

In another [video](#), we considered the effect of imperfection on stability. As noticed, the buckling load is not changed but losing stability, and the pattern of failure due to imperfection is altered. The solved example was for a rigid bar, though.

In this example, we will learn how to apply the imperfection on a compressive element. Such an effect is called the amplification factor that can be seen directly in some codes like EN 1992-1-1 clause 5.8.7.3(4) or can be presented indirectly as imperfection buckling curves like EN 1993-1-1 clause 6.3.1.2.

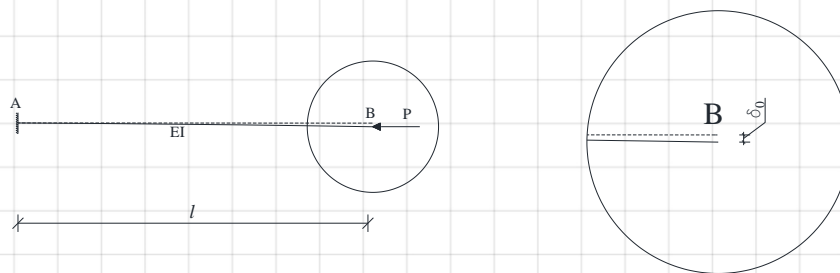
Suppose a cantilever compressive element is initially imperfect with an approximate imperfection function:

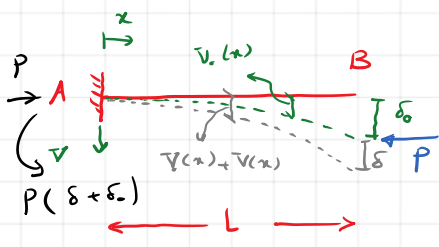
$$v_0(x) = \delta_0 \left(1 - \cos\left(\frac{\pi \cdot x}{2l}\right) \right)$$

Where: δ_0 is the deflection of the beam tip, l is the element's length and $v_0(x)$ represents the initial deflection at the distance x from the support A.

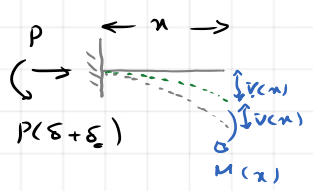
The element is subjected to the compressive force p .

- Determine the maximum deflection of the beam considering the initial deformation.
- Determine the maximum bending moment based on the applied load p .
- Determine the amplification factor.
- For a circular hollow section, determine the maximum stress in the element if $\delta_0 = \frac{l}{1000}$.
- Apply the bow imperfection according to EN 1993-1-1, determine the maximum force of p based on the amplification factor derived from the solution, and compare it to EN 1993-1-1.





$$v(x) = \delta \left(1 - \cos\left(\frac{\pi x}{2L}\right) \right)$$



$$M(x) = -P \cdot (v(x) + \bar{v}(x)) + P(\delta + \delta_0)$$

$$EI \bar{v}''(x) = -P v(x) - P \bar{v}(x) + P \cdot \delta + P \cdot \delta_0$$

$$EI \bar{v}''(x) = -P v(x) - P \cdot \delta_0 \left(1 - \cos\left(\frac{\pi x}{2L}\right) \right) + P \cdot \delta + P \cdot \delta_0$$

$$EI \bar{v}''(x) = -P \cdot v(x) - P \cdot \delta_0 + P \cdot \delta \cdot \cos\left(\frac{\pi x}{2L}\right) + P \cdot \delta + P \cdot \delta_0$$

$$\left(EI \bar{v}''(x) + P \cdot v(x) = P \cdot \delta_0 \cdot \cos\left(\frac{\pi x}{2L}\right) + P \cdot \delta \right) : EI$$

$$\bar{v}''(x) + \frac{P}{EI} v(x) = \frac{P}{EI} \delta_0 \cdot \cos\left(\frac{\pi x}{2L}\right) + \frac{P}{EI} \delta$$

$\frac{P}{EI} = \lambda^2$

$$\bar{v}''(x) + \lambda^2 v(x) = \underbrace{\lambda^2 \delta_0 \cdot \cos\left(\frac{\pi x}{2L}\right)}_{\bar{v}_1(x)} + \underbrace{\lambda^2 \delta}_{\bar{v}_2(x)}$$

$$\bar{v}''(x) + \lambda^2 v(x) = 0$$

$$r^2 + \lambda^2 = 0 \Rightarrow \left\{ r = \pm i \lambda \right\} \rightarrow \bar{v}_h(x) = A \sin \lambda x + B \cos \lambda x$$

