


# Structural Design for Residential Construction

**Cynthia Chabot, P.E.**

**Chabot Engineering**

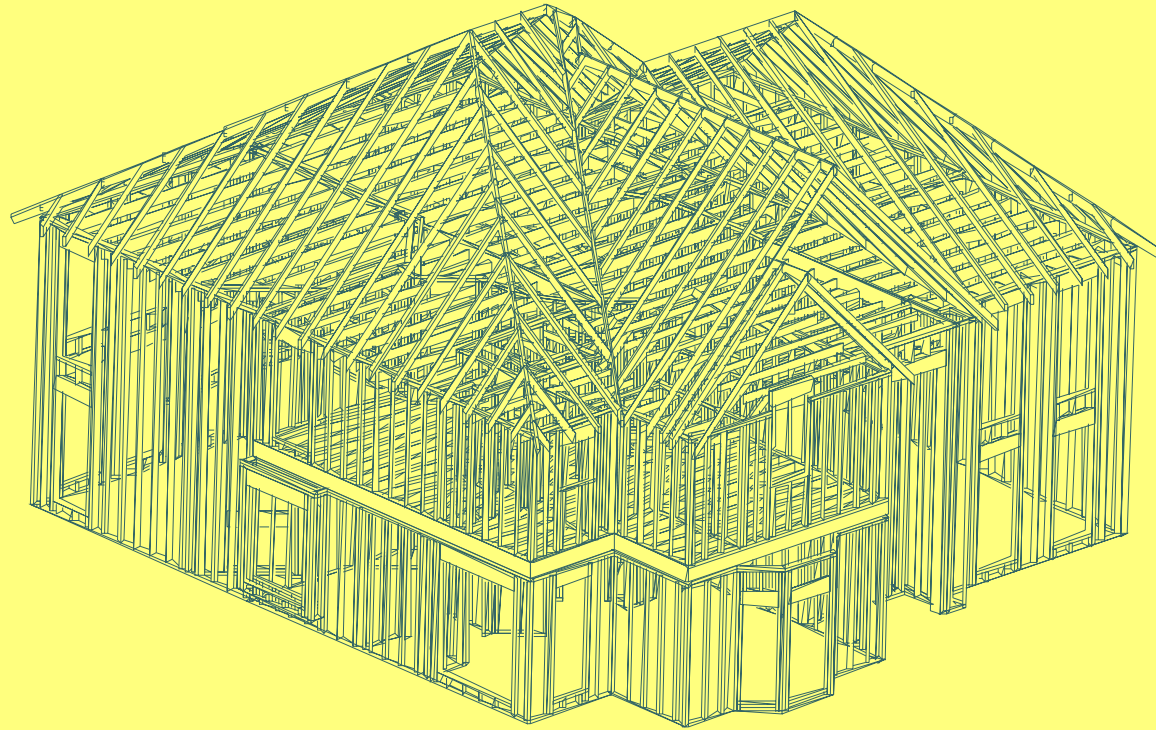
[www.chabotengineering.com](http://www.chabotengineering.com)



# What is residential construction?

- One and two family dwellings
- Typically wood framed construction in this part of the world

# What does a structural engineer typically do?




- Analyze load paths to ensure they go down to a foundation
- Connections – connections – connections
- Roof, floor, and wall assemblies
- Beams, columns, headers
- Lateral load resisting system (diaphragms, shear walls, collectors, struts, anchorage, overturning analysis)
- Footings/foundations

# What does a structural engineer typically not do?

- Land surveying
- Geotechnical engineering
- Layout of rooms
- Room sizes, ceiling heights
- Egress, ventilation & lighting
- Stairway geometry
- Mechanical, electrical, & plumbing
- Fire protection
- Energy efficiency
- Permitting

# Gray areas

- Chimneys
- Moisture protection
- Termite mitigation
- Drainage



# All you need to know about structure

- Equal and opposite forces
- What is up must come down
- The wind will always blow it over

# Code Requirements

- Building Codes:
  - CT: BOCA National Building Code 1996/IRC 2003
  - MA: State Building Code, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition (Ch. 36, 1&2 family dwellings)
  - NH: IBC 2000/1&2 family dwellings per town
  - RI: IBC 2003/IRC 2003
  - VT: BOCA National Building Code
- Minimum standard
- Residential code – prescriptive vs. engineered

# Parts of structure

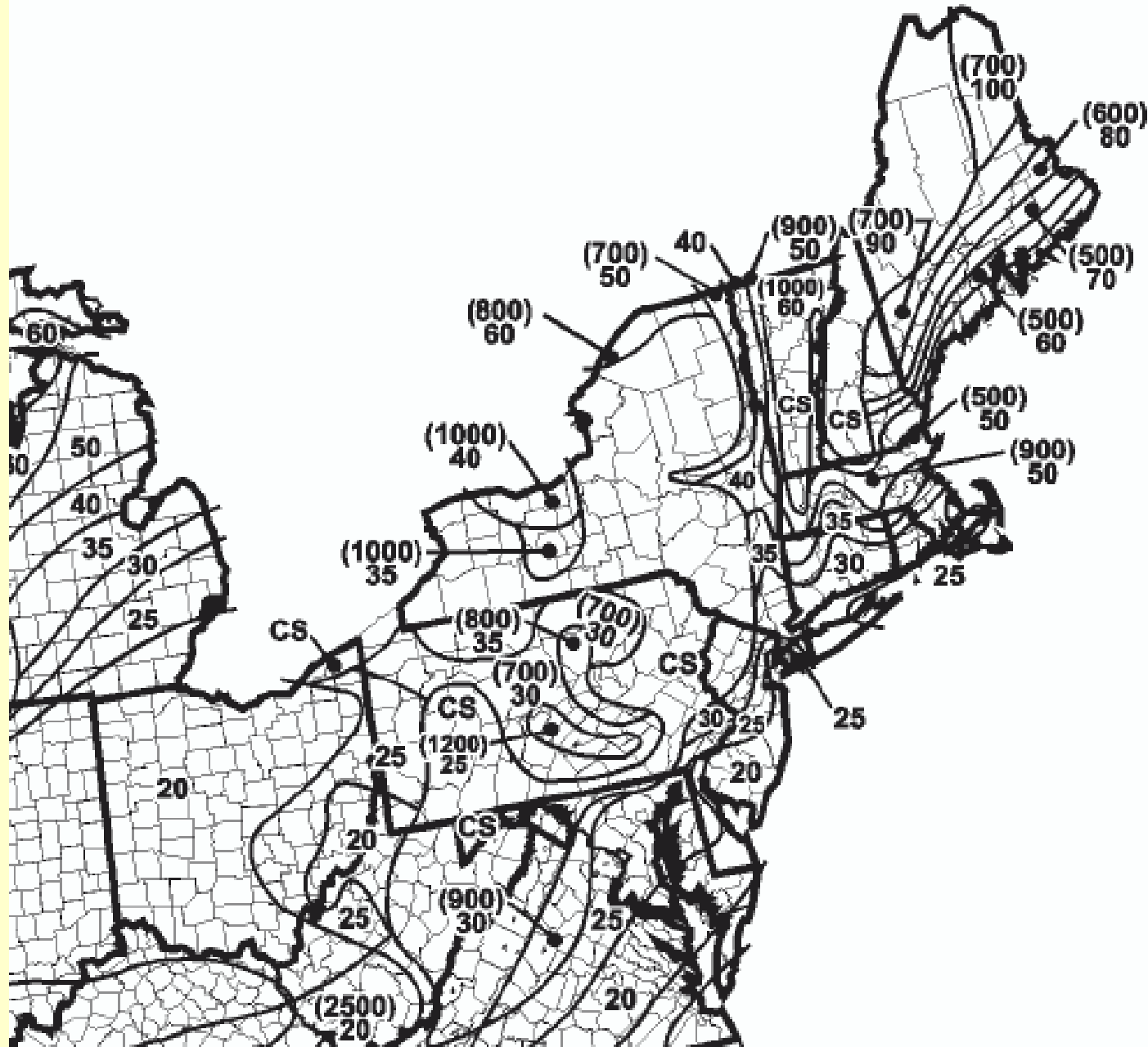
- Connections, connections, connections
- Beams, columns, headers
- Diaphragms, shear walls, collectors, struts, anchorage (lateral force resisting system)
- Foundations to hold it all up
- Soil is part of the structure too



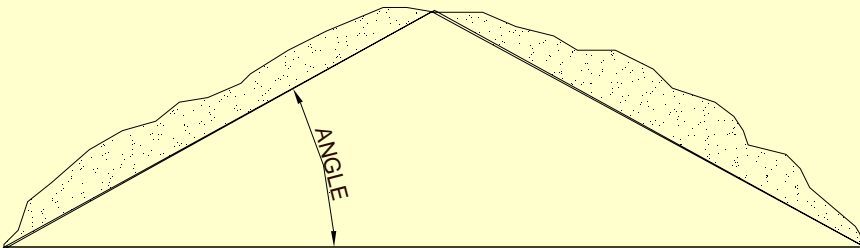
# What we don't use as part of the structure

- We do not use the plywood as a T beam to increase the capacity of the joists – instead the plywood is the diaphragm to transfer lateral loads to shearwalls
- Interior partitions (excluding center bearing wall) are dead loads only
- The gypsum board inside is dead load
- Interior walls not used to resist horizontal forces from wind.

# Ground Snow Loads



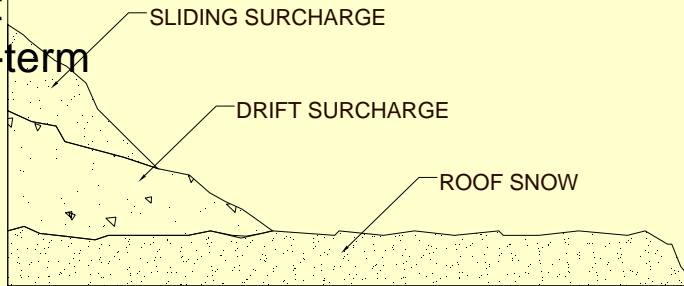
# Snow Loads



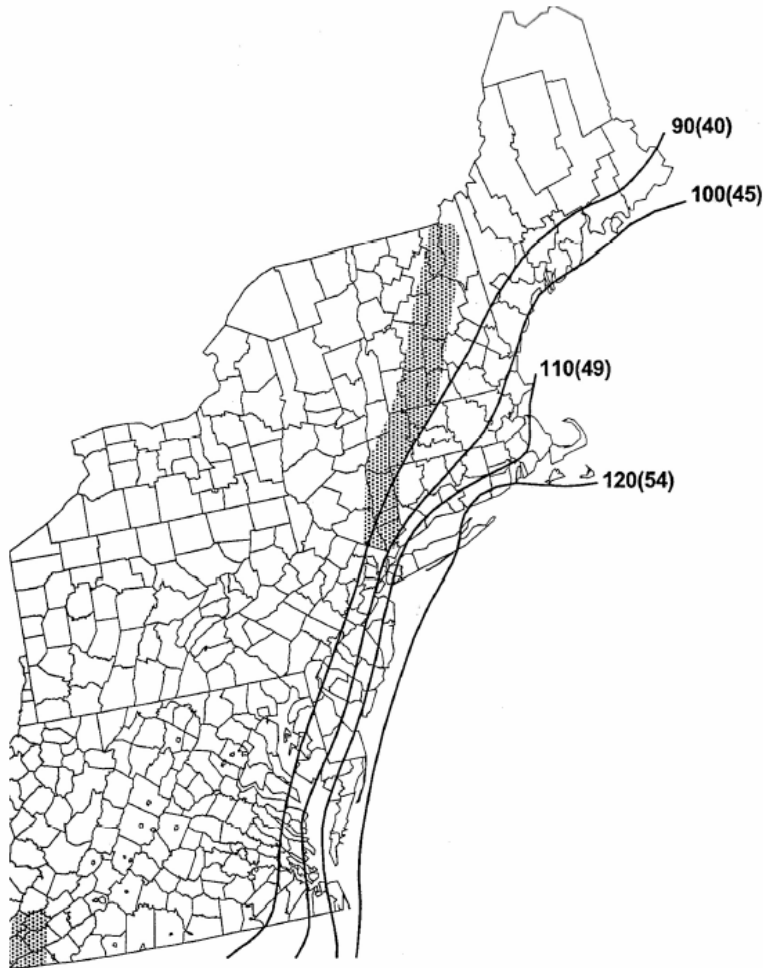
Note a 15% increase in the allowable capacity of wood for loads that include snow, which is a short-term load

<u>Slope</u>	<u>C<sub>s</sub></u>
<u>7/12</u>	<u>0.99</u>
<u>8/12</u>	<u>0.91</u>
<u>9/12</u>	<u>0.83</u>
<u>10/12</u>	<u>0.75</u>
<u>11/12</u>	<u>0.69</u>
<u>12/12</u>	<u>0.63</u>

Note that roofs exceeding an angle of 30 degrees may reduce the ground snow load.



# Wind Loads



Zone	$V_{30}$ (mph)
1 (Western Mass.)	70
2 (Central Mass.)	80
3 (Eastern Mass.)	90

Table 1611.3, Wind velocity “fastest mile”  
30 feet above the ground, exposure C  
Mass. State Code, 6<sup>th</sup> Ed.

