

# Engineering mechanics

## Lecture 10: Moment of Inertia

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Dr. MUSLIM MUHSIN ALI

# Objectives

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After studying this Lecture, you will be able to

- Define Moment of Inertia
- Determine Moment of Inertia

# 1. Moment of Inertia

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## INTRODUCTION

We have already discussed that the moment of a force ( $P$ ) about a point, is the product of the force and perpendicular distance ( $x$ ) between the point and the line of action of the force (i.e.  $P \cdot x$ ). This moment is also called first moment of force. If this moment is again multiplied by the perpendicular distance ( $x$ ) between the point and the line of action of the force i.e.  $P \cdot x \cdot x = P x^2$ , then this quantity is called moment of the moment of a force or second moment of force or moment of inertia (briefly written as M.I.). Sometimes, instead of force, area or mass of a figure or body is taken into consideration. Then the second moment is known as second moment of area

# 1. Moment of Inertia

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## UNITS OF MOMENT OF INERTIA

As a matter of fact the units of moment of inertia of a plane area depend upon the units of

the area and the length. e.g.,

1. If area is in  $m^2$  and the length is also in  $m$ , the moment of inertia is expressed in  $m^4$ .
2. If area in  $mm^2$  and the length is also in  $mm$ , then moment of inertia is expressed in  $mm^4$ .

## METHODS FOR MOMENT OF INERTIA

The moment of inertia of a plane area (or a body) may be found out by any one of the following

two methods :

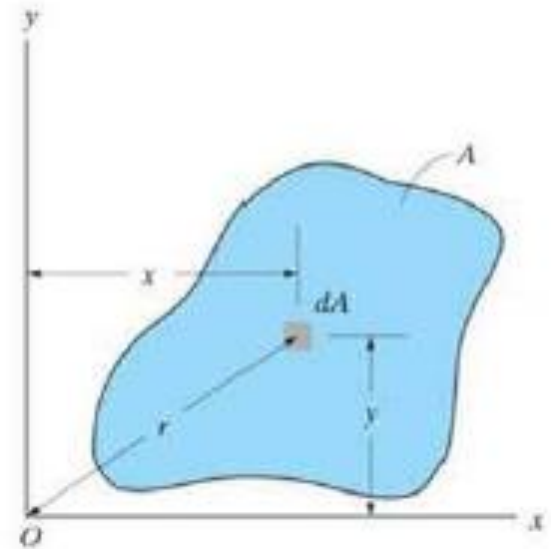
1. By Routh's rule
2. By Integration.

# 1. Moment of Inertia

**Moment of Inertia.** By definition, the moments of inertia of a differential area  $dA$  about the  $x$  and  $y$  axes are  $dI_x = y^2 dA$  and  $dI_y = x^2 dA$ , respectively, Fig. 10–2. For the entire area  $A$  the *moments of inertia* are determined by integration; i.e.,

$$I_x = \int_A y^2 dA$$

$$I_y = \int_A x^2 dA$$



# 1. Polar Moment of Inertia

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For the entire area the polar moment of inertia is:

