Structural Engineers Association - Metro Washington

Diaphragms 101 - Analysis and Design



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JOE

Good morning and welcome to Diaphragms 101. Today we will be discussing building diaphragms, an often overlooked piece of a buildings lateral system. Being a low seismic area, diaphragm loads for a typical building are usually not large enough to warrant an in depth review. That being said, diaphragm loads are not always generated by seismic loads and later we will discuss some common examples of other types of forces that can cause some pretty sizable loads which should be reviewed.

We will take questions at the end of the presentation... Please write your questions in the chat board.

Rose Rodriguez, Structural Team Leader at ADTEK Engineers, SEAMW Vice-Chair, 25 years of designing in low, moderate, and high seismic regions, and high wind regions.

Joe Sharkey, Project Manager at Cagley & Associates, SEAMW Treasurer, 12 years of design experience. Designs include wood, steel, concrete, and masonry.



Diaphragms 101 - Overview

- 1. Basics:
 - a. Definition
 - b. Types of Diaphragms: Materials
 - c. Components of a Diaphragm
- 2. Design requirements
- 3. Historical analysis techniques
- 4. Modern analysis techniques
- 5. Examples: Steel, Wood, Concrete, Seismic
- 6. Additional Considerations

JOE

To get started today we will:

- Give some definitions
- Describe different types of diaphragms and the components of diaphragms
- Provide design requirements
- Give a brief history of analysis techniques
- Discuss modern analysis techniques
- And then try to spend a majority of our time working through some examples and additional considerations



1. Diaphragm Basics

Define, Review types, Identify components of a diaphragm

Rose

Define what is a diaphragm, types (materials) and components of a diaphragm ... and why do I have to check it.



1A. Diaphragm Basics - Definition

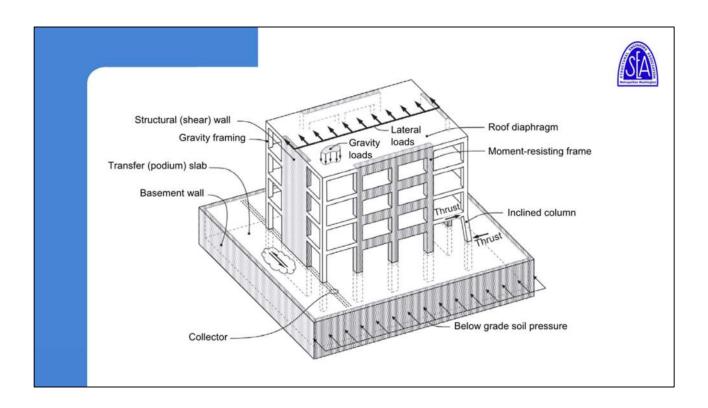
- Horizontal elements the floors and roofs; they transmit lateral forces from the floor system to the vertical elements of the structural system.
- Diaphragms also tie vertical elements together thus stabilizing these elements.
- Role of the diaphragm Maintain a continuous LOAD PATH
 - Resist wind, seismic, earth pressure, fluid loads
 - Resist Gravity loads

Rose

Generally, diaphragms are, horizontal elements - solid, planar elements.

They are floors and roofs (but they can also consist of horizontal trusses)

Role of the diaphragm - Resist wind, seismic, earth pressure, fluid loads



ROSE

Diaphragms resist out of plane forces, mainly gravity loads of self weight and live loads, and wind uplift.

- 1. WIND: Wind loads are transferred from exterior cladding to the diaphragm which then takes the load to the vertical elements which resist lateral load.
- 2. SEISMIC: For earthquake loading, inertial forces start in the diaphragm and the tributary elements like exterior cladding; once the inertial force is generated by the ground motion, the load then is transferred by the diaphragm to the vertical elements.
- 3. SOIL: For subterranean building levels, soil pressure loads are transferred from the basement walls to the diaphragms.
 - If the soil loads are balanced, the load remains a compression load in the slab.
 - If the soil loads are unbalanced in the case of a partial basement, the loads are transferred from the diaphragm to the vertical elements. This will be one of the examples Joe will present later in the presentation.
- 1. For buildings where the footprint changes from smaller to bigger, or where vertical elements change stiffness, we get transfer forces. A simple example of this is a concrete podium slab Once you hit the basement or podium level, the load will transfer out of the moment frames or flexible shearwalls and travel through the diaphragm into the much stiffer vertical element the basement walls.
- 2. COLUMNS: Diaphragms brace columns providing lateral support to resist

buckling; Also, if inclined columns have horizontal forces called thrusts that must be transferred by the diaphragm to a resisting element (like a shearwall).



1B. Diaphragm Basics - Types

- Concrete Cast-in-place concrete, either conventionally framed slabs or post-tensioned slabs, with or without beams
- Concrete prestressed, precast concrete elements fastened together with embedded steel plates or by a topping slab
- · Composite concrete slab on steel deck
- Steel roof deck
- Wood wood sheathing and CLT
- Gypcrete topping on board
- · CLASSIFICATIONS: Rigid, semi-rigid, flexible

ROSE

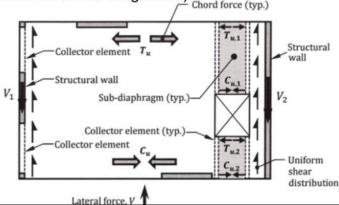
Role of the diaphragm - Resist wind, seismic, earth pressure, fluid loads



1C. Diaphragm Basics - Components

- · Diaphragm or Subdiaphragm: Slab or Deck or Sheathing
- Chords (tension and compression)
- Collector elements (sometimes called drag struts)

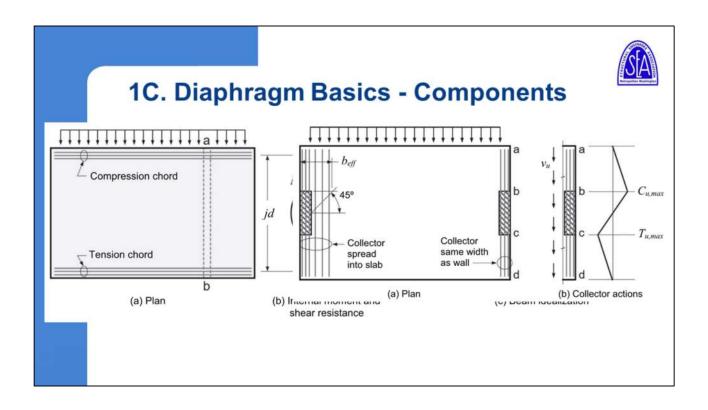
 Chord force (typ.)



ROSE

Role of the diaphragm - Resist wind, seismic, earth pressure, fluid loads Resisting these loads generates in the diaphragm several forces: in-plane shears, axial loads, bending forces.

- Diaphragm: main roof or floor planar element
- Chords: resist compression in tension perpendicular to the main lateral force
- Collector elements: pull force into the vertical elements



ROSE

Starting with the most simplified analysis technique for a diaphragm, we idealize this rectangular floor plate as a deep beam.

The moment and shear diagrams are shown on the right.

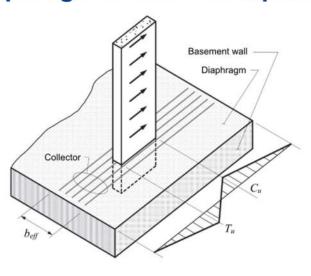
If we take a cross-section thru the deep beam, we see there are

Large moments occur at midspan which generates large T/C forces in the chords at the edges of the floor, and relatively small forces near the vertical elements.

