

Lecture # 5.2

Cotter Joints-Spigot and Socket Type

2/4/2026

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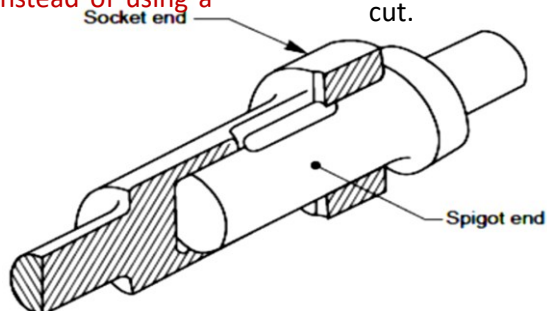
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Cotter Joints

Cotter Joint With Spigot & Socket End

This joint is used to fasten two circular rods. In this, the rod ends are modified instead of using a sleeve.

One end of the rod is formed into a socket and the other into a spigot and slots are cut.



After aligning the socket and spigot ends, a cotter is driven-in through the slots, forming the joint.

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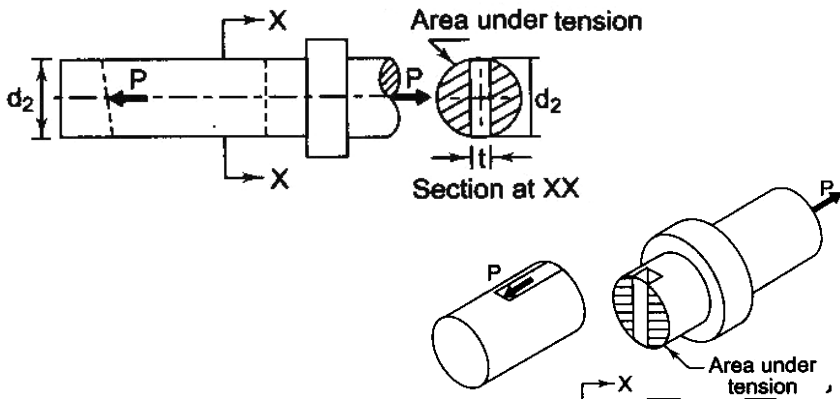
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Cotter Joints

2. Tension Failure of rod across slot

$$\left(\frac{\pi}{4} d_2^2 - d_2 t\right) \sigma_t = P$$



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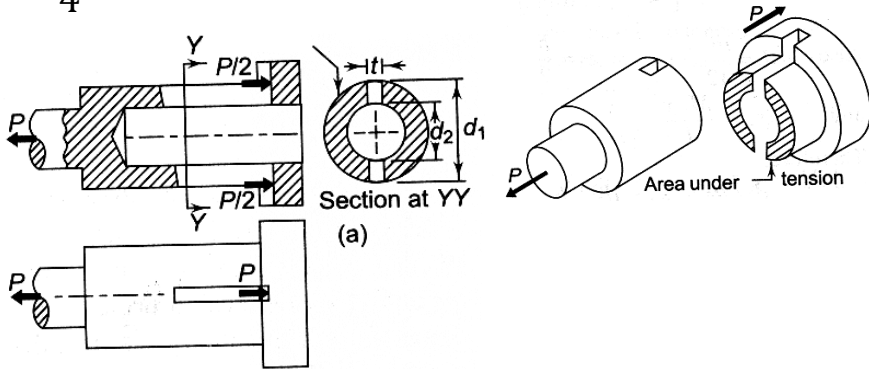
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Cotter Joints

3. Tension Failure of Socket across slot

$$\left\{ \frac{\pi}{4} (d_1^2 - d_2^2) - (d_1 - d_2) t \right\} \sigma_t = P$$



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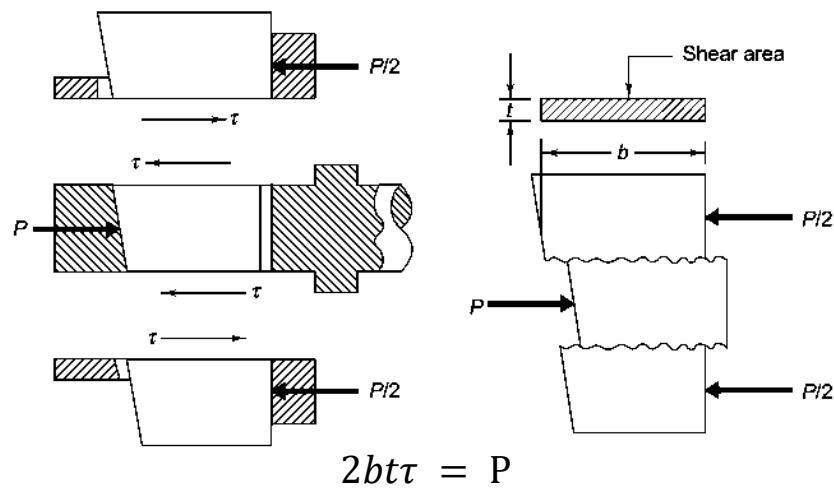
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Cotter Joints