$$J_O = \int_A r^2 dA = I_x + I_y$$

Parallel axis theorem for in area

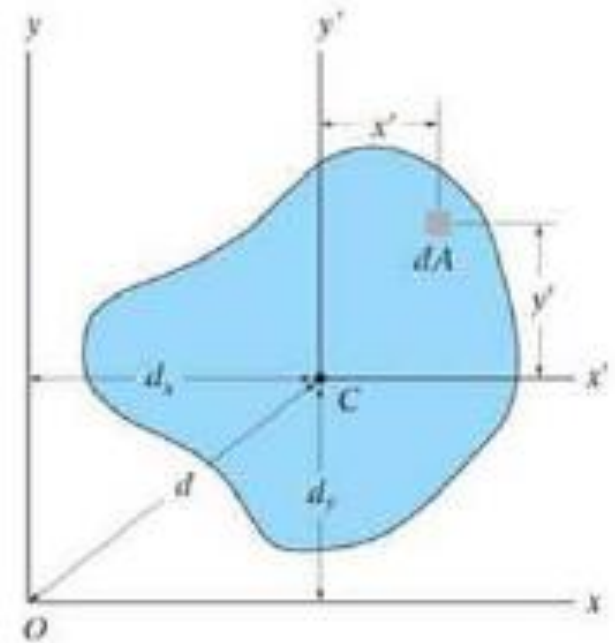
# 1. Moment of Inertia

$$\begin{aligned} I_x &= \int_A (y' + d_y)^2 dA \\ &= \int_A y'^2 dA + 2d_y \int_A y' dA + d_y^2 \int_A dA \end{aligned}$$

$$I_x = \bar{I}_{x'} + Ad_y^2$$

$$I_y = \bar{I}_{y'} + Ad_x^2$$

$$J_O = \bar{J}_C + Ad^2$$



# Radius of gyration

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The *radius of gyration* of an area about an axis has units of length and is a quantity that is often used for the design of columns in structural mechanics. Provided the areas and moments of inertia are *known*, the radii of gyration are determined from the formulas

$$k_x = \sqrt{\frac{I_x}{A}}$$

$$k_y = \sqrt{\frac{I_y}{A}}$$

$$k_O = \sqrt{\frac{J_O}{A}}$$



# 1. Moment of Inertia

## MOMENT OF INERTIA BY INTEGRATION

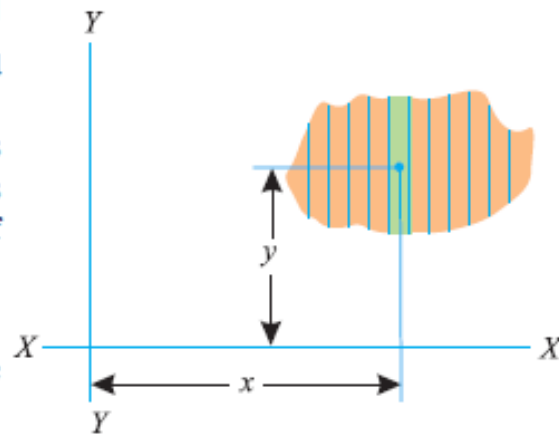
The moment of inertia of an area may also be found out by the method of integration as discussed below:

Consider a plane figure, whose moment of inertia is required to be found out about  $X-X$  axis and  $Y-Y$  axis as shown in Fig. Let us divide the whole area into a no. of strips. Consider one of these strips.

Let  $dA$  = Area of the strip

$x$  = Distance of the centre of gravity of the strip on  $X-X$  axis and

$y$  = Distance of the centre of gravity of the strip on  $Y-Y$  axis.



Moment of inertia by integration.

We know that the moment of inertia of the strip about  $Y-Y$  axis

$$= dA \cdot x^2$$

Now the moment of inertia of the whole area may be found out by integrating above equation. i.e.,

$$I_{YY} = \sum dA \cdot x^2$$

Similarly  $I_{XX} = \sum dA \cdot y^2$

In the following pages, we shall discuss the applications of this method for finding out the moment of inertia of various cross-sections.

# 1. Moment of Inertia

## MOMENT OF INERTIA OF A RECTANGULAR SECTION

Consider a rectangular section  $ABCD$  as shown in Fig. whose moment of inertia is required to be found out.

Let  $b$  = Width of the section and  
 $d$  = Depth of the section.

