

Singly Symmetric Combination Section Crane Girder Design Aids

by

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Abstract

Crane runway girders are distinguished by long unbraced lengths and biaxial bending. Combination sections consisting of a W shape with a channel cap are typically efficient for these conditions, but time consuming to design due to the iterative process required due to biaxial bending and the complex stability equations provided in AISC (2005) specifications. This paper presents developed Z_x tables, flexural strength graphs, and introduces a trial section selection method. Included herein are updated design charts to allow for fast and efficient analysis of the typical combination sections provided in Table 1-19 of the *AISC Steel Construction Manual*. Also presented is an overview of crane girder design procedures and an abbreviated design example.

Key Words: Singly Symmetric, Girder, Design, Combination Section

Introduction

The design or evaluation procedure for combination sections – a wide flange with a channel cap – is specified in Section F4 of the *AISC Specification for Structural Steel Buildings* (AISC, 2005), which covers singly symmetric I-shaped members bent about their major axis. Reversal of the specified AISC evaluation process for direct design is not feasible; therefore design becomes a matter of trial and error. The situation is compounded for a combination section that supports x - and y -axis moments as in the case of a crane girder where Chapter H of the *AISC Specification* must be applied. As a result, design aids are needed to streamline the design process that facilitates rapid selection of the most economical combination section. This paper updates a previously published paper by Laman (1996), presenting new design aids, formatted in the style of familiar AISC tables and figures, including the basis by which the aids are developed and a supporting example. Also presented is a method to determine the equivalent x -axis moment required for beams subjected to biaxial moments.

There are available many texts and design aids that address the design of industrial buildings with cranes, such as the design guide by Fisher (2004). While these sources explain the loading and evaluation required for crane runway girders, they do not offer any systematic approach to the selection of trial sections. The problems of a trial and error approach are further compounded by the lack of design aids for quickly determining the capacity of the combination sections.

Crane Girder Design Basis

Crane girders are distinguished by long unbraced lengths and combined bending about the x - and y -axis as well as torsion. For typical loading and spans, a wide flange section with a channel cap normally provides an efficient cross section for the design. Historically, the assumption has

been made that the channel and the wide flange top flange resist the horizontal loads and the combination section resists the vertical load. This simplifies the analysis of the actual condition and eliminates the need for an analysis of torsional effects on the combination section (Laman, 1996). Given the complexity of AISC (2005) design equations due to lateral torsional buckling strength determination, design tables and graphs are needed to speed the process. Currently the *AISC Specification* contains design tables and graphs to assist with wide flange and channel design under lateral torsional buckling and serve as a model for the aids presented herein. Based on AISC 2005 Ch F.4 and the flow chart of Figure 1, design aids presented in Table 2 and 3 and Figures 2 and 3 have been developed. With the availability of these new design aids, a trial section selection methodology is now possible and is presented here.

M_{ueq} Method

Defining the ratio of M_{nx} to M_{ny} as a plastic section modulus ratio, ZR :

$$ZR = \frac{M_{nx}}{M_{ny}} = \frac{Z_x F_y}{Z_y F_y} = \frac{Z_x}{Z_y} \quad (1)$$

and observing that a nearly linear relationship between ZR and ϕM_{nx} exists for each channel section used as a cap, equation H1-1b can be rearranged into an explicit function for ϕM_{nx} :

$$\frac{M_{ux}}{\phi M_{nx}} + \frac{M_{uy}}{\phi M_{ny}} \leq 1 \quad (2)$$

Now substituting ZR for the moment ratio into Equation (2)

$$\frac{M_{ux}}{\phi M_{nx}} + \frac{M_{uy}}{\phi M_{nx} / ZR} \leq 1 \quad (3)$$

Rearranging Equation (3):

$$\frac{M_{ux}}{\phi M_{nx}} + \frac{(ZR)(M_{uy})}{\phi M_{nx}} \leq 1 \quad (4)$$

Rearranging Equation (4):

$$M_{ux} + (ZR)(M_{uy}) \leq \phi M_{nx} \quad (5)$$

Equation (5) is an approximation based on an assumed linear relationship between ZR and M_{nx} .

Because ϕM_{nx} is not initially known, an equivalent moment, M_{ueq} , is substituted for ϕM_n in

Equation (5). Then ZR is replaced with the linear function of M_{ueq} and solved for M_{ueq} :

$$M_{ueq} = M_{ux} + ZR(M_{ueq})M_{uy} \quad (6)$$

Making the linear substitution for ZR into Equation (6):

$$M_{ueq} = M_{ux} + (mM_{ueq} + b)M_{uy} \quad (7)$$

where the coefficients m and b represent the straight-line slope and intercept for the relationship.

