

## Effect of bottom flange cleat on integrated precast slab and column panel using cold-formed steel

Sutanto Muliawan<sup>1</sup>, Anis Saggaff<sup>1</sup>, Mahmood Bin Md Tahir<sup>2</sup>, Saloma<sup>1\*</sup>, Muhammad Firdaus<sup>3</sup>, and KM Aminuddin<sup>1</sup>

Civil Engineering Department, Faculty of Engineering, Universitas Sriwijaya, Inderalaya, Indonesia<sup>1</sup>

Institute for Smart Infrastructure and Innovative Construction (ISIIC), Construction Research Centre (CRC), School of Civil Engineering, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Johor Bahru, Malaysia<sup>2</sup>

Civil Engineering Department, Faculty of Engineering, Universitas Persatuan Guru Republik Indonesia, Palembang, Indonesia<sup>3</sup>

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### Abstract

*The use of cold-formed steel currently develops very fast. It is due to its advantages such as durability, stability, non-combustibility, sustainability, and cost-effectively. On the other hand, its disadvantages are difficult to connect, low fire resistance, residual stress on the cross-section that affects buckling resistance. In the previous research, to overcome the lack of buckling resistance in cold-formed steel, the composite connection is proposed. A recent study about cold-formed steel connection is divided into non-composite and composite research. The result of composite research has a higher moment capacity than non-composite. Most of the composite research is focused on beam and column with the concrete slab above the beam. In the current study, a T-shaped of gusset plates is used as a joint connector. This study aims to investigate the effect of the bottom flange cleat on the joint capacity. The slab panel's material is a Lipped Channel Section with the size of L125x24 as the frames and reinforcements. The grade of cold-formed steel is  $f_y = 530$  MPa and  $f_u = 590$  MPa, while the T-shaped plate connector's strength is S355. The bolt used has a diameter of 10 mm,  $f_y = 800$  MPa. The flange cleats used is L100x100x10x80. The parametric study was conducted based on Eurocode 3. The connection with the additional bottom flange cleat has a higher moment resistance than without the flange cleat. The additional bottom cleat's influence is that the moment resistance increased the moment resistance from 17.11 kNm to 23.32 kNm. The predicted failure mode of the connection could be the failure that occurred at the top side of the cold-formed section of the slab due to the bending.*

### Keywords

*Cold-formed steel connection, Bottom flange cleat, Integrated precast slab, Joint flexural resistance, T-shaped plate connector.*

### 1. Introduction

Cold-Formed Steel (CFS) is lightweight steel produced by forming the thin plate in cool condition. It became widely used for any purpose of household furniture and light construction elements from the middle of the twentieth century. CFS could be used as purlin, roof cover, steel truss, wall panel, composite deck slab, and structural framing. One of the disadvantages is the buckling problem which reduces the maximum load. The development of technology leads to the massive product of CFS. CFS became more popular and well-accepted in any region in the world [1].

There are still very few studies on the composite connection of cold-formed steel [2–5]. Throughout the research, the concrete is considered as normal concrete with  $f_c' = 30$  MPa until  $f_c' = 43$  MPa, with the result of those studies were moment-rotation, failure mode, and load deflection. The type of connection is a rectangular gusset plate [3, 4] and a haunched gusset plate with seat angles [2, 5].

The non-composite research about cold-formed steel connection is about the bolt connection with various gusset plates [6–10]. The type of connection for the non-composite is rectangular gusset plate [6], rectangular gusset plate with flange cleat [7], haunched gusset plate [8], welded connection [9], and T-Shaped gusset plate [10].

\*Author for correspondence

Both composite and non-composite had an addition to the flange-cleat connection [2, 5, 7]. The flange-cleat connection is related to fast installation and lack of expensive welding processes. The flange cleats are often used to reinforce the joint in the existing structure. The investigation of concrete slab combines with cold-formed steel as the primary beam was conducted [11-15]; the purpose of those study is to find out the behaviour of the cold-formed component within the slab shear connector configuration [11, 12, 15] and beam variation [13, 14].

Based on recent research, the beam-column composite connection shown that the beam section is located outside the slab part. In this study, there is a difference in beam location with the previous research [2-5]. The beam is located inside the slab part, and there is no study about the encase beam-column connection before. The encase beam does not require a space outside the slab part. Therefore, a wider space below the concrete slab can be produced. The precast panel slab with a 1 × 1-meter size using a cold-formed steel section will be connected by a T-shape connection to the precast column panel with a 1 × 3-meter size of the CFS section. This study aims to compare the maximum moment capacity of the previous study without the bottom flange cleat and with the additional bottom flange cleat. This paper's method is limited by a parametric study based on BS EN 1993-1-1 and BS EN 1993-1-8.

It is hoped that the result of this study will be useful for the researchers who investigate the same slab panel with or without integration with concrete.

## 2.Literature review

Generally, the research on bare steel cold-formed steel (CFS) is to obtain the best performance of the connection and should be simple and easy to install. The use of CFS was growing rapidly and leads to the main components of the structure, however, without being balanced with design standards and because of the lack of related literature. The established code of standards recently still focused on hot-rolled steel joints. Therefore, several CFS studies have been carried out through parametric and experimental approaches by applying a monotonic loading at the end of the beam so that the joint's moment of rotation and stiffness can be generated. Furthermore, connection behaviour can also be investigated.

