Angle of Twist of a Double-bent Leaf Flexure under Torsion

Nghia Huu Nguyen1,2, Hong-Cheol Lee1, Sunghee Jo1 and Dong-Yeon Lee1,*
1 School of Mechanical Engineering, Yeungnam University, Gyeongsan, Gyeongbuk 38541, Republic of Korea
2 Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Nha Trang University, 2 Nguyen Dinh Chieu, Nha Trang, Viet Nam

The paper describes the rotational displacement of the double-bent leaf flexure subjected to a torsional load. Warping and double partially-restrained warping are considered when the torsion is applied. The warping restraint factor for partially-restrained warping is also considered. Castigliano’s theorem is applied to derive the theoretical equations of the angle of twist. The results for the fully restrained, partially restrained, and free warping cases are compared and verified with finite element analysis (FEA). A sensitivity analysis over the length, width, and thickness is performed and the results are compared with FEA. The errors between the theory result with the warping restraint factor (K=0.5) and those of FEA are the lowest, below 5%. This suggests that the angle of twist of the double-bent leaf flexure under torsion is accurately predicted by considering double partially-restrained warping.

Keywords: Torsion, double-bent leaf flexure, warping restraint factor, partially restrained warping, Castigliano’s theorem, finite element analysis.

Highlights:
- The warping and double partially-restrained warping are considered when the torsion is applied to the double-bent leaf flexure.
- The theoretical equations of the angle of twist of double-bent leaf flexure are derived by apply the Castigliano’s theorem.
- The theoretical results are compared and verified with finite element analysis, errors show below 5%.
- The results of this paper can provide a sufficiently accurate prediction of torsional angle in the design of precision machines.

1. INTRODUCTION

Leaf springs and hinges are two kinds of flexure guide; they have many applications in precision machines, especially in Nanoelectromechanical systems (NEMs) and Microelectromechanical systems (MEMs). These flexure guides have outstanding advantages such as no friction, and their guiding resolution is on the order of a nanometer. However, they have a short working range (from micrometer to millimeter). Therefore, the new flexure guides, which have a large working range and nano-resolution, have been very important in recent years. For example, a parallel leaf spring flexure has been presented with increasing displacement [1]; a displacement reduction mechanism based on torsional leaf spring hinges has been developed [2]; a novel flexure-based leaf spring has been presented with a large range 25 x 25 μm² [3]; a mechanism for a single-axis flexure-based nano-positioning stage with a large range of motion (up to a millimeter) is described in [4]; a multi-axis positioning system with nanometric resolution over a 1 mm stroke is described in [5]; a novel flexure parallel-kinematics precision positioning stage with a centimeter range has been designed and developed [6], and many hinge flexure guides have been reported [7-11]. In comparison with a hinge, the leaf spring has a smaller size and a minimum use of materials for the same displacement. Thus, we examined leaf spring flexure guides for the large range travel in this study. In general, a leaf spring can be divided into three types: single, single-bent, and double-bent leaf [12]. The single leaf has two degrees of freedom (DoF) with a coupled error and a small range of travel. Single-bent and double-bent leaf flexures (DBLFs) have three DoF and a larger range of travel. Many studies in recent years have focused on using the leaf springs in precision guiding machines [1, 2, 12-16]. The bending deflections and stresses of a cantilevered single leaf flexure using higher-order beam theory were investigated [13]; a one DoF rotational flexure
joint using a leaf spring has been proposed [14]; the bending displacement of a single-bent leaf flexure under transverse load has been analyzed [15], and a leaf spring was designed in combination with a hinge [2, 16]. Even the double-bent leaf flexure can create a larger range of travel than a single-bent leaf flexure, much research has not been reported. Thus, the DBLF under torsional loading will be investigated in this study. The U-spring model presented in [17] has a model similar to the DBLF, but only the in-plane deformations were analyzed and a torsional analysis was not considered in the compliances of their model [17].