Distributing terms:

$$M_{ueq} = M_{ux} + mM_{ueq}M_{uy} + bM_{uy} \quad (8)$$

Collecting terms of Equation (8):

$$(1 - mM_{uy})M_{ueq} = M_{ux} + bM_{uy} \quad (9)$$

And solving for M_{ueq} results in Equation (10):

$$M_{ueq} = \frac{M_{ux} + bM_{uy}}{1 - mM_{uy}} \quad (10)$$

The derivation for ASD is similar and results in the following equation:

$$M_{aeq} = \frac{M_{ax} + bM_{ay}}{1 - 1.5mM_{ay}} \quad (11)$$

The coefficients m and b have been determined based on a regression analysis of all values for applicable channel caps for spans in 10 ft. increments up to 100 ft and are provided in Table

1. The resulting equivalent moment determined from Equation (10) (LRFD) or Equation (11) (ASD) is then used to select a trial section from Z_x tables presented in Table 2 ($F_y = 36$ ksi) or Table 3 ($F_y = 50$ ksi) or from design graphs presented in Figures 1 and 2 to select a trial section. For unbraced lengths greater than the limiting length for yielding ($L_b > L_p$), the strong axis moment, M_{ux} or M_{ax} , should be divided by the buckling moment modification factor, C_b , for a more accurate selection.

$$M_{aeq} = \frac{M_{ax}/C_b + bM_{ay}}{1 - 1.5mM_{ay}} \quad (12)$$

$$M_{ueq} = \frac{M_{ux}/C_b + bM_{uy}}{1 - mM_{uy}} \quad (13)$$

M_{ueq} is then used in the design graphs presented in Figure 2 ($F_y = 36$ ksi) or Figure 3 ($F_y = 50$ ksi) to select a trial section. The use of these graphs is identical to the widely used and familiar Beam Design Moment graphs already provided in Part 3 of the AISC *Steel Manual* (AISC, 2005).

Singly Symmetric Crane Girder Design Procedure

1. Determine deflection limits and stiffness requirements. Vertical deflection is typically limited to $\frac{L}{600}$ for light and medium cranes and $\frac{L}{1000}$ for heavy cranes. Horizontal deflection is typically limited to $\frac{L}{400}$ for all cranes. I_x is based on the full combination section, while I_y is based only on the channel and the top flange of the W shape.
2. Determine the applied loads including crane manufacturer specified maximum wheel loads, rail weight, and runway girder weight. Maximum wheel loads are increased by 25% for cab or remotely operated bridge cranes and 10% for pendant operated bridge cranes.

3. Calculate the x - and y -axis bending moments and shear forces, applying suitable load combinations and determine the equivalent moment from Equation (10) or (11).
4. Using the equivalent moment, select a trial section from either or Figure 2 or 3 Table 2 or 3. Long spans supporting light cranes are normally controlled by deflection, therefore trial selection may be based on moment of inertia.
5. Evaluate the trial section for flexural and shear capacity based on AISC *Specification* Chapter F.4 following the flowchart in Figure 1, Chapter G, and Chapter H. Flexural capacity can also be determined with the assistance of Table 2 or 3. All singly symmetric, W and C combination sections listed in AISC (2005) Table 1-19 meet the compact web criteria of Table B4.1, therefore, the web plastification factors, R_{pc} and R_{pt} , are the ratio of the plastic moment to the compression and tension flange yield moments, respectively. Thus $R_{pc} M_{yc} = M_p$ and $R_{pt} M_{yt} = M_p$, which can be substituted into the AISC (2005) equation (F4-2):

$$M_{nx} = C_b \left[M_{px} - (M_{px} - F_L S_{xc}) \left(\frac{L_b - L_p}{L_r - L_p} \right) \right] \leq M_{px} \quad (14)$$

BF is then defined as:

$$BF = \phi \left(\frac{M_{px} - F_L S_{xc}}{L_r - L_p} \right) \quad (15)$$

Substituting Equation (15) into Equation (14):

$$\phi M_{nx} = C_b \left[\phi M_{px} - BF (L_b - L_p) \right] \leq \phi M_{px} \quad (16)$$

M_{ny} is calculated as the y -axis plastic bending strength of the wide flange top flange and the channel for combination sections:

$$M_{ny} = (Z_{W \text{ top flange}} + Z_{x \text{ channel}}) F_y = \left(\frac{t_f b_f^2}{4} + Z_{x \text{ channel}} \right) F_y \quad (17)$$

6. Check concentrated load criteria in AISC (2005) Section J10.
7. Evaluate fatigue provisions of AISC (2005) Appendix 3.