Conversely, Large shears occur near the supports, creating large diaphragm shears near the vertical elements.



1C. Diaphragm Basics - Components



ROSE

Diaphragms and Collectors can also take the force from one vertical element, to the diaphragm and back to a stiffer vertical element

Podium slab is taking not just large vertical loads, but also large horizontal loads.

These transfer forces can be the largest forces in the diaphragm and must not be overlooked by the designer.



2. Diaphragm Design Requirements

Failure mechanisms and Codes

ROSE -> JOE

Now something that usually catches everyone's attention is what happens if we do not review our diaphragms?



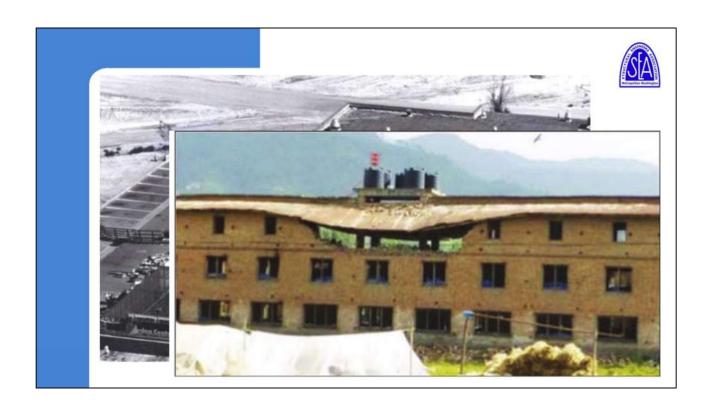
2A. Diaphragm Design Requirements-Failure

- If the role of the diaphragm is to resist wind, seismic, earth pressure, fluid loads, and eccentric gravity loads... What happens when diaphragms are inadequate?
 - Load Path is incomplete.
 - Diaphragms and connections can fail as shown in the following examples.
 - Diaphragm detaches from roof/floor and leads to wall collapse, then roof collapse.
 - Diaphragm detachment leads to increased unbraced height column or wall is then unable to sustain gravity load.

JOE

If we do not review our diaphragms or at a minimum provide an adequate and rational load path, diaphragms can fail and in some extreme cases can cause some serious issues, like collapse. Some examples of diaphragm failures would be:

- 1. If the floor or roof connections to bearing walls are insufficient, the out -of plane wall can detach from the roof or floor and collapse due to insufficient out-of-plane bracing; Now that your wall or vertical support is gone, collapse of the roof isn't far behind.
- Diaphragm detachment also leads to increased unbraced heights of columns which can lead to further collapse.



JOE

First photo is a building that was damaged in the 1992 Landers, California 7.3 magnitude Earthquake - Inadequate anchorage and collector design lead to the roof pulling away from it's support and ultimately collapsing.

Second photo is a building that was damaged in the 2015 Gorkha, Nepal 7.8 magnitude earthquake - A partial out-of-plane wall failure occured due to roof diaphragm flexibility. Essentially the diaphragm deflected until the wall collapsed from the eccentricity and the roof went along for the ride.



2B. Diaphragm Design Requirements

- CODE REQUIREMENTS: IBC adopts ASCE 7 requirements
- ASCE 7 In Seismic Design Category B and higher, the diaphragm must be designed to resist seismic forces per ASCE 7 Section 12.10 Diaphragms, Chords and Collectors.
 - Requires Collectors, Splices, and their connections to resisting elements in SDC C, D, E, or F to resist load combinations with overstrength.
- Concrete cast-in-place diaphragms ACI 318 (2014 edition) and some portions of the IBC 2015 or 2018 which adopts the seismic load requirements of ASCE 7-10 or 7-16.

JOE

- Unfortunately, the code is open to interpretation so you will need to use your engineering judgement and accepted design approaches.
- Several compilations of accepted design approaches are listed at the end of this presentation.
- IBC Adopts ASCE 7
- ASCE 7 does not have too much guidance for wind, but it does have a lot of seismic requirements
 - a. defines load combinations with overstrength factor Ω_0 . Equations take both vertical and horizontal seismic load effects into account.
- ACI 318 contains design, detailing and inspection requirements for concrete Diaphragms



2B. Diaphragm Design Requirements

- Wood Diaphragms SDPWS (Special Design Provisions for Wind & Seismic) 2015 Edition - American Wood Council
- Steel Floor and Roof Deck Diaphragm Design Manual Fourth Edition
 No. DDM04 Steel Deck Institute









JOE

- Wood Diaphragms SDPWS (Special Design Provisions for Wind and Seismic) which provides methods for calculating diaphragm deflections, sets limits on diaphragm aspect ratios, and provides shear capacities for diaphragms withstanding wind and seismic loads.
- Steel Floor and Roof Deck Diaphragm Design Manual which includes design guidelines for diaphragm strength and stiffness, fasteners and connections, and warping and stiffness properties.



3. Diaphragm - Historical Analysis Techniques

Flexible, Rigid, or somewhere inbetween

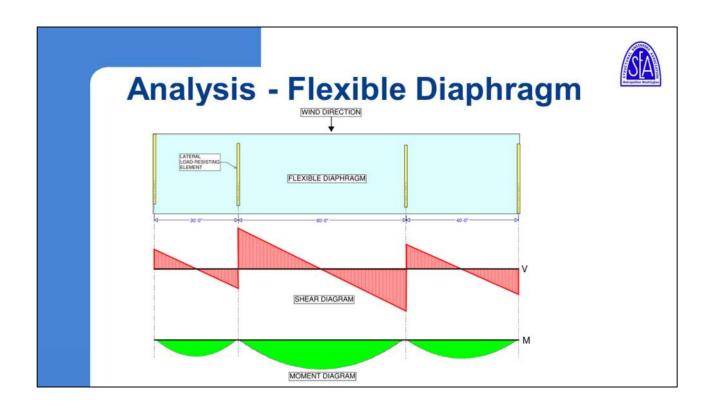
ROSE

Historically, diaphragms were either analyzed as either completely flexible or infinitely rigid.



3A. Historical Analysis Techniques

- If considered <u>flexible</u>, the diaphragm was assumed to simply span between adjacent vertical elements that resisted load.
 - o The floor or roof system was assumed to be discontinuous.
 - Forces "tributary" to the vertical elements were calculated as the sum of the simple span reactions to those elements.



Diaphragm is discontinuous-Tributary area method of load distribution.

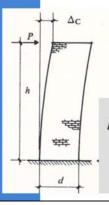


3B. Historical Analysis Techniques

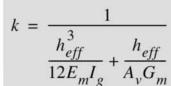
• If considered <u>rigid</u>, distribution of lateral forces to the vertical elements was based on the elements' relative stiffness.

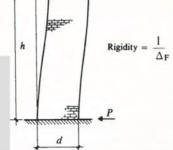
elative stiffness of vertical elements was ome reasonable approximate calculation

Diaphragm was assumed to be either continuous or completely
 i.id.



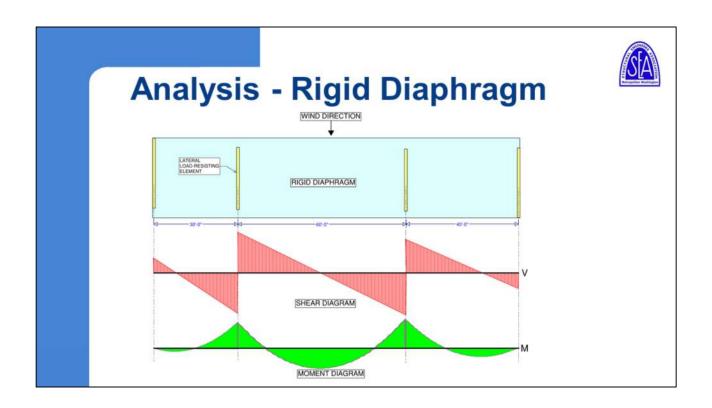
 $= \frac{1}{h_{eff}^3} \quad h_{eff}$





Need more discussion points here...