Aminuddin et al. [6] examined the beam to column joints of bare build up cold-formed steel connected

by rectangular gusset plates 10 mm thick, experimentally and analytically. The beam depth varies from 200mm,250mm, and 300mm, and the same column size (depth=300mm). The experimental results show that the beam depth should be limited to obtain ductile joint behaviour. The study was continued with the same type of connection, but with the addition of top angle and seat angle with a thickness of 6 mm Aminuddin et al. [7]. The comparison of the two specimens shows that the influence of the top and seat angle could increase the moment capacity and stiffness of the connection.

Firdaus et al. [8] continued the research on non-composite joints that Aminuddin had done. The beam and column dimensions are the same as previous studies [6, 7], but the haunched gusset plate was selected. This shape was chosen to avoid premature buckling of the gusset plate. A total of 6 specimens were carried out experimentally, three specimens used gusset plates only, and the remaining specimens were reinforced with top angle, seat angle and web angle. The experimental results also show an increase in moment capacity by 20% and 30% for stiffness. It means that the addition of seat angle components can be used as a recommendation to increase the joint's strength without having to dismantle the structure as a whole.

The weakness of bare cold-formed steel tends to lateral torsion due to the thin plates' behaviour, which can be overcome by the integration of CFS beams and concrete slabs as part of the composite. However, the knowledge of lightweight steel composite joints is still limited. The intensive research on the lightweight steel composite joints with gusset plates has been carried out experimentally and analytically by Firdaus et al. [16]. Furthermore, Firdaus et al. [17] proposed tools software to predict connection capacity because it requires many calculations, iterative, trial, and error. A total of six specimens were studied with dimensions of beam DLC200,250, 300, respectively, and column with DLC300. The two types of connection were investigated, the first type using gusset plates and web stiffener, and the second type is the same as the first type but with the addition of a seat angle placed on the bottom beam flange. The experimental results show that increasing the seat angle could increase 8% for the moment resistance and 17% for the joint's stiffness. However, the presence of a seat angle makes the connection lead to full-strength joint behaviour.

Although several studies have shown the potential of CFS as an alternative material, applying that material as part of the main structure has not yet been established. Lawan et al. [18] was argued in their paper that CFS could be used as the primary beam, but it is limited to small and medium buildings. This statement is based on his research on composite beams, combined with shear connectors from bolts with sizes M12, M14, and M16, beam dimensions with DLC250 and DLC300 [14]. The Four-point bending test procedure was conducted, and the flexural capacity of the experiment is considered sufficient to be categorized as the primary beam.

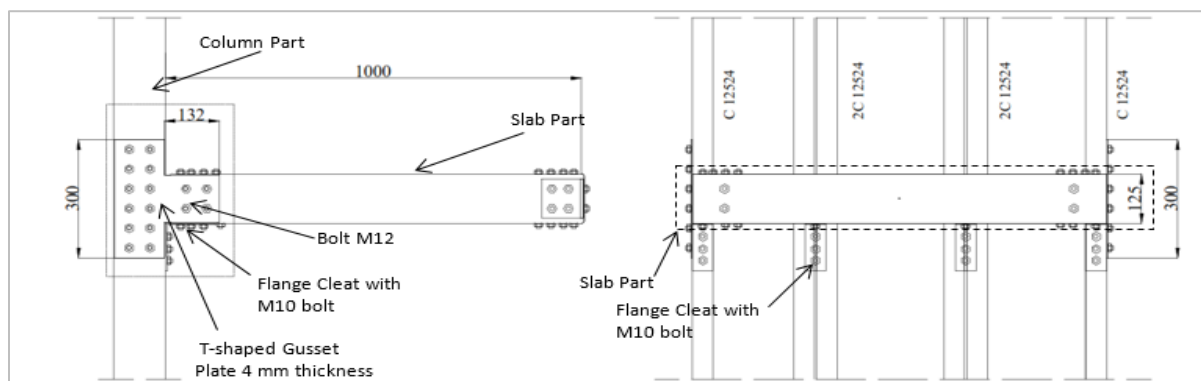
Furthermore, Salih et al. [15] was investigated a lightweight steel composite beam. The beam configuration was installed through-bolts to connect the lipped channel back to back (I-shape) and toe to toe (box-shape). This study demonstrated that CFS sections could be fabricated easily because of the lightweight material. Self-Compacted Concrete (SCC) was used to fill material for concrete beams and slabs. Composite behaviour is achieved by attaching a shear connector made of U-shape rebar. The bending test shows that the I-shape profile could provide 24.2% more capacity than the box-shape, even though the cross-section and volume of the material used are identical. It could be due to the higher moment of inertia of the I-shape, which shows that back-to-back lipped channel could provide economic savings.