## Reference wind pressures

Zone	Pressure (psf)
1 (Western Mass.)	12
2 (Central Mass.)	17
3 (Eastern Mass.)	21

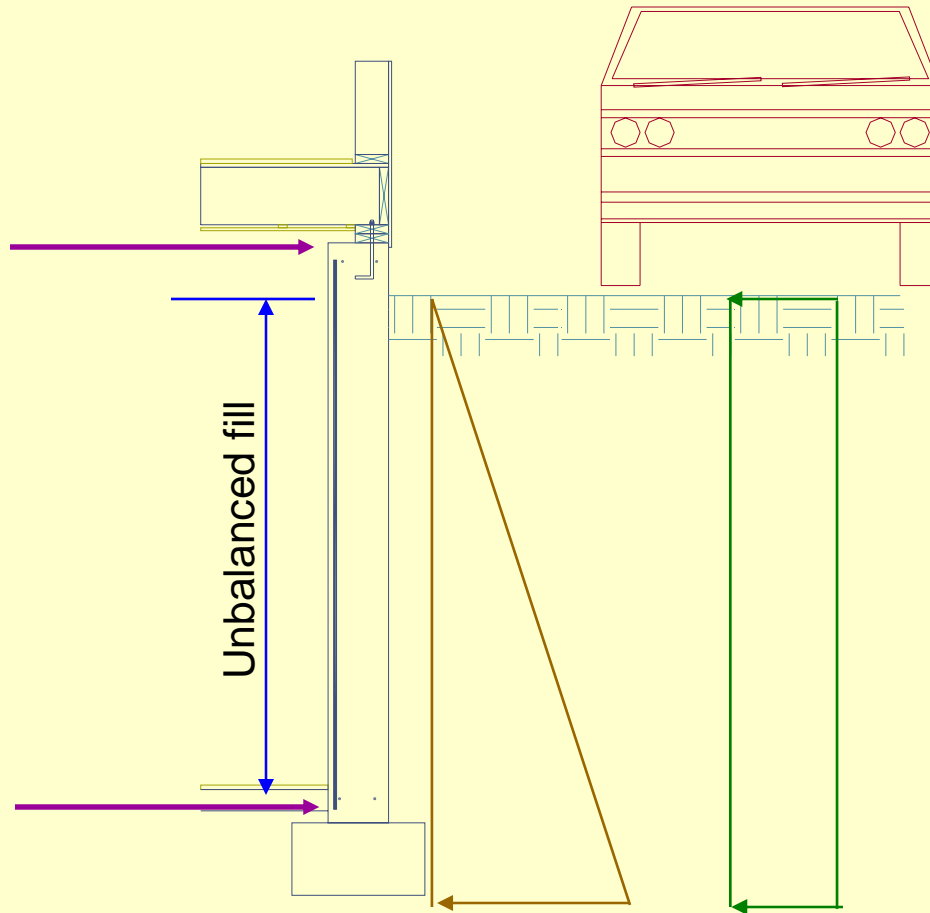
TABLE 1609.3.1  
EQUIVALENT BASIC WIND SPEEDS<sup>a,b,c</sup>

$V_{3S}$	85	90	100	105	110	120	125	130	140	145	150	160	170
$V_{fm}$	70	75	80	85	90	100	105	110	120	125	130	140	150

3-second gust  
Fastest mile

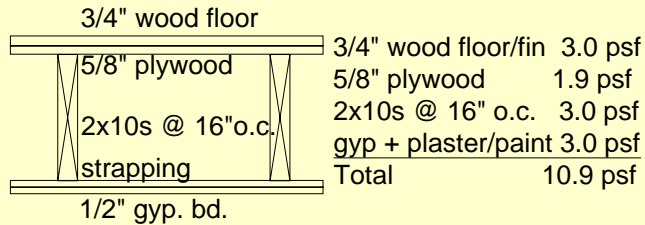
Above, Figure 1609, Basic Wind Speed (3-second gust), 33 feet above ground, exposure C  
IBC 2003

# Soil and Surcharge



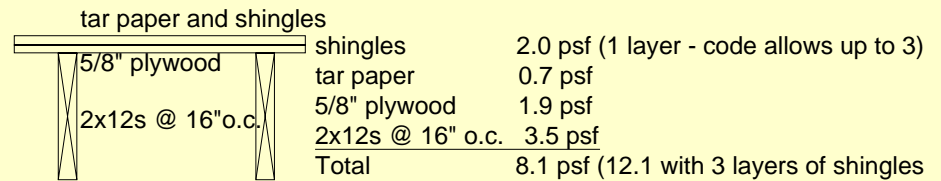
Seismic??

# Dead Loads



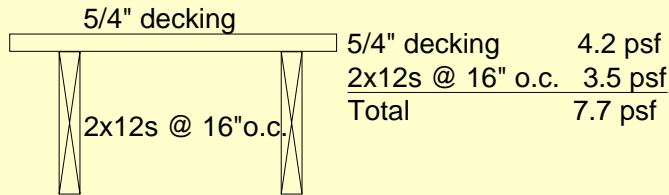
3/4" wood floor/fin	3.0 psf
5/8" plywood	1.9 psf
2x10s @ 16" o.c.	3.0 psf
<u>gyp + plaster/paint</u>	<u>3.0 psf</u>
Total	10.9 psf

FLOOR



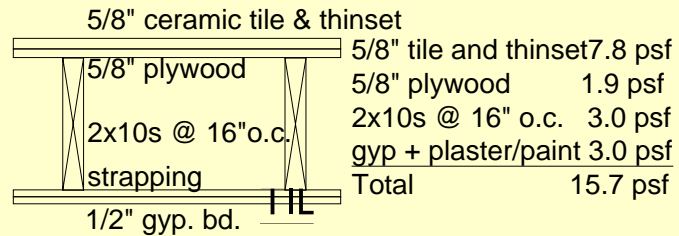
shingles	2.0 psf (1 layer - code allows up to 3)
tar paper	0.7 psf
5/8" plywood	1.9 psf
2x12s @ 16" o.c.	3.5 psf
Total	8.1 psf (12.1 with 3 layers of shingles)

ROOF  
(unfinished below)



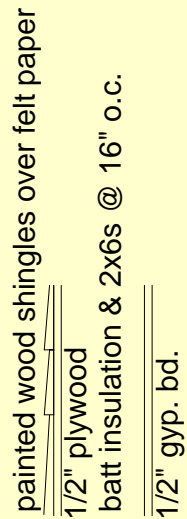
5/4" decking	4.2 psf
2x12s @ 16" o.c.	3.5 psf
Total	7.7 psf

DECKING



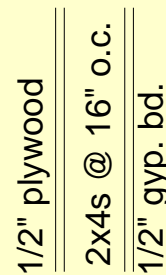
5/8" tile and thinset	7.8 psf
5/8" plywood	1.9 psf
2x10s @ 16" o.c.	3.0 psf
<u>gyp + plaster/paint</u>	<u>3.0 psf</u>
Total	15.7 psf

TILE FLOOR



wood shingles	2.0 psf
felt paper	1.0 psf
1/2" plywood	1.7 psf
2x6s @ 16" o.c.	1.7 psf
batt insul.	0.5 psf
<u>gyp + plaster/paint</u>	<u>3.0 psf</u>
Total	10.9 psf

EXTERIOR WALL

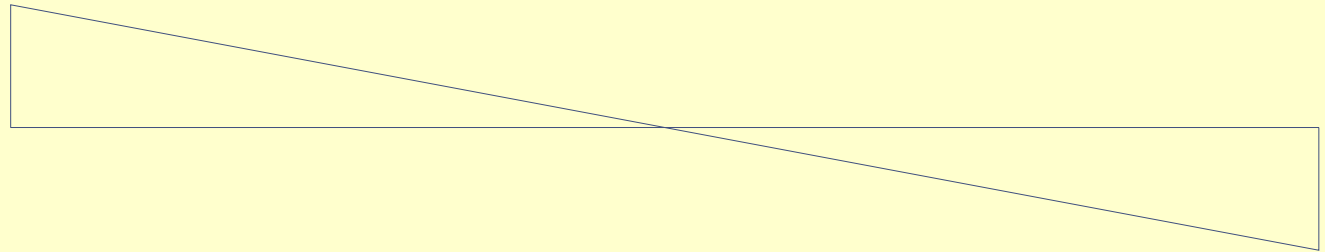
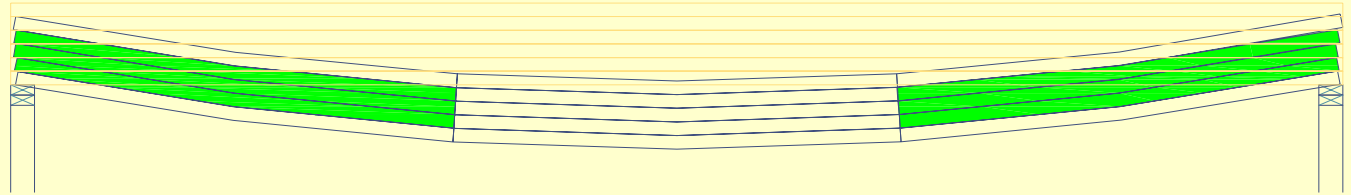


gyp + plaster/paint	3.0 psf
2x4s @ 16" o.c.	1.1 psf
<u>gyp + plaster/paint</u>	<u>3.0 psf</u>
Total	7.1 psf

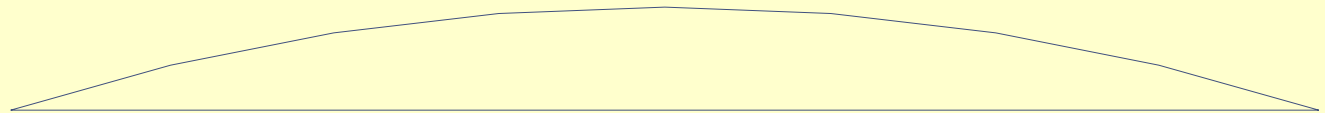
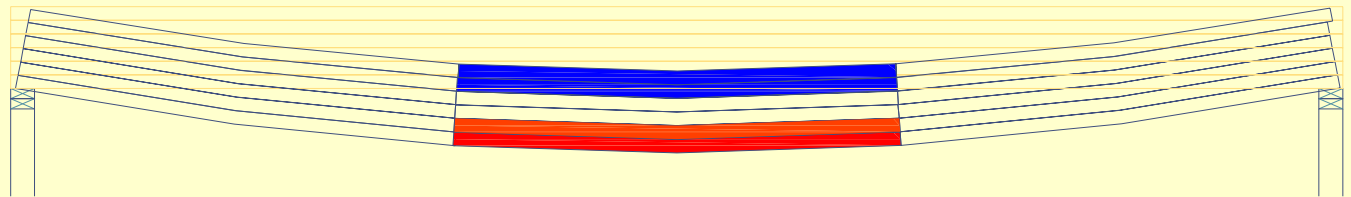
INTERIOR WALL

# BEAMS

Shear

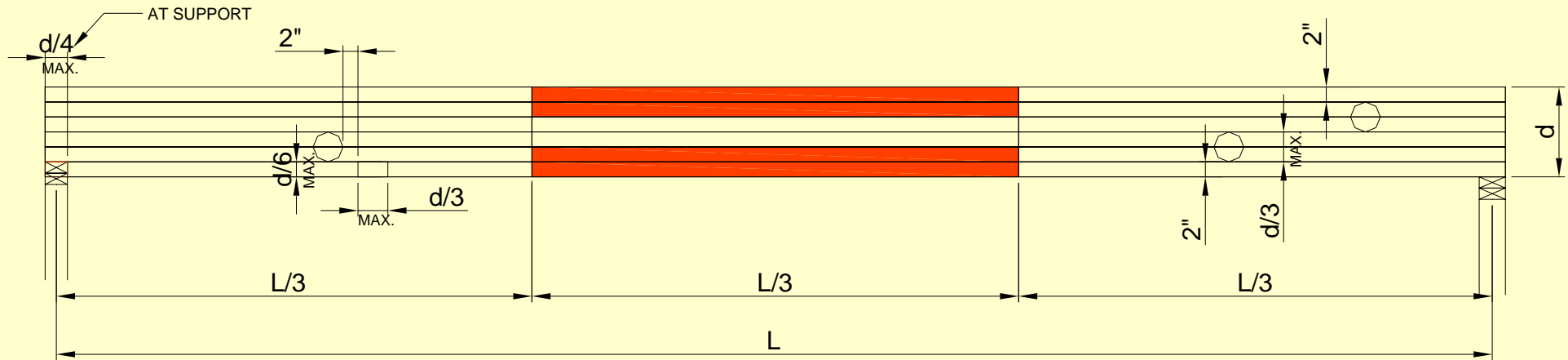


Bending

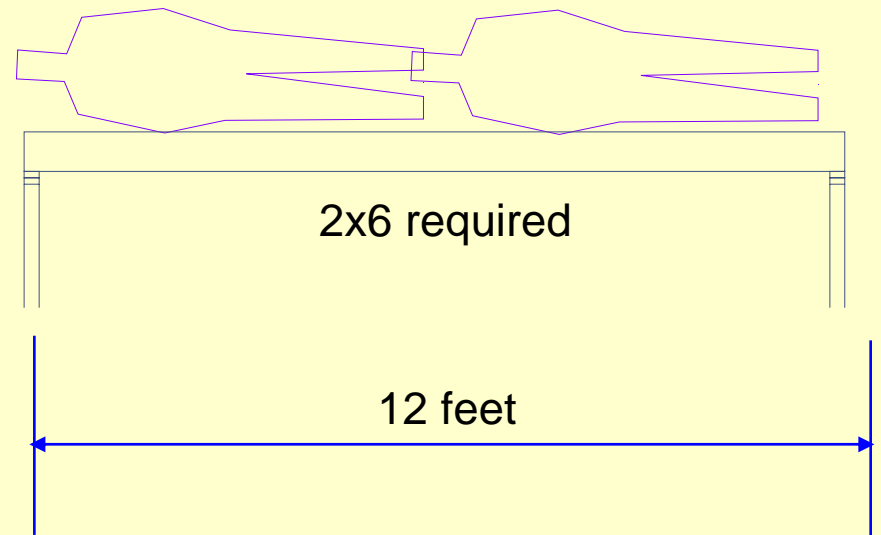
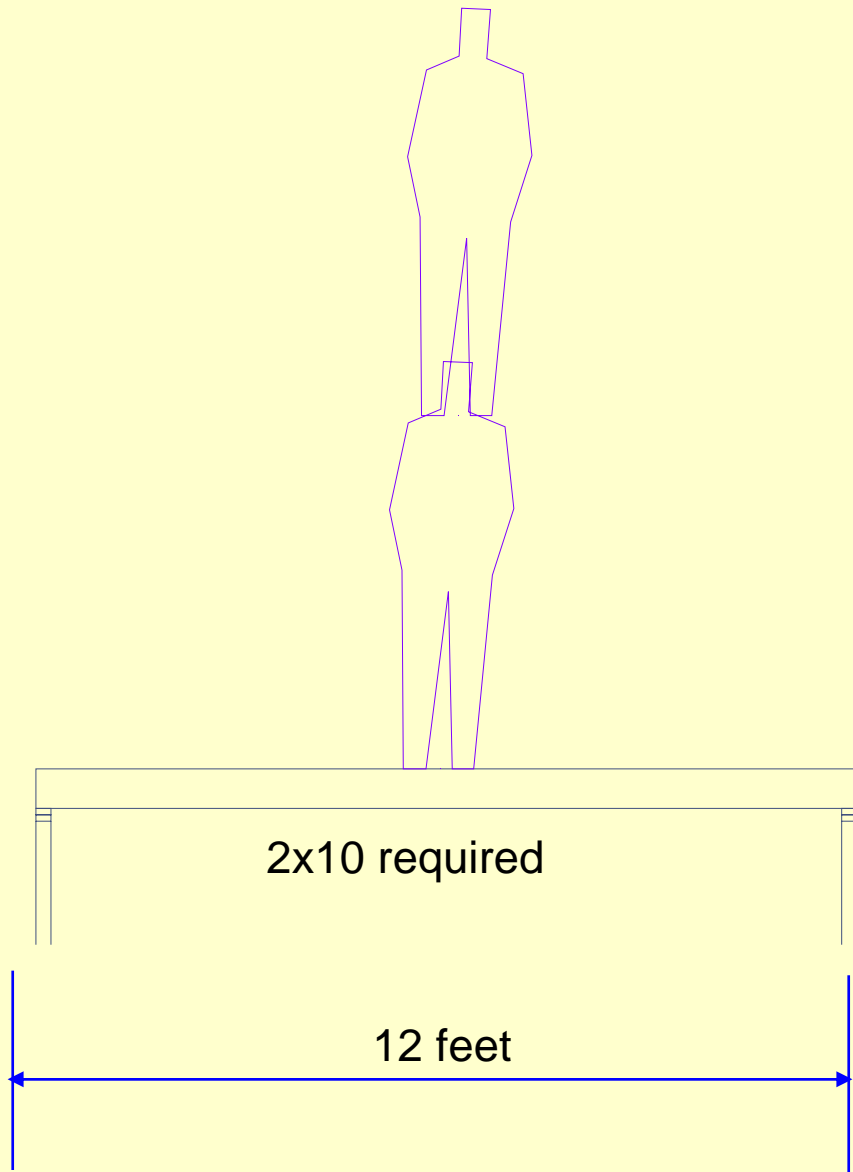




# Notching and Boring



# CONCENTRATED vs UNIFORM LOAD





# LESSON LEARNED

Uniform loads ...