Now consider a strip  $PQ$  of thickness  $dy$  parallel to  $X-X$  axis and at a distance  $y$  from it as shown in the figure

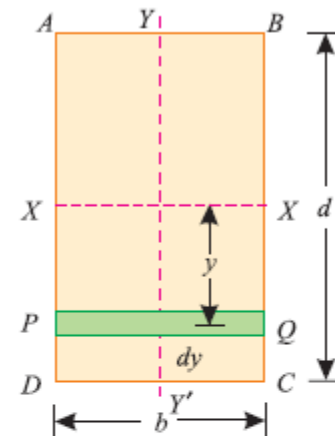
∴ Area of the strip

$$= b \cdot dy$$

We know that moment of inertia of the strip about  $X-X$  axis,

$$= \text{Area} \times y^2 = (b \cdot dy) y^2 = b \cdot y^2 \cdot dy$$

Now \*moment of inertia of the whole section may be found out by integrating the above equation for the whole length of the lamina i.e. from  $-\frac{d}{2}$  to  $+\frac{d}{2}$ ,



Rectangular section.

\* This may also be obtained by Routh's rule as discussed below :

$$I_{xx} = \frac{AS}{3}$$

...(for rectangular section)

where area,  $A = b \times d$  and sum of the square of semi axes  $Y-Y$  and  $Z-Z$ ,

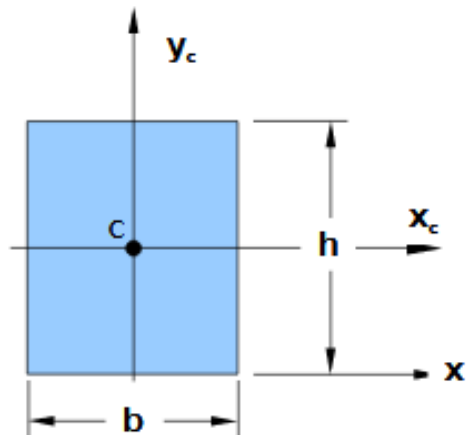
$$S = \left(\frac{d}{2}\right)^2 + 0 = \frac{d^2}{4}$$

$$\therefore I_{xx} = \frac{AS}{3} = \frac{(b \times d) \times \frac{d^2}{4}}{3} = \frac{bd^3}{12}$$

# 1. Moment of Inertia

Example 4:

Given the moment of inertia of a rectangle about its centroidal axis, apply the parallel axis theorem to find the moment of inertia for a rectangle about its base.



$$I_{xc} = \frac{b \cdot h^3}{12}$$

$$distance = \frac{h}{2} \quad area = b \cdot h$$

$$I_x = \frac{b \cdot h^3}{12} + \left(\frac{h}{2}\right)^2 \cdot (b \cdot h)$$

$$= \frac{b \cdot h^3}{12} + \frac{b \cdot h^3}{4}$$

$$= \frac{b \cdot h^3}{12} + \frac{3 \cdot b \cdot h^3}{12} = \frac{b \cdot h^3}{3}$$

# 1. Moment of Inertia

Determine the moment of inertia for the rectangular area shown in Fig. 10-5 with respect to (a) the centroidal  $x'$  axis, (b) the axis  $x_b$  passing through the base of the rectangle, and (c) the pole or  $z'$  axis perpendicular to the  $x'-y'$  plane and passing through the centroid  $C$ .

## SOLUTION (CASE 1)

**Part (a).** The differential element shown in Fig. 10-5 is chosen for integration. Because of its location and orientation, the *entire element* is at a distance  $y'$  from the  $x'$  axis. Here it is necessary to integrate from  $y' = -h/2$  to  $y' = h/2$ . Since  $dA = b dy'$ , then

$$\bar{I}_{x'} = \int_A y'^2 dA = \int_{-h/2}^{h/2} y'^2 (b dy') = b \int_{-h/2}^{h/2} y'^2 dy'$$

$$\bar{I}_{x'} = \frac{1}{12}bh^3$$

Ans.