Example by LRFD Methods

Crane Capacity = 20 tons

Bridge Span = 70'- 0"

Cab operated

Bridge weight = 57.2 kips

Trolley weight = 10.6 kips

Max wheel load = 38.1 kips (no impact included)

Wheel spacing = 12'- 0"

Runway girder span = $L_b = 30'- 0''$, $F_y = 50$ ksi

1. Calculate the maximum factored moments and shears:

$P_{u \text{ vert}}$ per wheel = 55.2 kips (assuming $\lambda = 1.6$ for lifted and trolley weight)

$P_{u \text{ horz}}$ per wheel = 4.05 kips

w_u (self weight of girder and rail) = 0.19 klf

$M_{ux} = 683$ ft-k, $C_b = 1.19$

$M_{uy} = 39$ ft-k

$V_{uy} = 119$ kips

$V_{ux} = 6.5$ kips

2. Determine M_{ueq}

Expect a C15×33.9 channel cap. From Table 1, with $L_b = 30'- 0''$ and $F_y = 50$ ksi:

$b = 0.9$

$m = 3.0 \times 10^{-3}$

$$M_{ueq} = \frac{M_{ux}/C_b + bM_{uy}}{1 - mM_{uy}} = \frac{(683 \text{ ft - kips})/1.19 + 0.9(39 \text{ ft - kips})}{1 - (3.0 \times 10^{-3})(39 \text{ ft - kips})} = 690 \text{ ft - k}$$

3. Select first trial section:

From Figure 3, with $M_{ueq} = 690$ ft-kips and $L_b = 30'- 0''$, select a W24×68 + C15×33.9

$\phi M_{px} = 870$ ft-k

$L_p = 10.2$ ft

$L_r = 43.2$ ft

$I_x = 2710$ in⁴

$I_y = 385$ in⁴

$BF = 6.72$

4. Evaluate M_{cx} and M_{cy}

$$L_p = 10.2 \text{ ft} < L_b = 30 \text{ ft} < L_r = 43.2 \text{ ft}$$

$$M_{cx} = \phi M_{nx} = C_b [\phi M_{px} - BF(L_b - L_p)] \leq \phi M_{px}$$

$$\phi M_{nx} = 1.19 [870 \text{ ft-k} - 6.72(30 \text{ ft} - 10.2 \text{ ft})] = 877 \text{ ft-k} > \phi M_{px} = 870 \text{ ft-k}$$

$$M_{cx} = \phi M_{nx} = \phi M_{px} = 870 \text{ ft-k}$$

$$\phi M_{ny} = \phi F_y \left(\frac{t_f b_f^2}{4} + Z_{x \text{ channel}} \right) = \frac{(0.9)50 \text{ ksi}}{12 \text{ in/ft}} \left(\frac{0.585 \text{ in.}(8.97 \text{ in.})^2}{4} + 50.8 \text{ in.}^3 \right) = 235 \text{ ft-k}$$

5. Evaluate Chapter H interaction (Equation H1-1b):

$$\frac{P_r}{2P_c} + \frac{M_{rx}}{M_{cx}} + \frac{M_{ry}}{M_{cy}} = 0 + \frac{683 \text{ ft-k}}{870 \text{ ft-k}} + \frac{39 \text{ ft-k}}{235 \text{ ft-k}} = 0.785 + 0.166 = 0.95 \leq 1.0$$

6. Calculating $I_{required}$ based on the maximum deflection:

$$\Delta_{\text{vert max}} \leq \frac{L}{600} = \frac{360''}{600} = 0.6'' \quad \text{therefore } I_x \geq 3372 \text{ in}^4$$

$$\Delta_{\text{vert max}} \leq \frac{L}{400} = \frac{360''}{400} = 0.9'' \quad \text{therefore } I_y \geq 140 \text{ in}^4$$

The W24×68 + C15×33.9 trial section efficiently meets all AISC (2005) strength requirements, however, the section does not meet generally accepted deflection requirements. A W27×84 + C15×33.9 does meet both AISC strength and generally accepted deflection requirements.

