LRFR Concrete Moment Redistribution Tutorial

Moment Redistribution in Three Span Spread PS Box Beam

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This example illustrates the effects of moment redistribution for Load and Resistance Factor Rating (LRFR) flexure rating of concrete structures (prestressed, post tensioned, and reinforced). Moment redistribution option is available in BrDR 7.5 for the MBE 3rd edition, with 2022 and 2023 specification interim updates.

Details, including flowcharts, about moment redistribution in concrete structures can be found in AASHTO LRFD LRFR Superstructure Method of Solution Manual accessible from the Help menu in BrDR.

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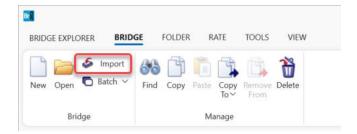
Topics Covered

- Bridge Model
- Analysis Settings
- Member Alternative Description Control options
- LRFR Rating
- Specification Check Detail
- LRFR Rating with Moment Redistribution
- Specification Check Detail with Moment Redistribution
- Moment Redistribution Report

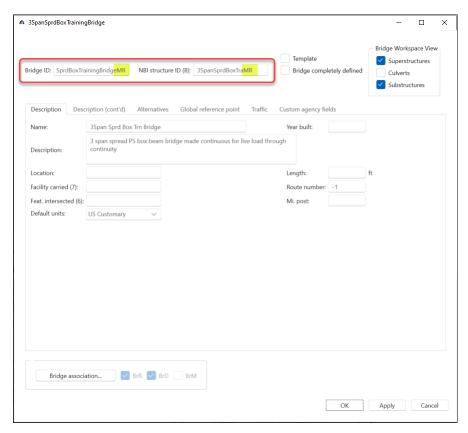
Last Modified: 11/2/2023

Bridge Model

This tutorial uses the bridge created from prestressed concrete structure tutorial PS2 with some minor modifications to satisfy moment redistribution requirements and to illustrate the impact of moment redistribution on rating. From the **Bridge Explorer** import the bridge given with the PS2 tutorial by selecting the **Import** option as shown below.



If information is displayed about the version of the imported file being different than the current version of the program, confirm by clicking **Yes** to have the imported file migrated to the current version of the program. In the **Bridge Description** window, which pops up after the bridge is imported, add MR (for Moment Redistribution) to **Bridge ID** and **NBI structure ID** to distinguish this bridge from the PS2 example bridge.

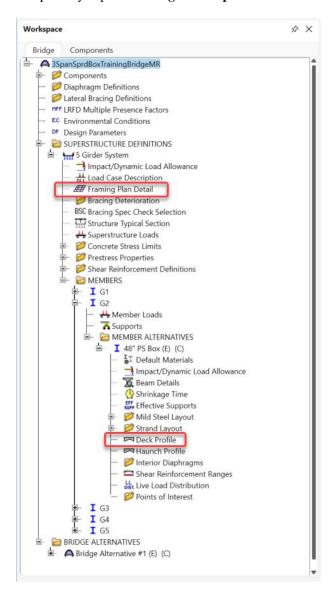


Click OK to close the Bridge Description window.

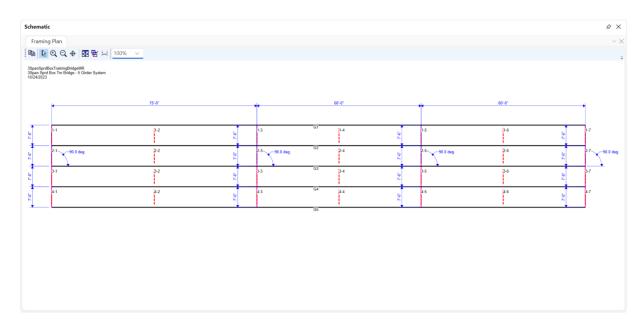


Save the imported bridge to the database using the **Save** button located on the **WORKSPACE** ribbon.

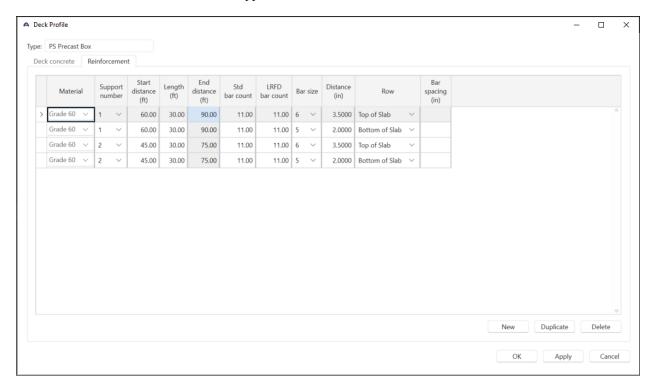
The partially expanded **Bridge Workspace** tree is shown below:



