$

# EPFL Lateral Torsional Buckling

-Reference Case: Beam Subjected to Uniform Bending

$$\frac{d^4\varphi}{dx^4} - \lambda_1 \frac{d^2\varphi}{dx^2} - \lambda_2 \varphi = 0$$

Roots of the differential equation are,

$$\varphi[r^4 - \lambda_1 r^2 - \lambda_2] = 0$$

Where,

$$r = [a_1, -a_1, ia_2, -ia_2]^T$$

Where,

$$a_1 = \sqrt{\frac{\lambda_1 + \sqrt{\lambda_1^2 + 4\lambda_2}}{2}} \quad a_2 = \sqrt{\frac{-\lambda_1 + \sqrt{\lambda_1^2 + 4\lambda_2}}{2}}$$

# EPFL Lateral Torsional Buckling

## -Reference Case: Beam Subjected to Uniform Bending

The expression for the angle of twist can be written as follows,

$$\phi = A_1 e^{a_1 x} + A_2 e^{-a_1 x} + A_3 e^{i a_2 x} + A_4 e^{-i a_2 x} \quad (i = \sqrt{-1})$$

or

$$\phi = C_1 \cosh a_1 x + C_2 \sinh a_1 x + C_3 \sin a_2 x + C_4 \cos a_2 x$$

$A_1, A_2, A_3, A_4$  and  $C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4$ : Constants of integration  
(depend on the boundary conditions of the beam)

# EPFL Lateral Torsional Buckling

## -Reference Case: Beams Subjected to Uniform Bending

Buckling determinant (after applying the boundary conditions of the problem)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ \alpha_1^2 & 0 & 0 & -\alpha_2^2 \\ \cosh \alpha_1 L & \sinh \alpha_1 L & \sin \alpha_2 L & \cos \alpha_2 L \\ \alpha_1^2 \cosh \alpha_1 L & \alpha_1^2 \sinh \alpha_1 L & -\alpha_2^2 \sin \alpha_2 L & -\alpha_2^2 \cos \alpha_2 L \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} C_1 \\ C_2 \\ C_3 \\ C_4 \end{Bmatrix} = 0$$

$$(a_1^2 + a_2^2) \sinh a_1 L \cdot \sin a_2 L = 0$$

 Cannot be zero

Therefore,  $\sin a_2 L = 0$

$$a_2 L = n\pi, n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

# EPFL Lateral Torsional Buckling

-Reference Case: Beam Subjected to Uniform Bending

$$a_2 L = n\pi, n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

$$a_2 = \sqrt{\frac{-\lambda_1 + \sqrt{\lambda_1^2 + 4\lambda_2}}{2}}$$

$$\lambda_2 = \frac{n^2\pi^2}{L^2} \left[ \lambda_1 + \frac{n^2\pi^2}{L^2} \right] \quad \left( \lambda_1 = \frac{GK}{EI_\omega}, \lambda_2 = \frac{M_o^2}{E^2 I_z I_\omega} \right)$$

$$M_{y,cr} = \frac{\pi}{L} \sqrt{EI_z GK} \sqrt{1 + \frac{\pi^2 EI_\omega}{GKL^2}}$$

# EPFL Lateral Torsional Buckling

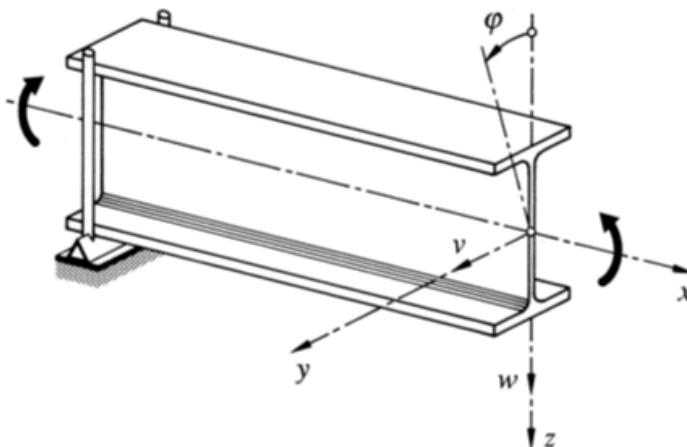
## Effect of Loading and Boundary Conditions

The special case of a simple supported beam is practically never found in reality. There is often bending at beam ends and torsion is often restrained. The external loads are not just uniform and the section may be asymmetrical.

### CAS FONDAMENTAL (section bisymétrique)

Conditions d'appui :

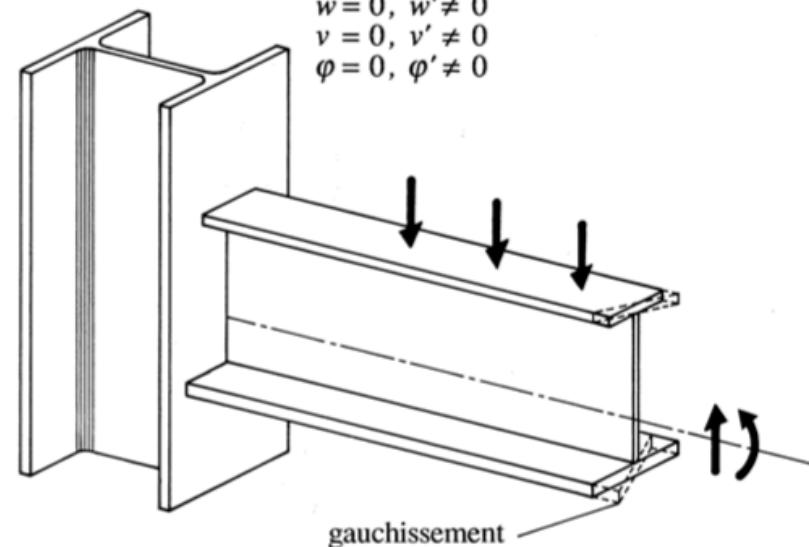
$$\begin{aligned} w &= 0, \quad w'' = 0 \\ v &= 0, \quad v'' = 0 \\ \varphi &= 0, \quad \varphi'' = 0 \end{aligned}$$



### CAS GENERAL (section monosymétrique)

Conditions d'appui :

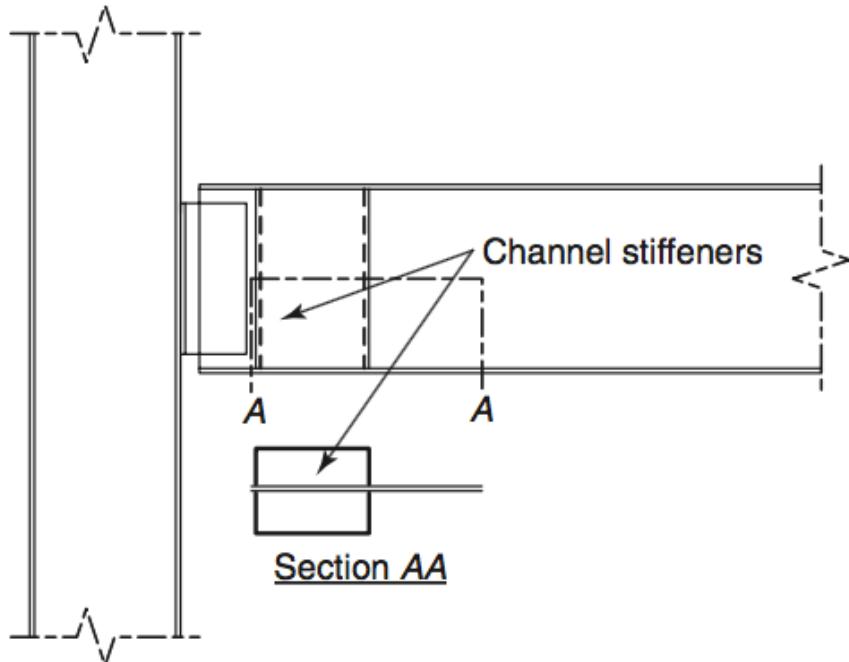
$$\begin{aligned} w &= 0, \quad w' \neq 0 \\ v &= 0, \quad v' \neq 0 \\ \varphi &= 0, \quad \varphi' \neq 0 \end{aligned}$$