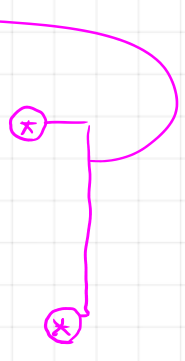
$$\bar{v}_{p,1}(x) = \lambda^2 \cdot \delta \Rightarrow \bar{v}_{p,1}(x) = \frac{\lambda^2 \cdot \delta}{\lambda^2} = \delta$$

$$\bar{v}''(x) + \lambda^2 v(x) = \lambda^2 \delta_0 \cdot \cos\left(\frac{\pi x}{2L}\right)$$

$$\bar{v}_{p,2}(x) = C_1 \cdot \cos\left(\frac{\pi x}{2L}\right) + C_2 \cdot \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{2L}\right)$$

$$\bar{v}'_{p,2}(x) = -C_1 \cdot \frac{\pi}{2L} \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{2L}\right) + C_2 \cdot \frac{\pi}{2L} \cdot \cos\left(\frac{\pi x}{2L}\right)$$

$$\bar{v}''_{p,2}(x) = -C_1 \cdot \frac{\pi^2}{4L^2} \cos\left(\frac{\pi x}{2L}\right) - C_2 \cdot \frac{\pi^2}{4L^2} \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{2L}\right)$$



$$\rightarrow -c_1 \frac{\pi^2}{4L^2} \cos\left(\frac{\pi x}{2L}\right) - c_2 \frac{\pi^2}{4L^2} \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{2L}\right) + \lambda^2 \left[c_1 \cos\left(\frac{\pi x}{2L}\right) + c_2 \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{2L}\right) \right] = \lambda^2 \delta_0 \cos\left(\frac{\pi x}{2L}\right)$$

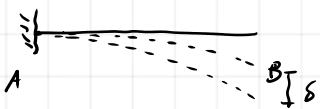
$$\cos\left(\frac{\pi x}{2L}\right) \left[-c_1 \frac{\pi^2}{4L^2} + c_1 \lambda^2 \right] + \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{2L}\right) \left[-c_2 \frac{\pi^2}{4L^2} + c_2 \lambda^2 \right] = \lambda^2 \delta_0 \cos\left(\frac{\pi x}{2L}\right)$$

$$\begin{cases} c_1 \lambda^2 - c_1 \frac{\pi^2}{4L^2} = \lambda^2 \delta_0 \rightarrow c_1 = \frac{\lambda^2 \delta_0}{\lambda^2 - \frac{\pi^2}{4L^2}} \\ c_2 \lambda^2 - c_2 \frac{\pi^2}{4L^2} = 0 \rightarrow \begin{cases} c_2 = 0 \\ \lambda^2 = \frac{\pi^2}{4L^2} \rightarrow c_1 = \infty \end{cases} \end{cases} \quad \begin{cases} c_2 = 0 \\ c_1 = \frac{\lambda^2 \delta_0}{\lambda^2 - \frac{\pi^2}{4L^2}} \end{cases}$$

$$v_{P,2}(x) = \frac{\lambda^2 \delta_0}{\lambda^2 - \frac{\pi^2}{4L^2}} \cdot \cos\left(\frac{\pi x}{2L}\right)$$

$$v(x) = v_h(x) + v_{P,1}(x) + v_{P,2}(x)$$

$$v(x) = A \sin \lambda x + B \cos \lambda x + \delta + \frac{\lambda^2 \delta_0}{\lambda^2 - \frac{\pi^2}{4L^2}} \cdot \cos\left(\frac{\pi x}{2L}\right)$$



$$v'(x) = A \lambda \cos \lambda x - B \lambda \sin \lambda x - \frac{\pi}{2L} \cdot \frac{\lambda^2 \delta_0}{\lambda^2 - \frac{\pi^2}{4L^2}} \cdot \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{2L}\right)$$

$$\begin{cases} v(0) = 0 \rightarrow B + \delta + \frac{\lambda^2 \delta_0}{\lambda^2 - \frac{\pi^2}{4L^2}} = 0 \quad \textcircled{I} \\ v'(0) = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$v(L) = \delta \rightarrow A \lambda = 0 \Rightarrow A = 0$$