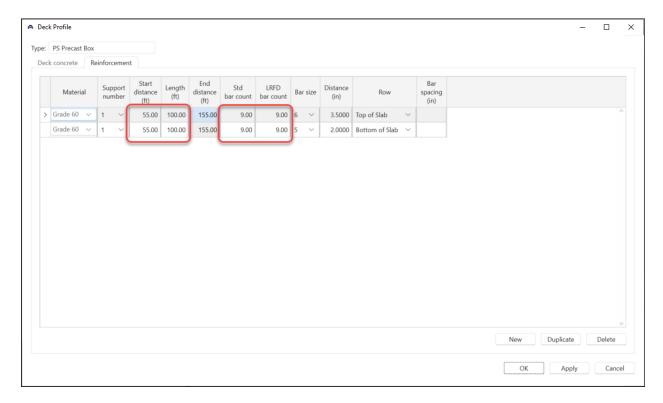
Right-click on the **Framing Plan Detail** and select **Schematic** to display the Framing Plan schematic showing a three span girder system with five girders and span lengths of 75.0, 60.0, and 60.0 ft.



Double-click on the **Deck Profile** tree item to open the **Deck Profile** window and go to the **Reinforcement** tab. The reinforcement data imported from the PS2 example consists of two sets of top and bottom reinforcement that extend 15 ft in each direction over each interior support as shown here:



Delete the last two rows and modify start distance, length, and bar counts in the first two rows as shown below:



Deleting the last two rows and changing the start distance and length simplifies the reinforcement layout from two separate sets of top and bottom reinforcement over each internal support to one set of top and bottom reinforcement. The modified reinforcement now starts 20 ft before the first internal support in Span 1 and continues to pass over to Span 2 and then 20 ft after the second internal support into Span 3. This change is required to satisfy the moment redistribution requirements for reinforcement extension and termination which will be discussed later in the tutorial. The purpose of reducing bar counts is to decrease the flexure rating factors over interior supports and to examine whether applying moment redistribution helps to offset the reduction.

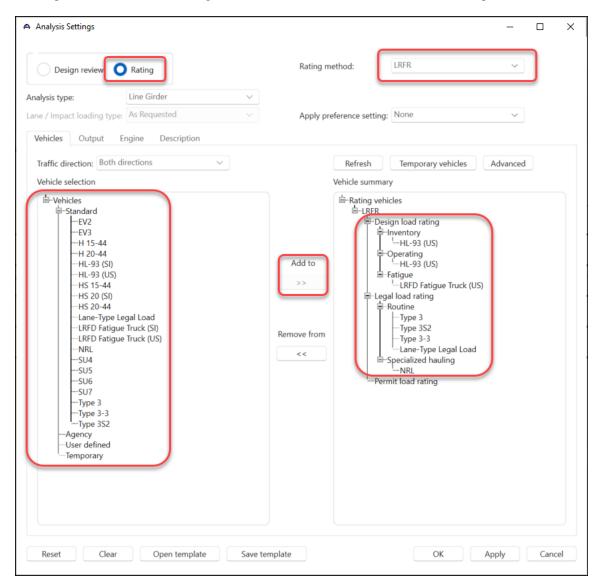
Analysis Settings

To select rating vehicles and rating levels, open the **Analysis Settings** window by clicking the **Analysis Settings** button on the **Analysis** group of the **DESIGN/RATE** ribbon.



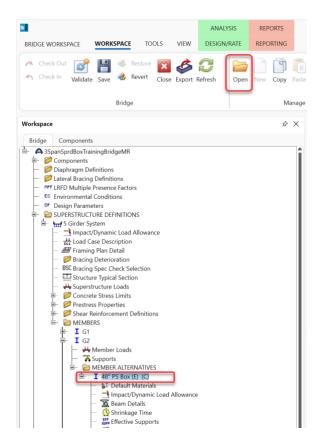
In the **Analysis Settings** window, select **Rating** and **LRFR** as the **Rating Method**. Then assign vehicles from the **Vehicle selection** tree on the left to the rating levels under the **Vehicle summary** tree on the right as shown in the screenshot below. The assignment is done in three steps. First clicking on a rating level, next by clicking on a vehicle,

and then by clicking on the **Add to** button. To assign multiple vehicles to the same level, only the last two steps need to be repeated. Also, double-clicking on a vehicle has the same effect as the last two steps.