Qiao et al. [19] has investigated the research on concrete slabs with CFS, where the CFS was cast in the concrete slab. This method directly eliminates local buckling of the thin plate due to concrete surrounding the CFS profile. Also, the volume of concrete will be reduced due to the existence of CFS in the slab. The author claims that this is a new method of utilizing lightweight steel as part of the

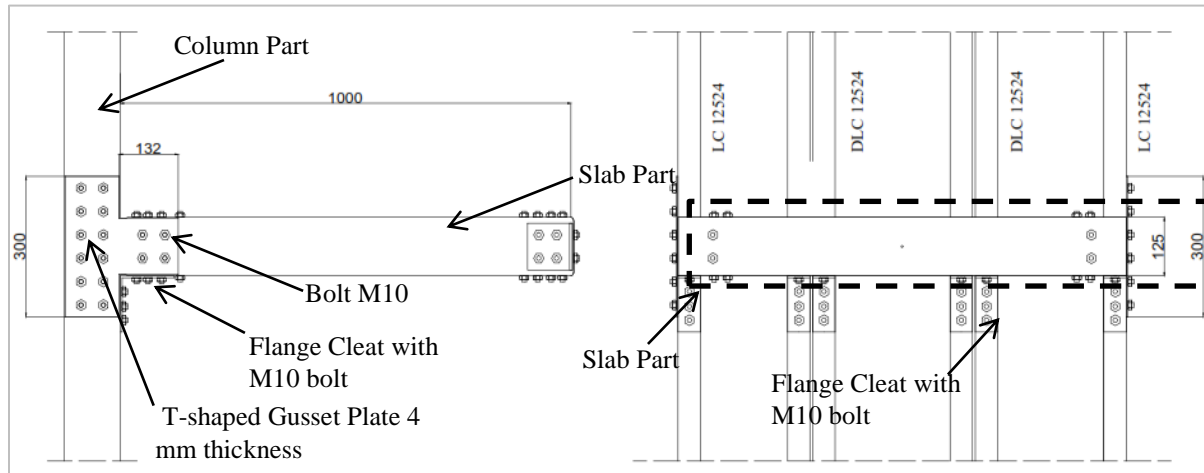
structural member. The experimental and Finite element tests were carried out with two specimens, where CS-1 used 4 CFS and CS-2 used 3 CFS which were installed on the plate. CS-1 provides superior in terms of strength and ductility to CS-2. This is the confirmation of a positive contribution from CFS elements as a substitute for conventional rebars. The parametric studies regarding the CFS slab connection to the column have been studied by Muliawan et al. [10]. It is based on the fact that the calculation procedure not available. In addition, the application of composite slabs as part of the building can only be used if there is an adequate connection to transfer the slab load to the column. The dimensions of CFS with 12524 was selected as beams and columns. The gusset plate with 4mm thick is used as a connecting medium between beams and columns by applying various bolts M10, M12, M14, and M16. From the analysis, it can be concluded that M10 and M12 bolts can be applied to these joints. While M16 bolts can only be used for beams with dimensions more than CFS12524 because of the unfulfilled range of validity that has been set in EC3.

### 3.Methods

In this study, there are two kinds of specimens. IJT-1 for specimen without flange cleat and IJT-2 for specimen with flange cleat. The IJT-1 specimen is shown in *Figure 1*, and the IJT-02 specimen configuration in *Figure 2*. The full-scale sample of this current study is shown in *Figure 3*. The column height is 3000 mm, and the width of 1000 mm. The column is made by CFS with Lipped Channel (LC) 12524 profile. The length of the slab is 1000 mm and 1000 mm in width. The Double Lipped Channel (DLC) 12524 CFS profile is placed in the middle of the column and the slab. For CFS profile design strength is  $F_y = 530 \text{ MPa}$ ,  $F_u = 590 \text{ MPa}$ .



**Figure 1** IJT-01 Specimen in right and front side view



**Figure 2** IJT-02 Specimen in the right and front side view

There is a bolt connection with a T-Shaped gusset plate to connect the slab and column. The bolts are designed based on BS EN 1-8:2005 [20]. All bolts grade are 8.8, with the ultimate strength ( $F_u$ ) is 800 MPa. The bolts stress area ( $A_s$ ) is 58.0 mm<sup>2</sup>. The T-shaped plate had a thickness of 4 mm with S355 grade ( $F_y = 355$  MPa,  $F_u = 510$  MPa) based on BS EN 1-1: 2005[21]. The T-Shape connection is shown in *Figure 4*.



**Figure 3** The actual specimen

The channel lips section could be seen in *Figure 5*. The channel lips profile used in this research is LC 12524. The detail is the thickness ( $t$ ) 2.4 mm, height

(h) 125 mm, broad (b) 50 mm, and lips (c) 15 mm. There is a flange cleat with grade S355,  $f_y = 275$  MPa,  $f_u = 430$  MPa. The bottom flange cleat component is shown in *Figure 6*.

For bolt spacing configuration on the gusset plate is based on BS EN 1-8:2005 [20], there is edge distance between the bolt and the edge of the plate. The steel specimen is exposed to the weather and other corrosive influences. From BS EN 1-8:2005 [20], M10 bolts the hole diameter ( $d_0$ ) is 11 mm. Based on BS EN 1-8:2005, the range validity of bolts as follows:

$$\text{Minimum } e_f = 1.2d_0 \quad (1)$$

$$\text{Maximum } e_f = 4(t)+40 \text{ mm} \quad (2)$$

$d_0$  is the hole diameter, and  $t$  is the thickness of the thinner outer connected part.

The minimum horizontal spacing between the bolt ( $p_1$ ) had to be calculation below.

$$\text{Minimum } e_s = 2,2d_0 \quad (3)$$

$$\text{Maximum } e_s = 14t \quad (4)$$

Bolt configuration on the vertical direction ( $p_2$ ) is calculated below.

$$\text{Minimum } e_v = 2,4d_0 \quad (5)$$

$$\text{Maximum } e_v = 14t \quad (6)$$

The analytical method is based on the component method. There is a flowchart of the study shown in *Figure 7*. First, collecting the component data such as a bolt, gusset plate, angle clamp, cold-formed steel, and bottom flange cleat data. Then, do the parametric calculation based on BS EN 1993-1-8:2005. The IJT-01 and IJT-02 specimens are being calculated in this study. Then, after the calculation has finished for both specimen, there is a result comparison between IJT-01 and IJT-02.