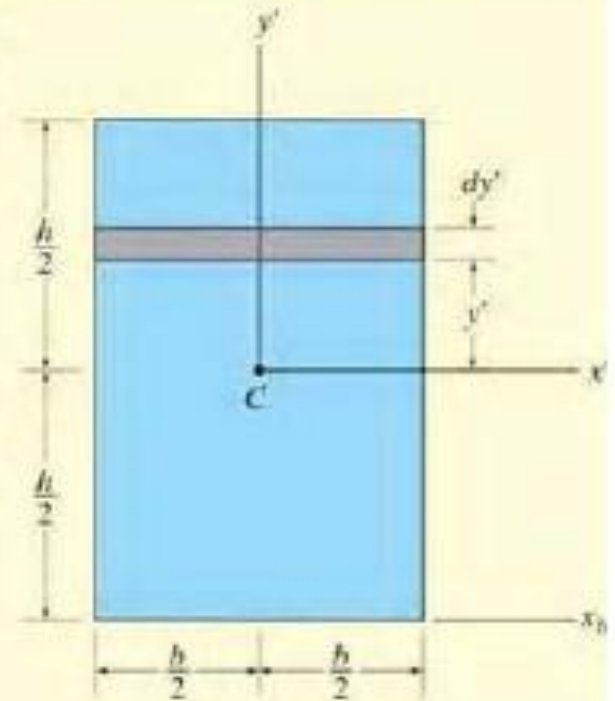


Fig. 10-5

# 1. Moment of Inertia

**Part (b).** The moment of inertia about an axis passing through the base of the rectangle can be obtained by using the above result of part (a) and applying the parallel-axis theorem, Eq. 10-3.

$$\begin{aligned} I_{x_b} &= \bar{I}_x + Ad_y^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{12}bh^3 + bh\left(\frac{h}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{1}{3}bh^3 \quad \text{Ans.} \end{aligned}$$

**Part (c).** To obtain the polar moment of inertia about point  $C$ , we must first obtain  $\bar{I}_y$ , which may be found by interchanging the dimensions  $b$  and  $h$  in the result of part (a), i.e.,

$$\bar{I}_y = \frac{1}{12}hb^3$$

Using Eq. 10-2, the polar moment of inertia about  $C$  is therefore

$$\bar{J}_C = \bar{I}_x + \bar{I}_y = \frac{1}{12}bh(h^2 + b^2) \quad \text{Ans.}$$

# 1. Moment of Inertia

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**Example** Find the moment of inertia of a rectangular section 30 mm wide and 40 mm deep about X-X axis and Y-Y axis.

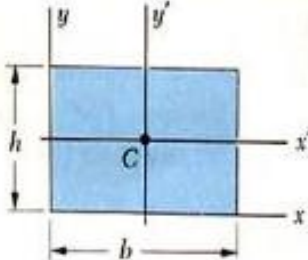
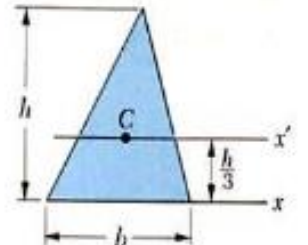
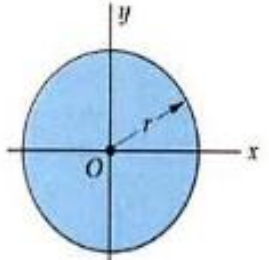
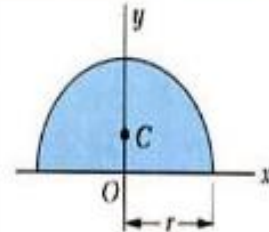
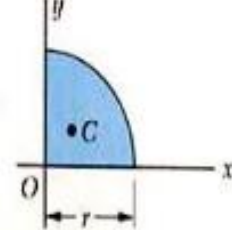
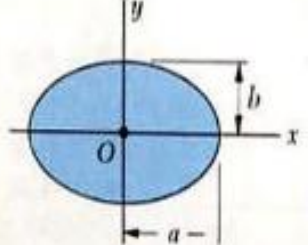
**Solution.** Given: Width of the section ( $b$ ) = 30 mm and depth of the section ( $d$ ) = 40 mm.