Conclusion

A rapid and simplified design procedure is developed and presented for singly symmetric, combination sections often used for crane girders. An equivalent moment method is presented for accurate selection of a combination section subjected to biaxial bending. Beam design moment graphs are presented to allow rapid selection of trial sections and tables are provided for efficient analysis of typical combination sections.

References

AISC, *Steel Construction Manual*, 13th Ed., American Institute of Steel Construction, Chicago, IL, 2005.

Fisher, J.M., *Design Guide No. 7 Industrial Buildings—Roofs to Anchor Rods*, 2nd Ed., AISC, Chicago, IL, 2004.

Laman, J.A., “LRFD Crane Girder Design and Aids,” *Engineering Journal*, AISC, Vol. 33, No. 4, 1996, pp. 153-158.

Table 1. *b* and *m* Values for Typical Combination Sections.

	Channel Cap	$L_b =$	10'	20'	30'	40'	50'	60'	70'	80'	90'	100'	
$F_y = 50$ ksi	MC18×42.7	b	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.1	0.75	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	
		$m \times 10^3$	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6
	C15×33.9	b	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4		
		$m \times 10^3$	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.3	
	C12×20.7	b	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4			
		$m \times 10^3$	6.3	6.0	6.0	5.1	5.0	5.0	4.6	4.2			
	C10×15.3	b	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1					
		$m \times 10^3$	13	12	12	11	11	11					
	$F_y = 36$ ksi	MC18×42.7	b	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.1	0.85	0.7	0.6	0.5
			$m \times 10^3$	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3
C15×33.9		b	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	
		$m \times 10^3$	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	3.9	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.1	3.0
C12×20.7		b	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5			
		$m \times 10^3$	8.4	8.4	8.0	8.0	7.3	7.3	6.7	6.2			
C10×15.3		b	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2					
		$m \times 10^3$	17	17	17	17	16	16					

Table 2. Z_x Design Selection Table for Typical Combination Sections – $F_y = 36$ ksi.

		W Shapes with Cap Channels						$F_y = 36$ ksi					
		$\Phi=0.90$		$\Omega=1.67$									
Shape	Z_x	M_{px}/Ω	ΦM_{px}	M_{rx}/Ω	ΦM_{rx}	BF		L_p	L_r	I_x	M_{ny}/Ω	ΦM_{ny}	
		kip-ft	kip-ft	kip-ft	kip-ft	kips	kips				kip-ft	kip-ft	
		in.3	ASD	LRFD	ASD	LRFD	ASD				LRFD	ft	ft
W36x150 + MC18x42.7	738	1330	1990	993	1490	9.57	14.4	12.2	47.0	12000	196	294	
W36x150 + C15x33.9	716	1290	1930	961	1440	10.6	15.9	11.2	42.1	11500	152	229	
W33x141 + MC18x42.7	652	1170	1760	880	1320	8.11	12.2	12.2	48.1	10000	192	288	
W33x141 + C15x33.9	635	1140	1710	866	1300	8.76	13.2	11.2	42.5	9580	148	223	
W33x118 + MC18x42.7	544	977	1470	719	1080	6.95	10.4	12.6	49.8	8280	179	269	
W33x118 + C15x33.9	529	950	1430	710	1070	7.47	11.2	11.6	43.8	7900	135	203	
W30x116 + MC18x42.7	492	884	1330	656	986	5.96	8.95	12.4	50.7	6900	177	266	
W30x116 + C15x33.9	480	862	1300	647	972	6.53	9.81	11.3	44.4	6590	133	200	
W30x99 + MC18x42.7	412	740	1110	546	821	4.87	7.32	12.7	52.6	5830	168	253	
W30x99 + C15x33.9	408	733	1100	539	810	5.65	8.50	11.7	46.0	5550	124	187	
W27x94 + C15x33.9	357	641	964	481	724	4.49	6.75	11.6	47.2	4530	125	187	
W27x84 + C15x33.9	316	568	853	426	640	3.87	5.81	11.8	48.6	4050	120	180	
W24x84 + C15x33.9	286	514	772	390	586	3.25	4.88	11.6	49.7	3340	119	179	
W24x84 + C12x20.7	275	494	743	379	570	4.39	6.60	9.09	35.3	3030	74.1	111	
W24x68 + C15x33.9	232	417	626	311	467	2.62	3.94	12.1	52.5	2710	112	169	
W24x68 + C12x20.7	224	402	605	302	454	3.72	5.59	9.42	36.5	2440	67.1	101	
W21x68 + C15x33.9	207	372	559	280	421	2.15	3.24	11.9	54.4	2180	112	169	
W21x68 + C12x20.7	200	359	540	273	410	3.06	4.59	9.23	37.4	1970	67.0	101	
W21x62 + C15x33.9	189	340	510	255	383	1.94	2.92	12.1	55.6	2000	110	165	
W21x62 + C12x20.7	183	329	494	248	373	2.83	4.25	9.38	38.0	1800	64.7	97.3	
W18x50 + C15x33.9	133	239	359	190	285	1.03	1.55	12.4	60.1	1250	106	159	
W18x50 + C12x20.7	127	228	343	175	263	1.68	2.53	9.55	41.2	1120	60.4	90.8	
W16x36 + C15x33.9	86.8	156	234	144	216	0.244	0.367	12.9	62.9	748	101	151	
W16x36 + C12x20.7	83.2	149	225	113	170	1.01	1.52	10.0	46.2	670	55.4	83.3	
W14x30 + C12x20.7	62.0	111	167	88.1	132	0.599	0.900	10.2	49.0	447	53.8	80.9	
W14x30 + C10x15.3	60.3	108	163	82.6	124	0.882	1.33	8.36	37.5	420	36.4	54.7	
W12x26 + C12x20.7	48.2	86.6	130	73.7	111	0.314	0.472	10.3	51.2	318	53.2	79.9	
W12x26 + C10x15.3	47.0	84.4	127	65.2	98.0	0.605	0.909	8.44	40.2	299	35.8	53.7	