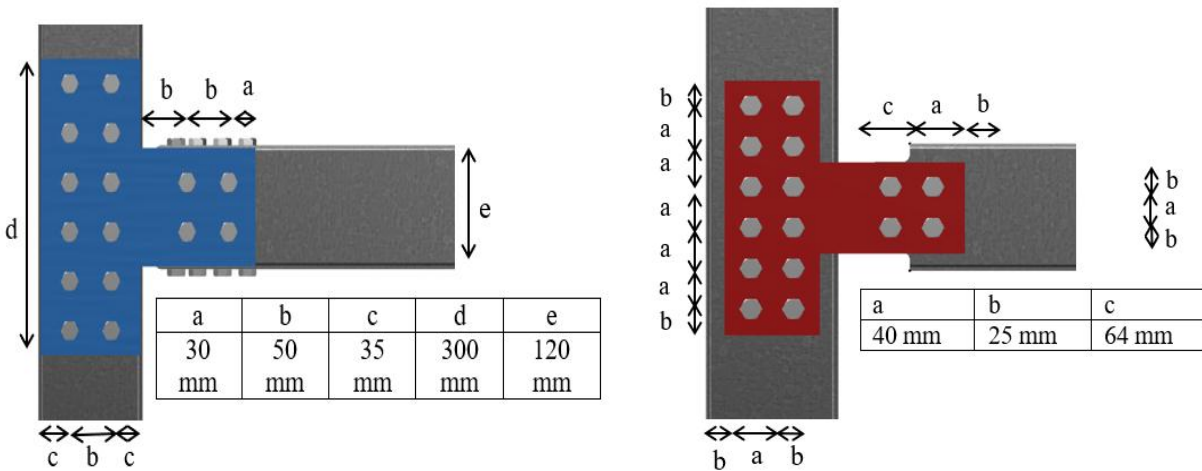


Figure 4 T-Shape plate connection

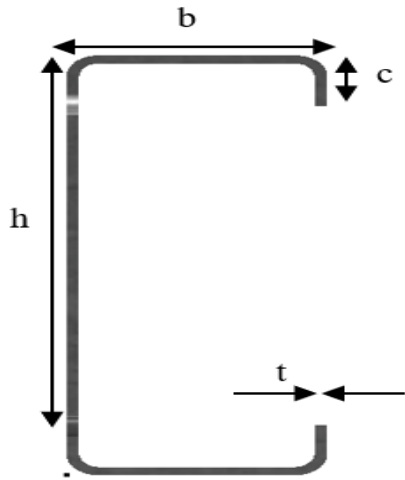


Figure 5 Cold-formed steel section

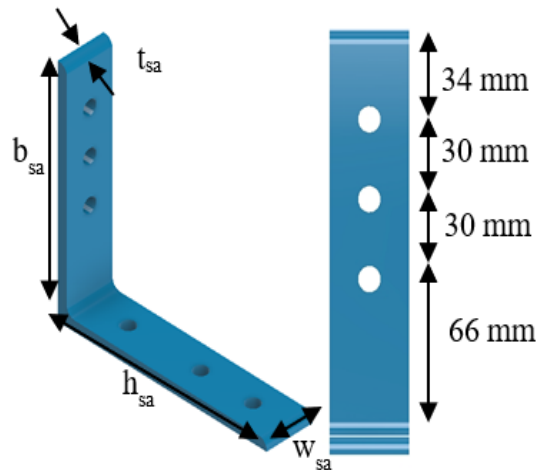


Figure 6 Flange cleat

According to BS EN 1993-1-8:2005, there is a shear resistance of bolt calculation in equation 18. The bearing resistance in equation 19.

$$F_{v,Rd} = \frac{\alpha_v f_{ub} A_s}{\gamma_{M2}} \quad (7)$$

Where  $\alpha_v$  is 0.6 for bolt grade 8.8;  $f_{ub}$  is the ultimate strength of bolt (MPa), and  $A_s$  is the stress area of the bolt ( $\text{mm}^2$ ).

$$F_{b,Rd} = \frac{2.5 \alpha_b k_t f_{u,comp} d_{bolt} t_{comp}}{\gamma_{M2}} \quad (8)$$

Where  $\alpha_b = 1$ ;  $k_t = 1$ ;  $f_{u,comp}$  is the ultimate strength of the component (MPa);  $d_{bolt}$  for the diameter of the bolt (mm);  $t_{beam}$  is the thickness of the component (mm). The bearing resistance component is CFS, gusset plate, angle clamp, and bottom flange cleat.