Torsional analysis plays an important role in machine design, especially in precision machines. General torsional theory considers the cases of no warping and warping in torsion was shown in [18-20]. Torsional theory with warping has been presented in many studies. Examples include a generalized beam theory of bars under torsional loading presented in [21], and a theory of torsional analysis for an open thin-walled beam developed in [22, 23]. However, the case of partially restrained warping was not considered in these studies. The partially restrained warping case was analyzed and presented in [24, 25]; however, it was applied to a different analysis model. The torsional analysis of a leaf spring with partially-restrained warping was investigated in [26], but it was applied to a single-bent leaf flexure in which the partially restrained warping occurred one time.

In the present study, we performed a torsional analysis of a DBLF with consideration of double partially-restrained warping and changes of the warping restraint factor $K$. The strain energy of each element of the DBLF was derived, and the theoretical torsional displacement equation of the DBLF was derived using Castigliano’s second theorem. The angle of twists of the DBLF under torsional loading from the theoretical equations is numerically compared with those from a finite element analysis (FEA) at the default values and with variations of the length, width, and thickness of the DBLF. We suggest that our torsional analysis could be applied to applications of DBLFS in nano-scanner design.

2. THEORETICAL ANALYSIS

A model of the DBLF is shown in Fig. 1. The DBLF was divided into three elements. It has one fixed-end (at the free end of element 3), and three forces and three moments are applied to the other end. In this structure, the flexure acts as a leaf spring with three degrees of freedom, and can create a large range of travel. The dimensions of the structure are length $l$, width $b$, and thickness $t$. When a torsional moment $T_x$ is applied at the free end of element 1, element 1 twists, element 2 bends, and element 3 twists. The joints between elements 1 and 2, and elements 2 and 3, are not fixed and are not free; they produce double partially-restrained warping under torsional loading.

![Fig. 1. Schematic diagram of the double-bent leaf flexure.](image)

Figure 2 shows an application of the DBLF in a planar nano-scanner. The system includes four flexures connected to four corners of a square moving body in order to provide three DoF motion smoothly, and has larger range of travel than other leaf spring types. When a torsion along the $x$ or $y$ axis is externally applied in the moving body, it causes out-of-plane motion: the moving body cannot retain a planar surface, which will lead to reduced scanner accuracy. In this investigation, the rotational displacement of the flexure under torsion $T_x$ was analyzed and calculated to ensure accurate operation of the precision machine.
As previously mentioned, the joint between element 1 and 2 of the DBLF is partially restrained for the warping. Therefore, the partial warping constraint occurs at \( x = -l \) and free warping occurs at \( x = 0 \). To find the angle of twist of the element 1 with the partial warping constraint at the joint, the following two extreme BCs are defined and combined as follows:

First case. Given the assumptions that the full warping constraint occurs at \( x = -l \) and the free constraint occurs at \( x = 0 \), we have \( \theta_l(-l) = 0, \frac{d\theta_l}{dx}(-l) = 0 \) at \( x = -l \); and \( M_w = 0 \) or \( \frac{d^2\theta_l}{dx^2} = 0 \) at \( x = 0 \) (where \( M_w \) is the bimoment [18]). Thus, the following constants for Eq. (3) are determined:

\[
C_1 = \frac{T_x}{\alpha G J_x} \left( \alpha \frac{dU}{dx} - \frac{1}{\cosh \alpha} \right), \quad C_2 = \frac{T_x}{\alpha G J_x}, \quad C_3 = 0, \quad C_4 = \frac{T_x}{\alpha G J_x} \left( \frac{1}{\cosh \alpha} \right)
\]

Therefore, the twisting angle of the first case is

\[
\theta_{x11} = \frac{T_x}{\alpha G J_x} \left( \alpha \frac{dU}{dx} - \frac{1}{\cosh \alpha} \sinh \alpha \frac{dU}{dx} - \frac{1}{\cosh \alpha} \right)
\]

Second case. Given the assumptions that free warping occurs at both ends (\( x = -l \) and \( x = 0 \)), we have \( \theta_l(0) = 0 \) and \( M_w = 0 \) or \( \frac{d^2\theta_l}{dx^2} = 0 \) at \( x = 0 \); and \( M_w = 0 \) or \( \frac{d^2\theta_l}{dx^2} = 0 \) at \( x = -l \). The constants are determined in this case as follows:

\[
C_1 = 0, \quad C_2 = \frac{T_x}{\alpha G J_x}, \quad C_3 = 0, \quad C_4 = 0
\]