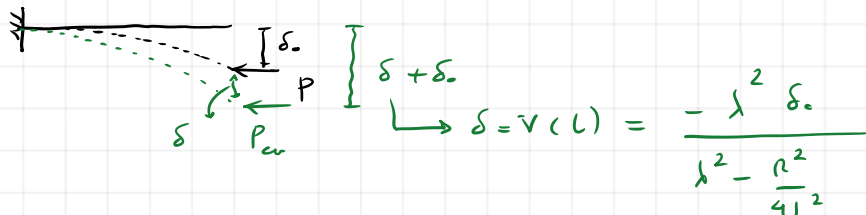
~~$$A \sin \lambda L + B \cos \lambda L + \delta + \frac{\lambda^2 \delta_0}{\lambda^2 - \frac{\pi^2}{4L^2}} \cdot \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) = \delta$$~~

$$B \cdot \cos \lambda L = 0 \Rightarrow \begin{cases} B = 0 \\ \lambda L = \frac{\pi}{2} \Rightarrow \text{X} \end{cases} \rightarrow \textcircled{I} \rightarrow \delta = \frac{-\lambda^2 \delta_0}{\lambda^2 - \frac{\pi^2}{4L^2}}$$

$$v(x) = A \sin \lambda x + B \cos \lambda x + \delta + \frac{\lambda^2 \delta_0}{\lambda^2 - \frac{\pi^2}{4L^2}} \cdot \cos\left(\frac{\pi x}{2L}\right)$$

$$\frac{-\lambda^2 \delta_0}{\lambda^2 - \frac{\pi^2}{4L^2}}$$

$$v(x) = \frac{\lambda^2 \delta_0}{\lambda^2 - \frac{\pi^2}{4L^2}} \cdot \left[\cos\left(\frac{\pi x}{2L}\right) - 1 \right]$$



$$\delta_{max} = \delta + \delta_0 = \frac{-\lambda^2 \delta_0}{\lambda^2 - \frac{\pi^2}{4L^2}} + \delta_0 = \frac{-\lambda^2 \delta_0 + \lambda^2 \delta_0 - \frac{\pi^2}{4L^2} \delta_0}{\lambda^2 - \frac{\pi^2}{4L^2}}$$

$$\delta_{max} = \frac{\frac{\pi^2}{4L^2} \cdot \delta_0}{\frac{\pi^2}{4L^2} - \lambda^2}$$

$$\lambda^2 = \frac{P}{EI}, \quad P_w = \frac{\pi^2 EI}{L_{eff}^2} = \frac{\pi^2 EI}{4L^2}$$

$$\delta_{max} = \frac{\frac{\pi^2}{4L^2} \cdot \delta_0}{\frac{\pi^2}{4L^2} - \frac{P}{EI}} = \frac{\delta_0}{1 - \frac{P}{P_E}} = \frac{\delta_0}{1 - \frac{P}{\frac{\pi^2 EI}{4L^2}}}$$

$$M_{max} = P \cdot \delta_{max} = \frac{P \cdot \delta_0}{1 - \frac{P}{P_E}}$$

$$\sigma = -\frac{P}{A} \pm \frac{M}{W} = -\frac{P}{A} \pm \frac{P \cdot \delta_0}{1 - \frac{P}{P_E}} \cdot \frac{1}{W}$$

$$\sigma = -P \left[\frac{1}{A} \mp \frac{1}{1 - \frac{P}{P_E}} \cdot \frac{\delta_0}{W} \right]$$

CHS 88.9/6.3, [S275]

$L = 5\text{ m}, \delta_0 = \frac{L}{1000}$

| Profile | Drawing | Ext. Diameter D [mm] | Wall thickness t [mm] | Weight m [kg/m] | External perimeter P [m] | Area A [mm ²] | Shear area A _v [mm ²] | Second moment of area I [×10 ⁶ mm ⁴] | Radius of gyration i [mm] | Elastic section modulus W _e [×10 ³ mm ³] | Plastic section modulus W _p [×10 ³ mm ³] |
|--------------|---------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|--|--|
| C45 88.9/6.3 | dx1 | 88.9 | 6.3 | 12.8 | 0.279 | 1635 | 1041 | 1.402 | 29.3 | 31.55 | 43.07 |

$$P_E = P_W = \frac{r^2 \cdot EI}{4L^2} = \frac{r^2 \times 210 \text{ GPa} \times 1.402 \times 10^6 \text{ mm}^4}{4 \times (5000 \text{ mm})^2} = 29 \text{ kN}$$