# EPFL Lateral Torsional Buckling

## -Effect of Boundary Conditions: Warping Prevention

The beam ends are prevented from freely warping by a thick end plate or by a channel stiffener.



$$\begin{aligned}v(0) &= v(L) = v''(0) = v''(L) = 0 \\ \varphi(0) &= \varphi(L) = \varphi'(0) = \varphi'(L) = 0\end{aligned}$$

(Source: Ojalvo and Chambers 1977)

# EPFL Lateral Torsional Buckling

## -Effect of Boundary Conditions: Warping Prevention

In this case the buckling determinant is as follows,

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & \alpha_1 & \alpha_2 & 0 \\ \cosh \alpha_1 L & \sinh \alpha_1 L & \sin \alpha_2 L & \cos \alpha_2 L \\ \alpha_1 \sinh \alpha_1 & \alpha_1 \cosh \alpha_1 L & \alpha_2 \cos \alpha_2 L & -\alpha_2 \sin \alpha_2 L \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

$$\cosh a_1 L \cdot \cosh a_2 L - 1 + \left( \frac{a_2^2 - a_1^2}{2a_1 a_2} \right) \sinh a_1 L \cdot \sin a_2 L = 0$$

The solution to this problem is not easy even though a closed-form analytical solution can be obtained. Therefore, Newton-Raphson iteration (or bisection method) is typically used. For most other boundary conditions obtaining a closed-form solution is either difficult or impossible. In design we use an approach similar to the effective length method (classical buckling).

# EPFL Lateral Torsional Buckling

-Effect of Boundary Conditions – “Effective Length Factors”

$$M_{y,cr} = \frac{\pi}{k_v L} \sqrt{EI_z GI_\omega} \sqrt{1 + \frac{\pi^2 EK}{GI_\omega (k_\varphi L^2)}}$$

$I_z$  - is the second moment of area about the minor axis z-z

$I_\omega$  - is the torsional constant of the cross-section

$K$  - is the warping constant of the cross-section

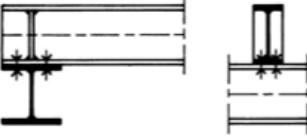
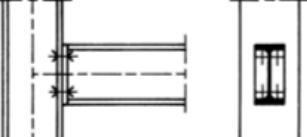
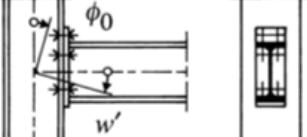
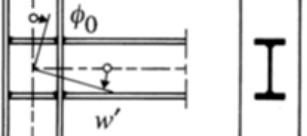
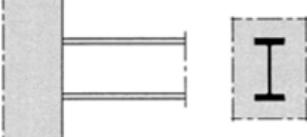
$L$  - is the beam length between lateral restraint points

$k_v$  – effective length factor of end rotation on plane

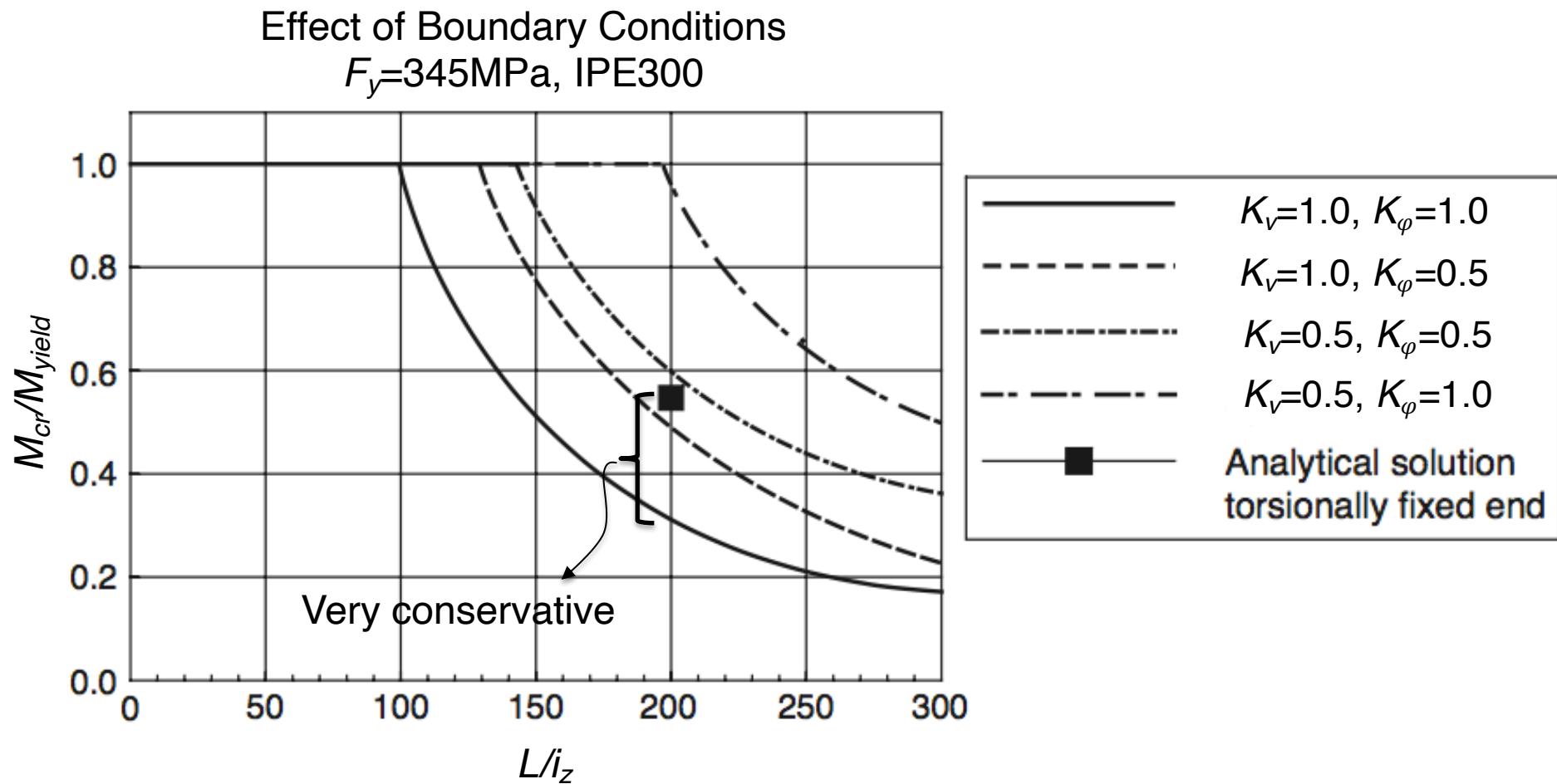
$k_\varphi$  - effective length factor for member end warping