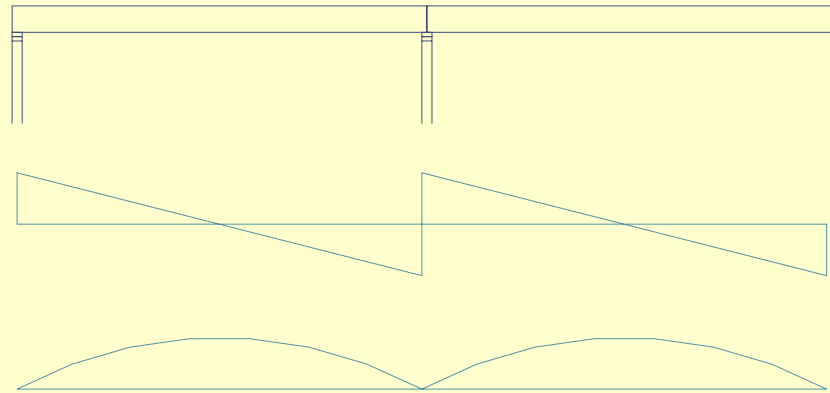
good

Concentrated loads ...

more of a challenge

# SIMPLY SUPPORTED vs CONTINUOUS OVER SUPPORTS

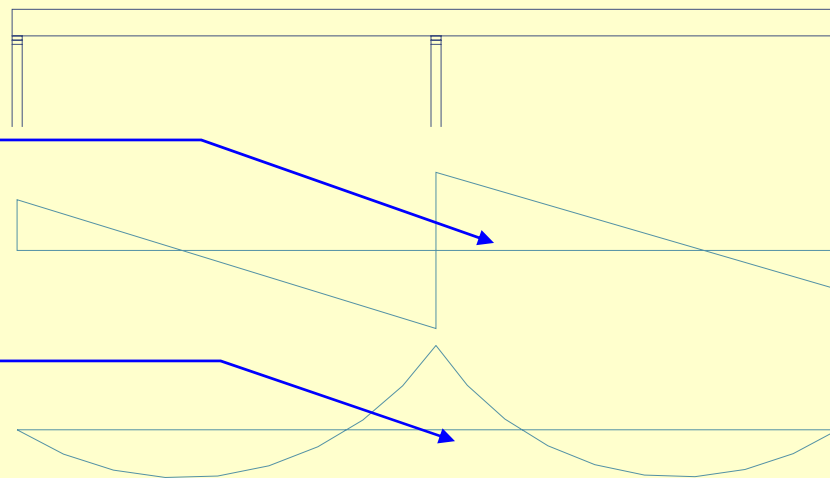
2 simply supported beams



Shear diagram

Moment diagram

1 long beam spanning over center column



Higher shear stress and reaction to column compared to simple span

Shear diagram

Stress reversal; compression at the top, tension at the bottom

Moment diagram

# Restraint against twisting & lateral stability

Aspect ratio,  $d/b$

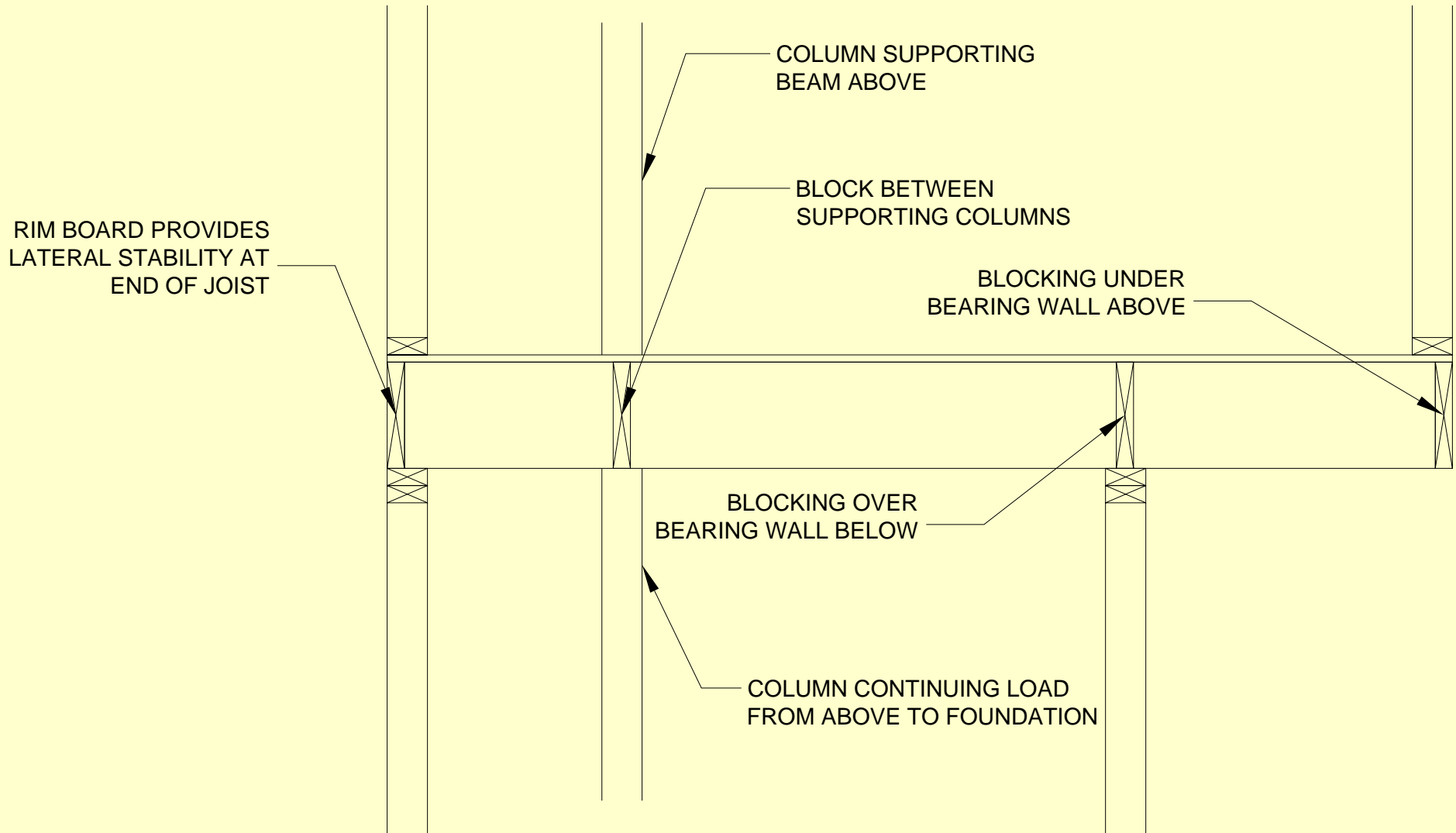


Aspect ratios of common beam sizes:

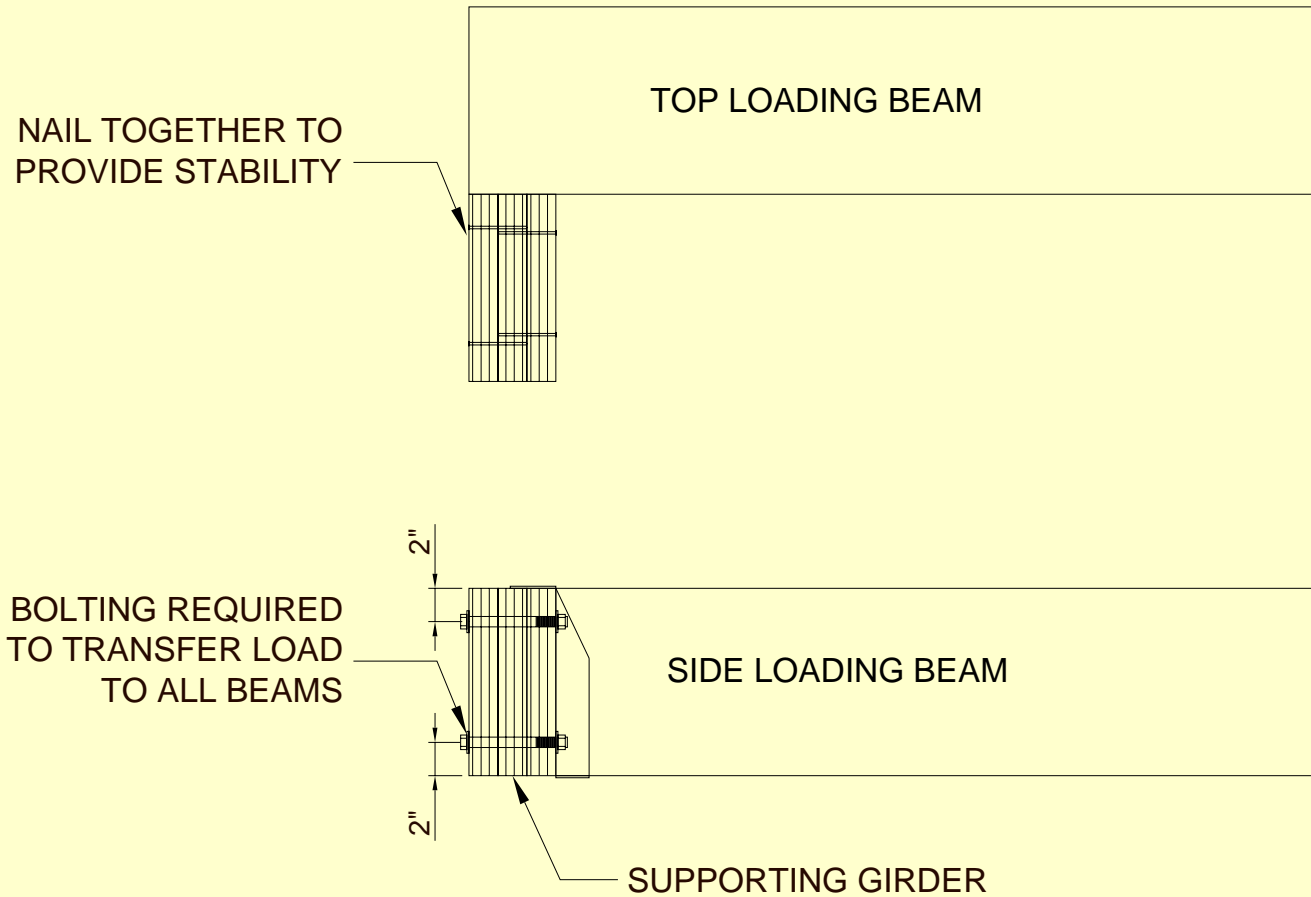
	Single	Double	Triple
2x6	3.7	1.8	1.2
2x8	4.8	2.4	1.6
2x10	6.2	3.1	2.1
2x12	7.3	3.8	2.5
2x14	8.8	4.4	2.9

- $d/b \leq 2$  no lateral support required
- $2 < d/b \leq 4$  ends held in position
- $5 < d/b \leq 6$  laterally restrain ends and at intervals along length of less than 8ft. and compression edge held in position with sheathing
- $6 < d/b \leq 7$  laterally restrain ends both compression and tension sides shall be supported for the entire length.