Thus, the twisting angle of the second case is

\[
\theta_{x12} = \frac{T_x}{\alpha G J_x} (\alpha \frac{dU}{dx})
\]

In the studied flexure, the joint between element 1 and 2 was considered to be a flexible joint, which means it was not completely free to warp, but was also not fully restrained. Hence, the joint is partially restrained. A warping restraint factor \( K_j \) was introduced to find the degree of partial restraint from warping [24]. Then, the warping restraint factor \( K_j \) was introduced into Eqs. (4) and (5):

\[
\theta_{x1} = \frac{T_x}{\alpha G J_x} \left( \alpha \frac{dU}{dx} - (1 - K_j) \left( \frac{1}{\cosh \alpha} \sinh \alpha \frac{dU}{dx} + 1 \right) \right)
\]

From Eq. (6), when \( K_j = 0 \), the fully-restrained
warping occurred at end $x = -l$ (case 1), and free warping occurred when $K_i = 1$ (case 2). Eq. (6) represents the angle of twist of the element 1 with the partial warping constraint at the joint. Therefore, the first- and second-order derivative equations were determined to be

$$\theta_{x1} = \frac{d\theta_{x1}}{dx} = \frac{T_x}{GJ_x} \left(1 + (1 - K_1) \left(-\frac{\cos \alpha}{\sinh \alpha}\right)\right)$$  \hspace{1cm} (7)

and

$$\theta_{x1}^{\prime} = \frac{d^2\theta_{x1}}{dx^2} = \frac{\sigma r_x}{GJ_x} (1 - K_1) \left(-\frac{\sin \alpha}{\cosh \alpha}\right)$$ \hspace{1cm} (8)

The strain energy stored in element 1 is defined as follows [23]:

$$U_{t1} = \frac{1}{2} E C_w \int_{-l}^{0} \left(\theta_{x1}\right)^2 dx + \frac{1}{2} GJ_x \int_{-l}^{0} \left(\theta_{x1}^{\prime}\right)^2 dx$$ \hspace{1cm} (9)

### 2.1.2 Strain energy of torsion in element 2

$T_c$ causes the pure bending in element 2 of the DBLF. The strain energy of bending is defined as follows:

$$U_{b2} = \int_{0}^{l} \left(\frac{r_x}{2EI_x}\right)^2 dy$$ \hspace{1cm} (10)

where $I_x = \frac{tb^3}{12}$ is the moment of inertia about the x-axis.

### 2.1.3 Strain energy of torsion in element 3

Similar to element 1, the joint between elements 2 and 3 of the DBLF is partially restrained for the warping. Therefore, at element 3, the partial warping constraint will occur at $x = -l$ and the full warping constraint will occur at $x = 0$. To find the angle of twist of the element 3 with the partial warping constraint at the joint, the following two extreme BCs are defined and combined as follows:

First case. We assumed that the full warping constraint occurs at both $x = 0$ and $x = -l$. Thus, the BCs are $\theta_{x}(0) = 0$ and $\frac{d\theta_{x}(0)}{dx} = 0$ at $x = 0$; and $\theta_{x}(-l) = 0$ and $\frac{d\theta_{x}(-l)}{dx} = 0$ at $x = -l$.

The constants for Eq. (3) are determined as follows:

$$C_1 = -\frac{T_x}{aGJ_x} \left(1 - \cosh \alpha \right) \frac{1}{\sinh \alpha}, \quad C_2 = \frac{T_x}{GJ_x}, \quad C_3 = -\frac{T_x}{aGJ_x} \left(1 - \cosh \alpha \right) \frac{1}{\sinh \alpha}, \quad C_4 = -\frac{T_x}{aGJ_x}.$$

Therefore, the twisting angle is

$$\theta_{x31} = \frac{T_x}{aGJ_x} \left[\alpha - \sinh \alpha + \frac{1 - \cosh \alpha}{\sinh \alpha}\right] \frac{\cos \alpha}{\cosh \alpha} - \frac{1 - \cosh \alpha}{\sinh \alpha}$$ \hspace{1cm} (11)

Second case. We assumed that the full warping constraint occurs at $x = 0$ and the free warping constraint occurs at $x = -l$. Thus, the BCs are $\theta_{x}(0) = 0$ and $\frac{d\theta_{x}(0)}{dx} = 0$ at $x = 0$, $M_\omega = 0$ or $\frac{d^2\theta_{x}(-l)}{dx^2} = 0$ at $x = -l$.