The moment capacity of the middle part ( $M_{j,a}$ ) and the side part of the specimen ( $M_{j,b}$ ) are affected by

the minimum value of shear and bearing resistance in each component and the arm's lever. So, the equation is

$$M_{j,a} = \text{Minimum value between bearing and shear at side gusset plate} \times \text{number of bolt} \times \text{lever arm} \quad (9)$$

$$M_{j,b} = \text{Minimum value between bearing and shear at middle gusset plate} \times \text{number of bolt} \times \text{lever of arm} \quad (10)$$

$$M_{j,gp} = 2 \times M_{j,a} + 2 \times M_{j,b} \quad (11)$$

The moment capacity with the additional bottom flange cleat is shown in equations 12 and 13.

$$M_{add} = f_{y,sa} \times w \quad (12)$$

Where  $f_{y,sa}$  is the yield strength of bottom flange cleat, and  $w$  is elastic section modulus of bottom flange cleat.

$$M_{total} = M_{j,gp} + 6(M_{add}) \quad (13)$$

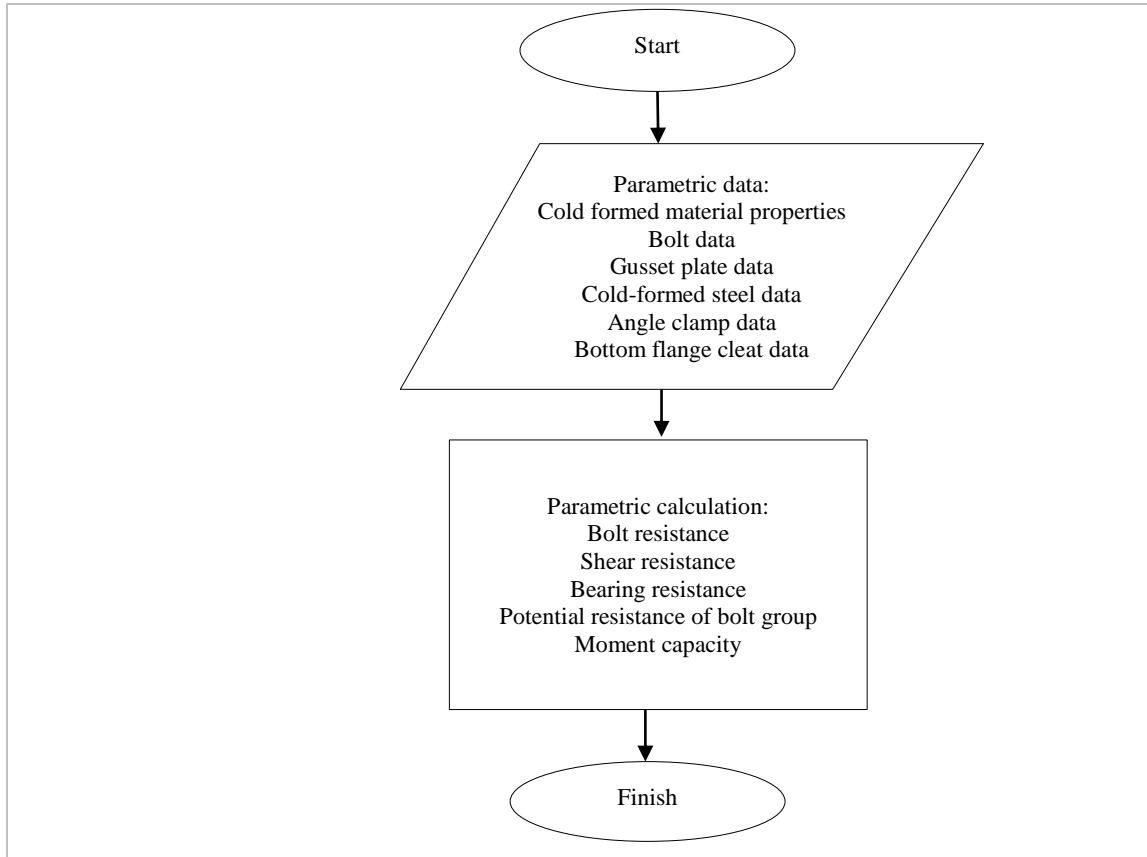


Figure 7 Research flowchart

## 4.Result

### 4.1 Range validity

The minimum and maximum edge distance for the M10 bolt are shown in the calculation below. The bolt holes ( $d_0$ ) is 11 mm. The validity of the bolt on the gusset plate is shown in *Table 1*.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Minimum } e_1 &= 1.2d_0 \\ &= 1.2(11) \\ &= 13.2 \text{ mm} \\ \text{Maximum } e_1 &= 4(t)+40 \text{ mm} \\ &= 4(4) + 40 \\ &= 56 \text{ mm} \end{aligned}$$

The minimum and maximum horizontal spacing between the bolt ( $p_1$ ) calculation is based on BS EN 1-8:2005 [20]. The bolt minimum and maximum

horizontal spacing are shown in the calculation below.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Minimum } p_1 &= 2.2d_0 \\ &= 2.2(11) \\ &= 24.2 \text{ mm} \\ \text{Maximum } p_1 &= 14t \\ &= 14(4) \\ &= 56 \text{ mm} \end{aligned}$$

For minimum and maximum vertical spacing between bolts is shown in the calculation below.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Minimum } p_2 &= 2.4d_0 \\ &= 2.4(11) \\ &= 26.4 \text{ mm} \\ \text{Maximum } p_2 &= 14t \\ &= 14(4) \\ &= 56 \text{ mm} \end{aligned}$$

**Table 1** Range validity

Flange cleat	Position	Min. edge Spacing (mm)	Spacing (mm)	Max. edge spacing (mm)	Status
Side Gusset Plate	Side	13.2	20	56	Ok
	Horizontal	24.2	50	56	Ok
	Vertical	26.4	50	56	Ok
Middle Gusset Plate	Side	13.2	22.5	56	Ok
	Horizontal	24.2	37.5	56	Ok
	Vertical	26.4	37.5	56	Ok