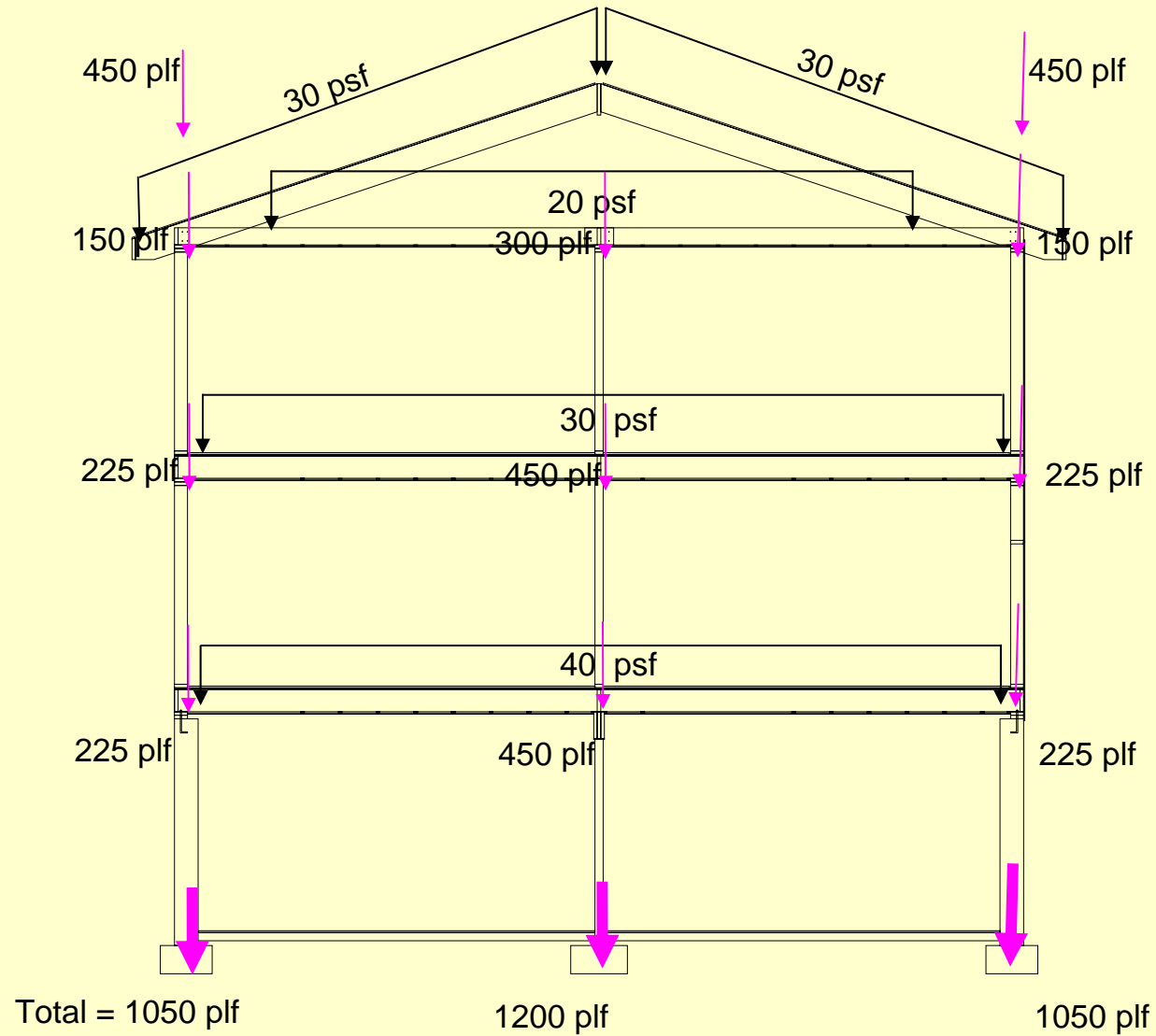
# Blocking



# Connections of multiple LVLs

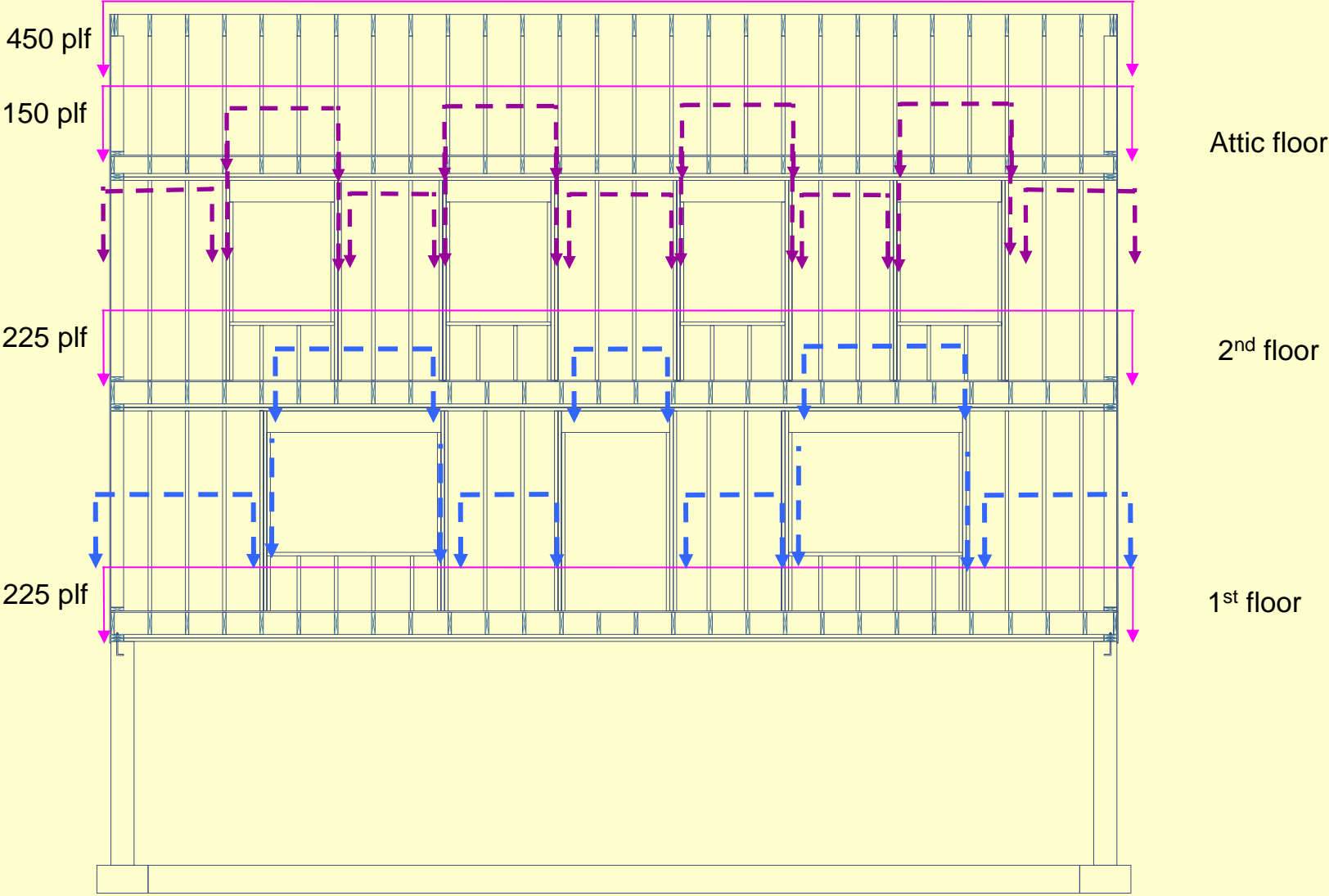


# Follow the load path due to gravity



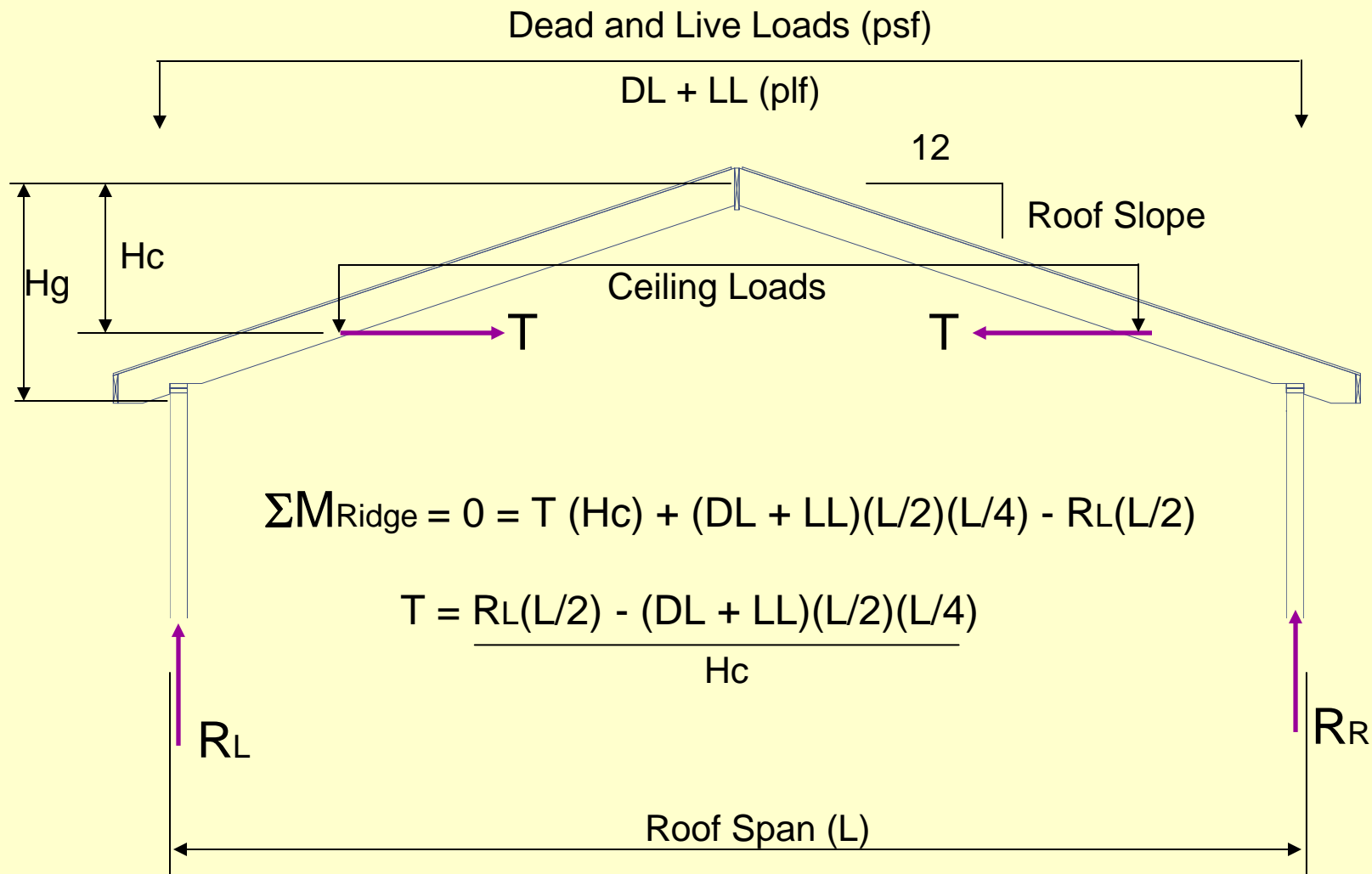


# Follow the load path due to gravity





# Rafter/Ceiling Joist Heel Joint Connection



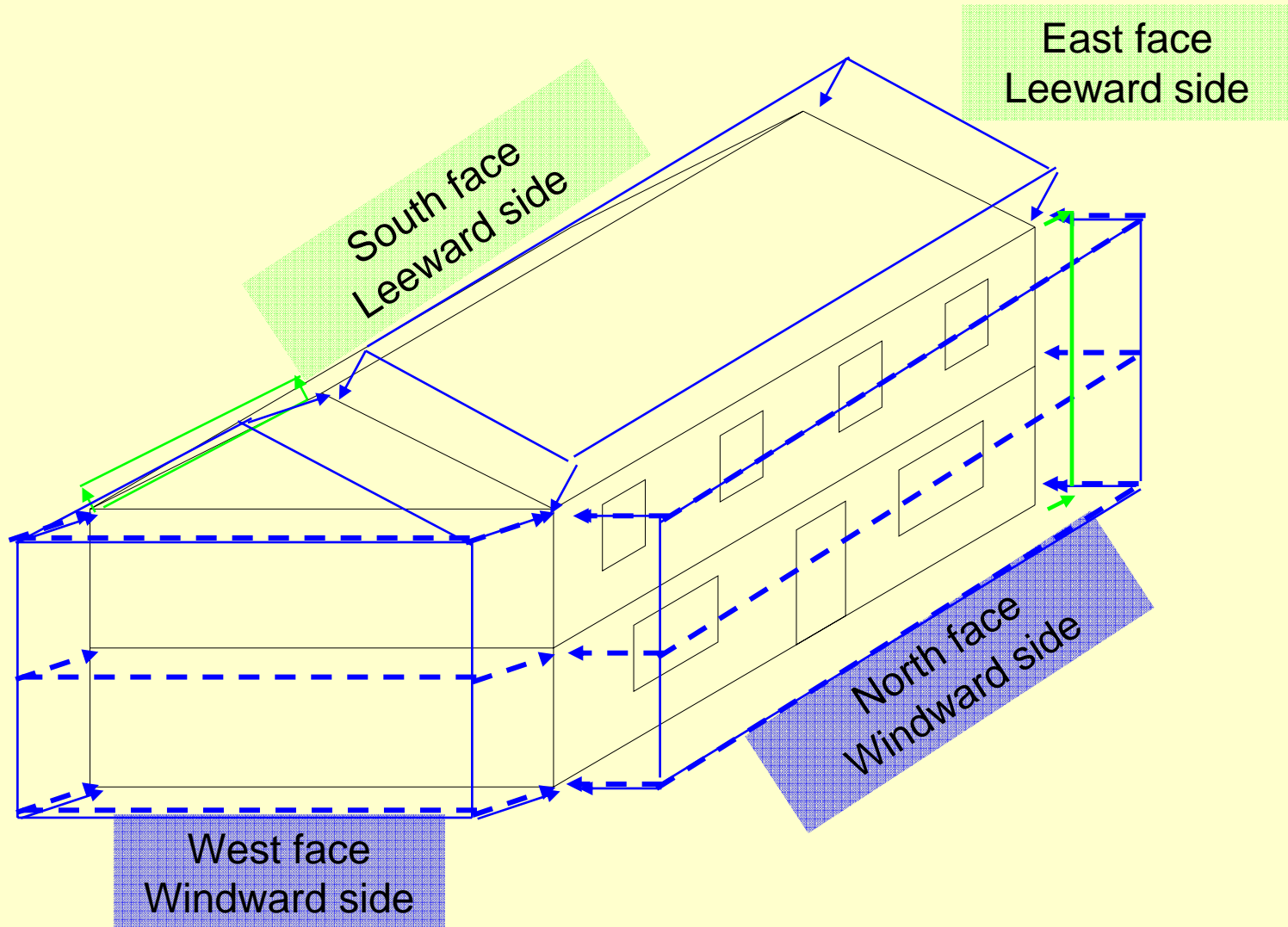
# Redundancy

- Unlike bridges, houses have many structural members.
- Credit is provided for repetitive members of joists

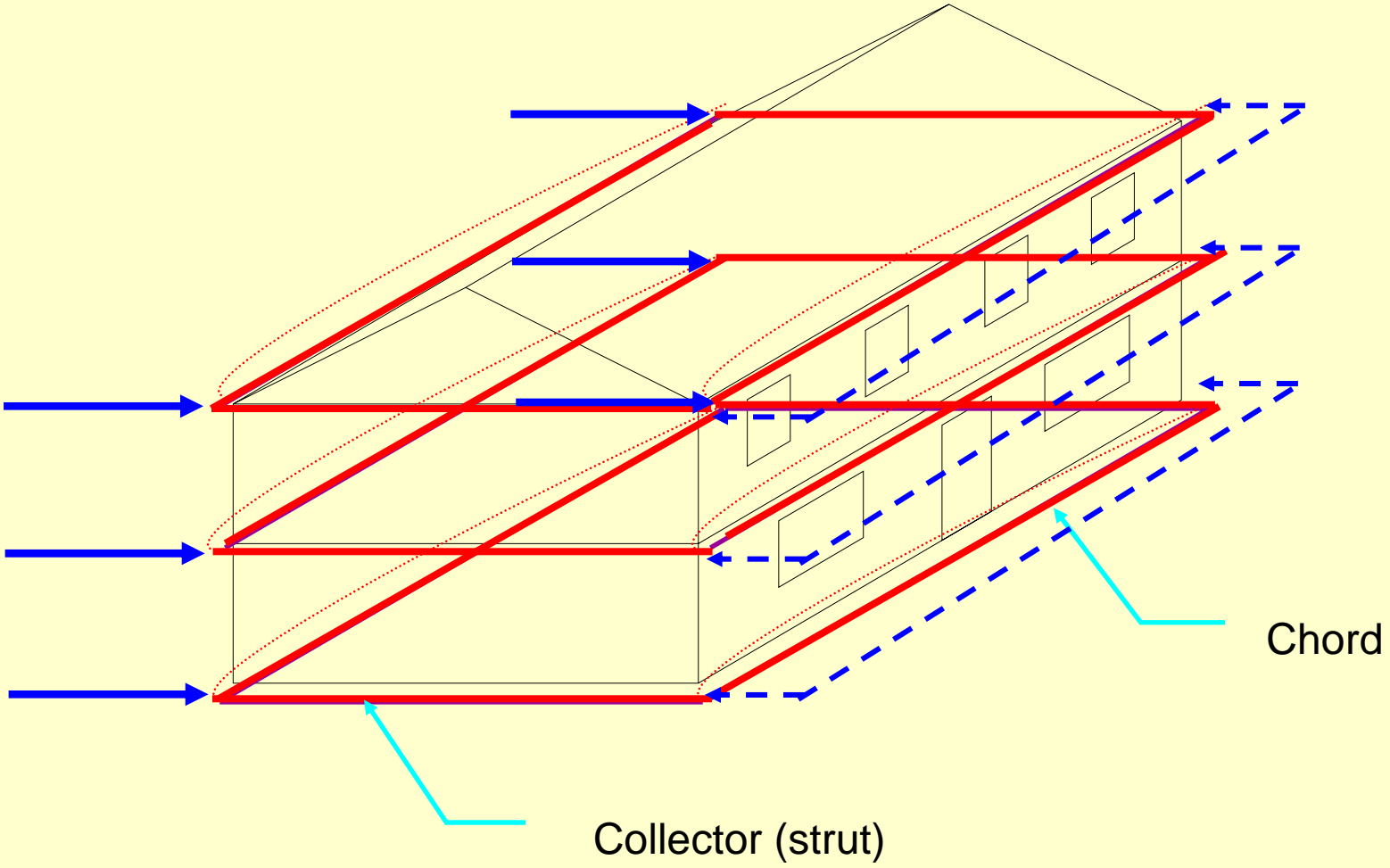
# Lateral force resisting system

- Horizontal Diaphragm (plywood subfloor)
  - Collectors
  - Cords
- Vertical Diaphragm (exterior wall)
  - Strut
  - Cords
- The building code provides some information on LFRS – see WFCM.