The constants for Eq. (3) are determined as follows:

$$C_1 = -\frac{T_x}{aGJ_x} \left(1 - \cosh \alpha \right) \frac{1}{\sinh \alpha}, \quad C_2 = \frac{T_x}{GJ_x}, \quad C_3 = -\frac{T_x}{aGJ_x} \left(1 - \cosh \alpha \right) \frac{1}{\sinh \alpha}, \quad C_4 = -\frac{T_x}{aGJ_x}.$$

Thus, the twisting angle is

$$\theta_{x32} = -\frac{T_x}{aGJ_x} \left[\alpha - \sinh \alpha - \frac{1 - \cosh \alpha}{\sinh \alpha}\right] \frac{\tan \alpha}{\cot \alpha} + \frac{1 - \cosh \alpha}{\sinh \alpha}$$ \hspace{1cm} (12)

The warping restraint factor $K_2$ was introduced into Eqs. (11) and (12):

$$\theta_{x3} = -\frac{T_x}{aGJ_x} \left[\alpha - \sinh \alpha - \left(K_2 \tan \alpha + \frac{1 - \cosh \alpha}{\sinh \alpha}\right)\right]$$ \hspace{1cm} (13)

Or

$$\theta_{x3} = -\frac{T_x}{aGJ_x} \left[\alpha - \sinh \alpha - K_2 \tan \alpha - \frac{1 - \cosh \alpha}{\sinh \alpha}\right]$$ \hspace{1cm} (14)

where $K_2 = K_2 \tan \alpha + \frac{1 - \cosh \alpha}{\sinh \alpha}$

When $K_2 = 0$, the fully-restrained warping occurs at end $x = -l$ (case 1), and free warping occurs when $K_2 = 1$ (case 2). Eq. (13–14) represents the angle.
of twist of the element 3 with the partial warping constraint at the joint. Therefore, first- and second-order derivative equations were determined to be

\[
\theta_{x3} = \frac{d \theta_{x3}}{dx} = \frac{T_x}{GJ_x} (1 - \cosh \alpha x - K \sinh \alpha x)
\]

(15)

and

\[
\dot{\theta}_{x3} = \frac{d^2 \theta_{x3}}{dx^2} = \frac{aT_x}{GJ_x} (-\sinh \alpha x - K \cosh \alpha x)
\]

(16)

The strain energy stored in element 3 is defined by Eq. (17): 

\[
U_{x3} = \frac{1}{2} E C_w \int (\dot{\theta}_{x3}^2) dx + \frac{1}{2} G J_x \int (\dot{\theta}_{x3})^2 dx
\]

(17)

The torsion constant J of the rectangular cross section bar was determined by using Eq. (16) [19]:

\[
J_x = \frac{b t^3}{3} \left[ 1 - 0.63 \frac{t}{b} \left( 1 - \frac{t^4}{12 b^4} \right) \right]
\]

(18)

The warping constant Cw with respect to the shear center is defined [18] as the warping moment of inertia and is calculated as follows:

\[
C_w = \int \omega^2 dA = \frac{(bt)^3}{344}
\]

(19)

where \( \omega \) is the warping function.

