

## GENERAL ANALYSIS OF RECTANGULAR CROSS SECTIONS

Premise: When dealing with this topic, as usual we assume that:

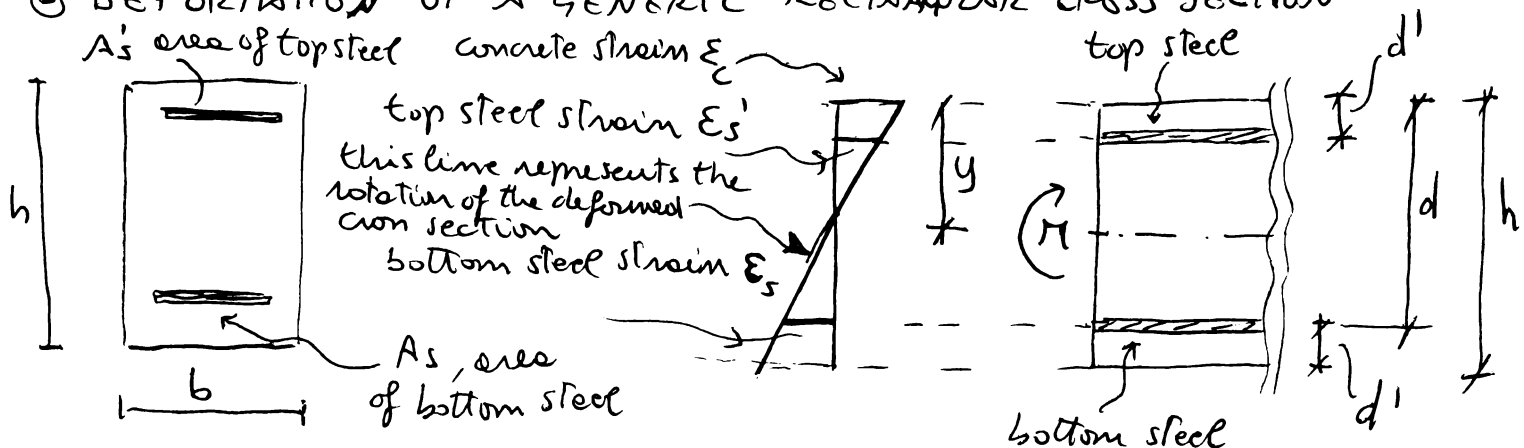
- 1 - the contribution of concrete in tension (although important for other reasons) ~~can~~ to the capacity of the section can be disregarded.
- 2 - Materials stress-strain laws are chosen among the proposed ones, already seen (for concrete: parabolic + plateau; linear + plateau; strain-block; for steel: linear + plateau, linear + hardening branch)
- 3 - There is a perfect bonding between concrete and reinforcing steel.
- 4 - Plane sections remain plane, also after deformation.

As a general rule, when designing a cross section, the aim should be to have a ductile failure mode, instead of a brittle one.

Ductile failures occur with great deformation of steel, so they are apparent, evident; redundant structures allow for a redistribution of internal forces, provided that sections have a good rotational capacity. Moreover, ductile failures imply a great energy absorption/dissipation.

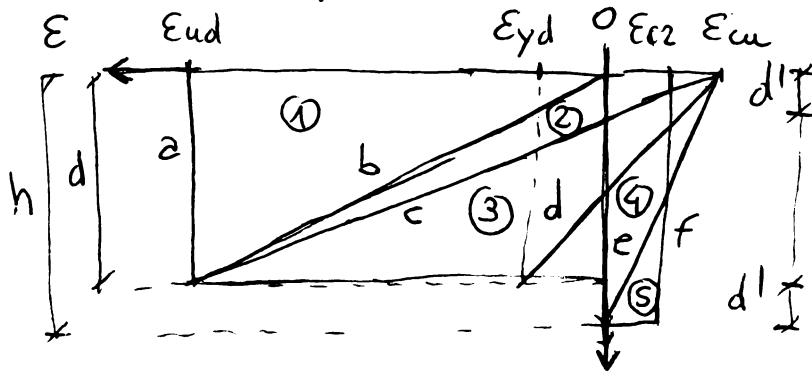
Conversely, brittle failures are dangerous, abrupt and not evident, and do not allow for a redistribution of forces along the structural members of a redundant structure.