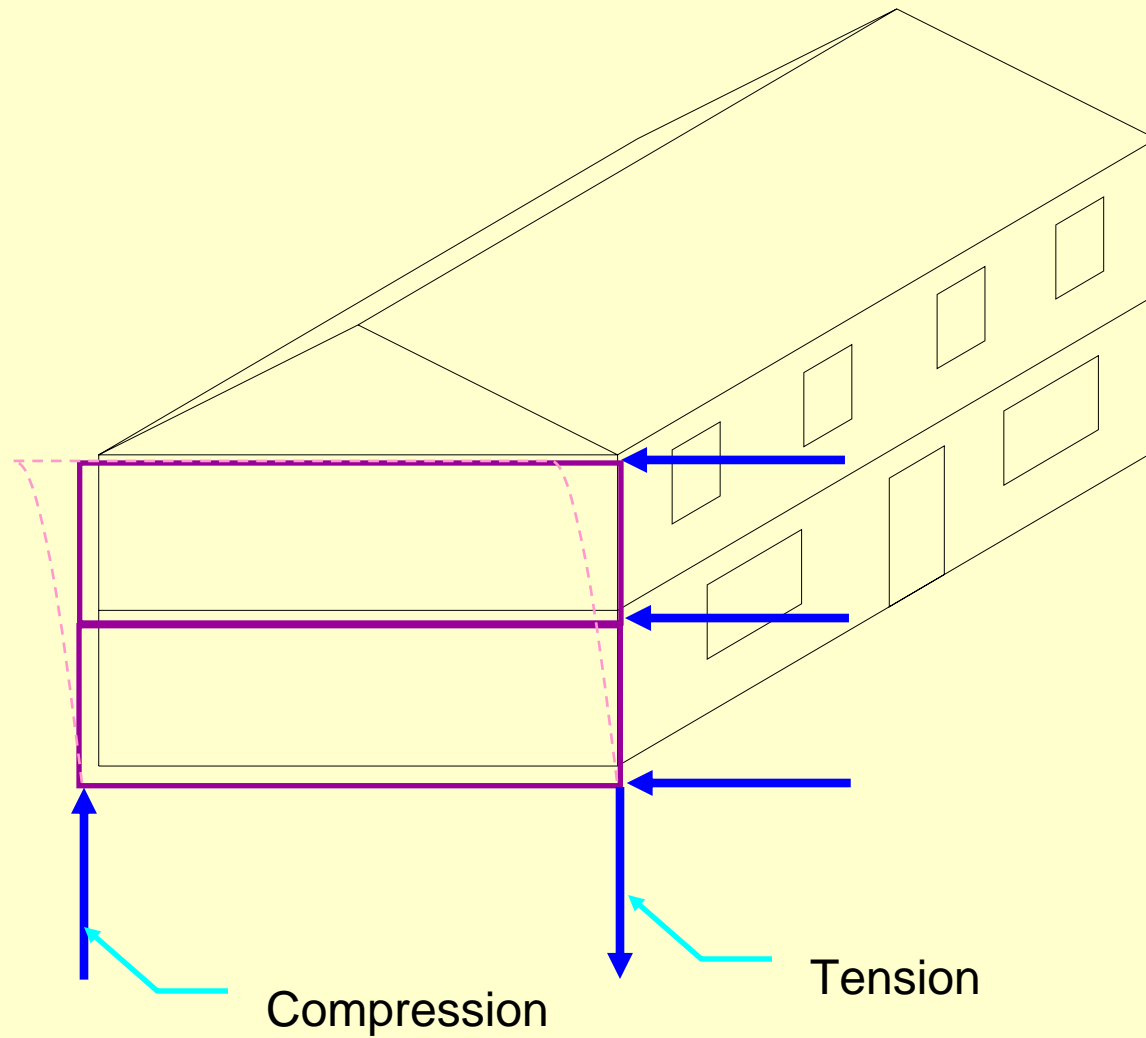
# Follow the load path due to wind



# North Wind affect to Horizontal Diaphragm

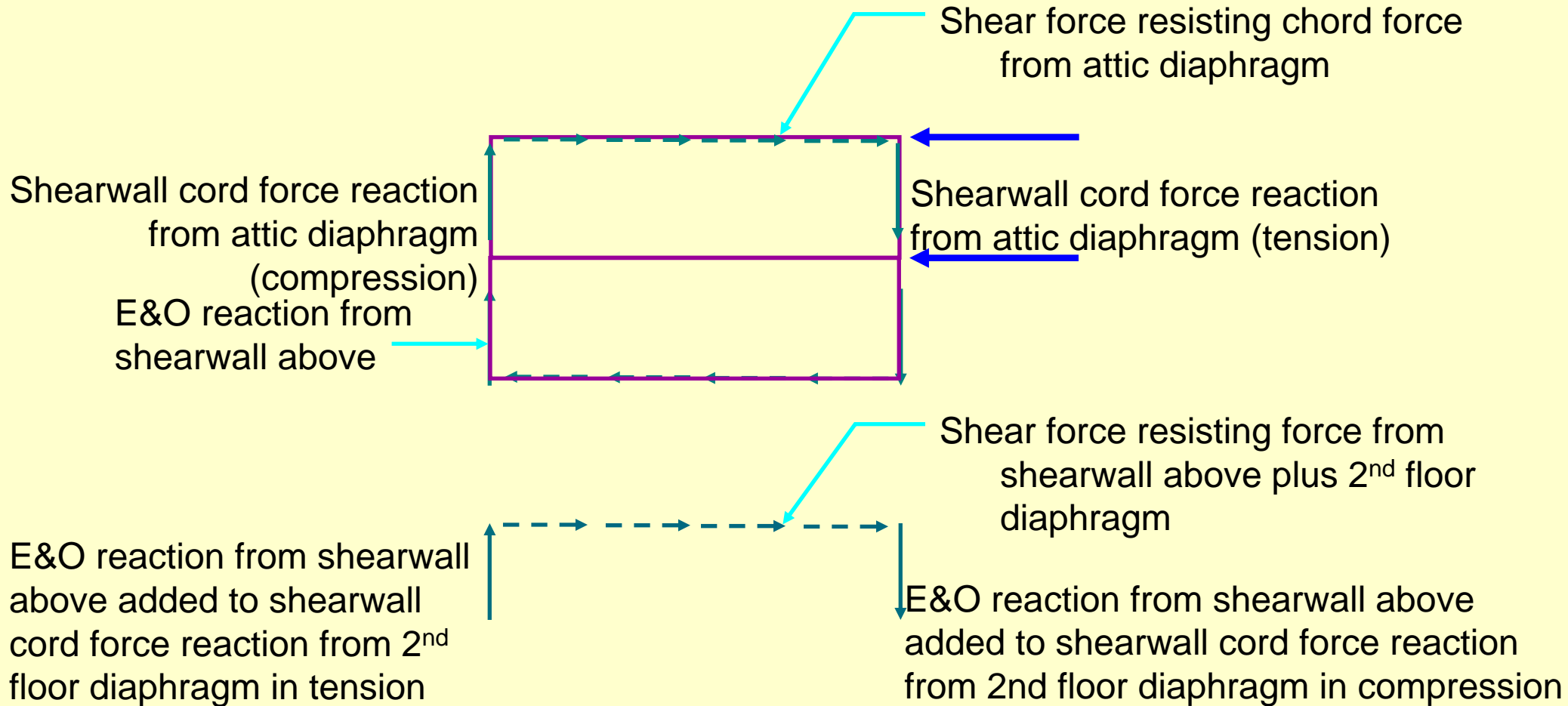


# North Wind Horizontal Diaphragm affects to West/East Shearwalls

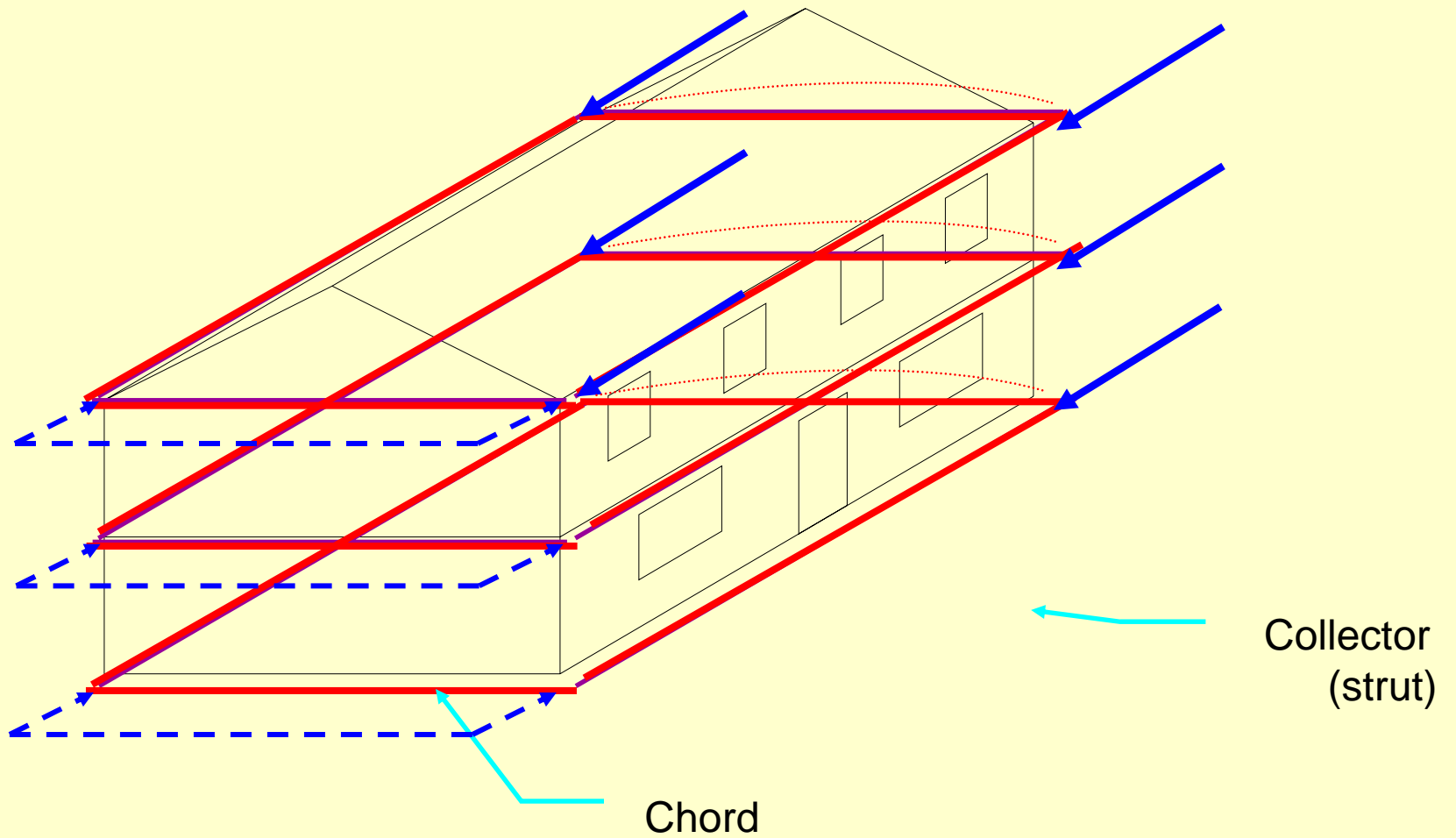




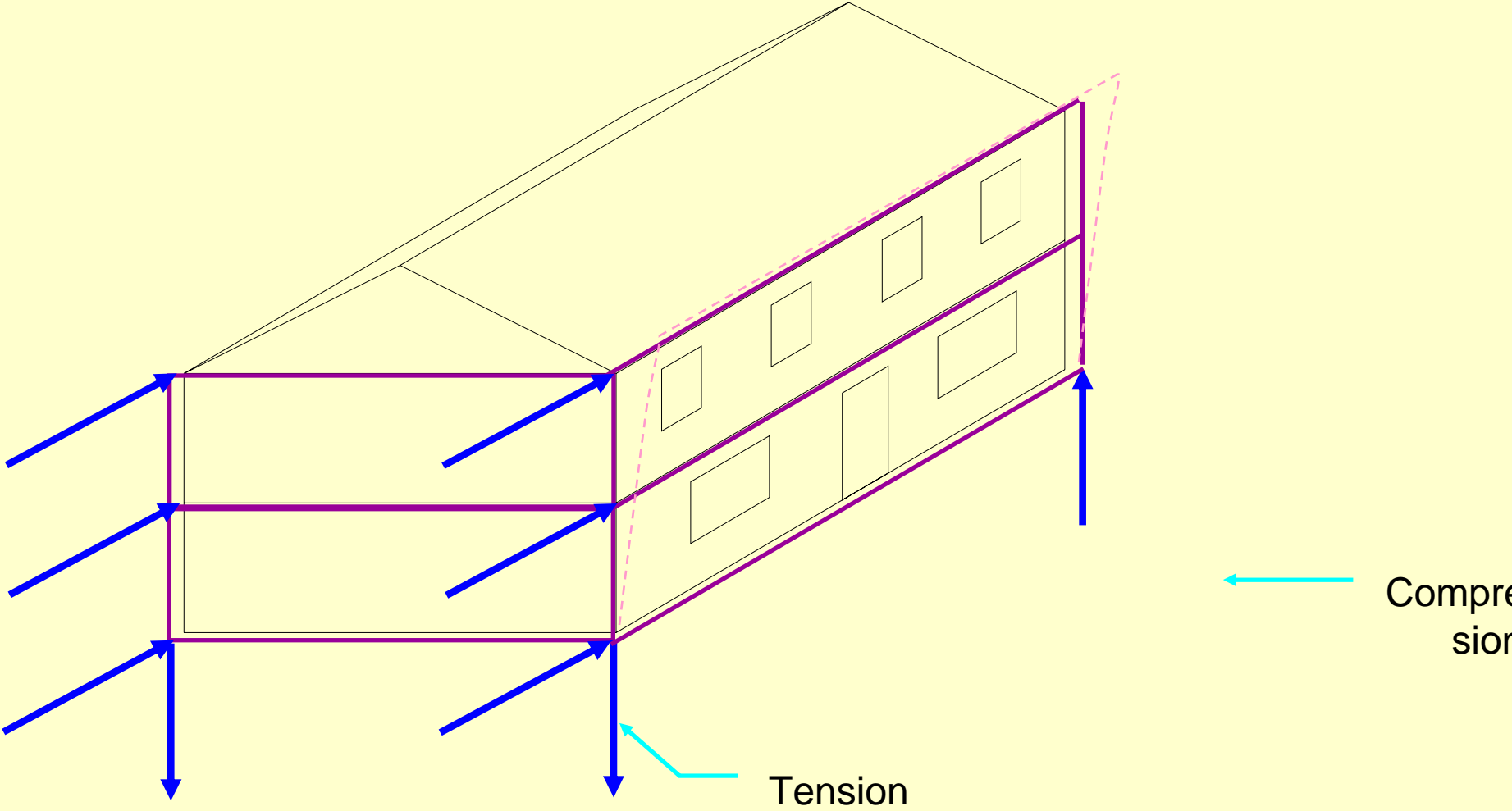
# A closer look at the West Shearwall



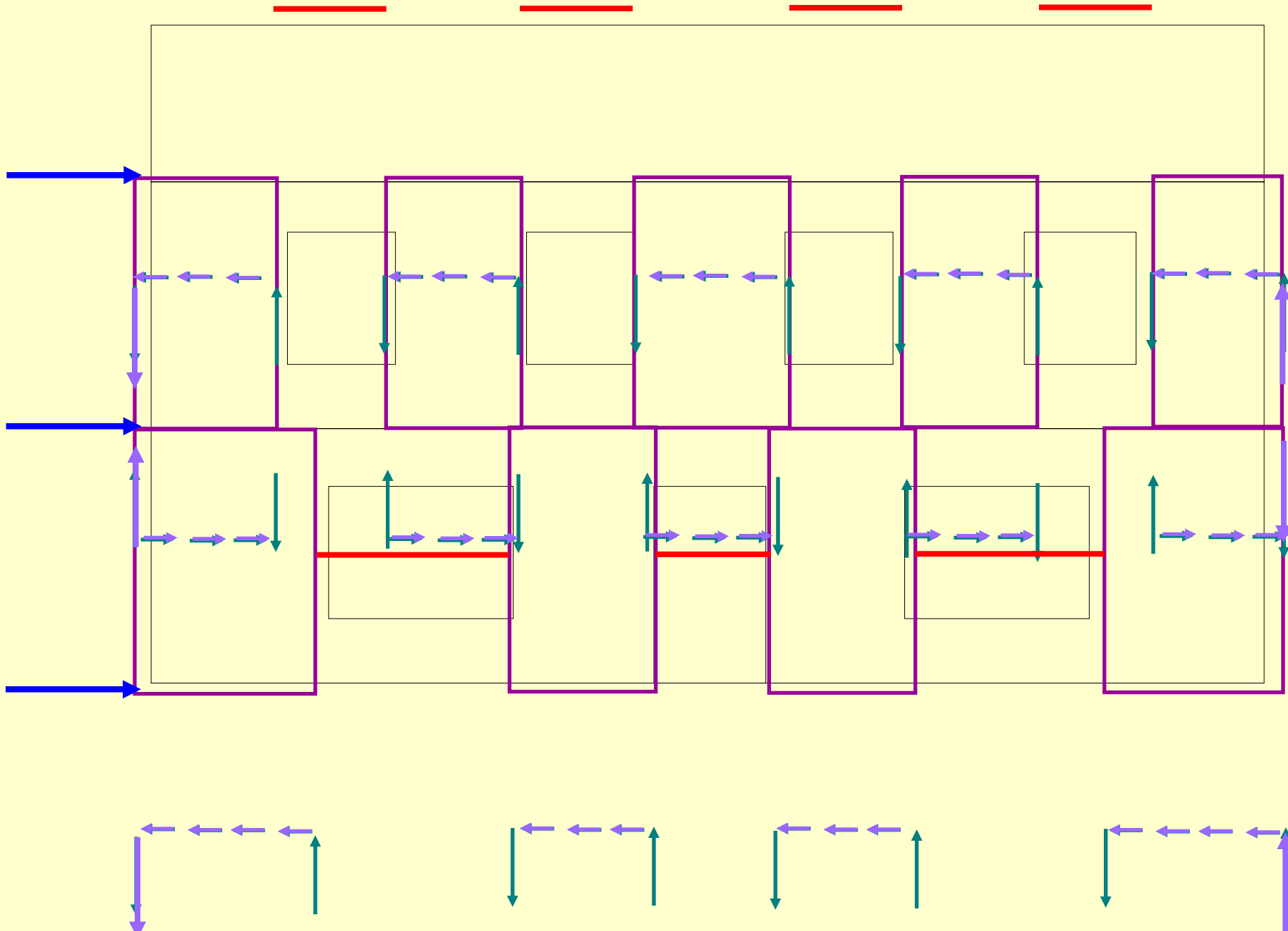
# West Wind affect to Horizontal Diaphragm



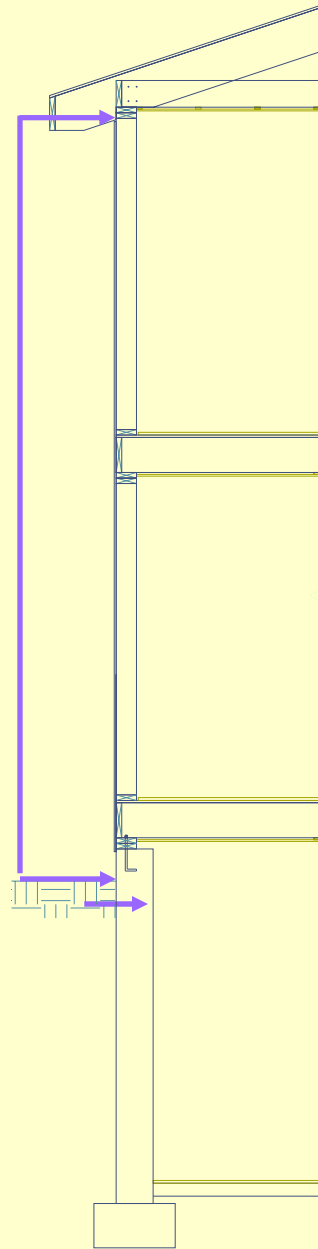
# West Wind Horizontal Diaphragm affects to North/South Shearwalls