- 1. Equations for calculating the relative stiffness of certain types of lateral loadresisting elements have been around for quite a while.
 - a. For masonry shearwall, load distribution between certain members could be estimated by calculating their relative stiffness
 - b. The two equations shown are for cantilevered shear walls and fixed shearwalls.
 - c. The denominator is the deflection caused by moment and shear.
 - d. Stiffness "k" is the inverse of deflection



This is a continuous diaphragm; there are various techniques to determine the beams moment and shear diagrams :

Methods of calculating these diagrams are

- 1. The moment distribution method developed in 1930
- 2. Beam diagrams in the Beam section of the Steel Construction Manual by AISC



3B. Historical Analysis Techniques

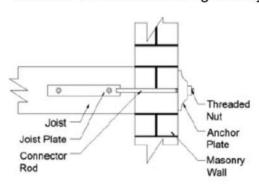
For most buildings, some torsion is present.

- Wind applied to center of geometry.
- Seismic applied to center of mass.
- Center of rigidity depends on
 - vertical element stiffness and placement
- If the diaphragm is rigid, force in vertical elements is a combination of the load from torsion plus the load from the initial analysis
- For walls, the distribution of forces between walls was based on the walls relative stiffnesses
- Diaphragms can then be checked for the load that it is transfering into the vertical elements.
- 1. To throw a wrinkle into this analysis, if the lateral load does not line up with the centroid of resistance, torsion is created.
 - a. Wind load applied to center of wind area, usually the center of geometry
 - b. Seismic loads applied at the center of mass
 - c. Center of rigidity is resisting these loads.
- 2. Torsional effects are distributed by a rigid diaphragm; this torsion is caused by the eccentricity between applied load and resistance.
 - a. The torsion is a moment applied to the center of rigidity.
 - b. This increases load within vertical lateral load resisting elements thus increasing load within diaphragm and it's connections to these elements which must be accounted for.
- 3. Once the load resisted by a vertical elements has been calculated, the diaphragm is checked the diaphragm strength and attachments.



3C. Historical Analysis Techniques

 If it was unclear if a diaphragm was flexible or rigid, the analysis was "enveloped" and the designer considered the answer was somewhere between the flexible and rigid analysis results.





- 1. Enveloping a solution is reasonable for most materials, certainly for concrete which can crack to redistribute the load.
- And if all else failed, the designer could just throw in some diaphragm connections between the floor framing and the exterior wall. These diaphragm connection plates are very popular as retrofits. These are also called earthquake rosettes in high seismic zones.



4. Diaphragm - Modern Analysis Techniques

Additional analysis options are now available and widely used

Joe

Now that we've discussed historical design techniques, we can take a look at more modern techniques that are available to us today.



4. Modern Analysis Techniques

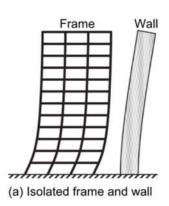
Simple 2-D idealizations → complex computer finite element analysis.

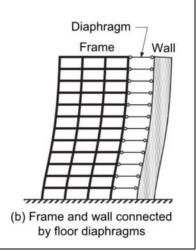
- Simple Models: 2-D idealizations are appropriate for rectangular floor plate with vertical elements evenly distributed with similar stiffnesses
 - Use 2-D beam modeling with pinned supports or spring supports
 - Use elastic or inelastic modeling of diaphragm "beam" element
 - Simple Strut and Tie analysis
- More Complex models: 3-D modeling appropriate for
 - Irregularly shaped floor plates
 - Vertical elements with dissimilar stiffnesses and drift profiles
 - Vertical element discontinuities
 - a moderate to high seismic load
- 1. Today we have everything from simple 2-d idealizations all the way to super complex computer finite element analysis options.
- 2. Even the 2-D modeling of today is much more complex than it used to be.
 - a. 2-D models are appropriate for rectangular floor plates with vertical elements evenly distributed with similar stiffnesses.
 - b. The diaphragm can be idealized as a beam with the lateral supports being modeled as pinned, or if you wanted to be add a bit more complexity, as springs that mimic the relative stiffness of the lateral supports. We will discuss spring modeling a little later in the steel roof deck design example.
 - c. This beam idealization can even be taken a step further and modeled inelastically to determine what happens if the concrete diaphragm cracks, when your stresses are high enough.
 - d. Another method that can be implemented is Strut and Tie
- 3. 3-D modeling, while more complex, actually adds relatively little additional effort if you are already utilizing ETABS or Ram Concept for your structural analysis modeling.
 - a. This level of sophistication is appropriate for irregularly shaped floors, vertical elements with dissimilar stiffnesses, drift profiles, vertical element discontinuities, or for a moderate to high seismic load.
 - How you decide what method to use will vary by how complex your structure is. The analysis needs to be sufficiently complex to represent how lateral forces are flowing through the building.



4. Modern Analysis Techniques

- Diaphragm enforces compatibility
- Without compatibility, analysis of lateral elements is wrong





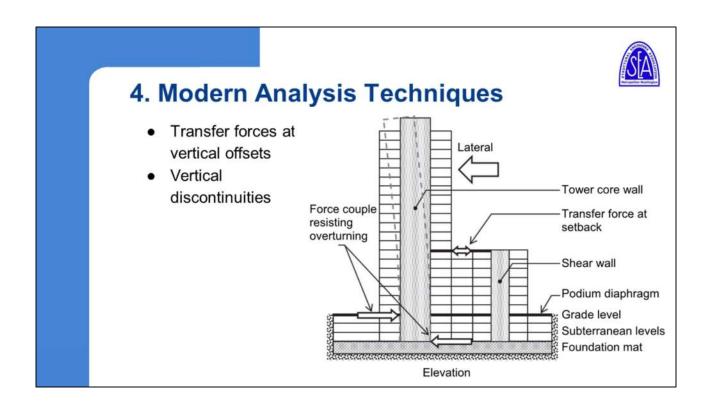
JOE

- 1. Modern computer analysis programs make it easier for us to identify and quantify the transfer forces that occur in most structures.
- 2. These transfer forces can be much larger than a wind load at a particular floor, or a seismic inertial force.

One type of transfer force is shown here.

- The moment frame and the shearwall are in line but they have different displacement shapes and different stiffnesses when they are isolated.
- The image on the right looks more like a shape we would want to happen, ie
 the building is working as a single unit. To achieve this the diaphragm needs
 to enforce compatibility between these elements. Forcing this type of
 compatibility can result in a significant amount of force being transferred
 through the diaphragm.
- An incorrectly designed and detailed diaphragm will crack and fail, causing the building to act more similar to the isolated condition on the left, making your rigid diaphragm analysis in Ram Structural System completely wrong.

Ultimately we want to maintain relatively stiff and damage-free diaphragms.



JOE

Most transfer forces occur at vertical discontinuities or offsets.

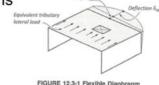
The example shown here displays both issues.

As you work your way down the building, more walls are introduced. These walls are shorter and thus stiffer than the taller one which will result in the taller wall shedding load at the floor level, through the diaphragm, to these stiffer walls.

