

8-14. A 26-ft column consists of four steel angles laced together. The cross-section is shown in the figure. The column is pin connected at both ends. Each of these angles has an area of $A = 3.75 \text{ in}^2$, and moments of inertia of $I_x = I_y = 2.7 \text{ in}^4$. If an axial load $P \sim N\left(3 \times 10^5, (4 \times 10^4)^2\right) \text{ lb}$ is applied to the column, and the modulus of elasticity follows $E \sim N\left(29 \times 10^6, (2 \times 10^6)^2\right) \text{ psi}$, determine the distribution of the critical axial buckling load. Also, determine the probability of buckling. Assume that E and P are independent.

(Ans. $P_{cr} \sim N\left(5.72 \times 10^5, (3.95 \times 10^4)^2\right) \text{ lb}$, $p_f = 6.4261 \times 10^{-7}$)