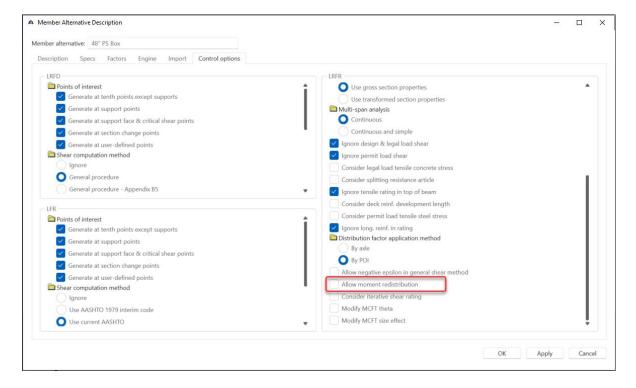


Member Alternative Description – Control options

Navigate to the **48" PS Box Member Alternative** of member **G2**, double click on it (or click the **Open** button from the **WORKSPACE** ribbon) to open its **Member Alternative Description** window.



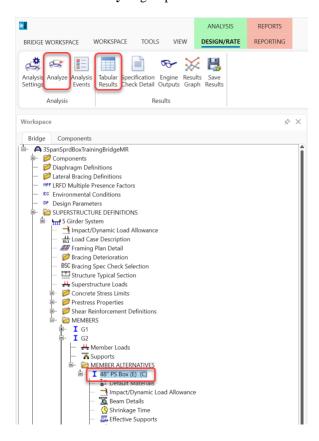
Navigate to the **Control options** tab where the option to allow moment redistribution is located as shown below.



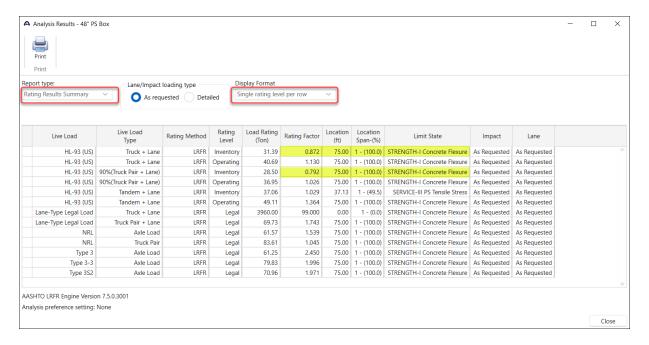
This option will be toggled to compare ratings without and with moment redistribution. The first analysis will be without moment redistribution so make sure the option is unchecked and click the **OK** button to apply the data and close the window.

LRFR Rating

To perform the rating select the **48" PS Box** member alternative in **Bridge Workspace** tree and click the **Analyze** button on the **Analysis** group of the **DESIGN/RATE** ribbon.

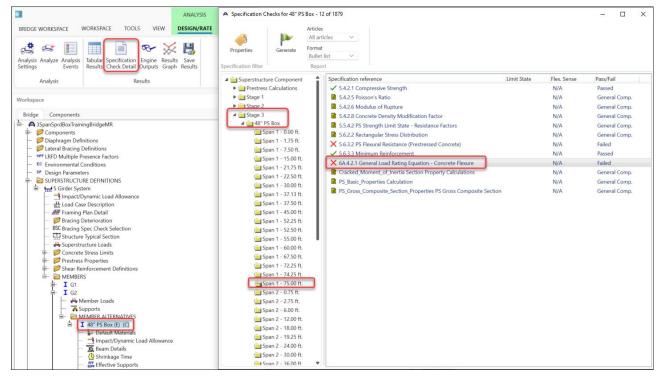


After the analysis is complete, click the **Tabular Results** button to display the ratings. Select **Rating Results Summary** as the **Report Type** and **Single rating level per row** as the **Display Format** option to have the ratings arranged as shown below. Notice there are two ratings less than 1.0 and they both happen due to flexure at first interior support location at 75.00 ft for the STRENGTH-I limit state.



Specification Check Detail

The ratings displayed in the **Rating Results Summary** come from the rating specification articles that are processed during analysis. All specification check articles can be reviewed by clicking the **Specification Check Detail** button on the **Results** group of the **DESIGN/RATE** ribbon which opens the **Specification Check** window as shown below.