# EPFL Lateral Torsional Buckling

## -Effect of Boundary Conditions on $M_{cr}$

Schémas des appuis	Conditions aux limites	$k_v$ et $k_\varphi$	Remarques
	$w = w_0$ $w'' = 0$ $v = 0$ $v'' = 0$ $\varphi = 0$ $\varphi'' = 0$	$k_v = 1.0$ $k_\varphi = 1.0$	Raidisseurs ou appuis latéraux au niveau de la membrure comprimée nécessaires afin d'empêcher la rotation de la poutre aux appuis. $w_0$ : déplacement vertical de l'appui.
	$w = 0$ $w'' = 0$ $v = 0$ $v'' = 0$ $\varphi = 0$ $\varphi'' = 0$	$k_v = 1.0$ $k_\varphi = 1.0$	Liaison articulée dans laquelle les cornières doivent être suffisantes pour empêcher la rotation de la poutre aux appuis.
	$w = 0$ $w'' = 0$ $v = 0$ $v'' = 0$ $\varphi = 0$ $\varphi'' = 0$	$k_v = 1.0$ $k_\varphi = 1.0$	Liaison semi-rigide peu résistante en flexion et avec gauchissement non empêché des ailes. On néglige la rigidité à la torsion du poteau.
	$w = 0$ $w' = \phi_0$ $v = 0$ $v'' = 0$ $\varphi = 0$ $\varphi'' = 0$	$k_v = 1.0$ $k_\varphi < 1.0$	Liaison semi-rigide résistante en flexion et avec gauchissement empêché des ailes ( $k_\varphi < 1.0$ ). On néglige la rigidité à la torsion du poteau. $\phi_0$ : inclinaison du poteau.
	$w = 0$ $w' = \phi_0$ $v = 0$ $v'' = 0$ $\varphi = 0$ $\varphi' = 0$	$k_v = 1.0$ $k_\varphi = 0.5$	Encastrement parfait de la poutre à la torsion, gauchissement empêché par les raidisseurs. On néglige la rigidité à la torsion du poteau. $\phi_0$ : inclinaison du poteau.
	$w = 0$ $w' = 0$ $v = 0$ $v' = 0$ $\varphi = 0$ $\varphi' = 0$	$k_v = 0.5$ $k_\varphi = 0.5$	Encastrement parfait de la poutre à la flexion et à la torsion, gauchissement empêché par l'appui que l'on considère comme étant rigide à la torsion.

## -Effect of Boundary Conditions on $M_{cr}$



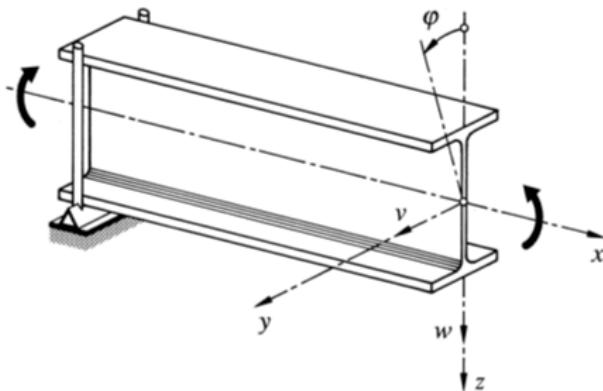
# EPFL Lateral Torsional Buckling

## -Effect of Loading Conditions on $M_{cr}$

CAS FONDAMENTAL  
(section bisymétrique)

Conditions d'appui :

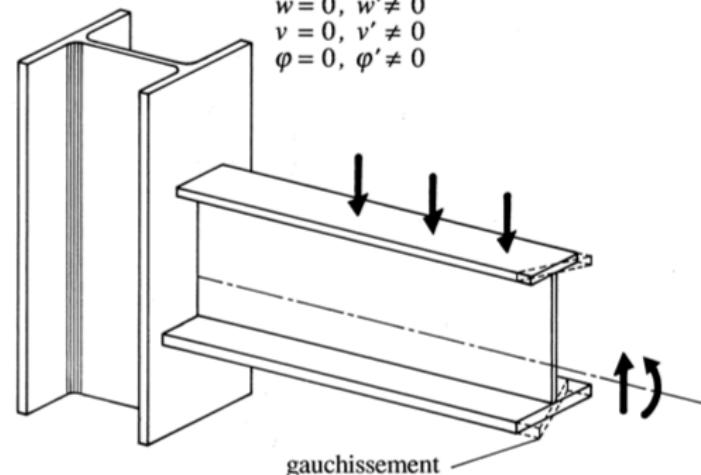
$$\begin{aligned} w &= 0, \quad w'' = 0 \\ v &= 0, \quad v'' = 0 \\ \varphi &= 0, \quad \varphi'' = 0 \end{aligned}$$



CAS GENERAL  
(section monosymétrique)

Conditions d'appui :

$$\begin{aligned} w &= 0, \quad w' \neq 0 \\ v &= 0, \quad v' \neq 0 \\ \varphi &= 0, \quad \varphi' \neq 0 \end{aligned}$$

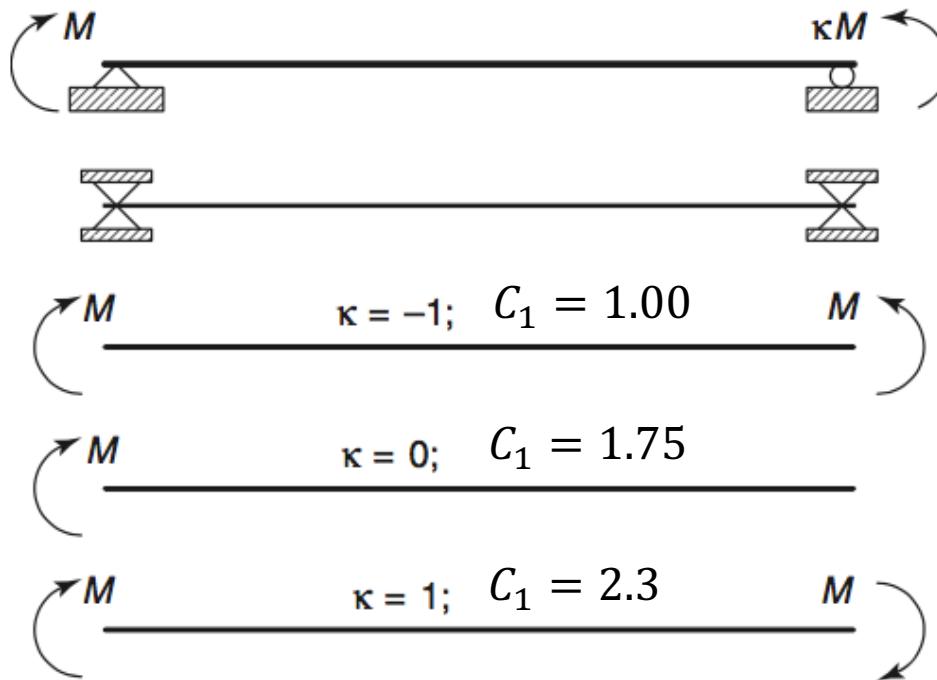


Salvadori (1955) proposed the use of a  $C_b$  multiplier for design code applications

$$M_{y,cr} = \frac{C_1 \pi}{k_v L} \sqrt{EI_z GI_\omega} \sqrt{1 + \frac{\pi^2 EK}{GI_\omega (k_\varphi L^2)}}$$