$P = 10 \text{ kN}$

$$\sigma = -10000 \text{ (N)} \left[\frac{1}{1635 \text{ (mm}^2)} \mp \frac{1}{1 - \frac{10 \text{ kN}}{29 \text{ kN}}} \cdot \frac{5000 \text{ mm}}{31.55 \times 10^3 \text{ (mm}^3)} \right]$$

$$\sigma = -6.12 \pm 2.42 \Rightarrow \begin{cases} -3.72 \text{ MPa} \\ -8.54 \text{ MPa} \end{cases}$$

Determine the maximum P that material yields.

$$\sigma = -P \left[\frac{1}{A} \mp \frac{1}{1 - \frac{P}{P_E}} \cdot \frac{\delta_0}{W} \right]$$

$$\underbrace{\sigma}_{-} = -\frac{P}{A} - \frac{P}{1 - \frac{P}{P_E}} \cdot \frac{\delta_0}{W} \Rightarrow \left(\sigma = \frac{P}{A} + \frac{P}{1 - \frac{P}{P_E}} \cdot \frac{\delta_0}{W} \right) \left(1 - \frac{P}{P_E} \right)$$

$$\left(\sigma - \frac{P}{A} = \frac{P}{1 - \frac{P}{P_E}} + \frac{P \delta_0}{W} \right) \cdot A \cdot P_E$$

$$\sigma \cdot A \cdot P_E - \sigma \cdot A \cdot P = P \cdot P_E - P^2 + P \cdot \frac{A \cdot P_E \cdot \delta_0}{W}$$

$$\sigma \cdot A \cdot P_E - \sigma \cdot A \cdot P = P \cdot P_E - P^2 + P \cdot \frac{A \cdot P_E \cdot \delta_0}{W}$$

$$P^2 - \left[A \cdot \sigma + P_E + \frac{A \cdot P_E \cdot \delta_0}{W} \right] \cdot P + \sigma \cdot A \cdot P_E = 0$$

$$A = 1635 \text{ mm}^2$$

$$\sigma = \sigma_{\text{yield}} = 275 \text{ MPa}$$

$$P_E = 29 \text{ kN}$$

$$\delta_0 = 5 \text{ mm}$$

$$W = 31.55 \times 10^3 \text{ mm}^3$$

| Profile | Drawing | Ext. Diameter D [mm] | Wall thickness t [mm] | Weight m [kg/m] | External perimeter P [m] | Area A [mm ²] | Shear area A _v [mm ²] | Second moment of area I [$\times 10^6$ mm ⁴] | Radius of gyration i [mm] | Elastic section modulus W _{el} [$\times 10^3$ mm ³] | Plastic section modulus W _{pl} [$\times 10^3$ mm ³] |
|----------------|---------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|---|---|
| C45 88.9 / 6.3 | dxf | 88.9 | 6.3 | 12.8 | 0.279 | 1635 | 1041 | 1.402 | 29.3 | 31.55 | 43.07 |

$$P^2 - \left[\frac{1635 \cdot 275}{\text{mm}^2 \cdot \text{Mpa}} + \frac{29000}{\text{N}} + \frac{1635 \times 29000 \times 5}{31.55 \times 10^3 \text{ (mm}^3\text{)}} \right] \cdot P + 275 \cdot 1635 \cdot 29000 = 0$$

$$P = \begin{cases} 28491 \text{ N} = 28.5 \text{ kN} \\ 457647 \text{ N} = 458 \text{ kN} \end{cases} \rightarrow \boxed{P = 28.5 \text{ kN}}$$

Table 6.2: Selection of buckling curve for a cross-section

| Cross section | Limits | Buckling about axis | Buckling curve | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| | | | S 235 S 275 S 355 S 420 | S 460 | |
| Rolled sections | $h/b > 1.2$ | y-y z-z | $t_f \leq 40 \text{ mm}$ | a b | a ₀ a ₀ |
| | | | $40 \text{ mm} < t_f \leq 100$ | b c | a a |
| | $h/b \leq 1.2$ | y-y z-z | $t_f \leq 100 \text{ mm}$ | b c | a a |
| | | | $t_f > 100 \text{ mm}$ | d d | c c |
| Welded I-sections | $t_f \leq 40 \text{ mm}$ | y-y z-z | b c | b c | |
| | $t_f > 40 \text{ mm}$ | y-y z-z | c d | c d | |
| Hollow sections | hot finished | any | a | a ₀ | |
| | cold formed | any | c | c | |