**4.2 IJT-01 specimen calculation**

The shear capacity and bearing capacity of the bolt are calculated below.

$$F_{v,Rd} = \frac{\alpha_v f_{ub} A_s}{\gamma_{M2}} = \frac{0.6 \times 800 \times 58}{1.25} = 22.272 \text{ kN}$$

$$F_{b,Rd,Cfs} = \frac{2.5 \alpha_b k_t f_{u,beam} d_{bolt} t_{f,beam}}{\gamma_{M2}} = \frac{2.5 \times 590 \times 10 \times 2.36}{1.25} = 27.848 \text{ kN}$$

$$F_{b,Rd,gp} = \frac{2.5 \alpha_b k_t f_{u,g} d_{bolt} t_g}{\gamma_{M2}} = \frac{2.5 \times 510 \times 10 \times 4}{1.25} = 40.8 \text{ kN}$$

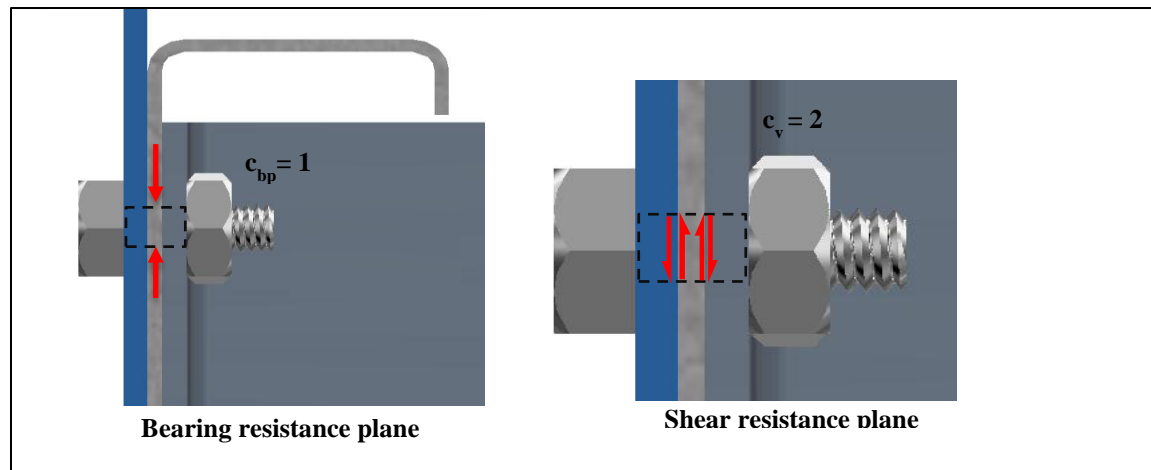
$$F_{b,Rd,ac} = \frac{2.5 \alpha_b k_t f_{u,ac} d_{bolt} t_{ac}}{\gamma_{M2}} = \frac{2.5 \times 510 \times 10 \times 4}{1.25} = 40.8 \text{ kN}$$

Shear and bearing capacity is influenced by the contact plane between plate and bolt. The bearing plane and shear plane for the side gusset plate is shown in *Figure 8*. The gusset plate calculation at the side position result is shown in *Table 2*. The

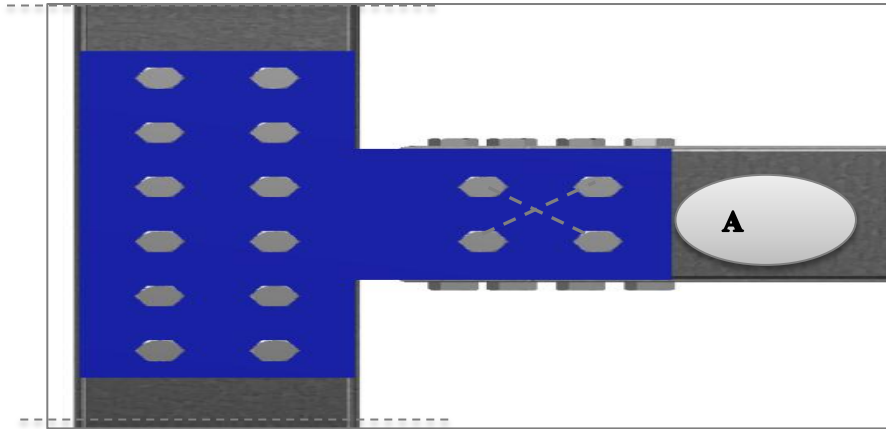
gusset plate's moment capacity at the side position is influenced by the lever arm, as shown in *Figure 9*. The lever arm for the side gusset plate is 35.36 mm, and the moment capacity is calculated below.