# EPFL Lateral Torsional Buckling

## -Effect of Loading Conditions on $M_{cr}$

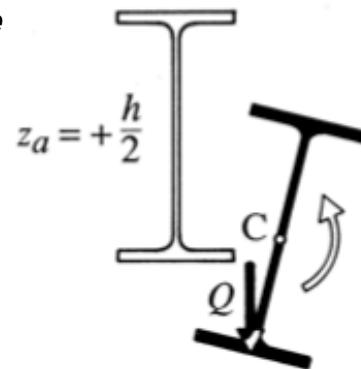
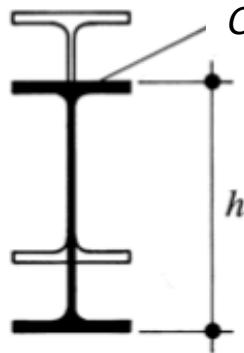


Salvadori (1955) formula,  $C_1 = 1.75 + 1.05\kappa + 0.3\kappa^2 \leq 2.3$

# EPFL Lateral Torsional Buckling

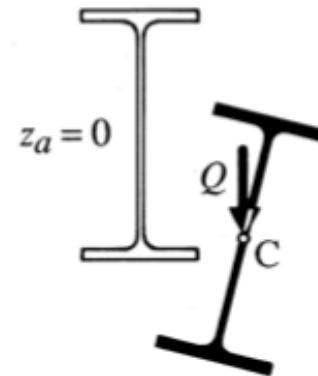
## -Effect of the Location of the Load

*Without Lateral Torsional Buckling*

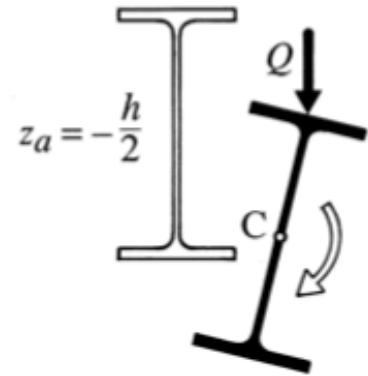


Secondary moment  
(helps stabilization)

*With Lateral Torsional Buckling*



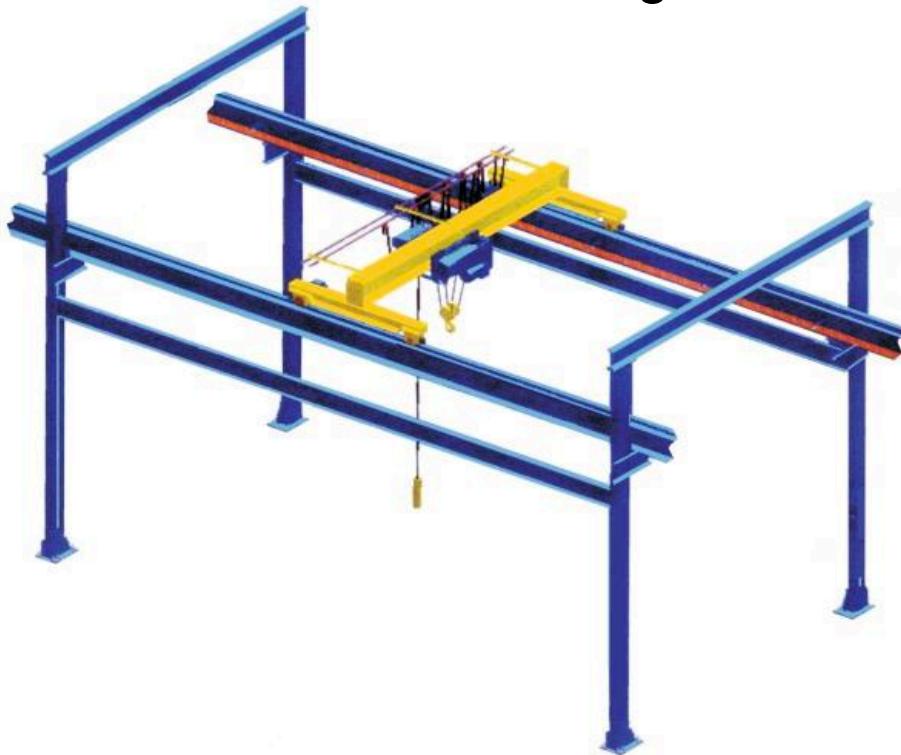
No secondary  
moment



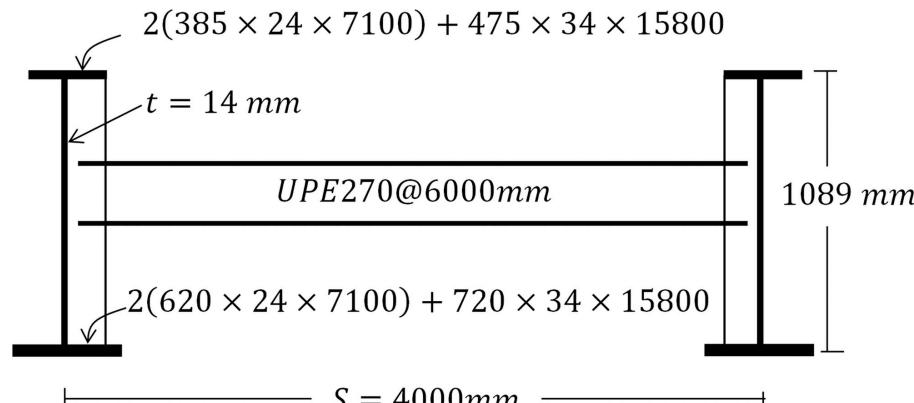
Secondary moment  
(prevents stabilization)