To review the flexure ratings at the 75.0 ft location, navigate to the **Stage 3** specification check detail for the analyzed member alternative, select the **Span 1** - **75.00 ft** point of interest, and then double-click on article **6A.4.2**

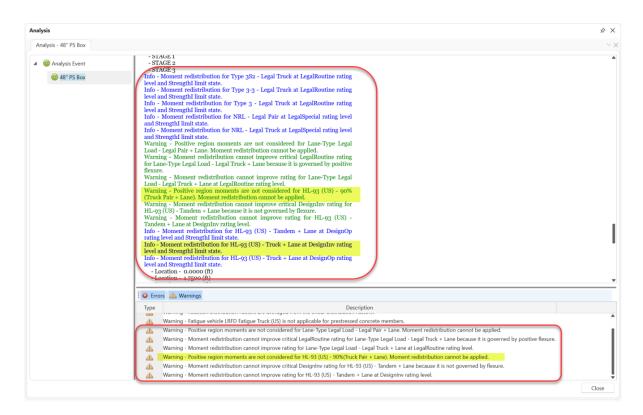
General Load Rating Equation – Concrete Flexure. This opens the Spec Check Detail window (see Figure 1) which shows the details of how the ratings were calculated. It is worth noting that since moment redistribution was not considered, the moment increments (DeltaM) for dead plus adjacent vehicle load (DL+AdjLL) and primary vehicle with impact (LL+I) are not available and they do not affect the rating factors (RF).



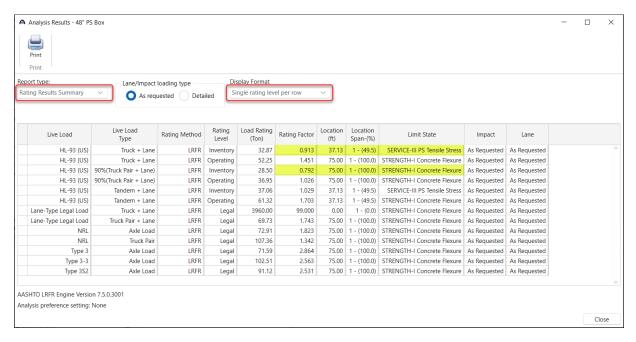
Figure 1 – 6A.4.2.1 Concrete Flexure General

LRFR Rating with Moment Redistribution

Select the control option to allow moment redistribution as shown in Member Alternative Description – Control options and rerun the analysis as shown in LRFR Rating. During analysis with the moment redistribution allowed, the program displays information and warnings about applying moment redistribution to the bending moments for the considered live load types. As shown in the screenshot below, moment redistribution was applied to the HL-93 – Truck + Lane vehicular load and the load rating for this load may improve. For the HL-93 – 90% (Truck Pair + Lane) load, however, moment redistribution could not be applied which means load rating for this load will not improve.

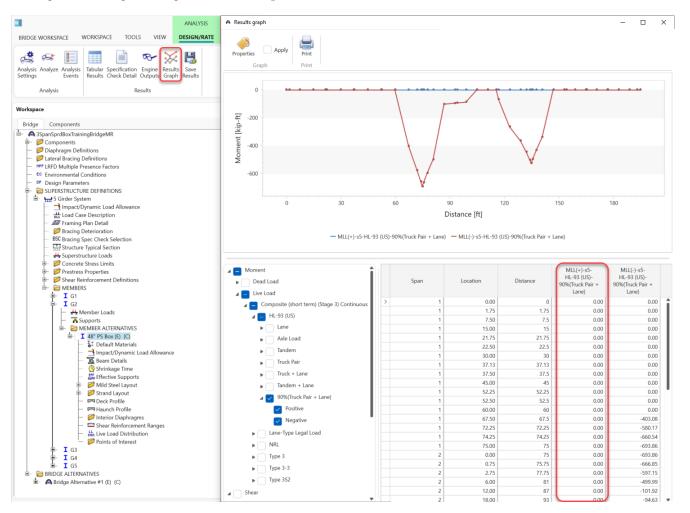


The new **Rating Results Summary** with moment redistribution allowed is as shown below and it can be observed that the critical rating factor for the HL-93 Truck + Lane load at inventory level increased with moment redistribution to 0.913 from 0.872 without moment redistribution. However, the new factor is now at a different location and due to SERVICE-III PS Tensile Stress and not due to STRENGTH-I Concrete Flexure. This means that tensile stress now controls for this load combination and the rating factor due to flexure is even higher which will be verified by reviewing the flexure rating article in <u>Specification Check Detail with Moment Redistribution</u>.



The for the HL-93 – 90% (Truck Pair + Lane) load at the inventory level, moment redistribution could not be applied, and the rating remained the same at 0.792. This is because moment redistribution reduces negative moments over supports at the expense of increasing positive midspan moments. Since vehicular loads consisting of truck pair and lane load are only considered for negative bending moments, it is not possible to determine the increase of positive midspan moments and moment redistribution cannot be applied.