① DEFORMATION OF A GENERIC RECTANGULAR CROSS SECTION



All the possible configurations that a generic cross section can assume are limited by the properties of materials (concrete and steel).

The most general situation is plotted in the following.



There are 6 critical lines (a, b, c, d, e and f) that separate 5 fields (1, 2, 3, 4 and 5)

By assumption, we can consider that steel has the same cover (bottom and top)

$h, b \rightarrow$  depth and width of the cross section

$d \rightarrow$  effective depth of the cross section (distance from the centroid of steel and the opposite edge of the section)

$d' \rightarrow$  cover (distance from the centroid of steel to the nearer edge of the section).

$E_{ud} \rightarrow$  maximum design strain of steel in tension (design value)

$E_{yd} \rightarrow$  yielding strain of steel in tension (design value)

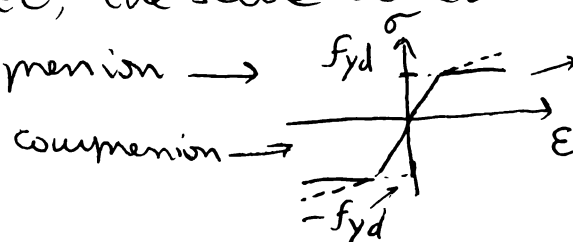
$E_{cu} \rightarrow$  maximum strain in compression for concrete (design value)

$E_{c2} \rightarrow$  maximum strain in compression when the section is uniformly compressed (this limitation, which could be taken, alternatively, as  $E_{c3}$  is considered in order to ensure a sufficient reserve of deformation for the section entirely compressed) (design value)

$y \rightarrow$  neutral axis depth, taken as:  $y = \xi \cdot d$

Note that, for steel, the same behaviour is assumed for both

tension and compression  $\rightarrow$

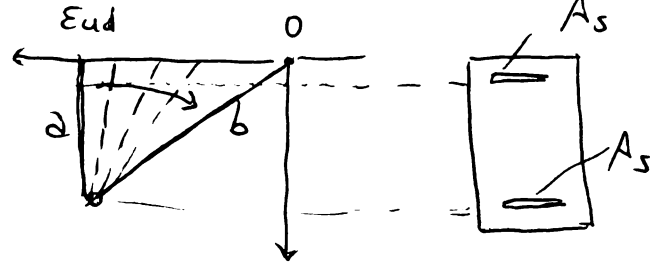


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Line a corresponds to  $y = -\infty \Rightarrow \xi_a = -\infty$  [ $y = \xi d$ ]

Line b corresponds to  $y = 0 \Rightarrow \xi_b = 0$

Field ① comprises all the situations between  $-\infty$  and  $0$ ,  
i.e.  $-\infty < \xi \leq 0$ ,  
where the bottom steel has reached its maximum strain ( $\epsilon_{ud}$ )



Line c

$y_c = \xi_c \cdot d$

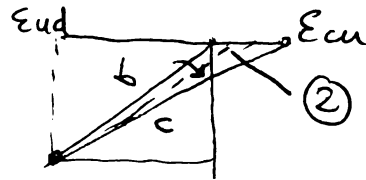
relations between similar triangles

$$\frac{\epsilon_{cu}}{\xi_c \cdot d} = \frac{\epsilon_{ud} + \epsilon_{cu}}{d}$$

$$\rightarrow \xi_c = \frac{\epsilon_{cu}}{\epsilon_{cu} + \epsilon_{ud}}$$

Field ② comprises all the situations where the bottom steel has reached its maximum strain  $\epsilon_{ud}$ , and the concrete strain varies from 0 to its maximum value  $\epsilon_{cu}$