# EPFL Lateral Torsional Buckling of Singly Symmetric Cross-Sections

Crane design

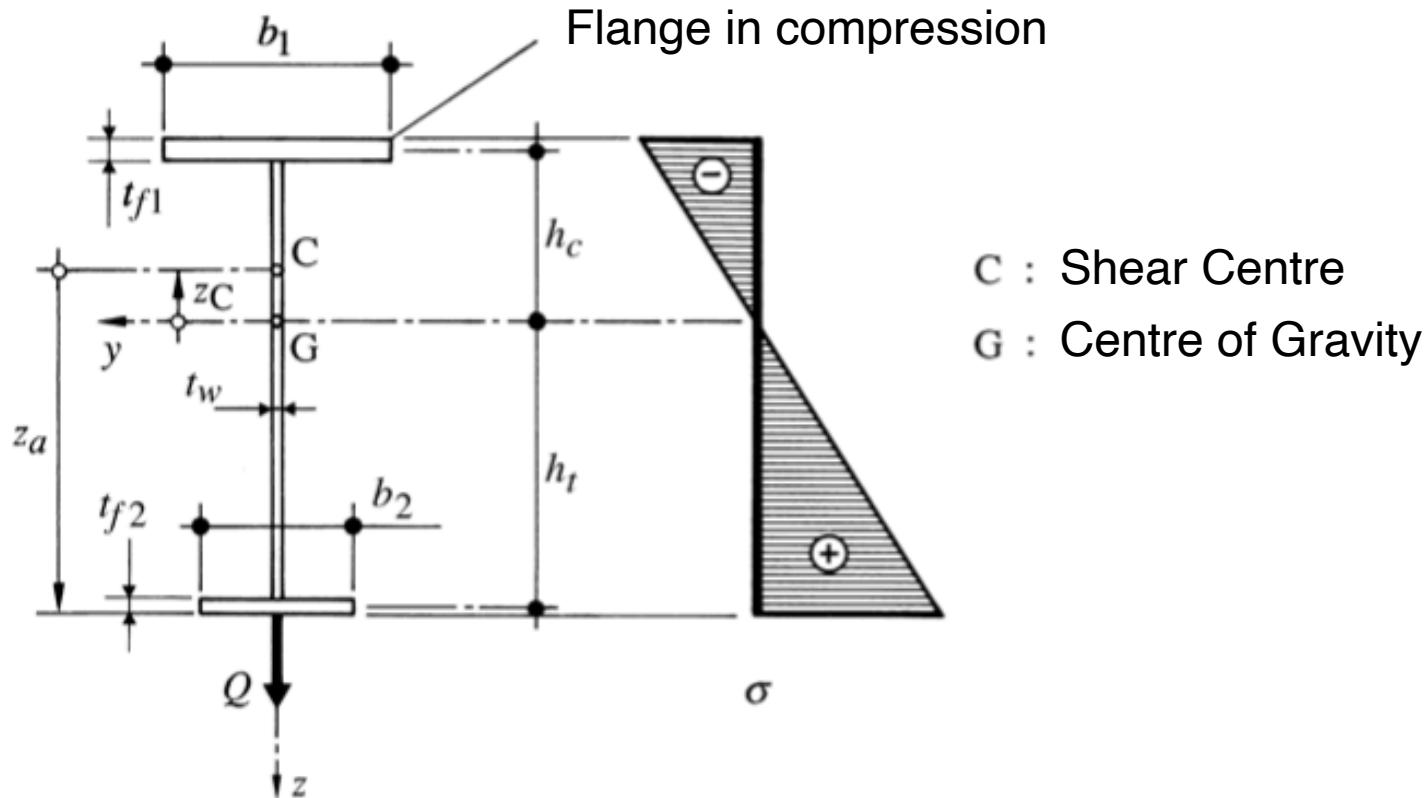


Bridge Design



The cross-section of Bridge 1530

# EPFL Geometric Properties Critical For Pure Torsion and Warping



# EPFL Cross-Sectional Properties for Torsion/Warping

Sectorial Characteristic of Cross-Section  
( $\beta=0$  for doubly symmetric cross-sections)

$$\beta = z_C + \frac{1}{2I_y} \left[ h_t \left( \frac{b_2^3 t_{f2}}{12} + b_2 t_{f2} h_t^2 + \frac{h_t^3 t_w}{4} \right) - h_C \left( \frac{b_1^3 t_{f1}}{12} + b_1 t_{f1} h_c^2 + \frac{h_c^3 t_w}{4} \right) \right]$$

Location of Shear Center

$$z_C = \frac{b_1^3 h_c t_{f1} - b_2^3 h_t t_{f2}}{b_1^3 t_{f1} - b_2^3 t_{f2}}$$

Warping Constant

$$I_\omega = \frac{(h_c + h_t)^2 b_1^3 t_{f1} b_2^3 t_{f2}}{12[b_1^3 t_{f1} + b_2^3 t_{f2}]}$$

Torsional Moment of Inertia

$$K = \frac{1}{3} [b_1 t_{f1}^3 + b_2 t_{f2}^3 + (h_c + h_t) t_w^3]$$

# EPFL Lateral Torsional Buckling of Singly Symmetric Cross-Sections

The two differential equations involving the lateral-torsional displacements  $u$  and  $\phi$  are equal to,

$$\frac{d^2v}{dx^2} = -\frac{M_y\phi}{EI_z}$$
$$EI_\omega \frac{d^3\phi}{dx^3} - (GK + M_y\beta)\phi + M_yv = 0$$

Additional twisting moment caused by the normal stresses on each of the two differently warped surfaces on the differential elements  $dz$  along the  $z$ -axis of the beam

$$\frac{d^4\phi}{dx^4} - \frac{GK + M_y\beta}{EI_\omega} \frac{d^2\phi}{dx^2} - \frac{M_y^2\phi}{E^2I_zI_\omega} = 0$$

$$\lambda_1 = \frac{GK + M_y\beta}{EI_\omega}, \lambda_2 = \frac{M_y^2}{E^2I_zI_\omega}, \quad a_2 = \sqrt{\frac{-\lambda_1 + \sqrt{\lambda_1^2 + 4\lambda_2}}{2}}$$

# EPFL Lateral Torsional Buckling of Singly Symmetric Cross-Sections

The equations for  $a_2$  and  $\lambda_2$  are identical to the previous equations for the doubly symmetric wide-flange cross-section; only  $\lambda_1$  is different, since it includes the extra term  $M_o\beta$ ,

$$a_2^2 L^2 = \pi^2 = \frac{1}{2} \left( -\lambda_1 + \sqrt{\lambda_1^2 + 4\lambda_2} \right)$$

$$\frac{M_y^2}{E^2 I_z I_\omega} = \frac{\pi^2}{L^2} \left[ \frac{GK + M_y \beta}{EI_\omega} + \frac{\pi^2}{L^2} \right] \quad (\text{Second order algebraic equation})$$

$$M_{y,cr} = \frac{\pi^2 EI_z \beta}{2L^2} \left[ 1 + \sqrt{\frac{I_\omega}{I_z} \left( \frac{GKL^2}{\pi^2 EI_\omega} + 1 \right)} \right]$$

# EPFL Lateral Torsional Buckling

Effect of Boundary conditions, Loading & Loading Application, Cross-Section Shape

Clark and Hill proposed the following expression to take all issues into account:

$$M_{cr} = \frac{C_1 \pi^2 EI_z}{k_v k_\varphi L_b^2} \left[ \sqrt{(C_2 z_a + C_3 \beta)^2 + \frac{I_\omega}{I_z} \left( \frac{G K k_\varphi^2 L_b^2}{\pi^2 E I_\omega} + 1 \right)} + (C_2 z_a + C_3 \beta) \right]$$

$z_a$  – is the distance between the point of load application and the shear center

$I_z$  - is the second moment of area about the minor axis z-z

$I_\omega$  - is the warping constant of the cross-section

$K$  - is the torsional constant of the cross-section

$L_b$  - is the beam length between lateral restraint points

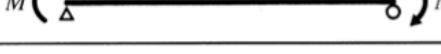
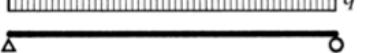
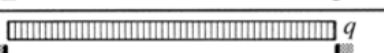
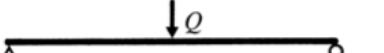
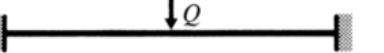
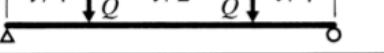
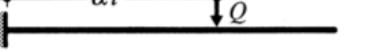
$k_v$  – effective length factor of end rotation in plane of loading (see slide 32)

$k_\varphi$  - effective length factor for member end warping (see slide 32)

$C_1$ ,  $C_2$  and  $C_3$  - coefficients depending on the loading and end restraint conditions

$\beta$  – Sectorial characteristic of a cross-section ( $\beta=0$  for double-symmetric sections)

# EPFL Lateral Torsional Buckling

Mode de chargement	$k_v = 1.0$			$k_v = 0.5$			$k_v = 2.0$		
	$C_1$	$C_2$	$C_3$	$C_1$	$C_2$	$C_3$	$C_1$	$C_2$	$C_3$
	1.00	①	1.00	1.00	①	1.14			
	1.32	①	0.99	1.51	①	2.27			
	1.88	①	0.94	2.15	①	2.15			
	2.70	①	0.68	3.09	①	1.55			
	2.75	①	0.00	3.15	①	0.00			
	1.13	0.46	0.53	0.97	0.30	0.98			
	1.28	1.56	0.75	0.71	0.65	1.07			
	1.36	0.55	1.73	1.07	0.43	3.06			
	1.56	1.27	2.64	0.94	0.71	4.80			
	1.05	0.43	1.12	1.01	0.41	1.89			
							$\frac{1.28}{\alpha}$	0.43	②
							2.05	0.83	②