Table 3. Z_x Design Selection Table for Typical Combination Sections – $F_y = 50$ ksi.

		W Shapes with Cap Channels						$F_y = 50$ ksi					
		$\Phi=0.90$		$\Omega=1.67$									
Shape	Z_x	M_{px}/Ω	ΦM_{px}	M_{rx}/Ω	ΦM_{rx}	BF		L_p	L_r	I_x	M_{ny}/Ω	ΦM_{ny}	
		kip-ft	kip-ft	kip-ft	kip-ft	kips	kips				kip-ft	kip-ft	
		in.3	ASD	LRFD	ASD	LRFD	ASD				LRFD	ft	ft
W36x150 + MC18x42.7	738	1840	2770	1380	2070	16.2	24.4	10.4	38.9	12000	272	409	
W36x150 + C15x33.9	716	1790	2690	1330	2010	17.9	26.9	9.53	34.8	11500	211	317	
W33x141 + MC18x42.7	652	1630	2450	1220	1840	13.8	20.8	10.4	39.6	10000	267	401	
W33x141 + C15x33.9	635	1580	2380	1200	1810	14.9	22.4	9.50	35.0	9580	206	310	
W33x118 + MC18x42.7	544	1360	2040	998	1500	11.7	17.6	10.7	41.3	8280	248	373	
W33x118 + C15x33.9	529	1320	1980	986	1480	12.6	18.9	9.80	36.4	7900	188	282	
W30x116 + MC18x42.7	492	1230	1850	911	1370	10.2	15.3	10.5	41.7	6900	246	369	
W30x116 + C15x33.9	480	1200	1800	898	1350	11.1	16.7	9.61	36.5	6590	185	278	
W30x99 + MC18x42.7	412	1030	1550	758	1140	8.23	12.4	10.8	43.6	5830	233	351	
W30x99 + C15x33.9	408	1020	1530	749	1130	9.55	14.4	9.91	38.1	5550	173	260	
W27x94 + C15x33.9	357	891	1340	669	1010	7.66	11.5	9.84	38.8	4530	173	260	
W27x84 + C15x33.9	316	788	1190	591	889	6.55	9.85	10.0	40.1	4050	167	251	
W24x84 + C15x33.9	286	714	1070	541	814	5.60	8.42	9.85	40.6	3340	166	249	
W24x84 + C12x20.7	275	686	1030	526	791	7.53	11.3	7.71	28.9	3030	103	155	
W24x68 + C15x33.9	232	579	870	432	649	4.47	6.72	10.2	43.2	2710	156	235	
W24x68 + C12x20.7	224	559	840	419	630	6.29	9.46	7.99	30.2	2440	93.2	140	
W21x68 + C15x33.9	207	516	776	389	585	3.74	5.62	10.1	44.1	2180	156	234	
W21x68 + C12x20.7	200	499	750	379	570	5.26	7.91	7.83	30.6	1970	93.1	140	
W21x62 + C15x33.9	189	472	709	354	533	3.35	5.04	10.3	45.2	2000	153	230	
W21x62 + C12x20.7	183	457	686	344	518	4.83	7.26	7.96	31.2	1800	89.9	135	
W18x50 + C15x33.9	133	332	499	263	396	1.81	2.71	10.5	48.5	1250	147	221	
W18x50 + C12x20.7	127	317	476	243	365	2.90	4.37	8.11	33.6	1120	83.9	126	
W16x36 + C15x33.9	86.8	217	326	200	300	0.427	0.641	10.9	50.7	748	140	210	
W16x36 + C12x20.7	83.2	208	312	157	236	1.74	2.62	8.49	37.7	670	77.0	116	
W14x30 + C12x20.7	62.0	155	233	122	184	1.04	1.56	8.66	39.7	447	74.7	112	
W14x30 + C10x15.3	60.3	150	226	115	173	1.52	2.29	7.10	30.6	420	50.5	76.0	
W12x26 + C12x20.7	48.2	120	181	102	154	0.551	0.829	8.74	41.1	318	73.9	111	
W12x26 + C10x15.3	47.0	117	176	90.6	136	1.05	1.58	7.16	32.5	299	49.7	74.6	