buckling curve a

Table 5.1: Design values of initial local bow imperfection e_0 / L

| Buckling curve acc. to Table 6.1 | elastic analysis | plastic analysis |
|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | e_0 / L | e_0 / L |
| a ₀ | 1 / 350 | 1 / 300 |
| a | 1 / 300 | 1 / 250 |
| b | 1 / 250 | 1 / 200 |
| c | 1 / 200 | 1 / 150 |
| d | 1 / 150 | 1 / 100 |

$$\frac{e_0}{L} = \frac{1}{300} \Rightarrow \boxed{e_0 = 16.67 \text{ mm}} \rightarrow \delta_0$$

$$P^2 - \left[A \cdot \sigma + P_E + \frac{A \cdot P_E \cdot \delta_0}{W} \right] \cdot P + \sigma \cdot A \cdot P_E = 0$$

$$\delta_0 = 16.67 \text{ mm}$$

$$A = 1635 \text{ mm}^2$$

$$W = 31.55 \times 10^3 \text{ mm}^3$$

$$\sigma = 275 \text{ MPa}$$

$$P_E = 29 \text{ kN}$$

$$P = \begin{cases} 27.375 \text{ kN} \\ 476 \text{ kN} \times \end{cases} \rightarrow \boxed{27.375 \text{ kN}}$$

| Profile | Drawing | Ext. Diameter D [mm] | Wall thickness t [mm] | Weight m [kg/m] | External perimeter P [m] | Area A [mm ²] | Shear area A _v [mm ²] | Second moment of area I [$\times 10^6$ mm ⁴] | Radius of gyration i [mm] | Elastic section modulus W _{el} [$\times 10^3$ mm ³] | Plastic section modulus W _{pl} [$\times 10^3$ mm ³] |
|-----------------|---------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|---|---|
| C-45 88.9 / 6.3 | dxf | 88.9 | 6.3 | 12.8 | 0.279 | 1635 | 1041 | 1.402 | 29.3 | 31.55 | 43.07 |

6.3.1.2 Buckling curves

(1) For axial compression in members the value of χ for the appropriate non-dimensional slenderness $\bar{\lambda}$ should be determined from the relevant buckling curve according to:

$$\chi = \frac{1}{\Phi + \sqrt{\Phi^2 - \bar{\lambda}^2}} \quad \text{but } \chi \leq 1.0 \quad (6.49)$$

where $\Phi = 0.5 \left[1 + \alpha(\bar{\lambda} - 0.2) + \bar{\lambda}^2 \right]$

$$\bar{\lambda} = \sqrt{\frac{A f_y}{N_{cr}}} \quad \text{for Class 1, 2 and 3 cross-sections} = \sqrt{\frac{1635 (\text{mm}^2) \cdot 275 \text{ MPa}}{29000}} = 3.94$$

$$\bar{\lambda} = \sqrt{\frac{A_{eff} f_y}{N_{cr}}} \quad \text{for Class 4 cross-sections}$$

α is an imperfection factor

N_{cr} is the elastic critical force for the relevant buckling mode based on the gross cross sectional properties.

(2) The imperfection factor α corresponding to the appropriate buckling curve should be obtained from Table 6.1 and Table 6.2.

Table 6.1: Imperfection factors for buckling curves

| Buckling curve | a ₀ | a | b | c | d |
|------------------------------|----------------|------|------|------|------|
| Imperfection factor α | 0,13 | 0,21 | 0,34 | 0,49 | 0,76 |

(3) The design buckling resistance of a compression member should be taken as:

$$N_{b,Rd} = \frac{\chi A f_y}{\gamma_{M1}} \quad \text{for Class 1, 2 and 3 cross-sections} \quad (6.47)$$

$$N_{b,Rd} = \frac{\chi A_{eff} f_y}{\gamma_{M1}} \quad \text{for Class 4 cross-sections} \quad (6.48)$$

where χ is the reduction factor for the relevant buckling mode.

$$N_{b,Rd} = \frac{\chi \cdot A \cdot f_y}{\gamma_{M1}} = \frac{0.061 \times 1635 \text{ mm}^2 \times 275 \text{ MPa}}{1} = 27.43 \text{ kN}$$