4. Shear Failure of Cotter



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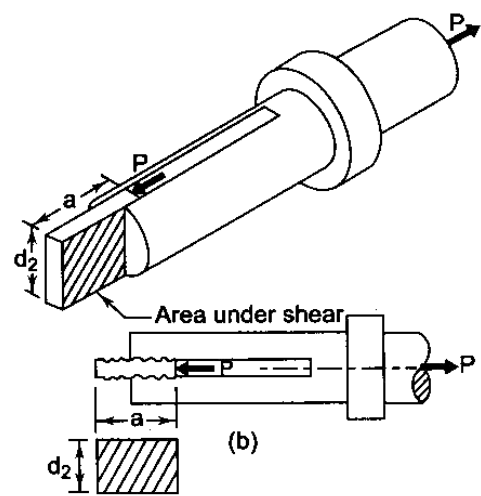
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5. Shear Failure of spigot rod end

$$2ad_2\tau = P$$



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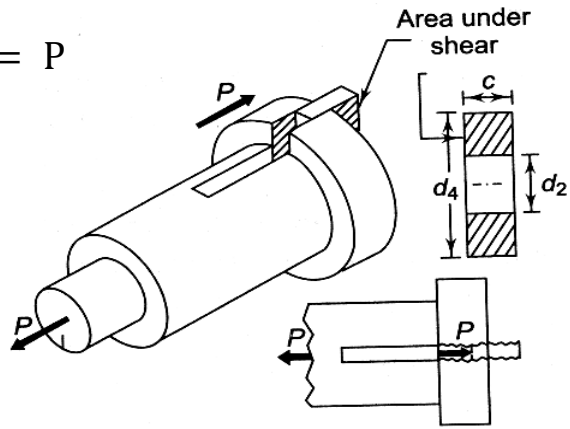
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6. Shear Failure of Socket end

$$2(d_4 - d_2)c\tau = P$$



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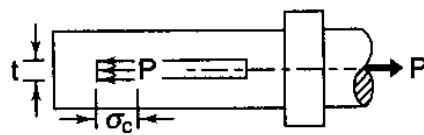
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7. Crushing Failure of rod or cotter

$$d_2 t \sigma_c = P$$



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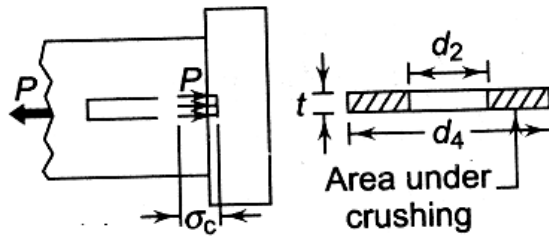
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Cotter Joints

8. Crushing Failure of socket or cotter

$$(d_4 - d_2)t\sigma_c = P$$



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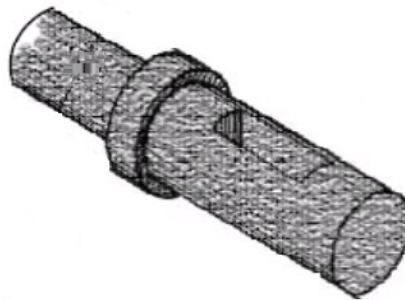
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Cotter Joints

9. Crushing Failure of collar of spigot and Socket

$$\frac{\pi}{4}(d_3^2 - d_2^2)\sigma_c = P$$



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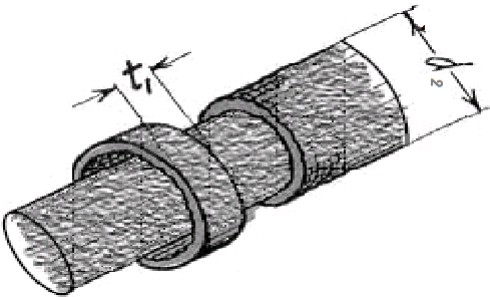
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10. Shear Failure of collar of spigot