From Eqs. (9), (10), and (17), the total strain energy was determined as follows:

\[
U = U_{t1} + U_{b2} + U_{t3} = \frac{1}{2} E C_w \int (\dot{\theta}_{x1})^2 dx + \frac{1}{2} G J_x \int (\dot{\theta}_{x1})^2 dx + \int \int (\dot{\theta}_{x2})^2 dy + \frac{1}{2} E C_w \int (\dot{\theta}_{x3})^2 dx + \frac{1}{2} G J_x \int (\dot{\theta}_{x3})^2 dx
\]

(20)

2.2 Twist angle

Integrating the each terms in Eq. (20) yields

\[
U = \frac{T_x^2 l}{2G J_x} + \frac{a E C_w T_x^2 (k_2 \sinh \alpha t - \sinh \alpha t)}{2G J_x^2 \cosh \alpha t} + \frac{T_x^2 l}{2E J_x} + \frac{a E C_w T_x^2 (k_2 \sinh \alpha t - \sinh \alpha t)}{2G J_x^2 \cosh \alpha t}
\]

(21)

Therefore, from Eq. (21), the angle twist at the free end of the DBLF under torsion load \( T_x \) is obtained as follows:

\[
\theta_x = \frac{\partial U}{\partial T_x} = \frac{T_x l}{G J_x} + \frac{a E C_w T_x (k_2 \sinh \alpha t - \sinh \alpha t)}{G J_x^2 \cosh \alpha t} + \frac{T_x l}{E J_x}
\]

Eq. (22) includes the partial warping constraints at the joints between elements 1 and 2, and elements 2 and 3.

3. COMPARISON OF RESULTS

To verify the results of the theoretical analysis, FEA was conducted by using ANSYS 14.0 commercial FEA software. The parameters of the DBLF with length \( l = 10 \) mm, width \( b = 4 \) mm, and thickness \( t = 0.5 \) mm were selected as the default values. The material used in this simulation is aluminum 6061. The torsion moment is \( T_x = 1 \) N mm. The FEA model has a mesh size of 0.1 mm. The sensitive parameters were used to check the agreement between the FEA results and theory results, with the following variations: length \( l = 5 \) to 20 mm, width \( b = 2 \) to 8 mm, and thickness \( t = 0.25 \) to 1 mm. The angles of twist of the DBLF from the theory were numerically calculated and compared by FEA results with the various factors \( K_1 \) and \( K_2 \). The factors with lower errors compared to the FEA results were chosen and used in the subsequent design steps.

3.1 Angle of twist at default values

The rotational displacement of DBLF under torsion load \( T_x \) is defined by Eq. (22) according to the theoretical analysis. Both of the warping restraint factor values were chosen at \( K_1 = K_2 = K = 0, 0.5, \) and 1. The FEA simulation was also conducted at the default values of flexure. Table 1 shows the results obtained using the theoretical method and FEA. The error for \( K = 0.5 \) was the lowest at 1.3 %, and the errors for \( K = 0 \) and \( K = 1 \) were 1.59 % and 8.7 %, respectively. The free warping was considered at two joints (\( K = 1 \)), and showed the significantly higher errors. The case of \( K = 0 \) with fully-restrained warping at the joints gave also larger errors than in the case of \( K = 0.5 \). This indicates that the results based on the theoretical equation with \( K = 0.5 \) are in good agreement with the FEA results at the default values. Moreover, the two joints between elements 1 and 2, and 2 and 3, of the DBLF were well understood with the partial warping constraints \( (K = 0.5) \). However, to ensure the reliability of the calculations, the sensitive parameters with changes

\[
\frac{T_x l}{G J_x} + \frac{a E C_w T_x (k_2 \sinh \alpha t - \sinh \alpha t \cosh \alpha t)}{G J_x^2 \cosh \alpha t (\cosh \alpha t + 1)}
\]

(22)
of length, thickness, and width of the DBLF were analyzed and tested.

