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Benchmark Example No. 17

## Lateral Torsional Buckling

**VERiFiCATION  
BE17 Lateral Torsional Buckling**

VERiFiCATION Manual, Service Pack 2024-4 Build 27

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**SOFiSTiK AG**

HQ Nuremberg  
Flataustraße 14  
90411 Nürnberg  
Germany

T +49 (0)911 39901-0  
F +49(0)911 397904

Office Garching  
Parkring 2  
85748 Garching bei München  
Germany

T +49 (0)89 315878-0  
F +49 (0)89 315878-23

[info@sofistik.com](mailto:info@sofistik.com)  
[www.sofistik.com](http://www.sofistik.com)

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The manual and the program have been thoroughly checked for errors. However, SOFiSTiK does not claim that either one is completely error free. Errors and omissions are corrected as soon as they are detected.

The user of the program is solely responsible for the applications. We strongly encourage the user to test the correctness of all calculations at least by random sampling.

**Front Cover**

6th Street Viaduct, Los Angeles Photo: Tobias Petschke

### Overview

<b>Element Type(s):</b>	B3D
<b>Analysis Type(s):</b>	STAT, GNL
<b>Procedure(s):</b>	
<b>Topic(s):</b>	
<b>Module(s):</b>	ASE
<b>Input file(s):</b>	<a href="#">lateral_torsional_buckling.dat</a>

## 1 Problem Description

The problem consists of a single span beam with an initial geometrical imperfection at the middle, subjected to a uniformly distributed load  $q_z$ , as shown in Fig. 1. The structure is examined for lateral torsional buckling.

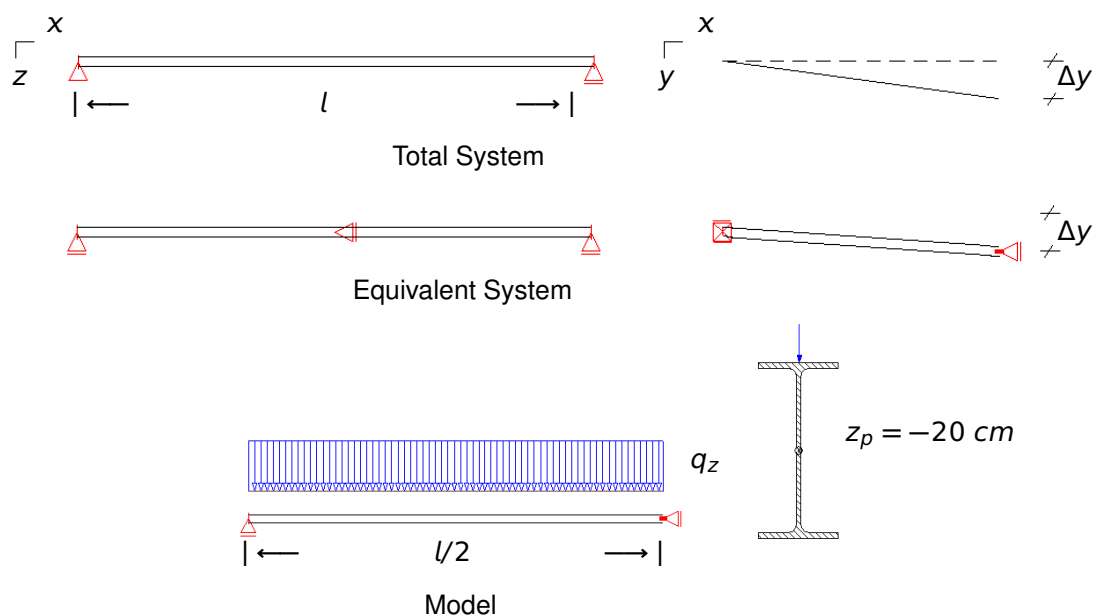


Figure 1: Problem Description

## 2 Reference Solution

The I-beam of Fig. 1 has an initial geometrical imperfection in the  $y$ -direction  $\Delta y = l/200 = 3.0 \text{ cm}$ . Using the symmetry of the equivalent system the model can be reduced to half as shown at Fig. 1. Due to the bending moments, the load application on the upper flange of the beam ( $z_p$ ) and the imperfection, the beam is at risk for lateral torsional buckling. In order to account for this effect, third order theory has to be utilised.

## 3 Model and Results

The properties of the model [1] are defined in Table 1. A standard steel material is used as well as a standard rolled steel profile with properties according to DIN 1025-5. A safety factor  $\gamma_M = 1.1$  is used, which according to DIN 18800-2 it is applied both to the yield strength and the stiffness. The loading is applied at the upper flange as shown in Fig. 1. Furthermore, the self weight and the shear deformations are neglected. At the supports the warping is not constrained.

Table 1: Model Properties

Material Properties	Geometric Properties	Loading
S 355 , $\gamma_M = 1.1$	$l = 6 \text{ m}$ , $\Delta y = 3 \text{ cm}$	$q_z = 10 \text{ kN/m}$
$C_M = 490000 \text{ cm}^6$	IPE 400 [2]	$z_p = -20 \text{ cm}$

The results are presented in Table 2. It is observed that second-order theory (TH. II) fails to capture the moments with respect to the z-axis, therefore third-order theory (TH. III) has to be used. It has to be noted that the reference results are according to [1], where they are computed with another finite element software, and not with respect to an analytical solution.

Table 2: Results

	$C_M = 490000 \text{ [cm}^6\text{]}$		Ref. [1]	$C_M = 0$		Ref. [1]
	TH. II	TH. III		TH. II	TH. III	
$u_y \text{ [cm]}$	0.094	0.082	0.089	0.184	0.158	0.172
$u_z \text{ [cm]}$	0.422	0.425	0.424	0.470	0.479	0.475
$\phi_{ix} \text{ [rad]}$	0.0167	0.0166	0.0167	0.0367	0.0363	0.0365
$M_x \text{ [kN m]}$	0.439	0.437	0.438	0.510	0.504	0.508
$M_y \text{ [kN m]}$	45.0	45.0	45.0	45.0	45.0	45.0
$M_z \text{ [kN m]}$	0.001	0.747	0.752	0.001	1.627	1.641
$M_\omega \text{ [kN m]}$	0.606	0.604	0.607	0.0	0.0	0.0

## 4 Conclusion

This example examines the lateral torsional buckling of beams. It has been shown that the behaviour of the beam is captured accurately.

## 5 Literature

- [1] V. Gensichen and G. Lumpe. *Zur Leistungsfähigkeit, korrekten Anwendung und Kontrolle räumlicher Stabwerksprogramme*. Stahlbau Seminar 07.
- [2] K. Holschemacher. *Entwurfs- und Berechnungstabeln für Bauingenieure*. 3rd. Bauwerk, 2007.