To confirm that only negative moments are considered for the HL-93-90% (Truck Pair + Lane) load, display the bending moment diagram using the **Results Graph** window as shown below.



Specification Check Detail with Moment Redistribution

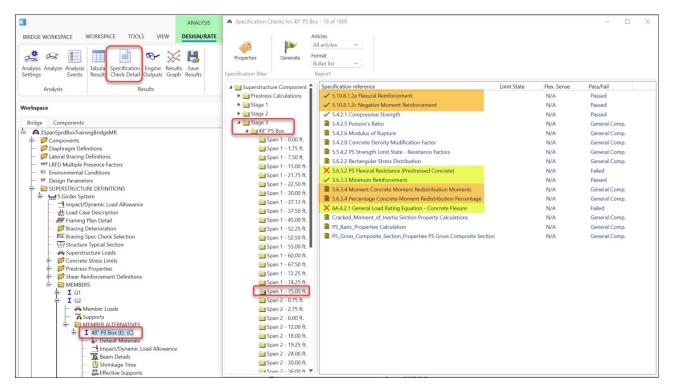
When the control option to allow moment redistribution is selected by the user, the program processes the following additional spec check articles during analysis:

- 5.10.8.1.2a Flexural Reinforcement (in negative moment regions)
- 5.10.8.1.2c Negative Moment Reinforcement (at support locations)
- 5.6.3.4 Moment Redistribution Percentage (at support locations)
- 5.6.3.4 Maximum Allowable Moment Redistribution Moments (at support locations)

As described in AASHTO LRFD LRFR Superstructure Method of Solution Manual, these articles (highlighted in orange in the screenshot below) check if requirements for applying moment redistribution are satisfied and determine the maximum value of moment redistribution that can occur at support locations. Based on the support values and the redistribution optimization procedure, moment increments (denoted DeltaM) are interpolated at each POI between supports and applied to bending moments in the following spec check articles (highlighted in yellow in the screenshot below):

- 5.6.3.2 Flexural Resistance
- 5.6.3.3 Minimum Reinforcement
- 6A.4.2.1 General Load-Rating Equation Concrete Flexure

Open each of the highlighted articles and review their contents.



To verify that the flexure load rating factor increased for HL-93 Truck + Lane load at inventory level, open the article titled **6A.4.2.1 General Load-Rating Equation – Concrete Flexure** (see Figure 2). On the second row in the table, the rating factor is now 1.120 which is an increase of 0.248 (28%) from the initial value of 0.872. This increase is due to the DeltaM moment increments which are the result of moment redistribution.

Since moment redistribution does not apply to the HL-93 – 90% (Truck Pair + Lane) vehicle, the DeltaM values for that vehicle are not calculated and its rating factor at the inventory level stayed the same at 0.792 with and without

moment redistribution.

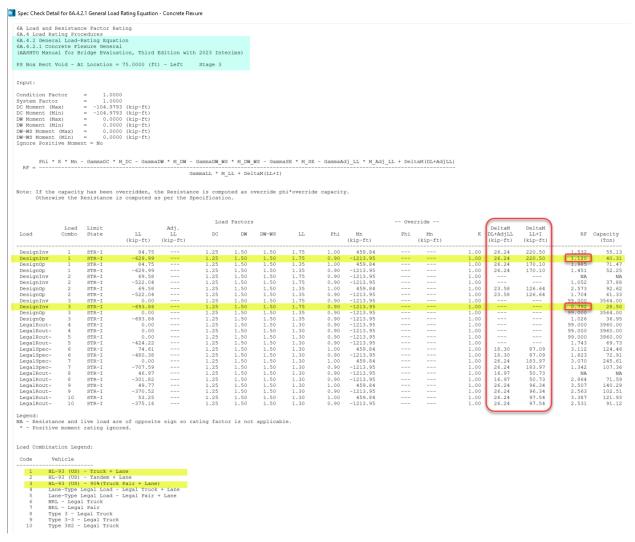


Figure 2 – 6A.4.2.1 General Load-Rating Equation – Concrete Flexure

The flexural resistance article (see Figure 3) is also affected by moment redistribution through moment increments DeltaMu. For HL-93 Truck + Lane load at inventory level, the Mr/Mu ratio with moment redistribution is equal to:

$$\frac{M_r}{M_u} = \frac{-1092.55}{-1233.71 + 246.74} = 1.107$$

which is an increase from the ratio without moment redistribution that is equal to:

$$\frac{M_r}{M_u} = \frac{-1092.55}{-1233.71} = 0.886$$

In negative moment regions, moment redistribution can potentially increase flexure rating factor and design ratios, but it is worth remembering that in positive moment regions the rating factors and design ratios may decrease due to moment redistribution as the moment increments DeltaM will increase the positive moments.