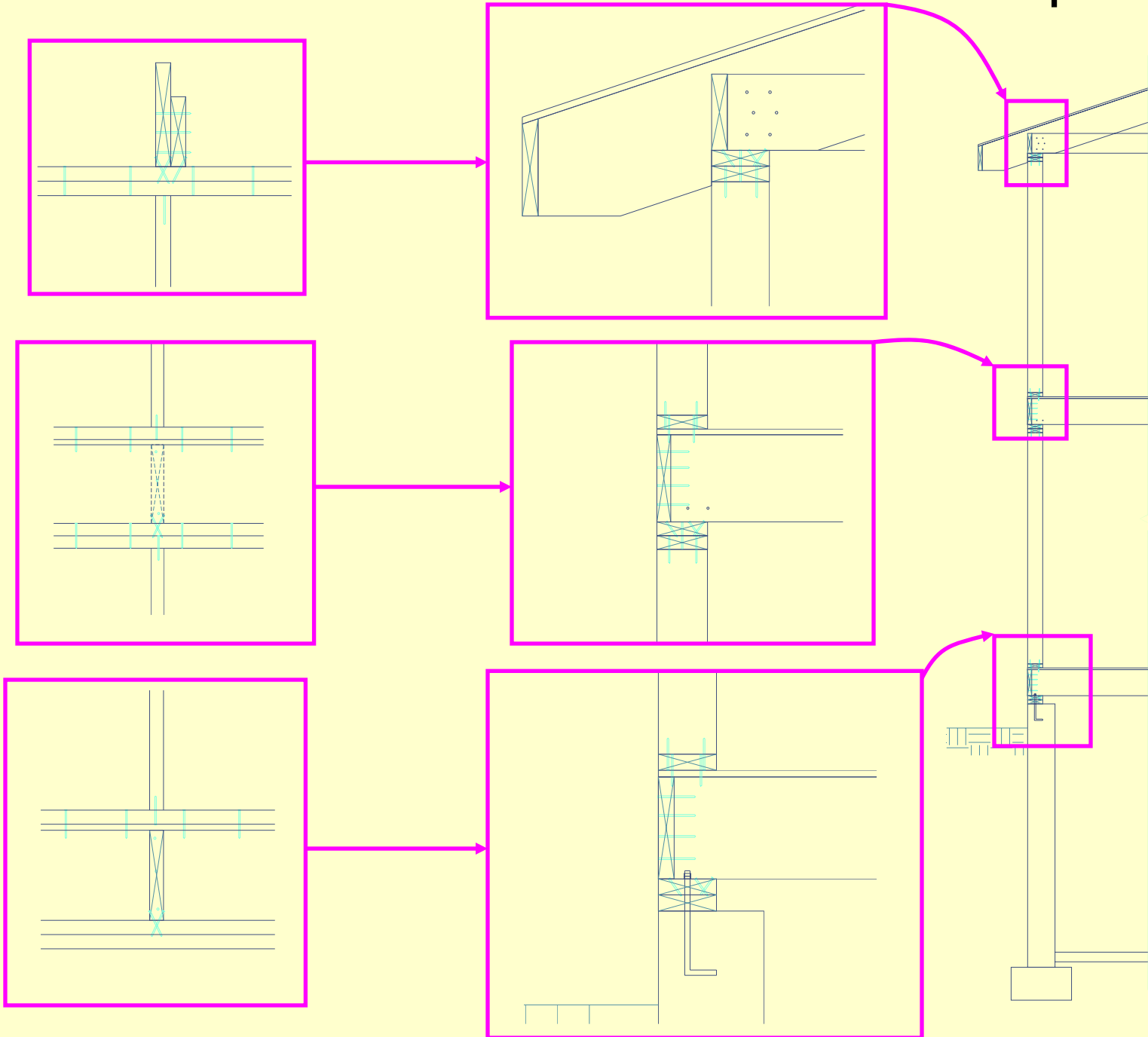
# A closer look at the North Shearwall



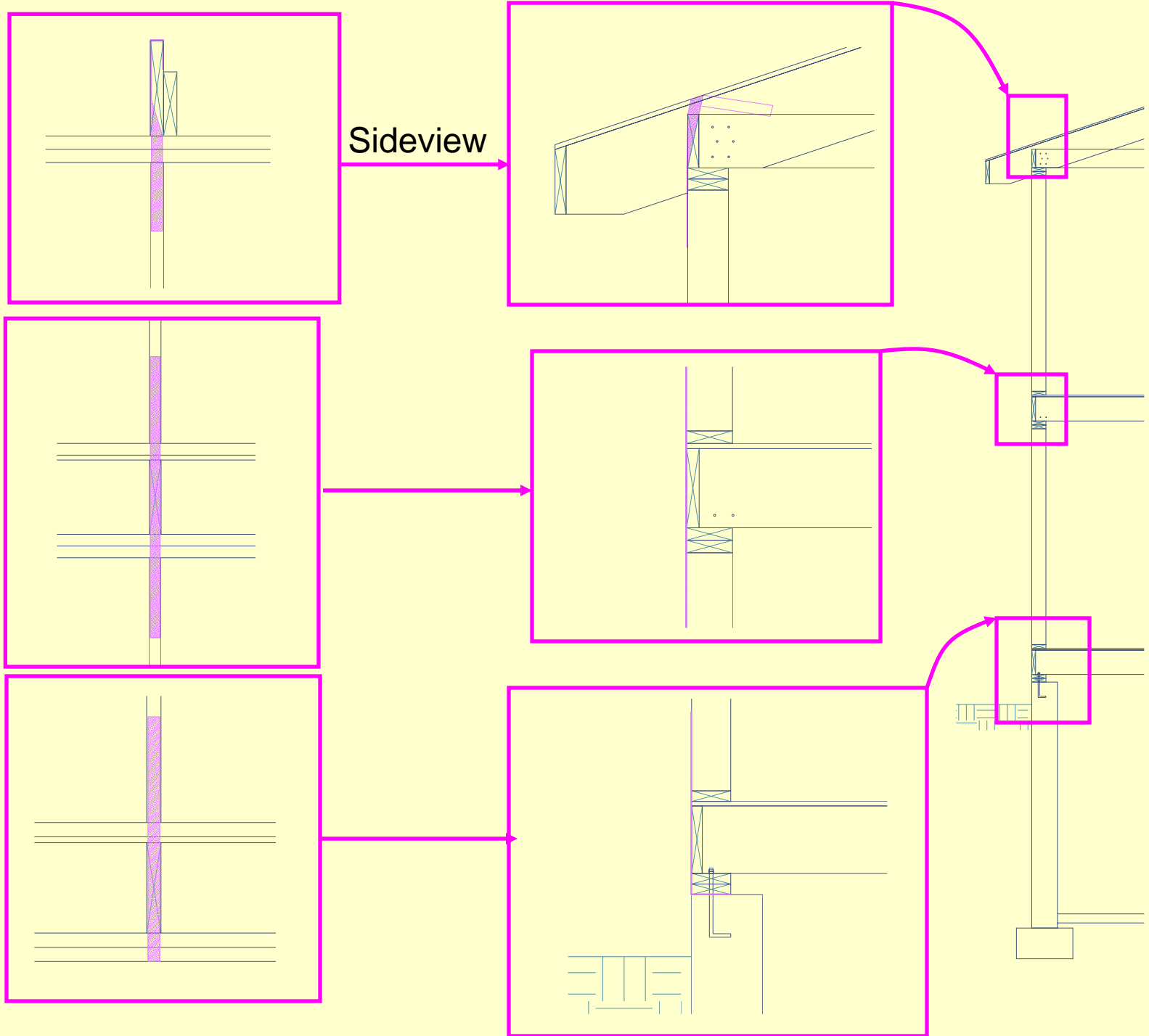
# Wind forces normal to the wall



Designed from top to bottom  
Constructed from bottom to top

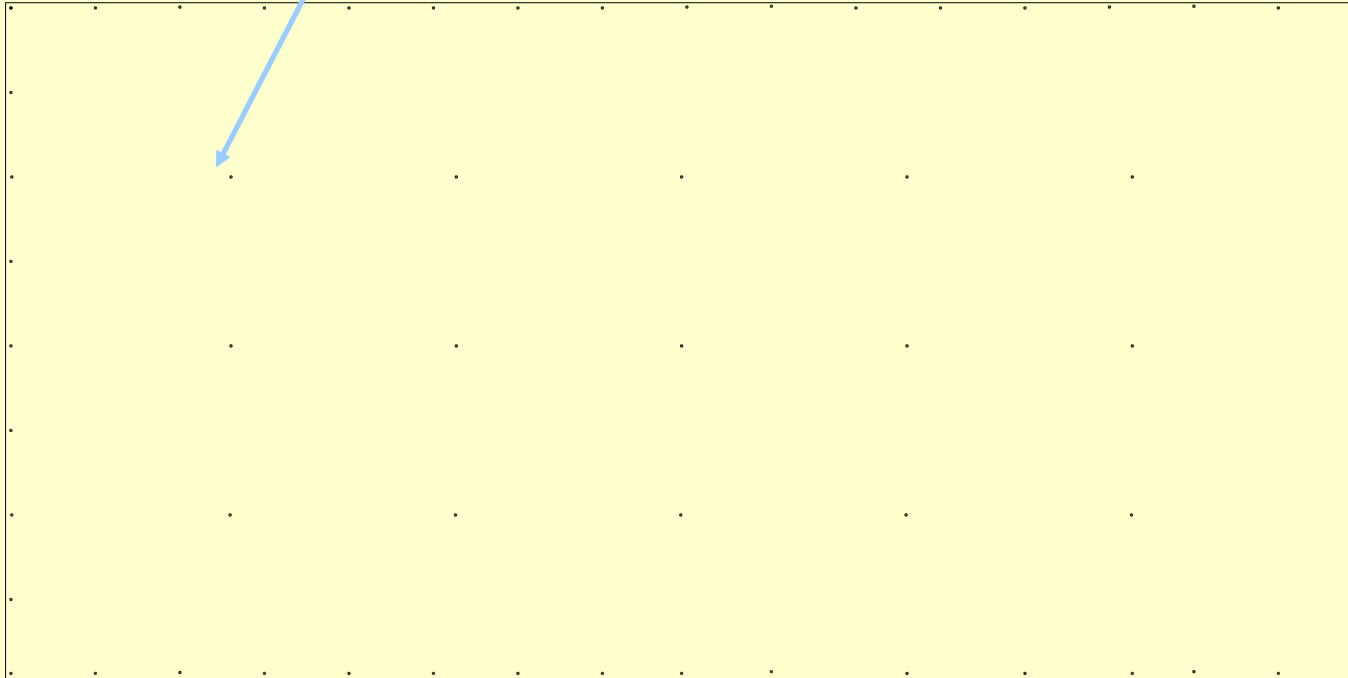


# Shearwall anchorage



# Plywood diaphragm details

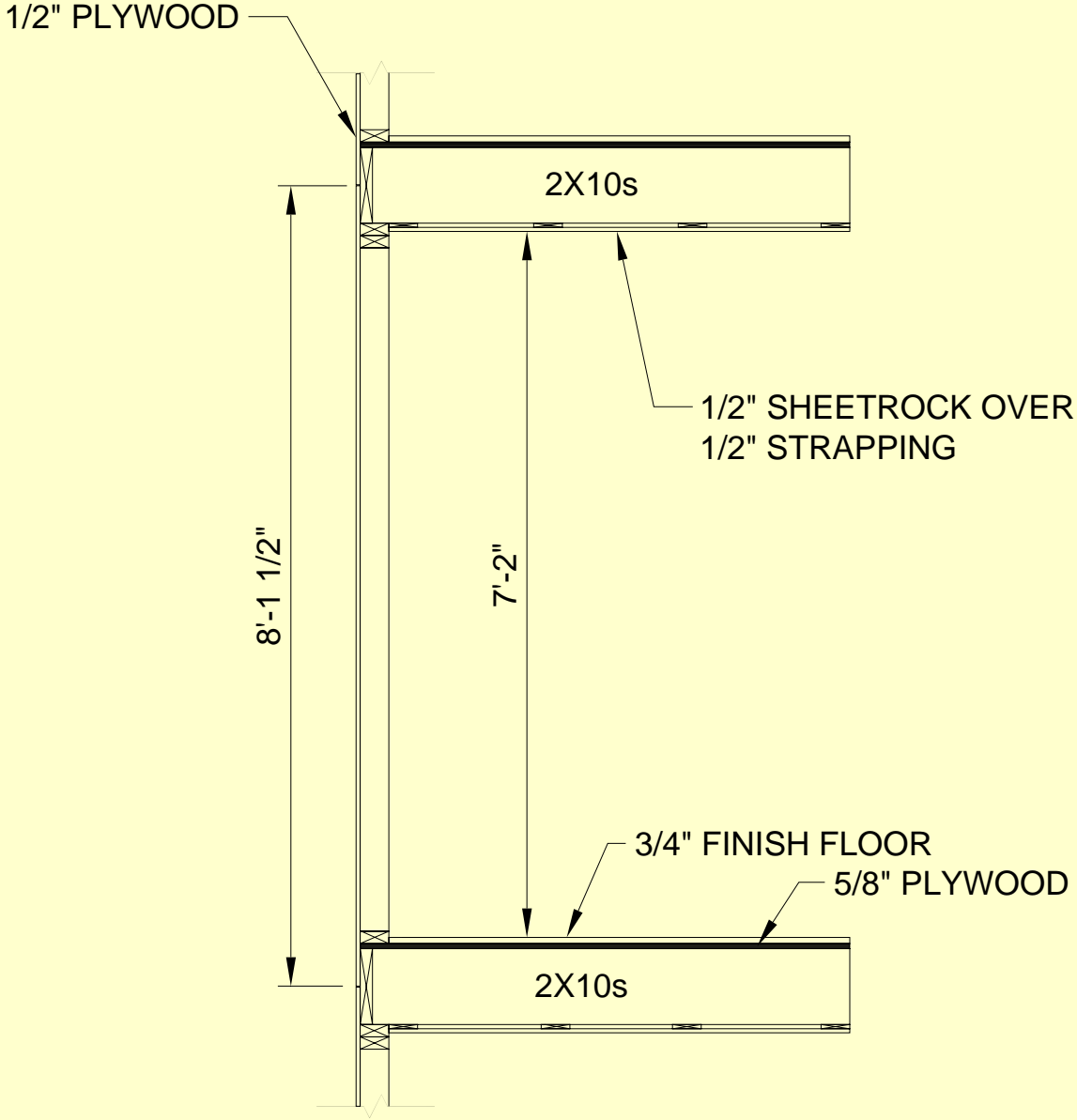