We know that moment of inertia of the section about an axis passing through its centre of gravity and parallel to X-X axis,

$$I_{XX} = \frac{bd^3}{12} = \frac{30 \times (40)^3}{12} = 160 \times 10^3 \text{ mm}^4 \quad \text{Ans.}$$

Similarly  $I_{YY} = \frac{db^3}{12} = \frac{40 \times (30)^3}{12} = 90 \times 10^3 \text{ mm}^4 \quad \text{Ans.}$

# 1. Moment of Inertia

Rectangle		$\bar{I}_{x'} = \frac{1}{12}bh^3$ $\bar{I}_{y'} = \frac{1}{12}b^3h$ $I_x = \frac{1}{3}bh^3$ $I_y = \frac{1}{3}b^3h$ $J_C = \frac{1}{12}bh(b^2 + h^2)$
Triangle		$\bar{I}_{x'} = \frac{1}{36}bh^3$ $I_x = \frac{1}{12}bh^3$
Circle		$I_x = I_y = \frac{1}{4}\pi r^4$ $J_O = \frac{1}{2}\pi r^4$
Semicircle		$I_x = I_y = \frac{1}{8}\pi r^4$ $J_O = \frac{1}{4}\pi r^4$
Quarter circle		$I_x = I_y = \frac{1}{16}\pi r^4$ $J_O = \frac{1}{8}\pi r^4$
Ellipse		$\bar{I}_x = \frac{1}{4}\pi ab^3$ $\bar{I}_y = \frac{1}{4}\pi a^3b$ $J_O = \frac{1}{4}\pi ab(a^2 + b^2)$

# 1. Moment of Inertia

Determine the moment of inertia of the area shown in Fig. 10-8a about the  $x$  axis.

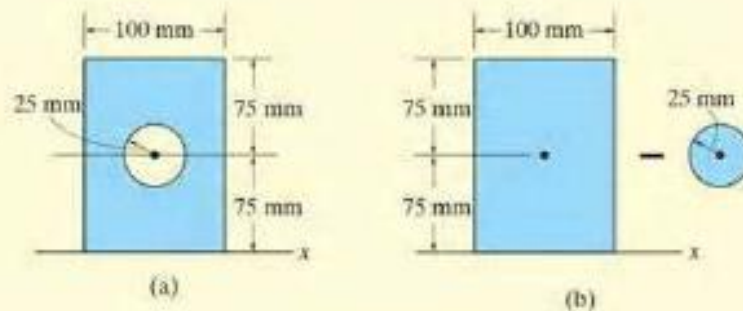


Fig. 10-8

## SOLUTION

**Composite Parts.** The area can be obtained by *subtracting* the circle from the rectangle shown in Fig. 10-8b. The centroid of each area is located in the figure.

**Parallel-Axis Theorem.** The moments of inertia about the  $x$  axis are determined using the parallel-axis theorem and the data in the table on the inside back cover.



# 1. Moment of Inertia

Circle

$$\begin{aligned} I_x &= \bar{I}_x + Ad_y^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{4}\pi(25)^4 + \pi(25)^2(75)^2 = 11.4(10^6) \text{ mm}^4 \end{aligned}$$

Rectangle

$$\begin{aligned} I_x &= \bar{I}_x + Ad_y^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{12}(100)(150)^3 + (100)(150)(75)^2 = 112.5(10^6) \text{ mm}^4 \end{aligned}$$

**Summation.** The moment of inertia for the area is therefore

$$\begin{aligned} I_x &= -11.4(10^6) + 112.5(10^6) \\ &= 101(10^6) \text{ mm}^4 \end{aligned} \quad \text{Ans.}$$

# 1. Moment of Inertia

## MOMENT OF INERTIA OF A HOLLOW RECTANGULAR SECTION

Consider a hollow rectangular section, in which  $ABCD$  is the main section and  $EFGH$  is the cut out section as shown in Fig

Let

$b$  = Breadth of the outer rectangle,  
 $d$  = Depth of the outer rectangle and  
 $b_1, d_1$  = Corresponding values for the cut out rectangle.