The design ratios for the HL-93 – 90% (Truck Pair + Lane) vehicle as moment redistribution does not apply to this vehicle and DeltaMu increments are not calculated.

The increments are also not calculated for any load combination under the SER-III limit state because moment redistribution applies only to the strength limit states.

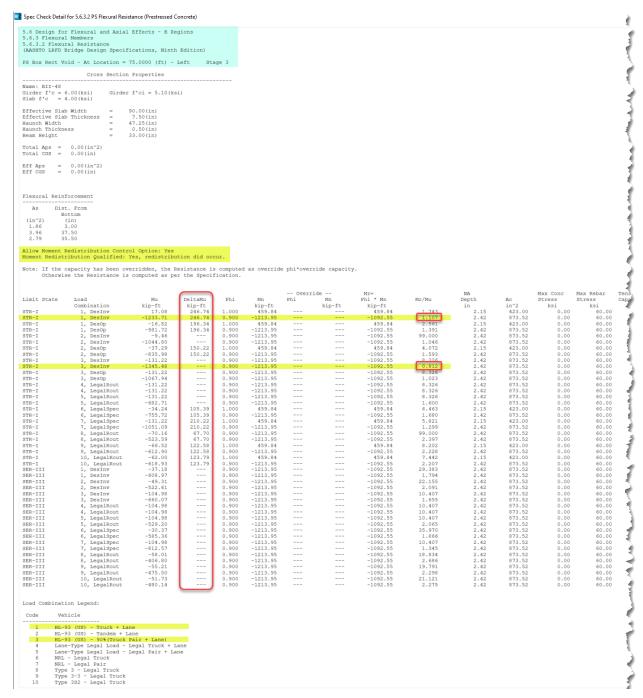


Figure 3 – 5.6.3.2 Flexural Resistance

One more spec check article affected by moment redistribution is the minimum reinforcement article (see Figure 4). When moment redistribution is applied to Mu through the DeltaMu increment, the Mr/MrMin ratio may change if MrMin is governed by Mr2 which in turn is equal to 1.33 Mu.

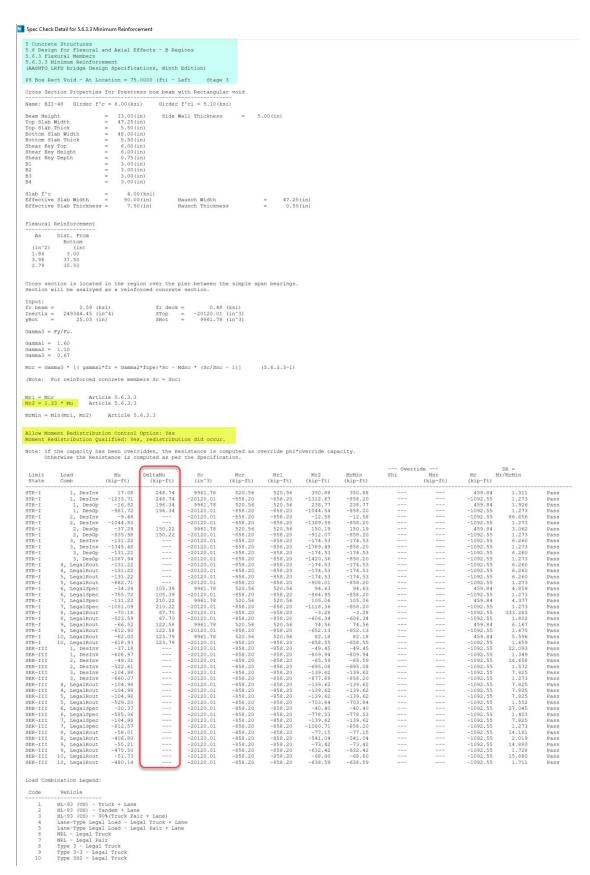


Figure 4 – 5.6.3.3 Minimum Reinforcement

All spec check articles affected by moment redistribution are related to flexure only because moment redistribution does not apply to shear effects. In the bridge model considered in this tutorial, shear effects are ignored, and no shear related articles are shown but even if shear was not ignored and shear articles were processed, they would not be affected by moment redistribution.

The additional spec check articles processed only when the moment redistribution is allowed by the user are shown in Figure 5 through Figure 8. Open each article and review its contents.