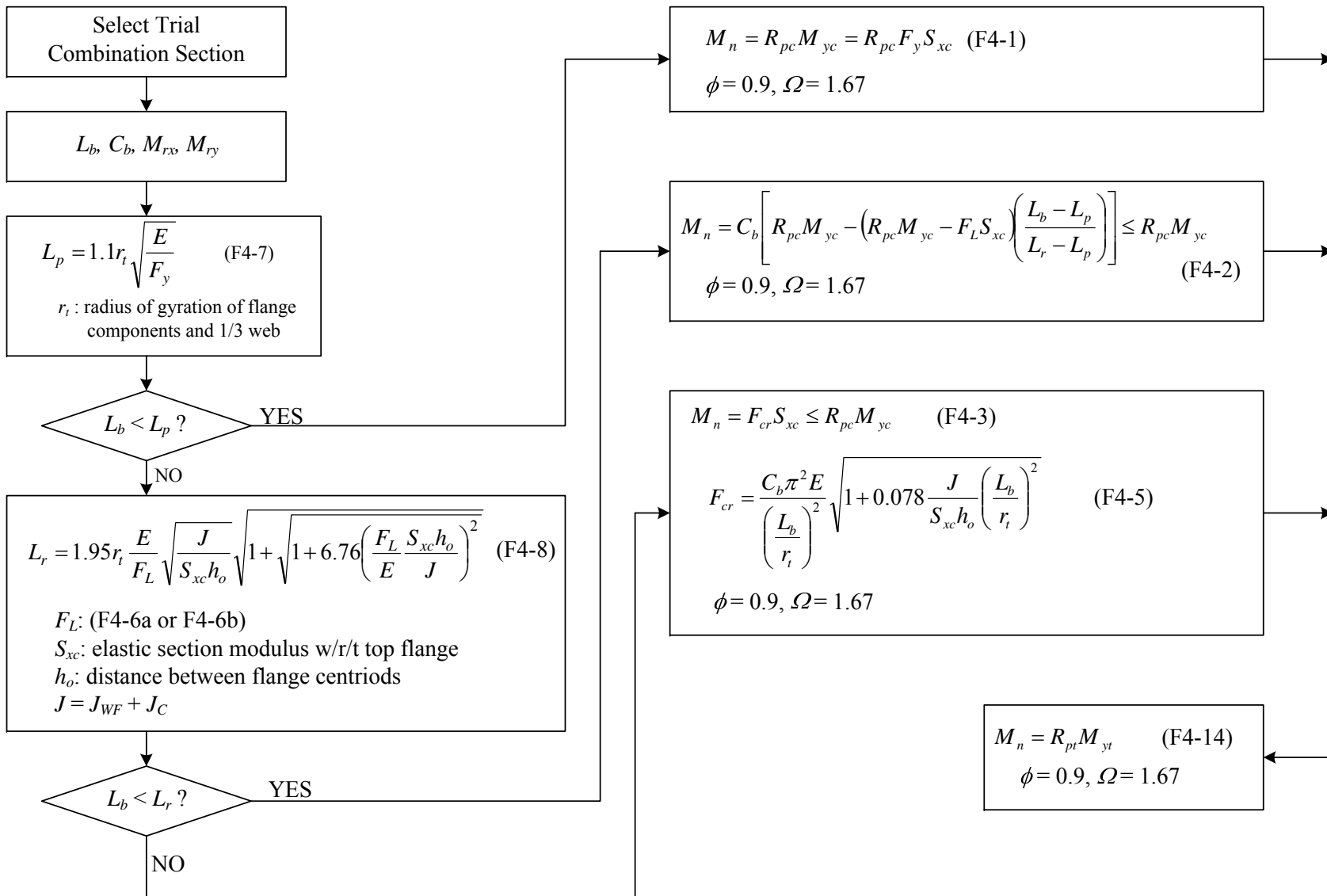


Figure 1. Flowchart of AISC Part 16, Chapter F.4 Evaluation Process

BEAM DESIGN MOMENTS