This is a very common occurrence in buildings with basement walls. At a basement level, you typically have a significant amount of wall length. Again, this causes the taller more flexible walls to shed load. But how does that load transfer to these basement walls? The diaphragm. This results in a force significantly higher that the typical inertial or wind loads that are being placed on an individual level. Even a wind load can create a high enough force to cause concern. The force at this level can actually be so high that you can create a shear reversal at the base of the taller wall. If these forces are not accounted for and are large enough to fail the diaphragm, the forces will find a new load path and redistribute, and possibly make the forces you have designed your lateral resisting elements for incorrect.

4. Modern Analysis Techniques - Flexible

- Flexible Diaphragm
 - ASCE 7-16 Section 12.3.1.1 Diaphragms constructed of untopped steel decking or wood structural panels are permitted to be idealized as flexible.
 - ASCE 7-16 Section 12.3.1.3 Diaphragms are permitted to be idealized as flexible where the max in-plane diaphragm deflection is more than two times the average story drift.



 Loads applied to lateral resisting elements are based on tributary width.

- Diaphragms can be categorized as either flexible, rigid, or semi-rigid
- ASCE 7 defines diaphragm types within the seismic chapter. These definitions are acceptable to apply to wind or other load types.
- Concrete is **never** a flexible diaphragm

4. Modern Analysis Techniques - Flexible

- Flexible Diaphragm
 - Pros
 - Simple load path
 - Behavior is easy to understand
 - Cons
 - Can be overly simplistic and possibly overly conservative depending on building layout.
 - Can be tedious to apply nodal loads.



4. Modern Analysis Techniques - Rigid

- Rigid Diaphragm
 - ASCE 7-16 Section 12.2.1.2 Diaphragms of concrete slabs or concrete-filled metal deck with span-to-depth ratios of 3 or less in structures that have no horizontal irregularities are permitted to be idealized as rigid.
 - IBC 2018 Section 1604.4 Diaphragm is rigid when the lateral deformation of the diaphragm is less than or equal to two times the average story drift.
 - Loads applied to lateral resisting elements are based on stiffness of the lateral resisting elements.

- Note that this IBC provision is similar but opposite(???) to ASCE 7's definition of flexible.
- More complex than a simple diaphragm but still simple enough that a lateral computer model will run relatively quickly.



4. Modern Analysis Techniques - Rigid

- Rigid Diaphragm
 - Pros
 - Computer models run very quickly.
 - Easy to understand results.
 - Cons
 - Diaphragm forces are unavailable.
 - Axial forces are hidden within the diaphragm in computer models and are not applied to frame beams. This can be unconservative when designing braced frames where axial loads within the beams can be significant.
 - Large openings are not considered.



- Semi-rigid Diaphragm
 - ASCE 7 Unless a diaphragm can be idealized as either flexible or rigid, the structural analysis shall explicitly include consideration of the stiffness of the diaphragm (i.e., semi-rigid)
 - ASCE 7-16 Section 12.3.1.2 does not allow diaphragms with horizontal irregularities to be analyzed as Rigid.
 - Buildings with irregular shapes or large openings.

4. Modern Analysis Techniques - Semi-Rigid

- Semi-rigid Diaphragm
 - Pros
 - Most accurate; Considered the most rational in determining actual distribution of forces.
 - Diaphragm forces and deflections can be reported.
 - Cons
 - Very significant calculation effort.
 - Need to input diaphragm properties.
 - Meshing of diaphragms within models dramatically increases the time it takes a model to run.
- Simplified semi-rigid analysis is acceptable alternate.
- Enveloping rigid and flexible is acceptable alternate.

JOE

- Dramatically increases the time it takes to run a model. For diaphragms that are very stiff, solid concrete slabs for example, will give similar results as a rigid diaphragm.
- Can define a single floor as semi-rigid, in a building with a large floor opening on one level for example, and the remaining floors as rigid to decrease model run time.

5. Design Examples



5A. Wind on Steel Roof Deck -Single and Multi-span (rigid and semirigid)

5B. Wind on Wood Roof Flexible Roof with component design

5C. Soil Pressure on Concrete Deck -Finite Element Analysis

5D. Seismic Analysis

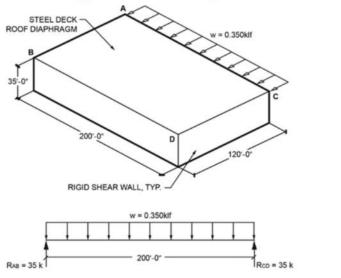
Rose

Define what is a diaphragm, types (materials) and components of a diaphragm ... and why do I have to check it.



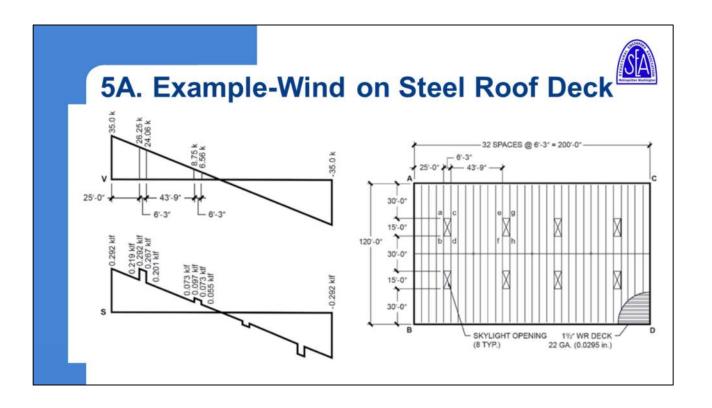
5A. Diaphragm Design Example - Wind on Steel

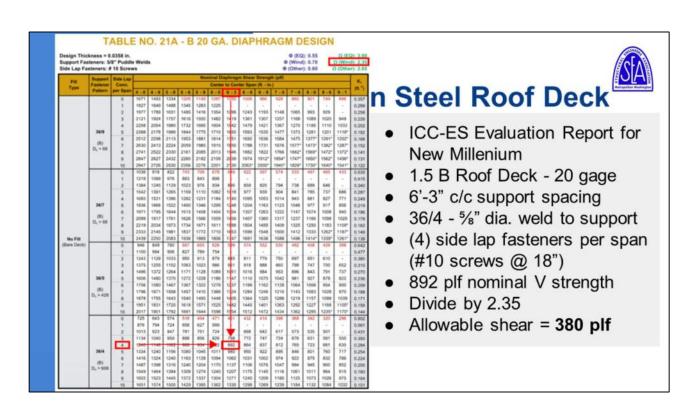
- Shear walls on either side of a large box store
- Uniform roof and parapet height = constant load
- Rigid Diaphragm
- Single span

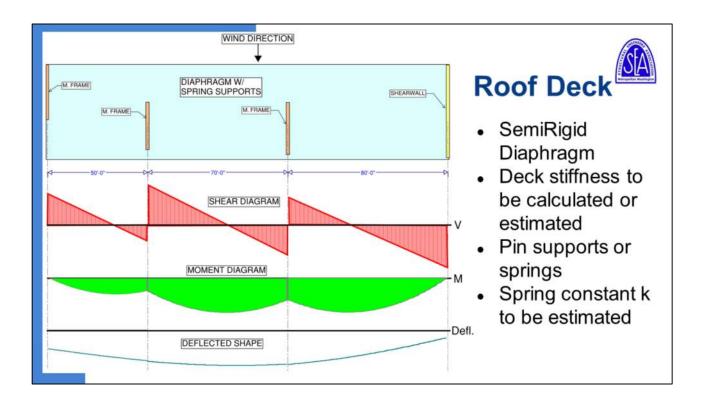


ROSE

Service level wind pressure of 20 psf = windward + leeward pressures







Maybe this works but it's the forces are difficult to transfer.