We know that the moment of inertia, of the outer rectangle  $ABCD$  about  $X-X$  axis

$$= \frac{bd^3}{12} \quad \dots(i)$$

and moment of inertia of the cut out rectangle  $EFGH$  about  $X-X$  axis

$$= \frac{b_1 d_1^3}{12} \quad \dots(ii)$$

$\therefore$  M.I. of the hollow rectangular section about  $X-X$  axis,

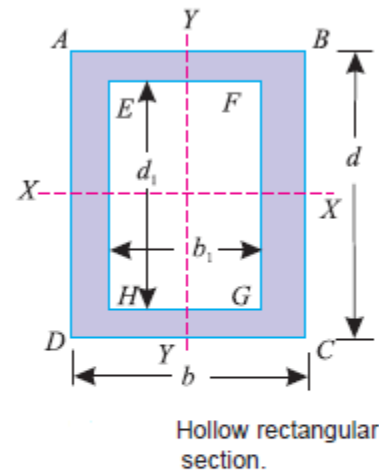
$$I_{xx} = \text{M.I. of rectangle } ABCD - \text{M.I. of rectangle } EFGH$$

$$= \frac{bd^3}{12} - \frac{b_1 d_1^3}{12}$$

Similarly,

$$I_{yy} = \frac{db^3}{12} - \frac{d_1 b_1^3}{12}$$

**Note :** This relation holds good only if the centre of gravity of the main section as well as that of the cut out section coincide with each other.

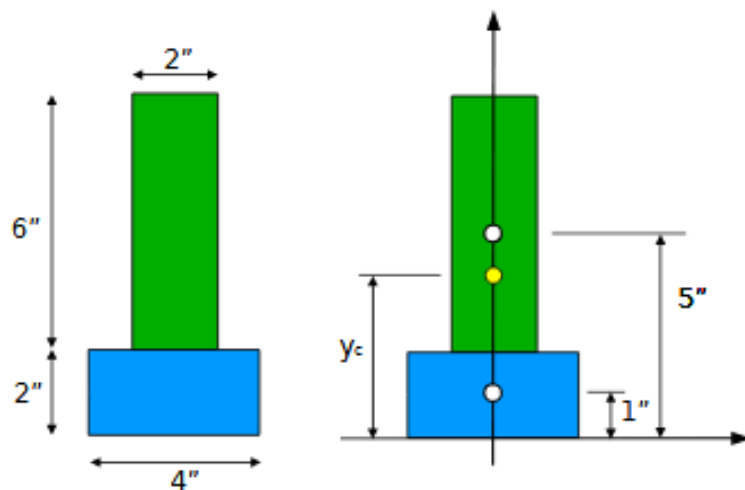


# 1. Moment of Inertia

## ► Example 5:

Find the centroidal moment of inertia for a T-shaped area.

- 1) First, locate the centroid of each rectangular area relative to a common base axis, then...
- 2) ...determine the location of the centroid of the composite.



$$x_c = 0 \quad (\text{by symmetry})$$

$$\begin{aligned} y_c &= \frac{\sum y_i A_i}{\sum A_i} \\ &= \frac{(5 \cdot (6 \cdot 2) + 1 \cdot (2 \cdot 4))}{(2 \cdot 4 + 6 \cdot 2)} \\ &= \frac{(60 + 8)}{20} = 3.4 \text{ in} \end{aligned}$$