### Table 1. Comparison between theory and FEA results at the default values of the DBLF

| Method                              | Rotational displacement $\theta_x$ (mrad) | Error between FEA and theory (%) |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| FEA                                 | 4.32                                     | -                                |
| Fully-restrained warping ($K = 0$)  | 4.25                                     | -1.59                            |
| Theory                              | 4.37                                     | 1.3                              |
| Partially-restrained warping ($K = 0.5$) | 4.37                                    | 1.3                              |
| Free                                | 4.73                                     | 8.7                              |

### 3.2 Sensitive parameter analysis

Figure 3 shows the results of $T_x$ sensitivity for length $l$ that were obtained by using theory and FEA to simulate the variation of rotation $\theta_x$ for lengths $l = 5$ to 20 mm under torsion $T_x$ with warping restraint factor values of $K_1 = K_2 = K = 0, 0.5,$ and 1. The values of $\theta_x$ are shown in the left $y$-axis and the errors are shown on the right $y$-axis. When length $l$ increases, the rotation $\theta_x$ increases linearly in both methods, and the differences in these values are small. However, it is easy to observe the larger differences in the smaller length as shown in Fig. 3 and the values shown in Table 2. The errors from theory ($K = 0.5$) are below 5%, while the errors for $K = 0$ and $K = 1$ are nearly 10% and 15%, respectively. Thus, the theoretical result with $K = 0.5$ is in better agreement with the FEA results.

![Fig. 3. Variation of $\theta_x$ according to length $l$ under torsion $T_x$.](image)

### Table 2. Comparison between theory and FEA

| Length | FEA   | Theory | Error (%) |
|--------|-------|--------|-----------|
|        |       |        |           |
Similarly, Fig. 4 shows the results of $T_x$ sensitivity for thickness $t$ with the variation of thickness $t = 0.25$ to $1$ mm. When thickness $t$ increases, the rotation $\theta_x$ decreases nonlinearly for both methods, and the curves of these values are quite similar. However, there are large differences in the comparison of errors with FEA, as shown in Fig. 4, and the values shown in Table 3. In this simulation, the errors of theory ($K = 0.5$) are below $2\%$, while the errors for $K = 0$ and $K = 1$ are nearly $3\%$ and $10\%$, respectively. These results show that the theoretical result with $K = 0.5$ is the most accurate prediction.

![Fig. 4. Variation of $\theta_x$ according to thickness $t$ under torsion $T_x$.](image)

**Table 3.** Rotation $\theta_x$ (mrad) results for theory and FEA according to thickness $t$ under torsion $T_x$

| Thickness (mm) | FEA  | Theory | Error (%) |
|---------------|------|--------|-----------|
|               |      | $K=0$  | $K=0.5$  | $K=1$    | $K=0$  | $K=0.5$ | $K=1$    |
| 5             | 1.960| 1.775  | 1.893     | 2.247    | 9.44   | 3.42    | -14.61   |
| 6.5           | 2.659| 2.516  | 2.635     | 2.992    | 5.35   | 0.88    | -12.54   |
| 8             | 3.365| 3.261  | 3.380     | 3.737    | 3.09   | -0.45   | -11.07   |
| 9.5           | 4.065| 4.006  | 4.125     | 4.483    | 1.44   | -1.49   | -10.28   |
| 11            | 4.767| 4.752  | 4.871     | 5.228    | 0.31   | -2.19   | -9.69    |
| 12.5          | 5.483| 5.497  | 5.616     | 5.974    | -0.25  | -2.43   | -8.95    |
| 14            | 6.179| 6.243  | 6.362     | 6.719    | -1.04  | -2.96   | -8.75    |
| 15.5          | 6.861| 6.988  | 7.107     | 7.465    | -1.85  | -3.59   | -8.80    |
| 17            | 7.575| 7.734  | 7.853     | 8.210    | -2.09  | -3.66   | -8.38    |
| 18.5          | 8.262| 8.479  | 8.598     | 8.956    | -2.63  | -4.07   | -8.40    |
| 20            | 8.970| 9.224  | 9.344     | 9.701    | -2.84  | -4.16   | -8.15    |
Figure 5 shows the results of the variation of rotation $\theta_x$ according to the width $b = 2$ to 8 mm under torsion $T_x$ based on theory and FEA. The warping restraint factors values are the same as in the aforementioned two cases. When width $b$ increases, the rotation $\theta_x$ is decreasing in both methods. The errors compared with FEA are presented in Fig. 5 and Table 4. The errors of theory ($K = 0.5$) are below 5% while the errors for $K = 0$ and $K = 1$ are up to nearly 8% and 17%, respectively. These graphs also reveal that the results of theory with $K = 0.5$ are in strong agreement with the results of FEA.