PRELIMINARY analysis - Does this layout makes sense, is the deck strong enough? Try another layout

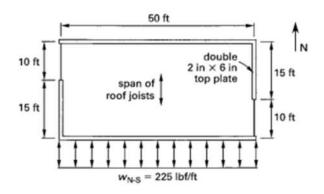
Let's try the same 200' x 120' long building with a different lateral system to create a multi-span diaphragm instead of a single span diaphragm.

- 1. Here we have 3 moment frames and 1 shearwall.
- 2. Test this out with a 2-D beam analysis with pinned and roller supports
- 3. Or we can use a 2-D beam analysis with spring supports.
 - a. The spring constant k can be iterated such that the spring deflection matches your RamSteel output, or can be estimate using a simplified formula.
 - b. Alternately, the spring constant k can be guesstimated based on the relative stiffness of the lateral elements.
- 4. The deck in-plane stiffness also needs to be estimated.
 - Based on pure shear deformation, warping deformation, connection slip
 - b. AISI D310-17: AISI Design Guide Design Examples for the Design of Profiled Steel Diaphragm Panels Based on AISI S310-16, 2017 Edition
- 5. The moment has dropped significantly, which lowers the chord forces.
 - a. The single span moment was 1750 k-ft creating chord forces of
 - b. The new multi-span diaphragm has
 - i. A max. moment of 560 k-ft which is 32% of the original moment.
 - ii. A max. Shear of 22 k which is 63% of the original shear.



5B. Diaphragm Design Example Wood - Flexible

- Wind Load = 225 lbf/ft
- 50' x 25'
- LRFD
- No. 2 SPF



JOE

Next is a flexible wood diaphragm.



Diaphragm Design Example Wood - Flexible

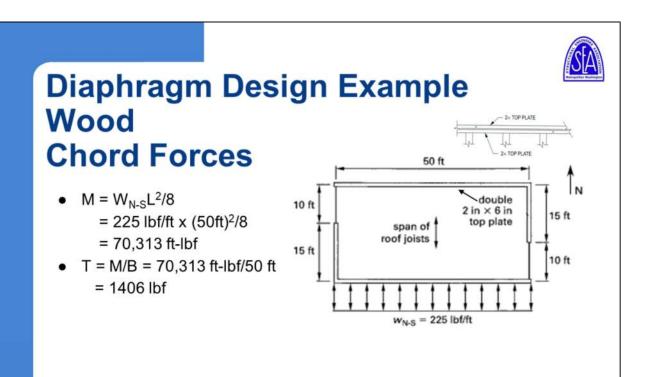
L/W = 50/25 = 2:1

4.2.4 Diaphragm Aspect Ratios

Size and shape of diaphragms shall be limited to the aspect ratios in Table 4.2.4.

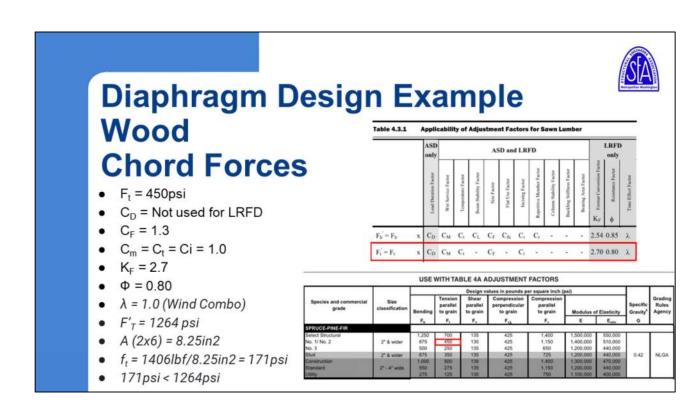
Table 4.2.4	Maximum Diaphragm Aspect Ratios (Horizontal or Sloped Diaphragms)	
Diaphragm Sheathing Type		Maximum L/W Ratio
Wood structural panel, unblocked		3:1
Wood structural panel, blocked		4:1
Single-layer straight lumber sheathing		2:1
Single-layer diagonal lumber sheathing		3:1
Double-layer diagonal lumber sheathing		4:1

- First and foremost is to check your aspect ratio.
- In our case we have a 2:1 which meets the maximum aspect ratio of 4:1 for a blocked diaphragm.
- The closer you get to these aspect ratio, the more concerned you should get about diaphragm deflection, which we will calculate in a later slide.



We start by simplifying the diaphragm as a beam simply supported by the end walls. Use WL2/8 to get our moment.

Divide our moment by our diaphragm depth and we find our chord force of 1406 lbs. Our chord is the made up of the 2x6 top plate that runs continuously along the top of the wall.

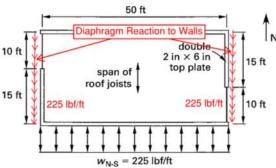


Next we flip open our NDS and find our tensile strength and applicable factors from table.



Diaphragm Design Example Wood Collector

- R = W_{N-S}L/2 = 225lbf/ft x 50ft/2
 = 5625 lbf
- V = R/L = 5625lbf / 25ft = 225 lbf/ft
- T = 225 lbf/ft x 10ft = 2250 lbf
- From previous Calc F'_T = 1264 psi
- f_t = 2250 lbf/8.25in2 = 275 psi
- 275 psi < 1264 psi



Next we find our collector loads. The collectors in our case are the 10' openings on either side of the structure.

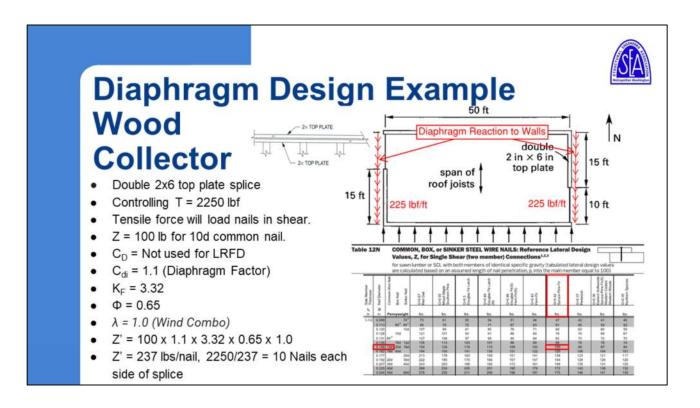
We again idealize our diaphragm as a simply supported beam and find our shear using WL/2.

Divide this shear by our diaphragm depth to find a force/ft.

Then multiply this force by the length of our 10' collector and end up with a tension/compression chord of 2250 lbs.

This force must be drug back into the wall using the double top plate.

Divide this force by a single 2x6 and we find our tensile force to be 275 psi which is less than our allowable so we are good.



Next we determine how many nails that are required in our splice.

Our collector tensions was the controlling load.

This load must be transferred between the boards through nail shear.

Again we open our NDS and find our Z for a 10d nail, multiply it my the appropriate factors and find we have a capacity of 237 lbs/nail and we end up needing 10 nails each side of the splice, ie 20 nails total at any given splice.



Diaphragm Design Example Wood Sheathing

- 15/32" Structural I Sheathing
- 10d Nails
- V = 225 lbf/ft
- $\Phi_D = 0.80$
- Specific Gravity Factor = [1-(0.5-G)]= [1-(0.5-0.42)] = 0.92
- Boundary Nail Spacing = 6"
- Panel Edge Nail Spacing = 6"
- v_w = 895 lbf/ft
- $v'_w = 895 \times 0.80 \times 0.92 = 658 \text{ lbf/ft} > 225 \text{ lbf/ft}$

Then we can check to make sure our sheathing type, thickness, and nail pattern is adequate.