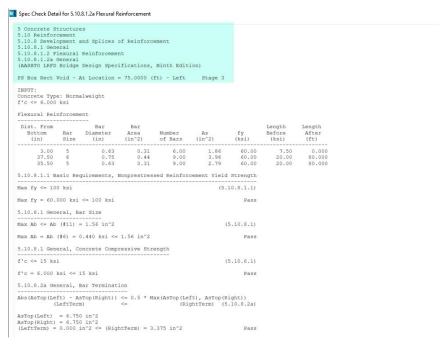


Figure 5 – 5.10.8.1.2a Flexural Reinforcement

The articles shown in Figure 5 and Figure 6 check several reinforcement requirements that must pass for moment redistribution to be applied. For instance, in the negative moment reinforcement article (Figure 6), the required length of the reinforcement on the right side of the first interior support is calculated to be 28.881 ft which is almost half of the 60.0 ft span between interior supports. Since the reinforcement in the imported bridge model extended only 15.0 ft from the support, the reinforcement length had to be adjusted. Otherwise, the length check would fail, and redistribution would not be applied at all.

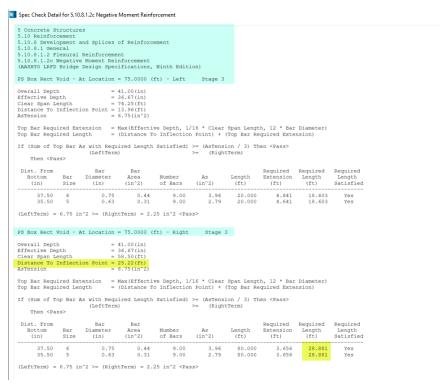


Figure 6 – 5.10.8.1.2c Negative Moment Reinforcement

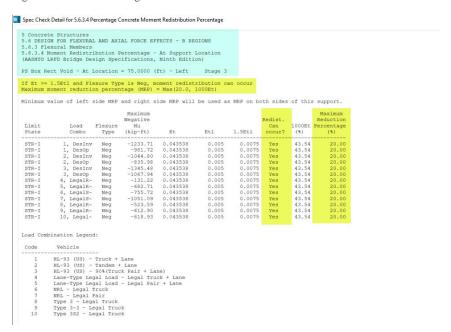


Figure 7 – 5.6.3.4 Moment Redistribution Percentage

In the moment redistribution percentage article (Figure 7), strain requirements are checked to determine if moment redistribution can be applied. Also, the maximum percentages of moment reduction at supports are calculated. Based on the percentages, the maximum moment increments (DeltaM) at supports are calculated in the maximum allowable moment redistribution moments article (Figure 8).

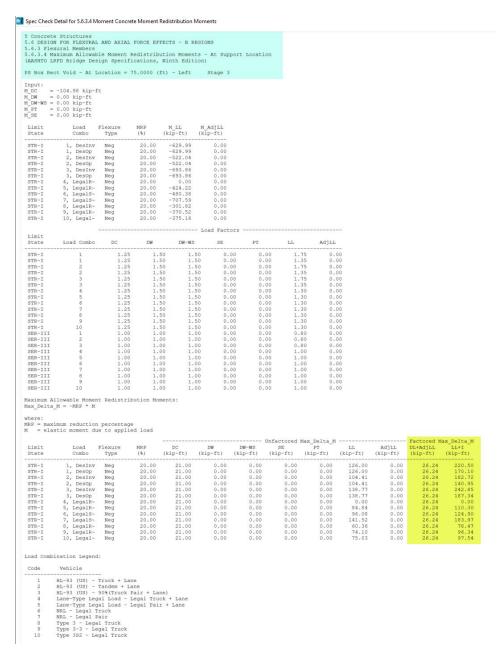
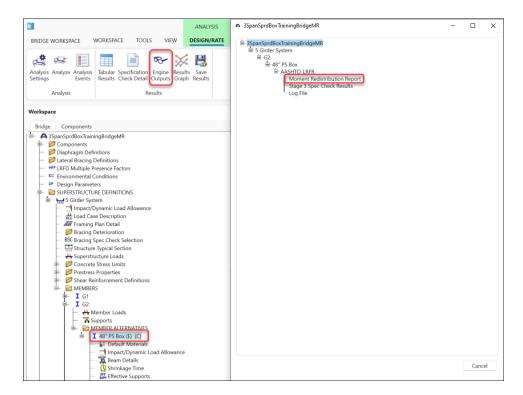


Figure 8 – 5.6.3.4 Maximum Allowable Moment Redistribution Moments

The actual amount of moment redistribution applied for each vehicle is reported in the **Moment Redistribution Report** discussed in the next section.