| $b$  | $\theta_x$ (mrad) from theory | $\theta_x$ (mrad) from FEA | Error 1 | Error 2 | Error 3 |
|------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 0.25 | 32.797                      | 32.447                     | 1.07    | -1.13   | -9.85   |
| 0.325| 15.214                      | 14.971                     | 1.60    | -1.13   | -9.32   |
| 0.4  | 8.295                       | 8.145                      | 1.81    | -0.93   | -9.13   |
| 0.475| 5.007                       | 4.937                      | 5.490   | -1.37   | -9.65   |
| 0.55 | 3.279                       | 3.230                      | 3.593   | -1.26   | -9.56   |
| 0.625| 2.275                       | 2.237                      | 2.300   | -1.10   | -9.41   |
| 0.7  | 1.654                       | 1.619                      | 1.802   | -0.66   | -8.96   |
| 0.775| 1.241                       | 1.214                      | 1.351   | -0.57   | -8.88   |
| 0.85 | 0.960                       | 0.937                      | 1.043   | -0.28   | -8.59   |
| 0.925| 0.760                       | 0.740                      | 0.824   | -0.13   | -8.45   |
| 1    | 0.615                       | 0.597                      | 0.665   | 0.11    | -8.20   |

Table 4. Rotation $\theta_x$ (mrad) from theory and FEA according to width $b$ under torsion $T_x$
The strain energy of each double partially restrained warping at the two joints and the warping restraint factor $K$ are presented. The results indicate that the partially-restrained warping case ($K = 0$) are up to 17%. The errors in the partially-restrained warping case ($K = 0.5$) for the DBLF can provide a sufficiently accurate prediction of torsional angle in the design of precision machines.

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4. CONCLUSION

We analyzed the angle of twist of the DBLF under torsion with consideration of the partially-restrained warping at two joints and the warping restraint factor $K$. The strain energy of each element is derived, and the total strain energy of the DBLF is presented based on Castigliano’s theorem. The equations of rotational displacement of the DBLF under torsion are presented. The finite element simulation was conducted at the default values, and for variations of length, thickness, and width, using various values of the warping restraint factors. Our results indicate that the theoretical equations with consideration of the double partially-restrained warping effects ($K_1 = K_2 = K = 0.5$) for the DBLF can provide a sufficiently accurate prediction of torsional angle in the design of precision machines.

### Table

| Width (mm) | FEA   | Theory K=0 | Theory K=0.5 | Theory K=1 | Error (%) K=0 | Error (%) K=0.5 | Error (%) K=1 |
|------------|-------|------------|--------------|------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| 2          | 10.018| 10.367     | 10.504       | 10.913     | -3.49         | -4.85          | -8.93         |
| 2.6        | 7.210 | 7.358      | 7.486        | 7.869      | -2.05         | -3.83          | -9.15         |
| 3.2        | 5.574 | 5.646      | 5.769        | 6.138      | -1.29         | -3.50          | -10.13        |
| 3.8        | 4.590 | 4.541      | 4.661        | 5.021      | 1.06          | -1.55          | -9.40         |
| 4.4        | 3.813 | 3.768      | 3.886        | 4.239      | 1.18          | -1.91          | -11.18        |
| 5          | 3.285 | 3.197      | 3.313        | 3.662      | 2.68          | -0.86          | -11.47        |
| 5.6        | 2.861 | 2.758      | 2.873        | 3.217      | 3.59          | -0.42          | -12.46        |
| 6.2        | 2.517 | 2.410      | 2.523        | 2.865      | 4.27          | -0.24          | -13.79        |
| 6.8        | 2.258 | 2.127      | 2.240        | 2.578      | 5.80          | 0.81           | -14.16        |
| 7.4        | 2.023 | 1.893      | 2.005        | 2.340      | 6.43          | 0.91           | -15.66        |
| 8          | 1.832 | 1.697      | 1.808        | 2.140      | 7.39          | 1.34           | -16.80        |
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