$$0 < \xi \leq \xi_c = \frac{\epsilon_{cu}}{\epsilon_{cu} + \epsilon_{ud}}$$



Line d

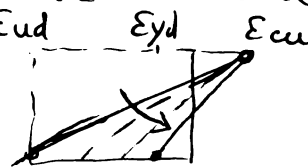
$y_d = \xi_d \cdot d$

$$\frac{\epsilon_{cu}}{\xi_d \cdot d} = \frac{\epsilon_{cu} + \epsilon_{yd}}{d}$$

$$\rightarrow \xi_d = \frac{\epsilon_{cu}}{\epsilon_{cu} + \epsilon_{yd}}$$

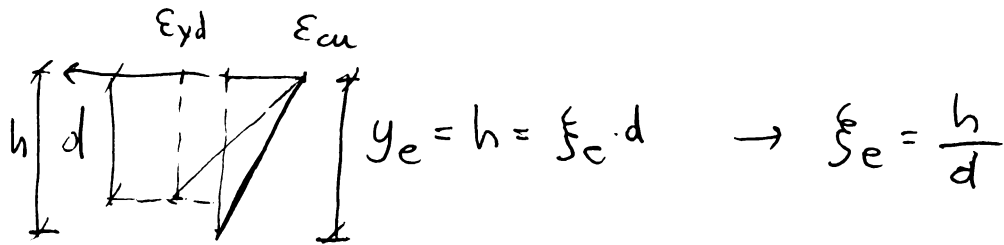
Field ③ comprises all the situations where the bottom steel has a strain included between its ultimate strain  $\epsilon_{ud}$  and its yielding strain  $\epsilon_{yd}$ , while concrete has reached its maximum compressive strain  $\epsilon_{cu}$

$$\frac{\epsilon_{cu}}{\epsilon_{cu} + \epsilon_{ud}} < \xi \leq \frac{\epsilon_{cu}}{\epsilon_{cu} + \epsilon_{yd}} = \xi_d$$



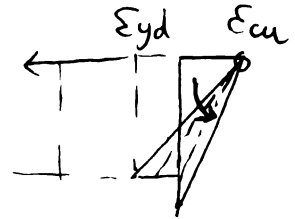
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Line e



Field (4) comprises all the situations where concrete has reached its maximum strain  $\epsilon_{cu}$ , and the section becomes entirely compressed (therefore also the concrete of the bottom cover can react)

$$\frac{\epsilon_{cu}}{\epsilon_{cu} + \epsilon_{yd}} < \xi \leq \frac{h}{d} = \xi_e$$



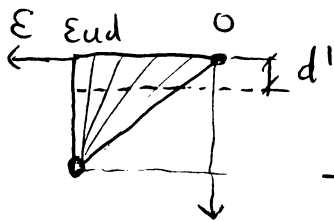
Line f the section is uniformly compressed, therefore  $y_f \rightarrow +\infty$ , like  $\xi_f$

Field (5) comprises all the situations where the section is entirely compressed (but the compressive strain cannot be greater than  $\epsilon_{c2}$  ~~and  $\epsilon_{c2}$  at the same time~~ ~~and equal~~ in all the section)

$$\frac{h}{d} < \xi < +\infty$$

Let consider the possible combination of internal forces related to each field.

Field (1)

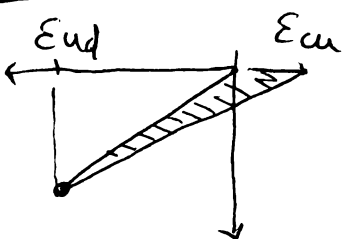


All the section is in tension.

Possible ~~comb~~ internal forces:

- pure tension  $N > 0, M = 0$   
(if  $A_s = A'_s \Rightarrow T_s = T'_s$ )
- combined tension and bending  
 $N > 0, M \neq 0$  (if  $T_s \neq T'_s$ )

Field (2)



The neutral axis crosses an internal point of the section, therefore pure tension is not possible.