Using SDPWS we can find the tabulated shear capacity, apply our factors for LRFD and wood type and find that our capacity of 658 plf is greater than the demand we had previously found of 225 plf.



5B. Diaphragm Design Example Wood - Flexible

```
• ASD Load

225 lbf/ft x 0.6 = 135 lbf/ft

• Deflection

y = 180000 D<sup>1.5</sup> = 180000 x 0.148<sup>1.5</sup>

= 10248 lb/in/nail

Δc = 2(T or C)/(yn) = 2(2250x.6)/(10248 x 6)

= 0.044"

Chord Deformation + Shear/Panel Shear/Nail Slip + Chord Splice Slip

5(135/12)(50x12)3 + 0.25(135/12)(50x12) + 7 splices(25x12)(0.044) = 0.176"

8(1400000)(8.25)(25x12) 1000(17) 2(50x12)

(50x12)/0.176" = L/3409
```

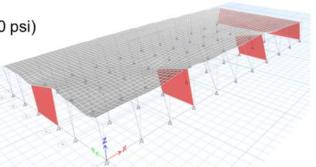
```
4.2.2 Deflection
            \frac{5vL^{3}}{8EAW} + \frac{0.25vL}{1000G_{a}} + \frac{\sum x\Delta_{c}}{2W}
                                                       (4.2-1)
where:
       E = modulus of elasticity of diaphragm chords,
        A = area of chord cross-section, in.2
       G<sub>a</sub> = apparent diaphragm shear stiffness from nail
              slip and panel shear deformation, kips/ir
              (from Column A, Tables 4.2A, 4.2B, 4.2C, or
        L = diaphragm length, ft
        _{\rm V} = induced unit shear in diaphragm, lbs/ft
        W = diaphragm width, ft
        x = distance from chord splice to nearest sup-
        \Delta_{\rm L} = diaphragm chord splice slip, in., at the in-
             duced unit shear in diaphragm
        \delta_{\mathrm{dis}} = maximum mid-span diaphragm deflection
              determined by elastic analysis, in.
```

- Finally we check our deflection
 - Remember, we were not close to the maximum aspect ratio of 4:1 so we wouldn't expect the diaphragm to deflect very far.
- Deflection is a combination of 3 components. Chord deformation, shear/panel shear/nail slip, and chord splice slip. Chord deformation in most cases is negligible. Nail slip and panel shear is where a majority of the deflection occurs.
- We find our deflection to be 0.176" or L/3409. So very stiff for this load.



5C. Diaphragm Design Example Concrete - Semi Rigid

- 9" 2-Way Concrete Slab (5000 psi)
- 122' x 284'
- 22'-6" Unbalanced Soil Load
- Walkout Basement
- ETABS Finite Element Model

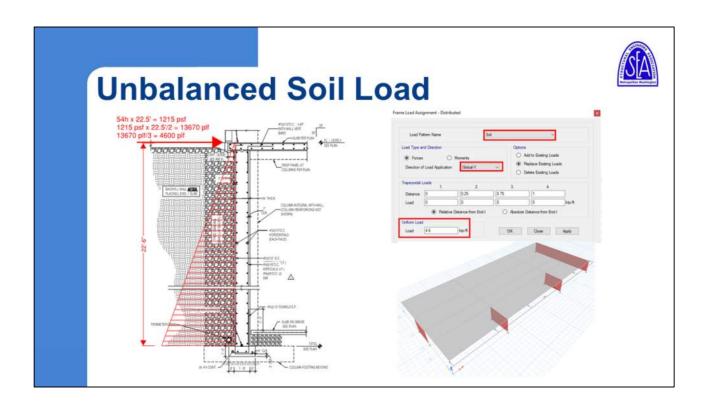


JOE

Walk-out basement with unbalanced soil load which is from a project we had recently designed.

9" concrete slab with 22'-6" of unbalance soil load.

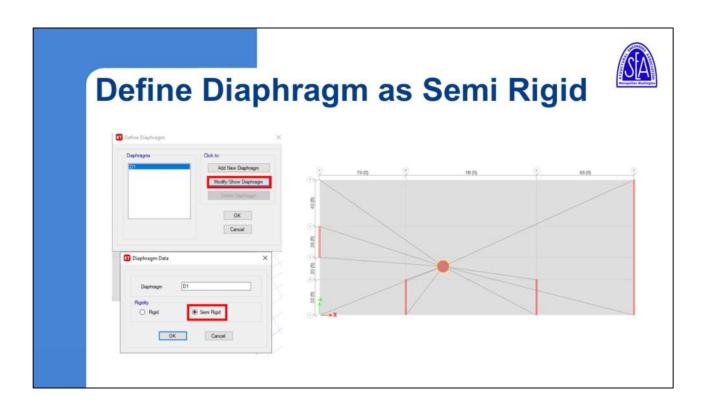
We will use etabs to review this as a semi-rigid diaphragm.



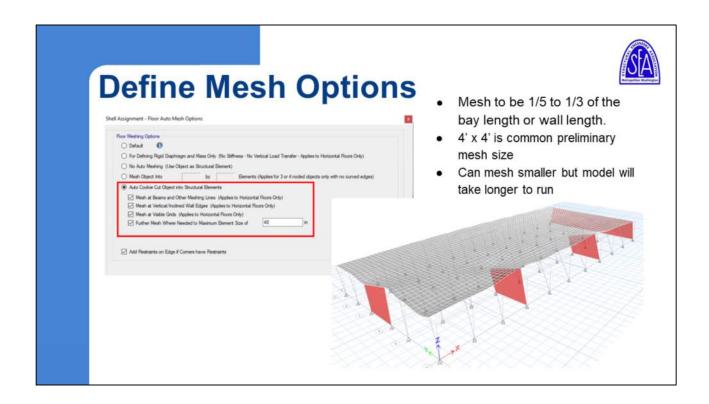
Using our geotechnical report you can find a soil pressure and can see that this is a very sizable load of 4.6 k/ft.

There are multiple ways to lessen this load but this must be accounted for in some manner. This could have been designed as a retaining wall or the base of the wall could have also been designed to be fixed to drag some load away from the diaphragm.

In our case we braced this load with the diaphragm and added additional intermediate shear walls for just the below grade level to cut down on the diaphragm span. As you'll see in the later slides the issue isn't necessarily the diaphragm strength but it's connection to the shear walls,



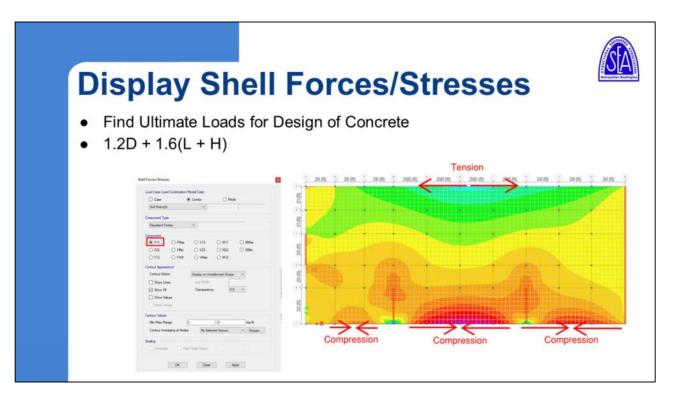
Define our diaphragm as Semi-rigid



Define our finite element mesh.