# EPFL Steel Beam Design for Lateral Torsional Buckling

-Lateral Torsional Buckling Resistance, Class 1 & 2 I-shape Members

General Condition:

$$\frac{M_{Ed}}{M_{b,Rd}} \leq 1$$

Class 1 & 2 Cross-Sections: Resistance in Lateral Torsional Buckling:

$$M_{b,Rd} = \frac{\chi_{LT} \cdot W_{pl,y} \cdot f_y}{\gamma_{M1}} \quad (\gamma_{M1} = 1.05)$$

Reduction factor for lateral torsional buckling:

$$\chi_{LT} = \frac{1}{\Phi_{LT} + \sqrt{\Phi_{LT}^2 - \bar{\lambda}_{LT}^2}} \leq 1.0$$

$$\bar{\lambda}_{LT} = \sqrt{\frac{W_{pl,y} \cdot f_y}{M_{cr}}}$$

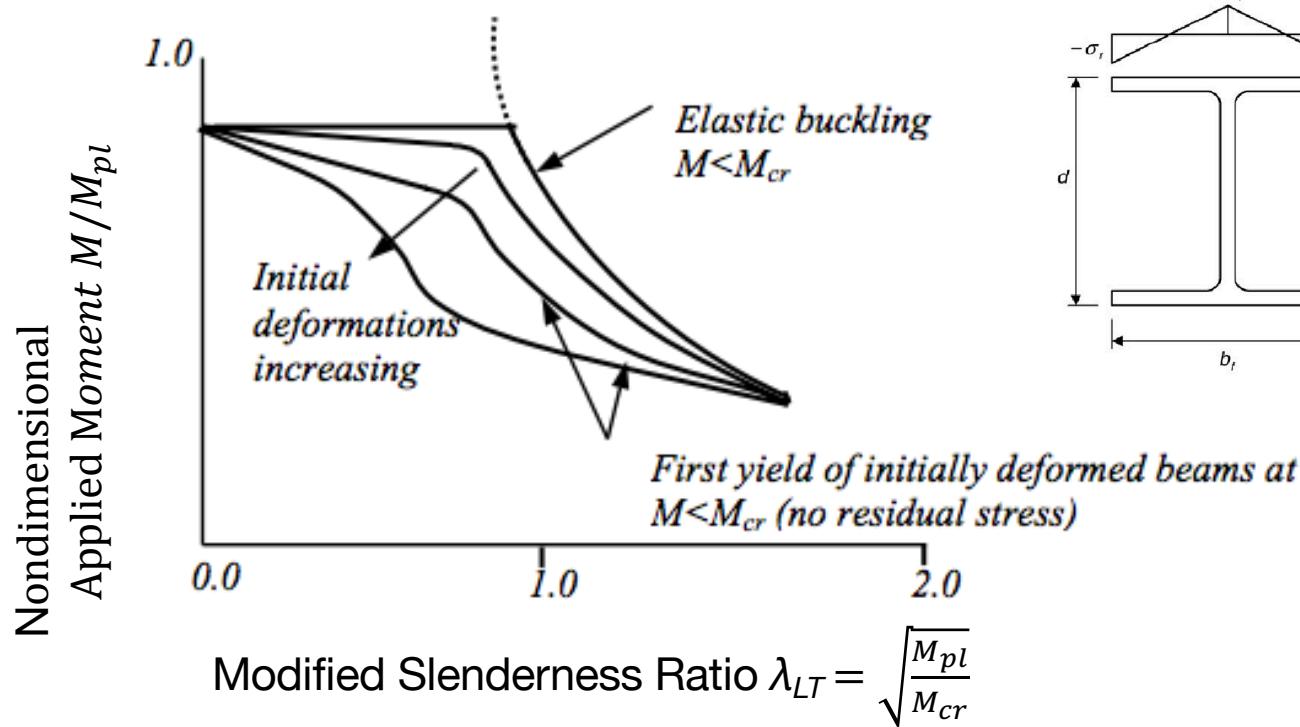
EC3:  $\Phi_{LT} = 0.5 \cdot [1 + a_{LT} \cdot (\bar{\lambda}_{LT} - 0.2) + \bar{\lambda}_{LT}^2]$

SIA 263:  $\Phi_{LT} = 0.5 \cdot [1 + a_{LT} \cdot (\bar{\lambda}_{LT} - 0.4) + \bar{\lambda}_{LT}^2]$

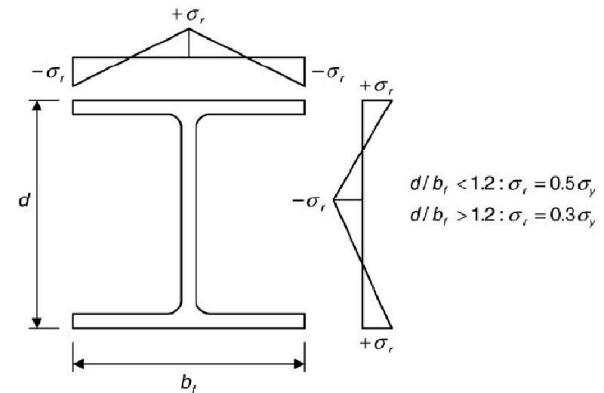
Imperfection factor

# EPFL Lateral Torsional Buckling

## -Effect of Imperfections on Lateral Torsional Buckling Curves



Residual stress distribution  
in the steel cross-section



# EPFL Lateral Torsional Buckling

## -Effect of Imperfections on Lateral Torsional Buckling Curve ( $M_{cr}$ )

Cross-Section	Limits	EN 1993-1-1	$a_{LT}$	SIA 263	$a_{LT}$
Rolled I- or H-sections	$h/b \leq 2$	a	0.21	a	0.21
	$h/b > 2$	b	0.34		
Welded I- or H-sections	$h/b \leq 2$	c	0.49	c	0.49
	$h/b > 2$	d	0.76		
Other sections	-	d	0.76	c	0.49

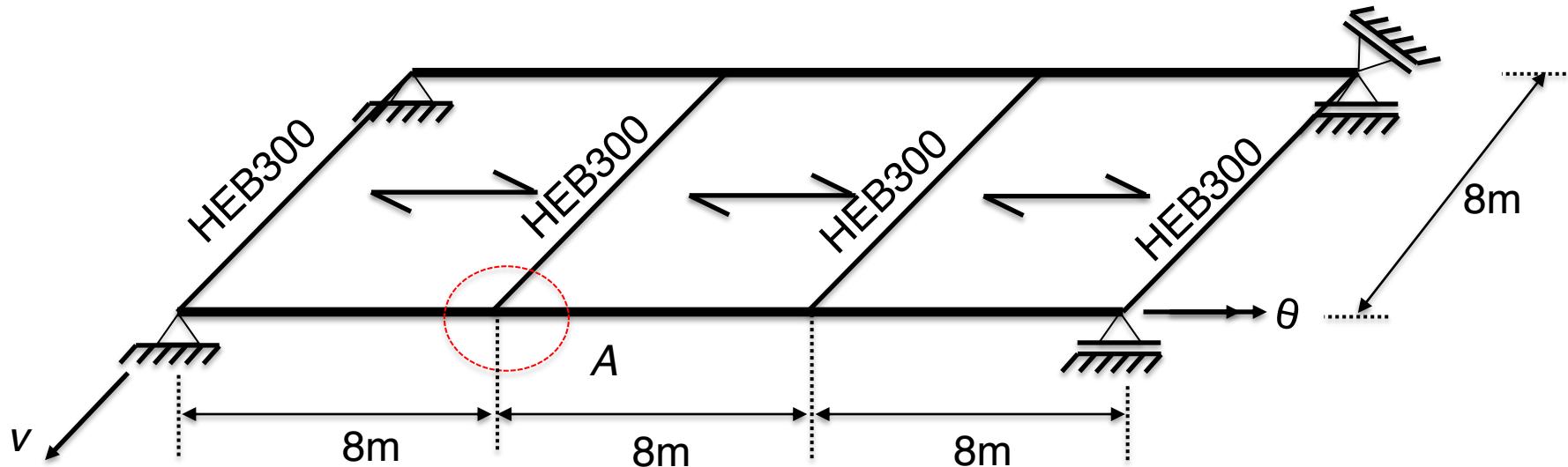
# EPFL Other Aspects for Lateral Torsional Buckling