In theory, you could have:

- combined bending and tension,  $N > 0, M \neq 0$
- combined bending and compression,  $N < 0, M \neq 0$

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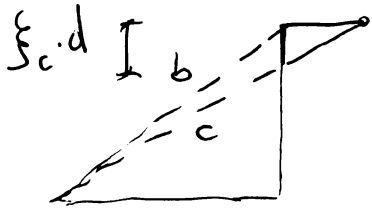
In practice, let's have a look deeper into this field

Let consider a steel 450C  $\rightarrow f_{yk} = 450 \text{ MPa}$

$$\epsilon_{ud} = 0.9 \epsilon_{uk} = 0.9 \cdot 7.5\% = 6.75\%$$

$$\epsilon_{cu} = 3.5\%$$

$$\xi_c = \frac{\epsilon_{cu}}{\epsilon_{cu} + \epsilon_{ud}} = 0.049 \rightarrow y \approx 5\% d$$



a very small portion of the cross section is compressed, therefore the compressive force withstood by concrete is low

Consider the strain of the top steel:  $\epsilon'_s$

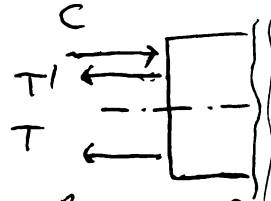
5% d is a value that can be adopted, in practice, for the cover. Be  $\delta = d'/d \Rightarrow$  usual ranges for  $\delta$  are 0.05 - 0.15

Therefore, the top steel strain is close to zero or is positive (i.e. also the top steel is in tension like the bottom one).

To have simple bending, or combined bending and compression,

$$C \geq T + T' \rightarrow \text{tensile forces for bottom and top steel}$$

compression force in the concrete



The minimum area of tensile reinforcement that has to be provided,  $A_{s,min}$ , according to Eurocode 2 is:

$$A_{s,min} = 0.26 \frac{f_{ctm}}{f_{yk}} b_t \cdot d \quad \left( f_{ctm} = 0.3 \sqrt[3]{f_{ck}^2} \right)$$

average tensile strength of concrete  
width of the concrete section measured at the tension side (rectangular  $\rightarrow b_t = b$ )

$$= 0.26 \cdot 0.3 \sqrt[3]{f_{ck}^2} b d / f_{yk}$$

$$f_{ck} = \frac{1.5}{0.85} f_{cd}$$

$$f_{yk} = 1.15 f_{yd}$$

$$= 0.26 \cdot 0.3 \sqrt[3]{\left(\frac{1.5}{0.85}\right)^2 f_{cd}^2} \cdot b d / 1.15 f_{yd}$$

$$\underline{\underline{= 0.099 \sqrt[3]{f_{cd}^2} b d / f_{yd}}}$$

$$C = 0.8 \cdot y_c \cdot b \cdot f_{cd}$$

compression force for the maximum area ( $\rightarrow$  max depth of the neutral axis)

a stem-block is adopted

bottom steel

$$C = 0.8 f_c d b f_{cd} \geq T + T' \rightarrow \text{top steel}$$

$T = f_{yd} \cdot A_s \rightarrow$  minimum tensile force on the bottom steel for  $A_s$  equal to  $A_{s,min}$

$$T_{min} = f_{yd} \cdot A_{s,min} \approx f_{yd} \cdot 0.099 \sqrt[3]{f_{cd}^2} b d / f_{yd}$$

$$\rightarrow 0.8 f_c b d f_{cd} \geq 0.099 \sqrt[3]{f_{cd}^2} b d + T' / b d$$

$$f_c \geq \frac{0.099}{0.8} \frac{\sqrt[3]{f_{cd}^2}}{f_{cd}} + T' / 0.8 b d f_{cd}$$

$$f_c \geq 0.124 \frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{f_{cd}}} + T' / 0.8 b d f_{cd}$$

Let's consider, for example, a concrete C30/37  $\Rightarrow f_{cd} = 17 \text{ MPa}$

$$\rightarrow f_c \geq \frac{0.124}{\sqrt[3]{17}} + T' / 0.8 b d f_{cd}$$

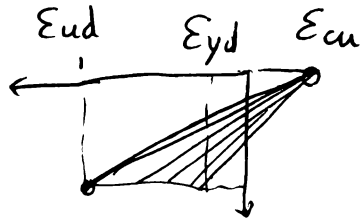
$0.048 \approx f_c$ , but without considering the top steel

Conclusion: in most cases, having simple bending or combined bending and compression in the field (2) is rarely possible (only if you have a very low amount of steel and a very strong concrete).