12" spacing in the field



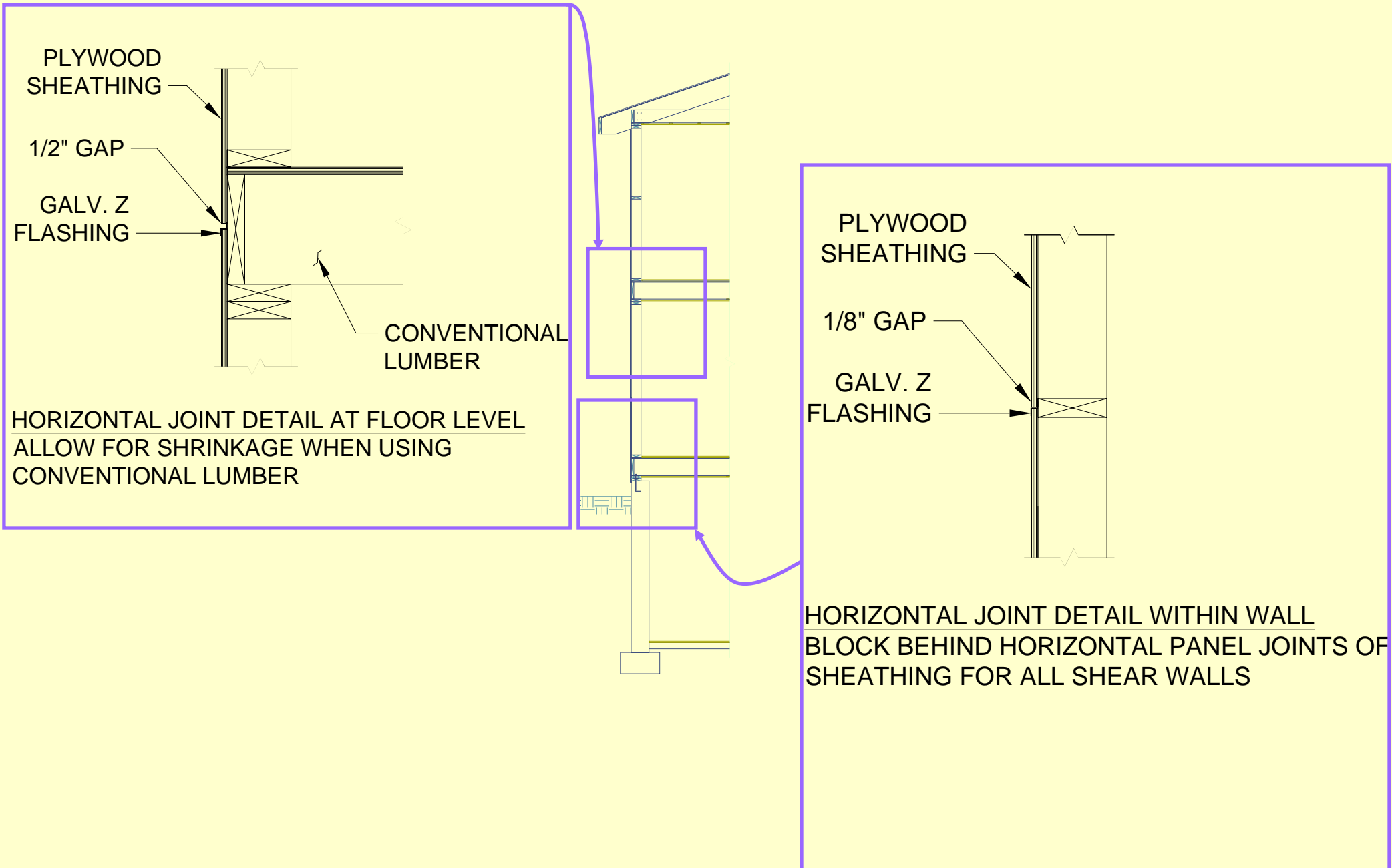
6" spacing at supported edges



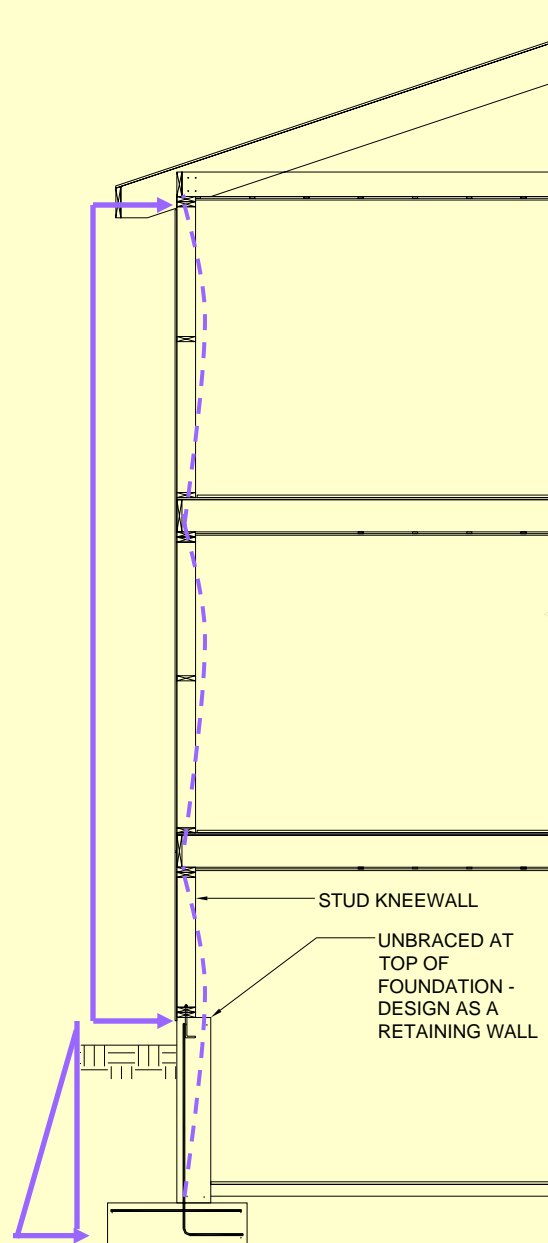
# Plywood on exterior walls



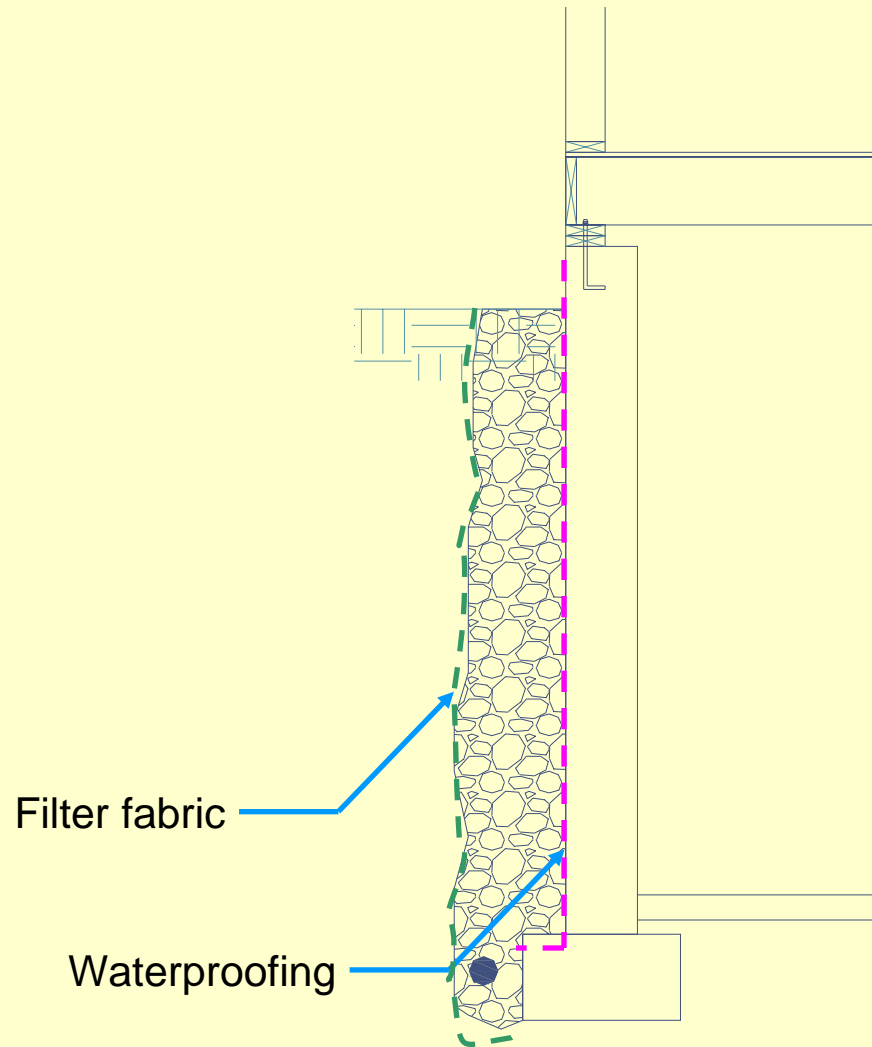
# Plywood installation to exterior walls



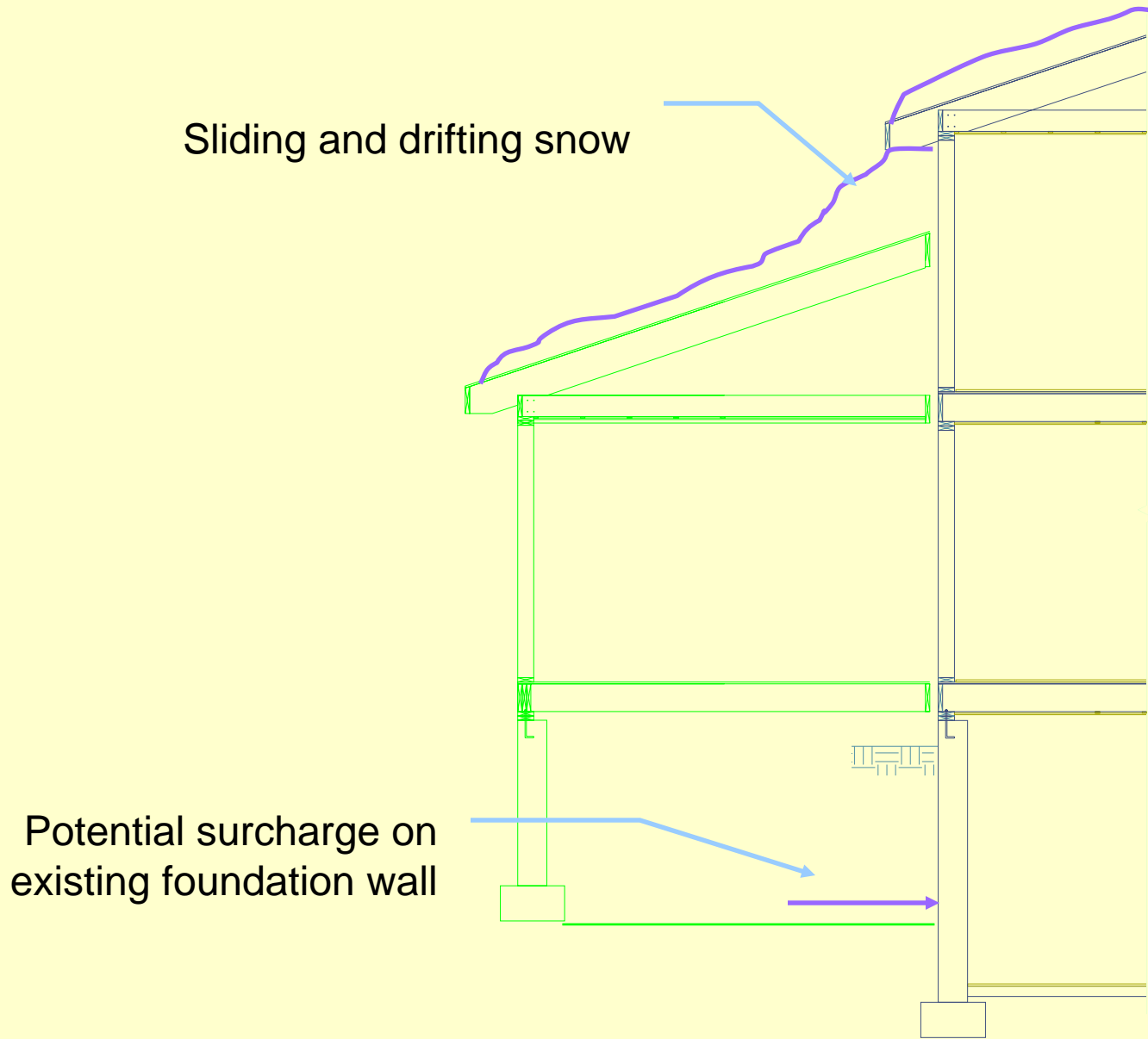
# Foundation bracing (walk-out basement)