- ✧ Stability of bridge girders - Lateral torsional buckling by example (LTBeam software)

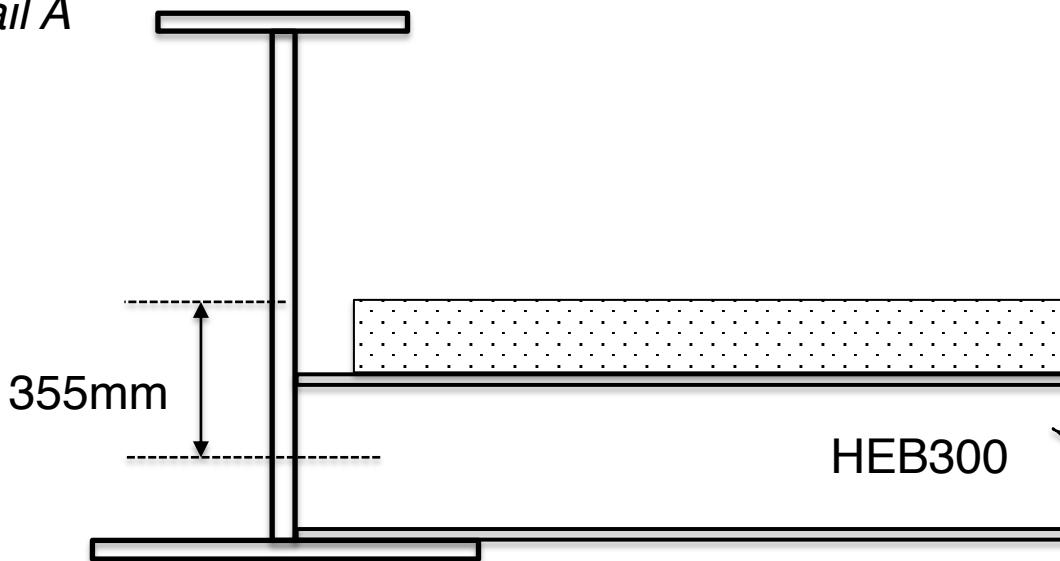
<https://www.cticm.com/content/ltbeam-logiciel-calcul-moment-critique-deversement>

- ✧ Critical stress due to lateral torsional buckling according to SIA 263 Design Guide

# EPFL Stability of Bridge Girder – Example with LTBeam



*Detail A*



# EPFL Critical Stress Computations According to SIA 263

It is possible to use a simplified calculation method to determine the stress at which lateral torsional buckling may occur without having to consider the  $k_v$ ,  $k_\phi$ ,  $C_1$ ,  $C_2$ ,  $C_3$  factors provided that we are dealing with a simple supported beam, the section is doubly symmetric ( $\beta=0$ ) and the loads act in the plane of symmetry ( $z_g=0$ )

$$M_{y,cr} = \sqrt{\frac{\pi^2 G K E I_z}{L^2} + \frac{\pi^4 E I_\omega E I_z}{L^4}}$$

Critical stress for lateral torsional buckling,  $\sigma_{cr,D}$

$$\sigma_{cr,D} = \frac{M_{y,cr}}{W_{y,el}} = \sqrt{\left( \frac{\pi}{W_{y,el}L} \sqrt{GKEI_z} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\pi^2 E}{L^2} \sqrt{\frac{I_\omega I_z}{W_{y,el}^2}} \right)^2}$$

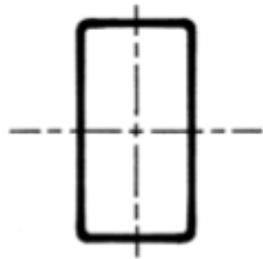
Stress due to uniform  
torsion only      Stress due to warping

$$\sigma_{cr,D} = \sqrt{\sigma_{Dv}^2 + \sigma_{Dw}^2}$$

# EPFL Critical Stress Computations According to SIA 263

Critical stress for lateral torsional buckling,  $\sigma_{cr,D}$

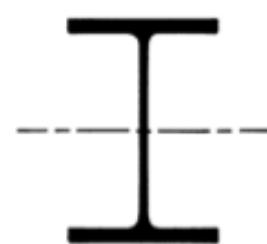
Torsion uniforme



$$\sigma_{Dw} \ll \sigma_{Dv}$$

$$\sigma_{crD} \cong \sigma_{Dv}$$

Torsion mixte



$$\sigma_{crD} = \sqrt{\sigma_{Dv}^2 + \sigma_{Dw}^2}$$

Torsion non uniforme



$$\sigma_{Dv} \ll \sigma_{Dw}$$

$$\sigma_{crD} \cong \sigma_{Dw}$$

# EPFL Critical Stress Computations According to SIA 263

Critical stress for lateral torsional buckling due to pure torsion,  $\sigma_{cr,v}$