Moreover, it should be considered that, for ordinary beams, the area of compressed concrete is very small and, generally, involves more or less the <sup>net</sup>cover plus something more, and this, however, should be avoided

In most cases, field (2)  $\rightarrow$  combined bending and tension  
 $N > 0, M \neq 0$

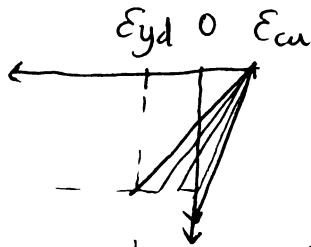
Field (3)



For bending, field (3) is the field of ductile failures (crushing of concrete, steel yielded)

- the neutral axis intersects the cross section, therefore you can have
- combined bending and ~~compression~~ <sup>tension</sup>:  $N > 0, M \neq 0$
  - simple bending  $N = 0, M \neq 0$
  - combined bending and compression  $N < 0, M \neq 0$

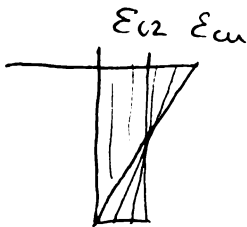
Field (4)



For bending, field (4) is the field of brittle failures (crushing of concrete with steel in the elastic range)

- As the previous fields, the neutral axis ~~crosses~~ intersects the cross section and you can have:
- Combined bending and tension  $N > 0, M \neq 0$
  - simple bending  $N = 0, M \neq 0$
  - combined bending and compression  $N < 0, M \neq 0$

Field (5)



- All the section is under compression, therefore you can have:
- combined bending and compression  $N < 0, M \neq 0$
  - simple compression  $N < 0, M = 0$

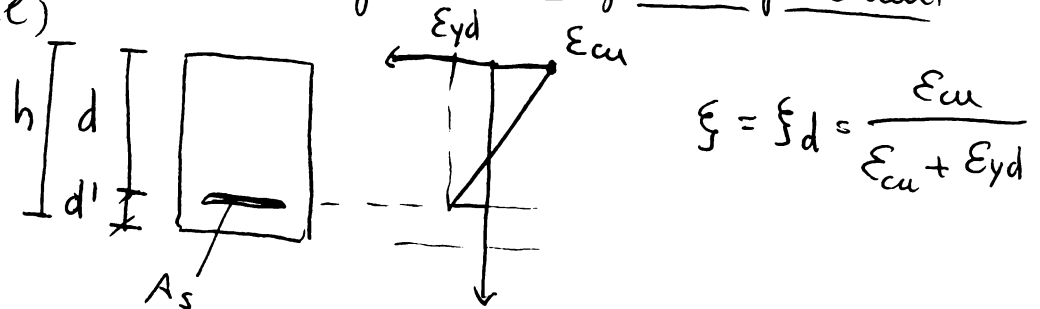
SUMMARY

FIELD	NEUTRAL AXIS POSITION	CONCRETE STRAIN	STEEL STRAIN	POSSIBLE INTERNAL FORCES	FAILURE
①	$-\infty < \xi \leq 0$	$\epsilon_c > 0$	$\epsilon_{ud}$	$N > 0, M = 0$ $N > 0, M \neq 0$	steel in tension
②	$0 < \xi \leq \frac{\epsilon_{cu}}{\epsilon_{cu} + \epsilon_{ud}}$	$0 \div \epsilon_{cu}$	$\epsilon_{ud}$	$N > 0, M \neq 0$ $N = 0, M \neq 0$ $N < 0, M \neq 0$	steel in tension
③	$\frac{\epsilon_{cu}}{\epsilon_{cu} + \epsilon_{ud}} < \xi \leq \frac{\epsilon_{cu}}{\epsilon_{cu} + \epsilon_{yd}}$	$\epsilon_{cu}$	$\epsilon_{yd} \div \epsilon_{ud}$	like ②	crushing of concrete
④	$\frac{\epsilon_{cu}}{\epsilon_{cu} + \epsilon_{yd}} < \xi \leq h/d$	$\epsilon_{cu}$	$< \epsilon_{yd}$	like ②	crushing of concrete
⑤	$h/d < \xi < +\infty$	$\epsilon_{c2} \div \epsilon_{cu}$	$< 0$	$N < 0, M = 0$ $N < 0, M \neq 0$	crushing of concrete