$$(\pi d_2 t_1) \tau = P$$



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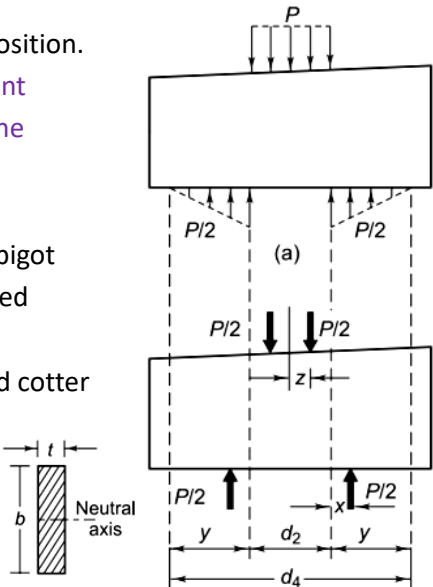
Cotter Joints

Cotters may bend when driven into position.

When this occurs, the bending moment cannot be correctly estimated since the pressure distribution is not known.

The force P between the cotter and spigot end is assumed as uniformly distributed over the length d₂.

The force between the socket end and cotter is assumed to be varying linearly from zero to maximum with triangular distribution.



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Cotter Joints

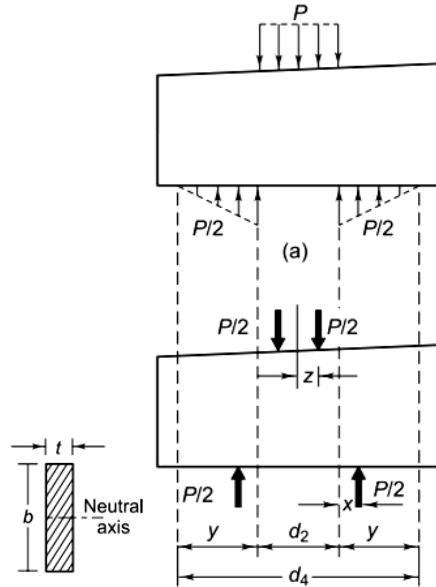
$$x = \frac{1}{3}y = \frac{1}{3}\left(\frac{d_4 - d_2}{2}\right) = \left(\frac{d_4 - d_2}{6}\right)$$

$$M_b = \frac{P}{2}\left[\frac{d_2}{2} + x\right] - \frac{P}{2}(z)$$

$$M_b = \frac{P}{2}\left[\frac{d_2}{2} + \frac{d_4 - d_2}{6}\right] - \frac{P}{2}\left[\frac{d_2}{4}\right]$$

$$M_b = \frac{P}{2}\left[\frac{d_2}{4} + \frac{d_4 - d_2}{6}\right]$$

$$M_b = \frac{P}{2}\left[\frac{d_2}{4} + \frac{d_4 - d_2}{6}\right]$$



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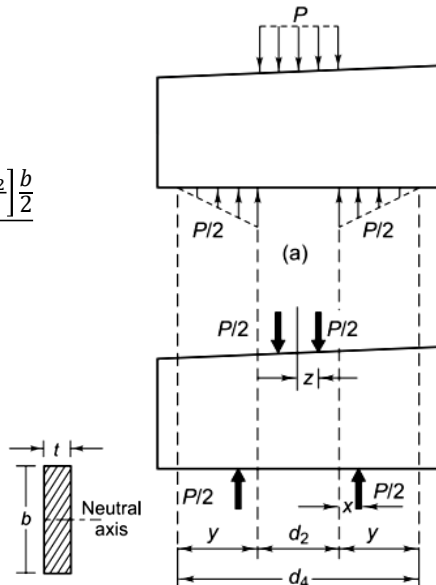
Cotter Joints

Also $I = \frac{tb^3}{12}$ $y = \frac{b}{2}$

And $\sigma_b = \frac{M_b y}{I}$

therefore $\sigma_b = \frac{\frac{P}{2}\left[\frac{d_2}{4} + \frac{d_4 - d_2}{6}\right]\frac{b}{2}}{\left(\frac{tb^3}{12}\right)}$

$$\sigma_b = \frac{3P\left[\frac{d_2}{4} + \frac{d_4 - d_2}{6}\right]}{tb^2}$$



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Cotter Joints

Tightening of cotter introduces initial stresses which are again difficult to estimate.

Sometimes therefore it is necessary to use empirical proportions to design the joint.

A design based on empirical relation may be checked using the formulae based on failure mechanisms.

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Cotter Joints

Problem 1

Two rod ends of a pump are joined by means of a cotter joints, making spigot & socket at the ends. Design joint for an axial load of 30 kN which is alternately tensile & compressive.

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References

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