The recommended mesh sizes range from 1/5th to 1/3rd of the bay or wall length. It really depends on how precise you want or need to be. The penalty for a smaller mesh is a model that takes significantly longer to run.

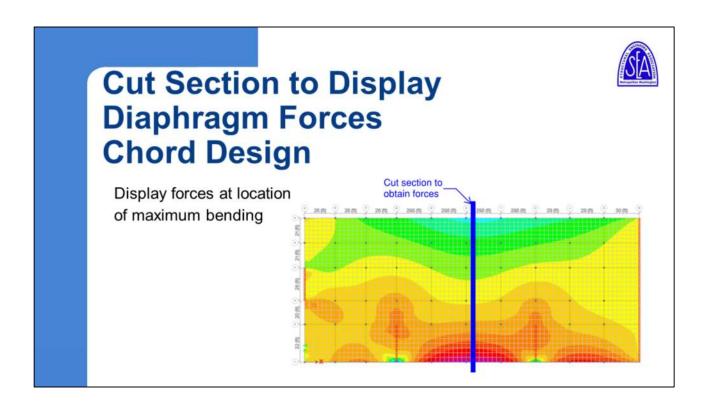
A common mesh size to start with is 4' x 4' or smaller



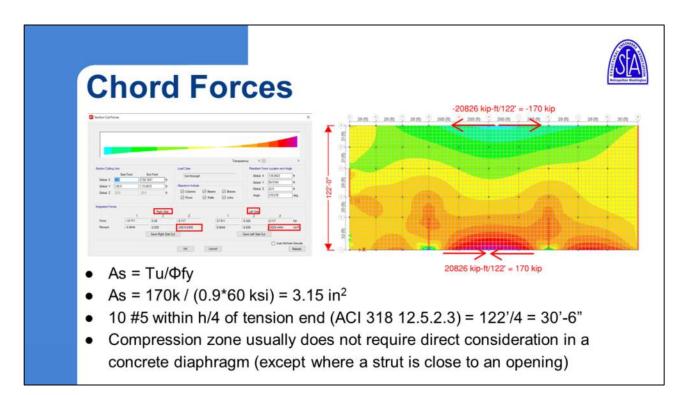
After running the model, we start our checks.

If the stresses exceed the concrete cracking stress, inelastic effects could to be taken into account if you are worried about load distribution lateral deflections should be okay in a slab this substantial.

Similar to our simple beam analogies, it is easy to understand that the bottom part of this diaphragm is in compression and the top is in tension.



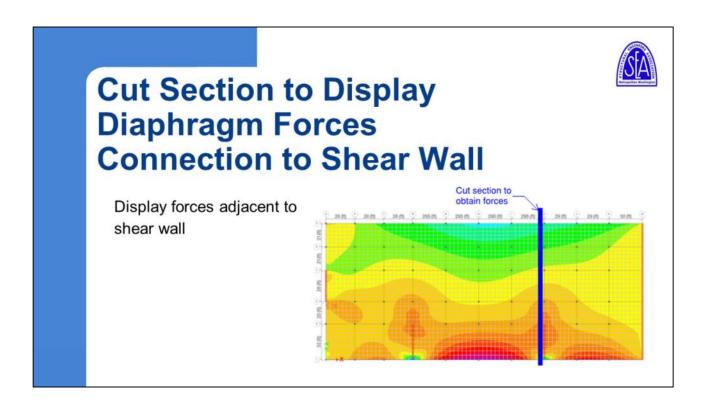
First we want to find our chord steel at our point of maximum moment so we cut a section in order to obtain the forces.



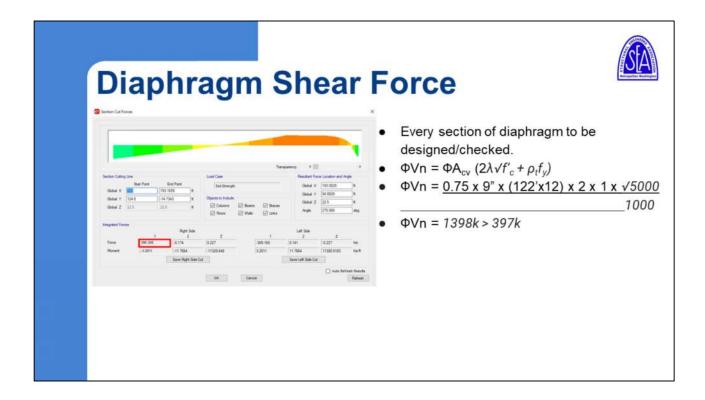
Divide this moment out by our diaphragm depth to find our required tension capacity. Divide this by 0.9 As Fy to find our required area of steel.

And we find that we are good with 10#5 which ACI recommends be placed within h/4 of the tension end.

The compression zone does not usually require direct consideration unless you have an odd case such as a opening near a slab edge. You would then want to check this small sliver of concrete for compression.



Now we want to check our connection to the shear wall so we cut a section just next to the wall in question.

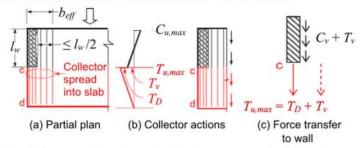


Remember you would want to check every section of a diaphragm but in our case it is obvious the areas that control. Special consideration should be taken around openings or other discontinuities.

Using phi x 2sqrt f'c we can find our allowable shear strength and see that it is greater than our demand.



Connection to Shear Wall



- Force transfer to is a combination of collector compression, tension, and shear friction.
- Calc has been done for ½ of collector. Opposite side of wall would need to be reviewed for additional collector forces
- b_{eff} = 1'/2 + 32'/2 = 16.5'
- v_{ucd} = 397 k / 122' = 3.25 k/ft
- $T_{u,max} = v_u I_{cd} = 3.25 \text{ k/ft x } 90' = 293 \text{ k}$
- $A_{slcd} = T_{u,max}/\Phi f_y = 293k / (0.9*60 ksi) = 5.43 in^2$
- 18 # 5 in chord additional to slab steel since this is a permanent load.

Now for where our forces become significant, at the connections.

Force transfer to the shear wall will be through a combination of load drug in from the collector and direct shear transfer from the slab.

This calc has only been done for one side of the wall. The same calc would need to be done by cutting a section on the other side.

We first find our collector width which can be approximated as the wall width + $\frac{1}{2}$ the wall length.

We take our shear found earlier and divide this by the diaphragm depth.

We then multiply this by the collector length, similar to the wood example, and find a tension of 293k.

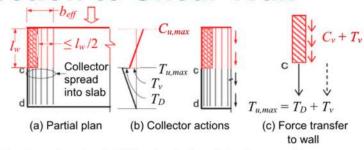
Sizing our tensile reinforcement we then find that we need 5.43 in 2 in the collector or 18 #5.

This is clearly too many bars to be developed directly into the shear wall so a majority of this force will need to be drug into the side of the wall.

For this, we are using shear friction.



Connection to Shear Wall



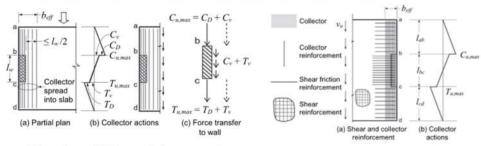
- Can practically only extend 1#5 collector bar into shear wall.
 - o Remainder of load required to be transferred through shear friction.
- T_{u,max} = T_D + T_v = 293k (Drag strut + Shear friction)
- T_D = 16k (1 #5 Drag strut)
- $T_v = 293k 16k = 277k$ (needs to be transferred thru Shear friction)
- At the wall, the shear friction dowels must transfer 3.25 k/ft + drag strut force
 V_{ubc} = v_uI_{bc} + T_v = C_v + T_v = 3.25 k/ft x 32' + 277k = 381k

The amount of shear friction we need to drag into the wall is the remaining force not yet developed from the collector + the direct shear along the wall length itself. If we only develop 1 #5 into the wall we can back calculate that we are left with 277 k from the collector.