$$\sigma_{D,v} = \frac{n\pi}{W_{y,el}L} \sqrt{GKEI_z}$$

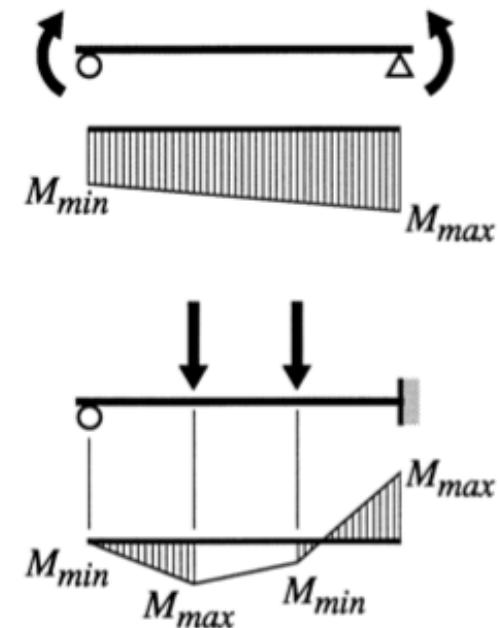
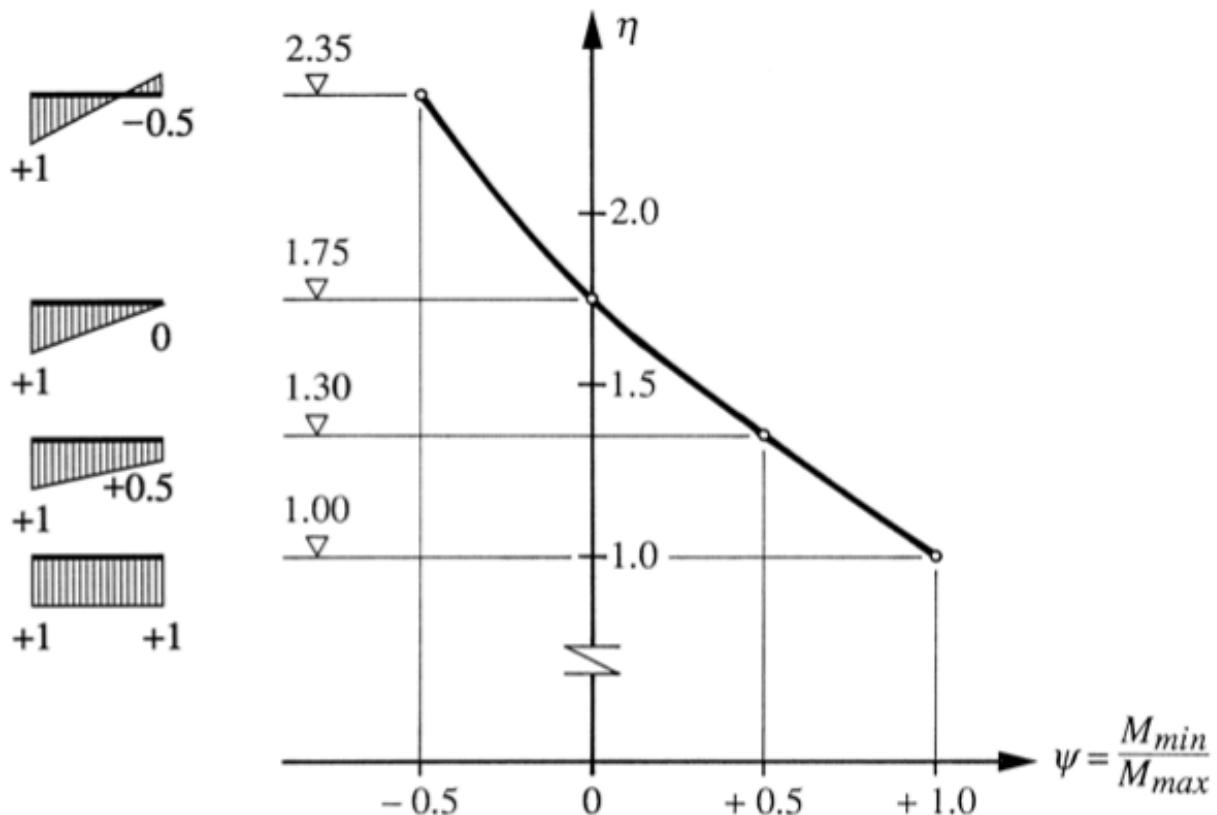
Modified Salvadori (1955) formula,

$$n = C_1 = 1.75 - 1.05\psi + 0.3\psi^2 \leq 2.3 \quad (-0.5 \leq \psi \leq 1.0)$$

$$\psi = M_{min}/M_{max}$$

# EPFL Critical Stress Computations According to SIA 263

Critical stress for lateral torsional buckling due to pure torsion,  $\sigma_{cr,V}$



# EPFL Critical Stress Computations According to SIA 263

Critical stress for lateral torsional buckling due to pure warping,  $\sigma_{cr,w}$

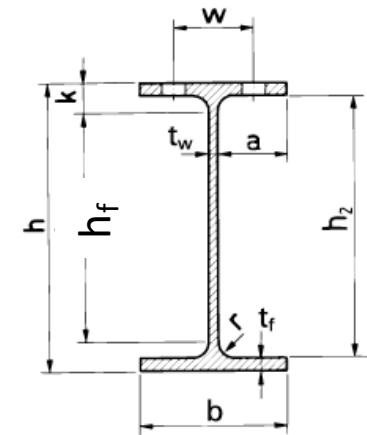
$$\sigma_{D,w} = n \frac{\pi^2 E}{L^2} \sqrt{\frac{I_\omega I_z}{W_{y,el}^2}}$$

For an I-shape section,

$$I_\omega = I_z \frac{h_f^2}{4}$$

$$I_y = 2bt_f \left(\frac{h_f}{2}\right)^2 + \frac{1}{12} t_w h_f^3 = \left(A_f + \frac{1}{6} A_w\right) \frac{h_f^2}{2}$$

$$W_{y,el} = \frac{I_y}{h/2} = \left(A_f + \frac{1}{6} A_w\right) \frac{h_f^2}{h} \quad A_f = bt_f \quad A_w = h_2 t_w$$



# EPFL Critical Stress Computations According to SIA 263

Critical stress for lateral torsional buckling due to pure warping,  $\sigma_{cr,w}$

$$\sigma_{D,w} = n \frac{\pi^2 E}{L^2} \left[ \frac{I_z h}{\left( A_f + \frac{1}{6} A_w \right) 2 h_f} \right] = n \frac{\pi^2 E}{(L/i_D)^2}$$

Radius of gyration,  $i_D$  of compressed flange and 1/6 of web core (directly given in SIS C4.1 for sections with  $h/h_2 = 1$ ),

$$i_D = \sqrt{\frac{I_z h}{\left( A_f + \frac{1}{6} A_w \right) 2 h_f}}$$

# EPFL Calculation of Critical Moment for Lateral Torsional Buckling According to SIA 263

Critical Moment,

$$M_D = \chi_D M_R \quad \left( M_R = \begin{cases} W_{y,el} f_y & \text{(for Class 3 or 4)} \\ W_{y,pl} f_y & \text{(for Class 1 or 2)} \end{cases} \right)$$

Reduction factor for lateral torsional buckling:

$$\chi_D = \frac{1}{\Phi_D + \sqrt{\Phi_D^2 - \beta \bar{\lambda}_D^2}} \leq 1.0$$

$$\bar{\lambda}_D = \sqrt{\frac{W_{pl,y} \cdot f_y}{\sigma_{cr,D} W_{y,el}}} \quad \sqrt{\frac{f_y}{\sigma_{cr,D}}}$$

Coefficient considering imperfections of the cross-section (residual stresses, variations on  $f_y$ , initial deformations)

$$\Phi_D = 0.5 \cdot [1 + a_D \cdot (\bar{\lambda}_D - \zeta) + \beta \bar{\lambda}_D^2]$$

$a_D$ : imperfection factor (see table next slide)

$\beta = 1$  for bent beams of constant cross – section

$\zeta = 0.2$  when  $\beta = 1.0$ , else,  $\zeta = 0.4$  when  $\beta = 0.75$

# EPFL Lateral Torsional Buckling – According to SIA 263

## -Effect of Imperfections on Lateral Torsional Buckling Curve ( $M_D$ )

Cross-Section	Limits	EN 1993-1-1	$a_{LT}$	SIA 263	$a_{LT}$
Rolled I- or H-sections	$h/b \leq 2$	a	0.21	a	0.21
	$h/b > 2$	b	0.34		
Welded I- or H-sections	$h/b \leq 2$	c	0.49	c	0.49
	$h/b > 2$	d	0.76		
Other sections	-	d	0.76	c	0.49

# EPFL Lateral Torsional Buckling – According to SIA 263

If one wants to consider the beneficial influence of a non-constant distribution of moments between lateral bracing, a modified value of  $\chi_D$  may be used:

$$\chi_{D,mod} = \frac{\chi_D}{f}$$

$$f = 1 - 0.5(1 - k_c) \left[ 1 - 2(\bar{\lambda}_D - 0.8)^2 \right] \leq 1$$

$k_c$  depends on the moment diagram (see next page)

# EPFL Lateral Torsional Buckling – According to SIA 263

## -Moment Shape Effect on Reduction Factor

Distribution des moments	$k_c$
 $\psi = 1$	1.0
 $-1 \leq \psi \leq 1$	$\frac{1}{1.33 - 0.33\psi}$
	0.94
	0.90
	0.91
	0.86
	0.77
	0.82

# EPFL Lateral Torsional Buckling – According to SIA 263