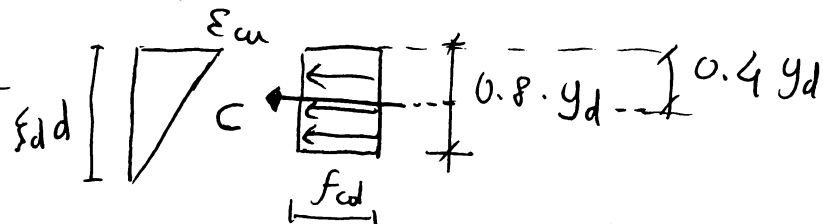
⊙ THE BALANCED SECTION

It is the section where failure occurs due to concrete crushing, and steel reaches the yielding strain  $\rightarrow \epsilon_{cu}; \epsilon_{yd}$

Let's consider simple bending and single reinforcement (only bottom steel)



Compression in the concrete (adopting a stress-block)



$C = 0.8 \xi_d \cdot d \cdot b \cdot f_{cd} \rightarrow$  located at  $0.4 \xi_d \cdot d$  from the top edge  
Tension in the (bottom) steel, that is yielding

$$T = f_{yd} \cdot A_s$$

Simple bending  $\rightarrow N=0, M \neq 0 \Rightarrow C=T \rightarrow 0.8 \xi_d b d f_{cd} = f_{yd} A_s$

$$\text{Be } \rho = \frac{A_s}{b \cdot d} \Rightarrow A_s = \rho b d$$

Since  $\xi_d$  depends only on the properties of steel and concrete ( $\epsilon_{cu}$  and  $\epsilon_{yd}$ ), there is only one amount of steel that equilibrates the force in the concrete  $\rightarrow \rho_{bal}$

$$0.8 \xi_d \cdot b d f_{cd} = f_{yd} \cdot \rho_{bal} \cdot b \cdot d \Rightarrow \rho_{bal} = 0.8 \xi_d \cdot f_{cd} / f_{yd}$$

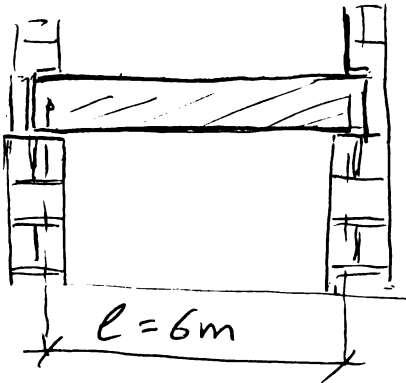
If  $\rho > \rho_{bal} \Rightarrow$  bending + tension ( $C < T$ )

If  $\rho < \rho_{bal} \Rightarrow$  bending + compression ( $C > T$ )

$\rho_{bal} \rightarrow$  max steel reinforcement, in bending, to have a ductile failure. Otherwise, failure in simple bending will occur with steel in the elastic range, since a wider area of compressed concrete ( $\xi > \xi_d$ ) is required to equilibrate the tension force in the steel

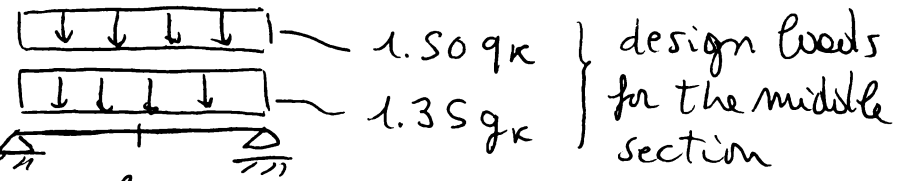


EXAMPLE OF DESIGN AND ASSESSMENT (SIMPLE BENDING)



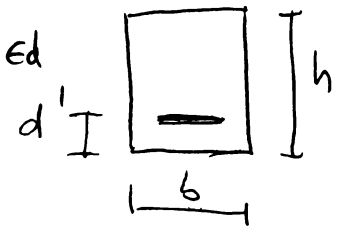
Simply supported beam, with a design span  $l = 6m$ .