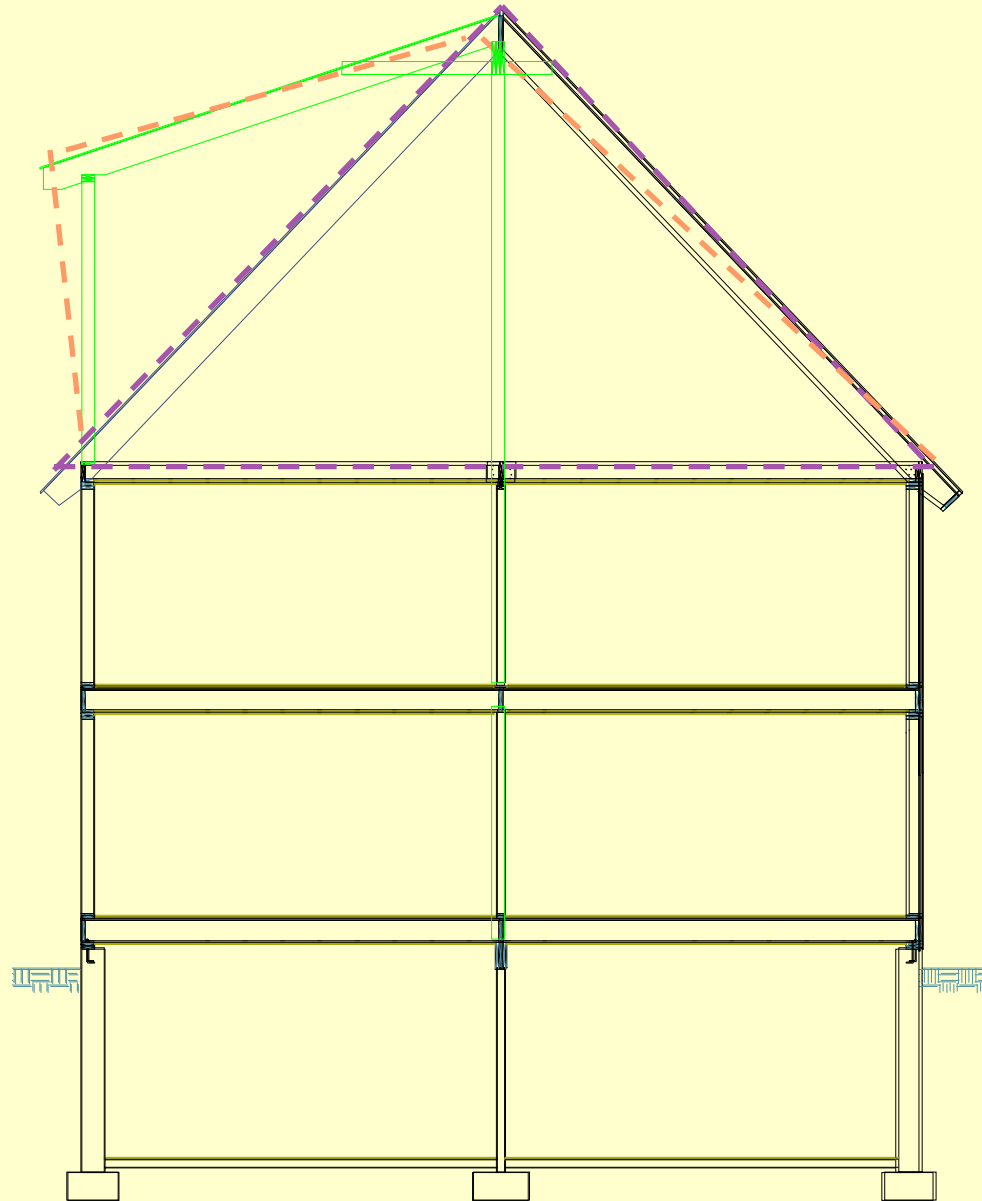
# Foundation drainage



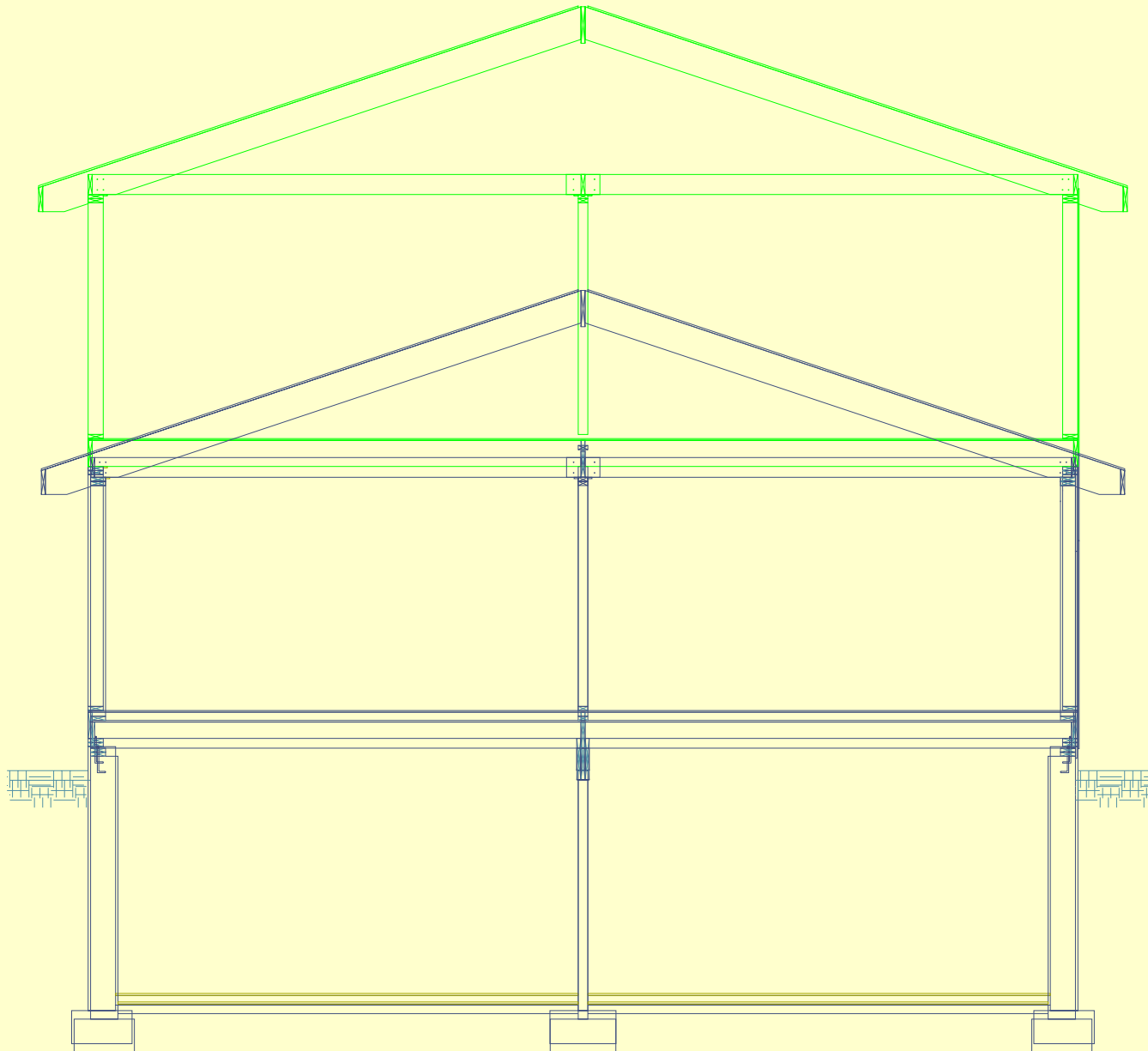
# Addition on back of house



# Adding a shed dormer



# Adding a second floor



# Closing in a 3-season porch

- Consideration of added sail area.
- May need to reduce size of windows or provide a connection that will not translate at the roof.
- Don't forget the roof diaphragm.



# Decks

- Research at Virginia Tech. University, Department of Wood Science and Forest Products (see resources, “Load-Tested Deck Ledger Connection”)
- Loads on decks – consideration of size – new codes will require 100 psf for decks over 100 SF.
- Snow – drift & sliding?
- Firewood?
- Planters?
- Long-term loading such as planters more critical than snow

# Pressure Treated Wood

- The Z-Max is recommended by Simpson Strong-tie
- Stainless steel may be an option
  - No posted connection capacities
  - Limited available types
  - ~ 4 X \$

# Built-up Column

2-2x4 studs fastened together for a column

≠

1-4x4 column

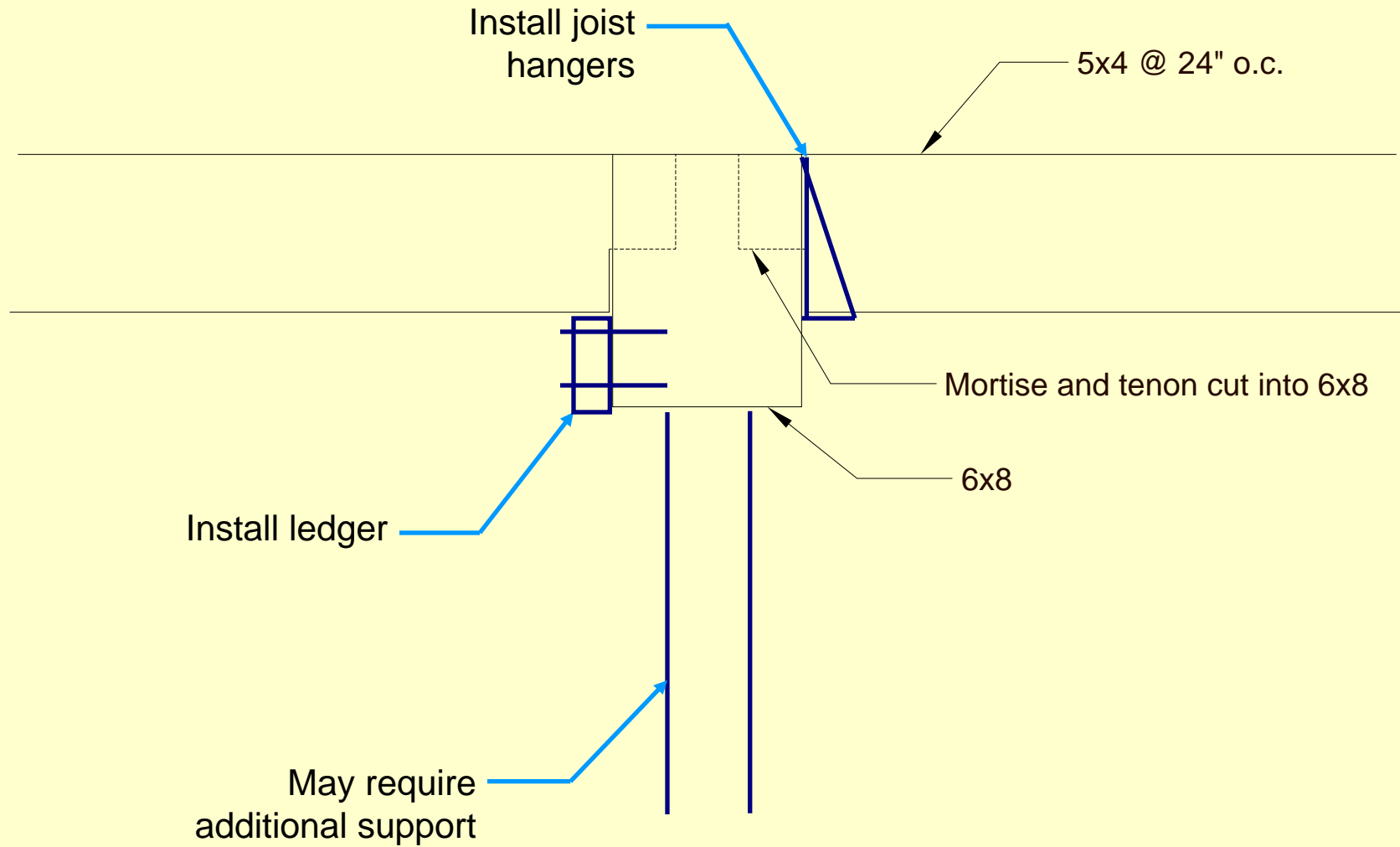
~ 60% less capacity

A yellow measuring tape is visible on the left side of the image, partially obscured by crumpled white paper. The tape shows markings for 3, 4, and 5. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white and yellow.

They don't build 'em like that  
anymore...


because It's against the law.

# Old house framing



# Resources

- [www.ChabotEngineering.com](http://www.ChabotEngineering.com) (slide presentation location)
- Massachusetts State Building Code, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, 780 CMR  
<http://www.mass.gov/bbrs/NEWCODE.HTM> web version; <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/spr/sprcat/agencies/780.htm> order a copy
- “Wood Frame Construction Manual for One- and two-family dwellings”, American Forest & Paper Association & American Wood Council  
<http://www.awc.org/Standards/wfcm.html>
- “Design of Wood Structures”, D. Breyer, K. Fridley, & K. Cobeen
- “Design/Construction Guide – Diaphragms and Shear Walls”, APA – The Engineered Wood Association [http://www.apawood.org/level\\_b.cfm?content=pub\\_main](http://www.apawood.org/level_b.cfm?content=pub_main)
- *The Journal of Light Construction* <http://www.jlconline.com/>
- “Load-Tested Deck Ledger Connection”, *The Journal of Light Construction*, March 2004
- *Fine Homebuilding* <http://www.taunton.com/finehomebuilding/index.asp>
- International Building Code, 2003 <http://www.iccsafe.org/>
- International Residential Code, 2003 <http://www.iccsafe.org/>



Cynthia Chabot, P.E.  
Chabot Engineering  
Melrose, Massachusetts  
(781) 665-7110  
(781) 665-7727 (fax)  
[cchabot@chabotengineering.com](mailto:cchabot@chabotengineering.com)