**Table 2** The side gusset plate calculation result

	Component	Bearing plane	Shear plane	Bearing capacity (kN)	Shear capacity (kN)
Side Gusset Plate	Bolt	-	2	-	44.544
	Cold-formed Steel	1	-	27.848	-
	Gusset Plate	1	-	40.8	-
	Angle Clamp	1	-	40.8	-



**Figure 8** The bearing and shear plane on the side gusset plate

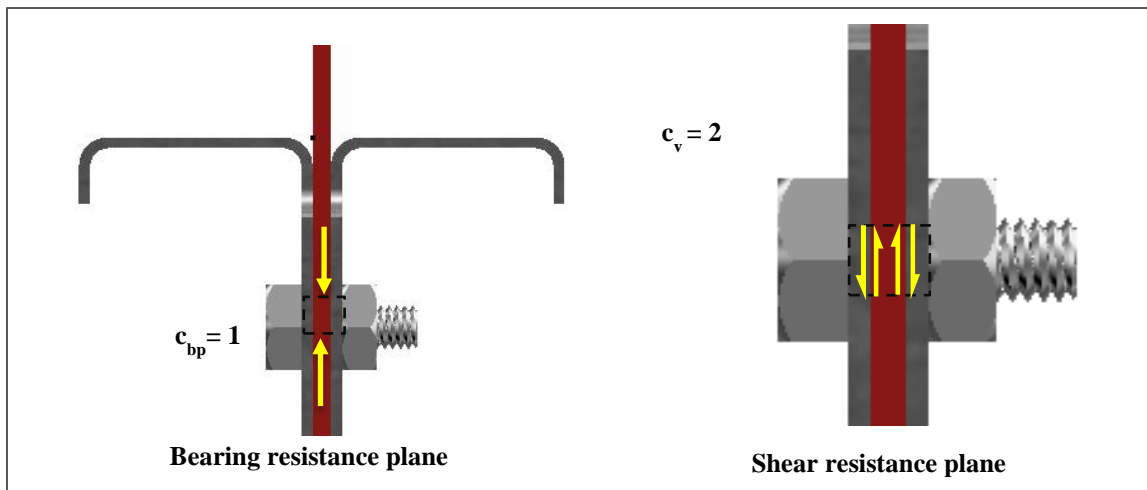


**Figure 9** Lever of arm for side gusset plate

$$M_{j,a} = 4 \times 35.36 \times 27.85 = 3.938 \text{ kNm}$$

The bearing plane and shear plane for the middle gusset plate is shown in *Figure 10*. The middle gusset plate calculation result is shown in *Table 3*.

The moment capacity of the gusset plate at middle position is influenced by the lever arm in *Figure 11*. The lever arm for the middle gusset plate is 28.29 mm, and the moment capacity is calculated below.

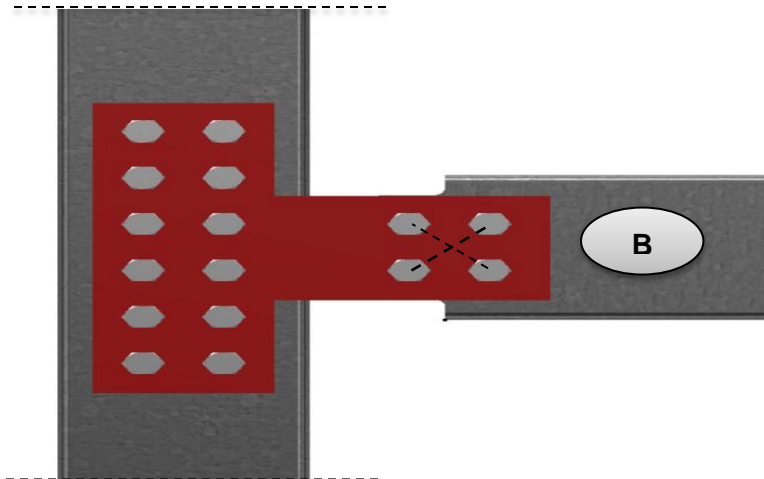


**Figure 10** The Bearing and shear plane on the middle gusset plate

**Table 3** The middle gusset plate calculation result

	Component	Bearing plane	Shear plane	Bearing capacity (kN)	Shear capacity (kN)
Middle Gusset Plate	Bolt	-	2	-	44.544
	Cold-formed Steel	2	-	55.7	-
	Gusset Plate	1	-	40.8	-





**Figure 11** Lever of arm for middle gusset plate

$$M_{j,b} = 4 \times 28.29 \times 40.8 = 4.616 \text{ kNm}$$

Total moment capacity of the connection for IJT-01 is:

$$M_j = 2 M_{j,A} + 2 M_{j,B} = 2 \times 3.938 + 2 \times 4.616 = 17.11 \text{ kNm}$$

The final result for IJT-01 is 17.11 kNm, and it is matched to the previous study [10].

#### 4.3 IJT-02 specimen calculation

The cold-formed steel, gusset plate, and angle clamp in IJT-02 are typical of IJT-01. Therefore, the moment capacity of the gusset plate for IJT-02 is similar to IJT-01. As shown in *Figure 12*, the bottom flange cleat could increase the moment resistance

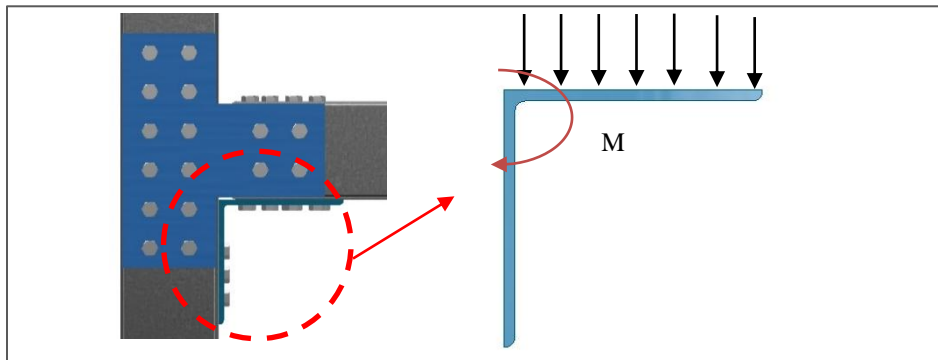
because of the additional bending moment produced from the angle section. The calculation is shown below.

$$M_{add} = f_{y,sa} \times w = 355 \text{ MPa} \times (1/6 \times 50^2 \times 7) \text{ mm}^4 = 1,04 \text{ kNm}$$

Total moment capacity of the connection for IJT-02 is

$$M_j = 17.11 + 6(1.04) = 23.32 \text{ kNm}$$

The moment capacity comparison between IJT-01 and IJT-02 is shown in *Table 4*. The moment capacity of connection has improved when the bottom flange cleat is added.