Permanent ~~use~~ load  $g_k = 19 kN/m$   
variable load  $q_k = 10 kN/m$



$$M(l/2) = \frac{1}{8} (1.5 q_k + 1.35 g_k) l^2$$

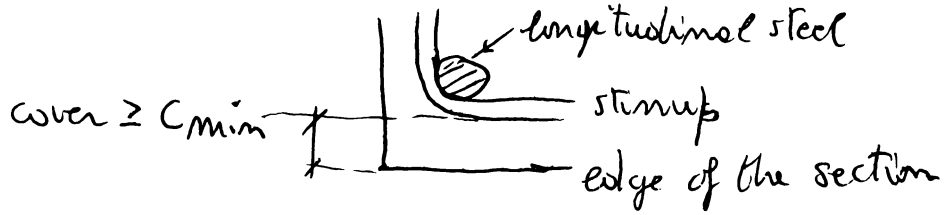
$$= \frac{1.5 \cdot 10 + 1.35 \cdot 19}{8} \cdot 36 = 183 kN \cdot m = M_{ed}$$



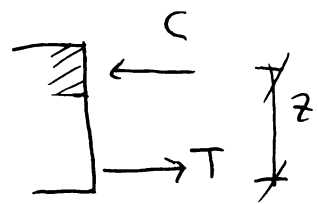
Choose a reasonable dimension for the cross section, i.e.  $b = 30 cm$ ,  $h = 50 cm$

assign a practical value of  $\delta = d'/d$ , for example  $\delta = 0.1$   
 $\Rightarrow d' = 10\% \cdot d = 4.5 cm \Rightarrow d' = 5 cm$

since  $h$  is not large, you should improve  $\delta$  to have a reasonable cover



Pre design formulation:  $z =$  lever arm of internal forces  $\approx 0.9 d$



$z \approx 0.9 d$  as first approximation

$$T \cdot z = C \cdot z = M \Rightarrow M_{ed} = T \cdot z$$

$$M_{ed} = 0.9 d \cdot A_{s,min} \cdot f_{yd} \leftarrow \text{find the minimum amount of steel}$$

$$A_{s,min} = \frac{183 kN \cdot m}{0.9 \cdot d \cdot 450 mm \cdot 391 MPa} \rightarrow 1156 mm^2$$

B450C  $\rightarrow f_{yk} = 450$   
 $f_{yd} = 391 MPa$

- $1 \phi 16 \rightarrow 201 mm^2 \rightarrow 6$
- $1 \phi 20 \rightarrow 314 mm^2 \rightarrow 4$
- $1 \phi 22 \rightarrow 380 mm^2 \rightarrow 3$
- $1 \phi 24 \rightarrow 452 mm^2 \rightarrow 3$

let's choose  $4 \phi 20 \rightarrow A_s = 1256 mm^2$

$$\rho_{s,e} = \left[ \text{concrete } c25/30 \rightarrow f_{cd} = \frac{485 \cdot 25}{1.5} = 14 MPa \right]$$

$$\leq 0.8 \cdot \frac{3.5}{3.5 + 1.96} \cdot \frac{14}{391} = 0.0184 \rightarrow 2484 mm^2$$

Ductile failure  $\xi = \frac{A_s f_{yd}}{0.8 b d f_{cd}} = 0.325 < \xi_d \Rightarrow \text{field } (3)$

Verification  $\rightarrow$

$$M_{Rd} = f_{yd} A_s \cdot \left( d - \frac{\xi d \cdot 0.4}{2} \right) = 192 kNm$$

Natta Pamizza (Dices - Unipd, Italy)

$$M_{Rd} > M_{ed} \Leftarrow 192 > 183$$