($\Phi = 0.90$, $\Omega = 1.67$, $C_b = 1.0$, $F_y = 36$ ksi)

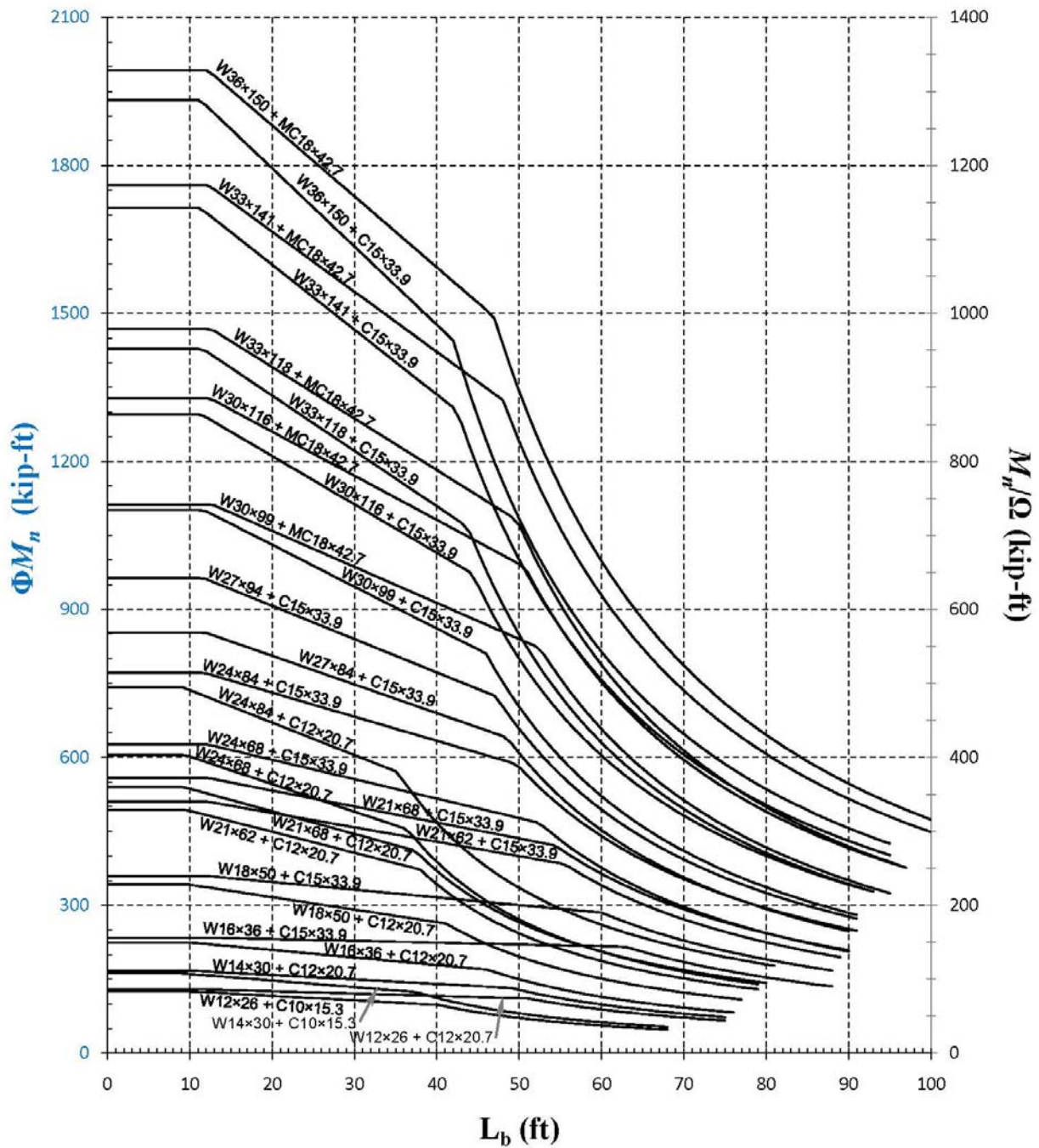


Figure 2. Combination Section Design Moment Diagram – $F_y = 36$ ksi.