Moment Redistribution Report

Detailed information about the amount of moment redistribution applied for each vehicle at each location and how moment redistribution affects the flexure rating factors is available in the **Moment Redistribution Report**. To view the report, click on the **Engine Output** button located on the **Results** group of the **DESIGN/RATE** ribbon and then double-click on the **Moment Redistribution Report** item in the tree showing the available engine output files as shown in the screenshot below.



The report is a text file, and it will be open in the default text viewer. The format of the report file is shown in Figure 9 and Figure 10 which include locations from the first span for selected vehicles. Highlighted in the figures are the controlling rating factors before and after moment redistribution, and the percentages of applied moment redistribution at the first interior supports.

For the HL-93 Truck + Lane vehicle (Figure 9), the applied redistribution percentage at Support 2 (first interior support) is 20% which is equal to the maximum redistribution percentage. This is because even when the maximum redistribution percentage is applied, the minimum negative flexure rating factor is still smaller than the positive flexure rating factor, so it is beneficial overall to apply as much redistribution as allowed.

On the other hand, for the Type 3 Legal Truck vehicle (Figure 10), the applied redistribution percentage at Support 2 (first interior support) is 12.93% which is smaller than the maximum redistribution percentage of 20%. This is because if the maximum redistribution percentage was applied the minimum positive flexure rating factor would become smaller than the negative flexure rating factor. In other words, too much redistribution would be applied and the detrimental effect of moment redistribution in the positive flexure would exceed the beneficial effect in negative flexure. In such cases, the program attempts to optimize the amount of applied moment redistribution by reducing the applied redistribution percentages at supports so that the rating factors in positive and negative flexure after moment redistribution are equal. Reducing the applied redistribution percentage to 12.93% achieves this goal and both positive and negative flexure rating factors after moment redistribution are equal to 2.864 which is an increase of 0.414 (16.9%) from the controlling negative flexure rating factor before moment redistribution of 2.450.

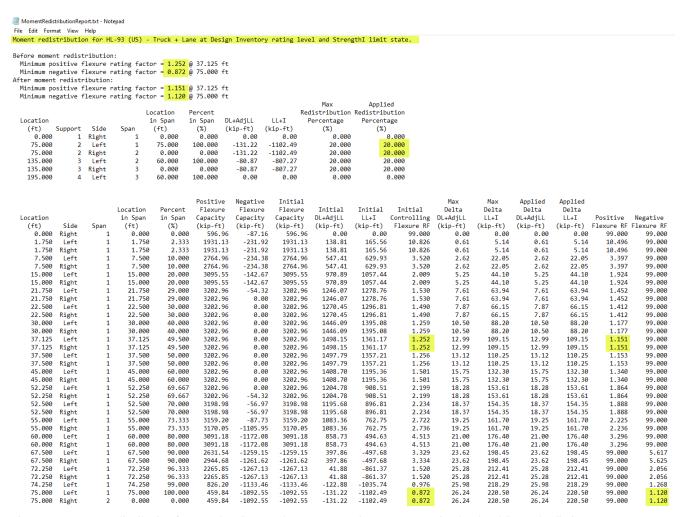


Figure 9 - Moment redistribution for HL-93 (US) - Truck + Lane at Design Inventory rating level and Strength I limit state

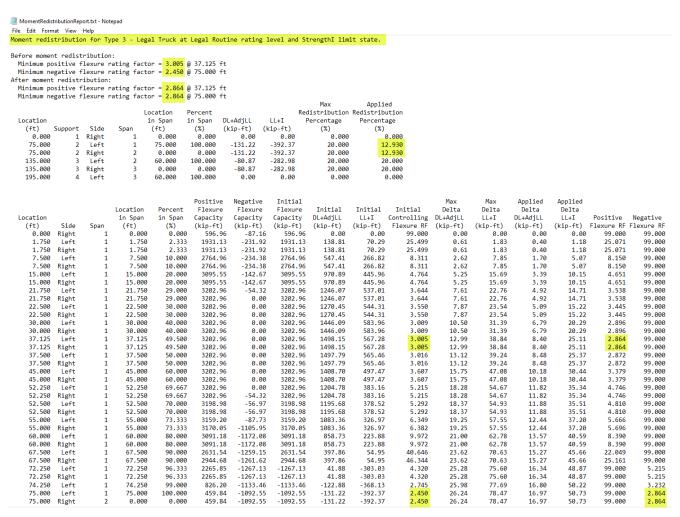


Figure 10 - Moment redistribution for Type 3 - Legal Truck at Legal Routine rating level and Strength I limit state