Adding this to the direct shear in the wall from the slab we now have to transmit 381k through shear friction.



Connection to Shear Wall



- Size shear friction reinforcement
- A_{vf} = 381k/(0.75 x 60ksi x 1.4 (cast monolithically))
- $A_{vf} = 6.1 \text{ in}^2$
- 6.1 in²/32' = 0.19in²/ft = #4 @ 12" o.c.

<u>Note</u>: If these were seismic forces, the overstrength factor, Ω o, would be applied to the collector design.

You can then use the shear friction equations from ACI to determine how much reinforcement needs to cross this joint.

In our case we can use #4 @12" o.c.

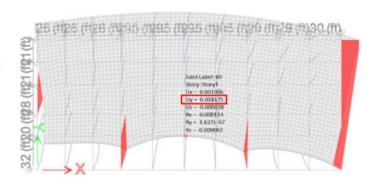
This scenario works well with concrete but would have been very difficult or impossible with a composite slab. For comparison a composite metal deck can only practically transfer approximately 2klf but our example is closer 12 k/ft at the face of wall. There's no way this would have worked without additional lateral elements to reduce these connection forces.

 a. If you are thinking of using wood diaphragms to resist unbalanced earth pressure, be careful and space your vertical elements very closely.



Check Diaphragm Deflection

- Find Deflection Using Allowable Combinations D + H (Soil) + L
- Max Deflection = 0.038"
- (118'x12 in/ft)/0.038" = L/37263

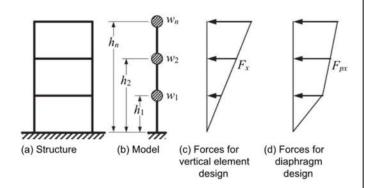


To finish this example up i thought it would be interesting just to show you how stiff a concrete diaphragm really is. Even with this lateral earth pressure the deflections are practically negligible. The issues really do become the connections and also how this is resisted at the foundation level. At a minimum, if you have some large unbalanced soil pressure, or level that is shedding load to other lateral elements, you should give this some thought at the beginning of a project with some quick hand calcs to determine the magnitude of the forces because it may steer you towards a certain material, spacing of lateral elements, or overall thickness of your diaphragm.



5D. Diaphragm Design - Seismic Calcs

 ASCE 7-16 requires design of diaphragms in Seismic Design Category B thru F



ROSE

The seismic diaphragm forces are large and often control over wind. Why are they so large?

- 1. Multistory buildings have numerous vibration modes under seismic excitation.
- 2. Total acceleration response is a combination of the responses of each individual vibration mode.
- 3. It has been agreed upon that it is overly-conservative to design the main lateral force resisting system of the building for the maximum of each mode occurring at the same time on each floor, and the code recognizes this and allows the entire system to be designed for a lower force.
- 4. On the other hand, each floor diaphragm must be strong enough to transfer its own inertial forces to the vertical resisting elements. These inertial forces are the tributary mass x acceleration.
- As we said earlier, we want to maintain relatively stiff and damage-free diaphragms. That is why diaphragms are designed for essentially linear behaviour under earthquakes.



5D. Diaphragm Design - Seismic Calcs

- ASCE 7-16 Chapter 12 SEISMIC DESIGN REQUIREMENTS, Section 12.10 DIAPHRAGMS, CHORDS, AND COLLECTORS
- · Diaphragm force is the larger of :
 - Fx at a floor level from main analysis or
 - the diaphragm force Fpx

The diaphragm design force F_{px} , where

but not less than

$$F_{px} = \frac{\sum_{i=x}^{n} F_i}{\sum_{i=x}^{n} w_{i}}$$
 (ASCE 7 Eq. 12.10-1)

$$F_{px,\min} = 0.2 S_{DS} I_e w_{px}$$

and need not exceed

$$F_{px,\text{max}} = 0.4 S_{DS} I_e w_{px}$$

ROSE

Inertial forces are the larger of the force Fx from the ELFP at that level, or Fpx. Fpx is usually larger, so let's examine this more carefully.

- Fi is often based on the Equivalent Lateral Force Procedure
 but the diaphragm inertial force can also be the force at level i from the
 Modal Response Spectrum Analysis.
- 1. Once this inertial force is determined, it is then added to any transfer forces due to vertical offsets, etc. as previously discussed.



5D. Diaphragm Design - Seismic Calcs

ASCE 7-16 Chapter 12 SEISMIC DESIGN REQUIREMENTS, Section 12.10 DIAPHRAGMS, CHORDS, AND COLLECTORS

- Collector forces in Seismic Design Category D thru F need to be designed using the load combinations with the overstrength factor
 - $-\Omega_0$
 - See ASCE 7 12.4.3.2
- Add Vertical component of earthquake loading to gravity design

ROSE

- 1. Chord forces in Seismic Design category C, thru F need to be designed for the overstrength Omega
- 2. Finally, floors and roofs also resist vertical component of earthquake loading.



6. Additional Considerations

Diaphragm discontinuities, vertical offsets, other geometric issues

Expansion Joints and locating vertical loadresisting element

Rose



6A. Additional Considerations

Diaphragm discontinuities, vertical offsets, other geometric issues

- Add in-plane bracing to stiffen/strengthen an inadequate diaphragm
 - Exposed horizontal X-bracing,
 - o Horizontal trusses under the steel deck,
 - o Reinforce a composite slab with rebar, etc.
- Vertical Floor Diaphragm Offset Create continuity with misc members
 - deep beams, diagonal kickers, analysis columns in bending
- Ramps create all sorts of issues:
 - Create short columns created near ramps can generate high shears
 - o Ramp parallel to force, it is a strut
 - if forces are perpendicular to a ramp, the ramp acts as an inclined shear wall.



6B. Additional Considerations

What to consider when locating Expansion Joints

- Expansion joints are important in that they limit the length of a diaphragm, preventing issues such as excessive shrinkage cracking in the slab, or shrinkage causing induced lateral loads in vertical elements.
 - 5-story moment frame in Utah that was over 200 ft long; the weld shrinkage was so significant that it pulled the columns out-of-plumb
 - 7-story hospital in Mississippi with bow-tie shape footprint slab pulled away from the shearwalls because the diaphragm was 450' long on the diagonal.
- Note how far the closest vertical element is from the joint and verify the diaphragm can cantilever from the last vertical element

Rose

clearly, diaphragms stop at expansion joints.



Diaphragms 101

Good Examples:

- NEHRP Seismic Design Technical Brief No. 3 Seismic Design of Cast-in-Place Concrete Diaphragms, Chords, and Collectors
- Steel Deck Institute (SDI) Diaphragm Design Manual (Fourth Edition No. DDM04)
- Special Design Provisions for Wind and Seismic by AWC

Joe Sharkey, Cagley & Associates

Rose Rodriguez, ADTEK Engineers

Questions?

- I hope we have sufficiently scared you into checking your diaphragms.
- Diaphragms are an integral part of the load path and failure of the diaphragm means an incomplete load path.
- To see some good step by step diaphragm design, see the following documents.