# 1. Moment of Inertia

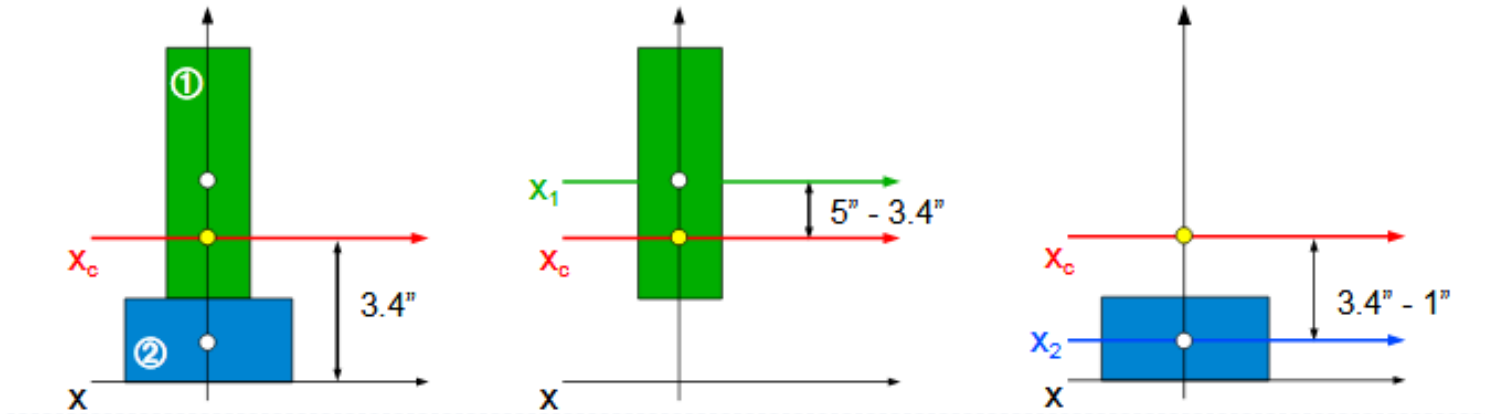
3) Find centroidal moment of inertia about the x-axis

$$I_{xc} = I_{x1} + I_{x2} \quad \text{where} \quad I_{xi} = \frac{b_i \cdot h_i^3}{12} + d_i^2 \cdot (b_i \cdot h_i)$$

$$I_{x1} = \frac{2 \cdot 6^3}{12} + (5 - 3.4)^2 \cdot 2 \cdot 6 = 66.72 \cdot \text{in}^4$$

$$I_{x2} = \frac{4 \cdot 2^3}{12} + (3.4 - 1)^2 \cdot 2 \cdot 4 = 48.75 \cdot \text{in}^4$$

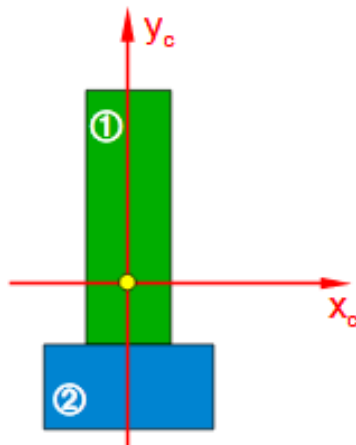
$$I_{xc} = I_{x1} + I_{x2} = 66.72 + 48.75 = 115.46 \text{ in}^4$$



# 1. Moment of Inertia

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- 4) Find the centroidal moment of inertia about the y-axis.  
Since the centroidal y-axis for each shape and for the composite is coincident, the moments of inertia are additive.



$$I_{yc} = I_{y1} + I_{y2}$$

$$I_{yi} = \frac{h_i \cdot b_i^3}{12}$$

$$I_{yc} = \frac{6 \cdot 2^3}{12} + \frac{2 \cdot 4^3}{12} = 14.66 \cdot \text{in}^4$$

# 1. Moment of Inertia

## Example

Find Moment of Inertia of this object:

- First we divide the object into two standard shapes present in the reference tables, then find the MI for each respective shape.