BEAM DESIGN MOMENTS

($\Phi = 0.90$, $\Omega = 1.67$, $C_b = 1.0$, $F_y = 50$ ksi)

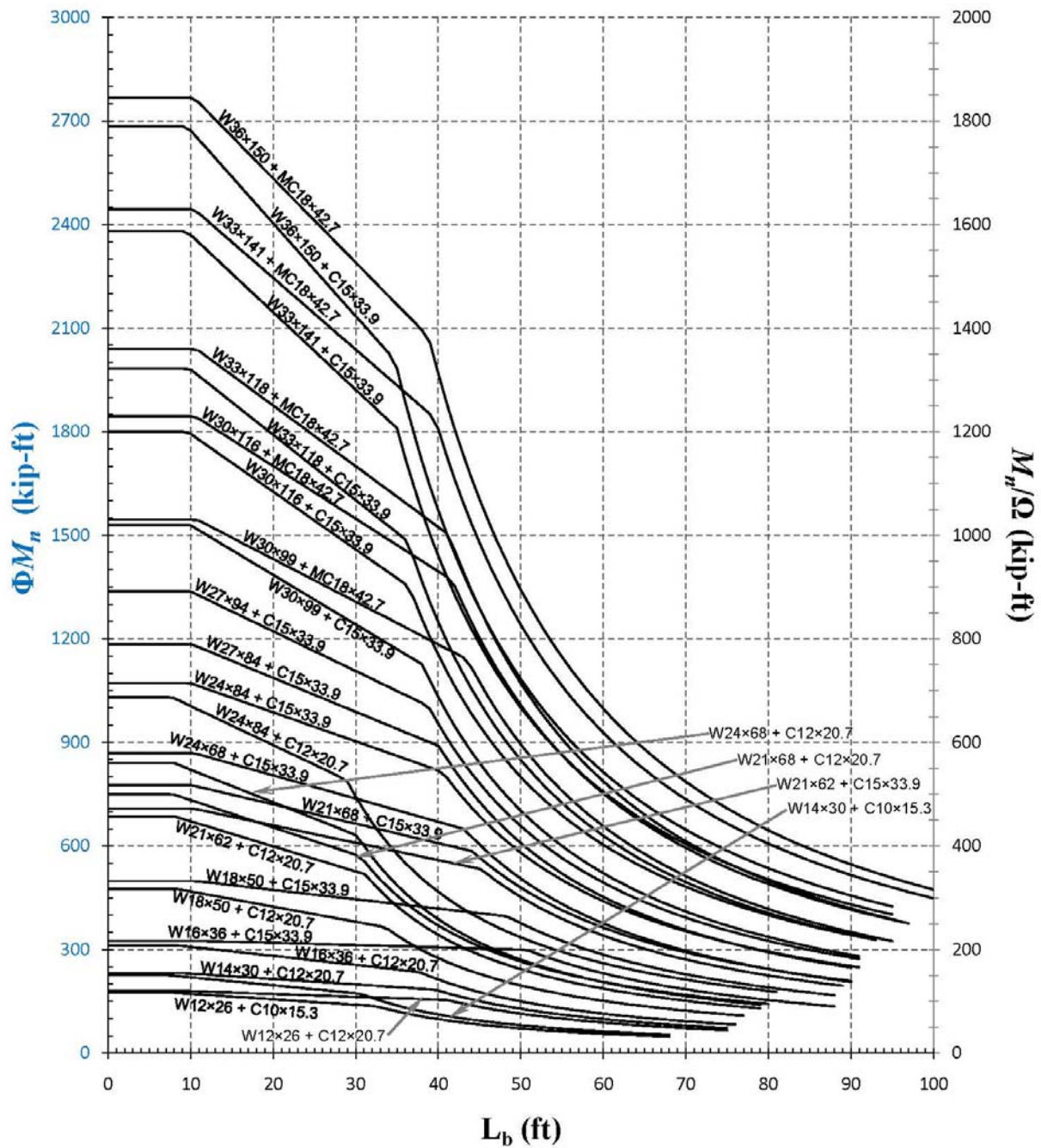


Figure 3. Combination Section Design Moment Diagram – $F_y = 36$ ksi.