**Figure 12** Bottom flange cleat additional moment

**Table 4** Moment capacity comparison

IJT-01 Moment capacity (kNm)	IJT-02 Moment capacity (kNm)
17,11	23,32

## 5. Discussion

According to *Table 2*, the gusset plate at the side position is possible to fail at bearing failure at the beam bolt hole. The bolts' bearing resistance (27.848 kNm) at cold-formed steel is very small rather than the gusset plate or the angle clamp. Bolt shear capacity has a high value rather than the bearing capacity of cold-formed steel, gusset plate, and angle clamp in the specimen's side part. Subsequently, it could be predicted that the connection would not fail because of shear. At the middle part of the specimen, the bolt shear capacity is high rather than the gusset plate's bearing capacity. There is a possibility that gusset plate failure will occur in the middle part because the gusset plate's bearing capacity is very low compared with cold-formed or bolt shear capacity.

The moment capacity for IJT-01 is 17.11 kNm, and the bearing resistance is less than shear resistance. The moment capacity of IJT 02 (23.32 kNm) is more than the IJT 01 (17.11 kNm). This proves that the seat angle section could increase the joint capacity. In this paper, the calculation procedure was proposed, and the elastic behaviour was assumed according to component method (BS EN 1993-1-8 and BS EN 1993-1-3).

## 6. Conclusion and future work

Based on this research, it is clear that the two specimens, the bolt shear capacity has a high value rather than the bearing capacity. It caused by the grade of the bolt is high enough to resist the shear failure. The bearing resistance is influenced by the other connected components, such as the gusset plate, cold-formed steel, and angle clamp for the side gusset plate. The weakest part on the side connection is at the CFS because the bearing plane for CFS is 1. The weakest part of the middle connection is at the gusset plate because the CFS has more bearing planes than the gusset plate bearing plane. The moment capacity of the connection is the results from the calculation of each component of the connection. By installing the flange cleat, the connection capacity is increase. The effect of bottom flange cleat installation has improved the connection moment capacity from 17.11 kNm to 23.2 kNm. The future work to be recommended is to add one more flange cleat at the top of the connection between the cold-formed steel reinforced slab and column panel. It is recommended to make a sub-assembly frame specimen of the connection.

## Acknowledgment

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## Conflicts of interest

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

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**Sutanto Muliawan** is PhD student of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Sriwijaya University. He is lecturer in the Civil Engineering Department, Faculty of Engineering, Sriwijaya University, Indonesia. His research focuses on Foam Concrete, Cold-Formed Steel, and Light-weight

Construction  
Email: sutantomuliawan@yahoo.com



**Anis Saggaff** is a Professor in the Civil Engineering Department, Faculty of Engineering, Sriwijaya University, Indonesia. He received a Doktor in Civil Engineering from University Teknologi Malaysia. He is Rector of Sriwijaya University. His research focuses on Geopolymer Concrete, Nanomaterial Concrete, Lightweight Concrete, Reactive Powder Concrete, Self Compacting Concrete, Cold-Formed Steel, and Light-weight Construction.

Email: anissaggaf@yahoo.com



**Mahmood Md Tahir** is a lecturer in Institute for Smart Infrastructure and Innovative Construction (ISIIC), Construction Research Centre (CRC), School of Civil Engineering, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Johor Bahru, Malaysia. His research focuses on Lightweight Concrete, Cold-Formed Steel, and Light-weight Construction.

Email: mahmoodtahir@utm.my



**Saloma** is a lecturer in the Civil Engineering Department, Faculty of Engineering, Sriwijaya University, Indonesia. She received a Doktor in Civil Engineering from Institut Teknologi Bandung in 2014. She is Head of Graduate of Civil Engineering at Sriwijaya University. Her research focuses on Geopolymer Concrete, Nanomaterial Concrete, Lightweight Concrete, Reactive Powder Concrete, Self-Compacting Concrete, Cold-Formed Steel, and Light-weight Construction

Email: salomaunsri@gmail.com



**Muhammad Firdaus** is a lecturer in Civil Engineering Department, Faculty of Engineering, Universitas Persatuan Guru Republik Indonesia, Palembang, Indonesia. He received a Doktor in Civil Engineering from Sriwijaya University in 2019. His research focuses on Lightweight Concrete, Self

Compacting Concrete, Cold-Formed Steel, and Light-weight Construction.

Email: firdaus@univpgri-palembang.ac.id



**KM Aminuddin** is a lecturer in the Civil Engineering Department, Faculty of Engineering, Sriwijaya University, Indonesia. He received a Doktor in Civil Engineering from Sriwijaya University in 2019. His research focuses on Lightweight Concrete, Cold-Formed Steel, and Light-weight

Construction.

Email: kmaminuddin@ft.unsri.ac.id