

# DESIGN AIDS OF NU I-GIRDER BRIDGES

Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR)

Project Number: P322



July 2010



# **Design Aids of NUI-Girder Bridges**

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## **FINAL REPORT**

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13. Abstract  <p>Precast prestressed concrete I-girder bridges have become the most dominate bridge system in the United States. As a part of the design stages, preliminary design becomes a vital first step in designing an economical bridge. Within the state of Nebraska, the two standard precast prestressed products used are Inverted Tee (IT) girders and University of Nebraska (NU) I-girders. In the early 1990's, Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) developed design charts for NU I- girders in order to assist in member selection and preliminary design. In 2004, design charts were developed for IT girders. However, the NUI-girder charts have since become obsolete because they were developed for low strength concrete (6 ksi) and 0.5 inch prestressing strand. In addition, the charts were based off of AASHTO Standard Specifications. Since then, NDOR has adopted AASHTO LRFD Specifications for superstructure design and the Threaded Rod (TR) continuity systems in their standard practice. Therefore, the new design charts are based on the latest AASHTO LRFD Specifications for superstructure design and NDOR Bridge Operations, Policies, and Procedures (BOPP manual).</p> <p>With the increasing use of 0.6 and 0.7 inch diameter strand as well as increasing concrete strengths, there is a need for new preliminary design charts for NUI-girders. The new design aids provide bridge designers with different alternatives of girder section size (from NU900 to NU2000), girder spacing (from 6-12ft), number of prestressing strands (up to 60), prestressing strand diameter (from 0.6 to 0.7 inch), and compressive strength of concrete (from 8ksi to 15ksi). Three sets of design charts are developed to cover simple span , two-span continuous and three-span continuous bridges. Each set contains two different type of charts: summary charts and detailed charts. Summary charts give designers the largest possible span length allowed given girder spacing, concrete strength, and NUI-girder sections. Detailed charts give designers the minimum number of prestressing strands required given girder spacing, span length, and concrete strength. Both sets of charts provide designers with the limit state that controls the design. If needed, this allows the design to be optimized in an efficient manner. Design tables were developed.</p>			
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## **ABSTRACT**

Precast prestressed concrete girder bridges have become the most dominate bridge system in the United States. As a part of the design stages, preliminary design becomes a vital first step in designing an economical bridge. Within the state of Nebraska, the two standard precast prestressed products used are Inverted Tee (IT) girders and University of Nebraska (NU) I-girders. In the early 1990's, Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) developed design charts for NU I-girders in order to assist in member selection and preliminary design. In 2004, design charts were developed for IT girders. However, the NU-I girder charts have since become obsolete because they were developed for low strength concrete (6 ksi) and 0.5 inch prestressing strand. In addition, the charts were based off of AASHTO Standard Specifications. Since then, NDOR has adopted AASHTO LRFD Specifications for superstructure design and the Threaded Rod (TR) continuity systems in their standard practice. Therefore, the new design charts are based on the latest AASHTO LRFD Specifications for superstructure design and NDOR Bridge Operations, Policies, and Procedures (BOPP manual).

With the increasing use of 0.6 and 0.7 inch diameter strand as well as increasing concrete strengths, there is a need for new preliminary design charts for NU I-girders. The new design aids provide bridge designers with different alternatives of girder section size (from NU900 to NU2000), girder spacing (from 6-12ft), number of prestressing strands (up to 60), prestressing strand diameter (from 0.6 to 0.7 inch), and compressive strength of concrete (from 8ksi to 15ksi). Three sets of design charts are developed to cover simple span ,two-span continuous and three-span continuous bridges. Each set contains two different types of

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## Table of Contents

TECHNICAL REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE .....	3
DISCLAIMER .....	4
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	5
ABSTRACT.....	6
1.0 INTRODUCTION .....	11
1.1 GIRDER SECTION PROPERTIES .....	13
1.2 DESIGN ASSUMPTIONS OF PRETENSIONED PRECAST NU I-GIRDERS .....	14
1.3 Developed Charts.....	18
1.3.1 Summary Charts.....	18
1.3.2 Detailed Charts.....	19
1.3.3 Developed Tables.....	20
2.0 EFFECT OF DESIGN PARAMETERS.....	21
2.1 GIRDER TYPE (NU-I GIRDER COMPARED WITH AASHTO).....	21
2.2 PRESTRESSING STRAND DIAMETER (0.6 inch to 0.7 inch).....	22
2.3 COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH OF CONCRETE (8 ksi to 15 ksi).....	25
2.4 STRENGTH DESIGN METHOD VS. WORKING STRESS METHOD FOR CONCRETE STRENGTH AT RELEASE.....	27
2.5 THREADED ROD CONTINUITY SYSTEM .....	30
3.0 DESIGN AID UTILIZATION EXAMPLES .....	33
3.1 Design Example No. 1 .....	33
3.2 Design Example No. 2 .....	36
3.3 Design Example No. 3 .....	38
4.0 DESIGN CHARTS .....	41
4.1 Simple span with 0.6 in. strands and $f'_c$ 8.0 and 10.0 ksi .....	43
4.1.1 Stress at release using strength at release .....	43
4.1.2 Stress at release using working stress design.....	46

4.2 Two span with 0.6 in. strands and $f_c$ 8.0 and 10.0 ksi, continuous for live load and deck weight .....	49
4.2.1 Stress at release using strength at release .....	49
4.2.2 Stress at release using working stress design.....	52
4.3 Two span with 0.6 in. strands and $f_c$ 8.0 and 10.0 ksi, continuous for live load .....	55
4.3.1 Stress at release using strength at release .....	55
4.3.2 Stress at release method design.....	58
4.4 Three Span with 0.6 in. Strands and $f_c$ 8.0 and 10.0 ksi continuous for live load and deck weight .....	61
4.4.1 Stress at release using strength at release .....	61
4.4.2 Working stress at release method design .....	64
4.5 Three Span with 0.6 in. Strands and $f_c$ 8.0 and 10.0 ksi continuous for live load .....	67
4.5.1 Stress at release using strength at release.....	67
4.5.2 Working stress at release method design .....	70
4.6 Simple Span with 0.6 in. and 0.7 in. strands and $f_c$ 12.0 and 15.0 ksi .....	73
4.6.1 Stress at release using strength at release .....	73
4.6.2 Stress at release using working stress design.....	77
4.7 Two Span with 0.6 in. and 0.7 in strands and $f_c$ 12.0 and 15.0 ksi, continuous for live load and deck weight .....	81
4.7.1 Stress at release using strength at release .....	81
4.7.2 Stress at release using working stress design.....	85
4.8 Two Span with 0.6 in. and 0.7 in strands and $f_c$ 12.0 and 15.0 ksi, continuous for live load.....	89
4.8.1 Stress at release using strength at release .....	89
4.8.2 Stress at release using working stress design.....	93
4.9 Three Span with 0.6 in and 0.7 in. strands and $f_c$ 12.0 and 15.0 ksi continuous for live load and deck weight .....	97
4.9.1 Stress at release using strength at release .....	97
4.9.2 Stress at release using working stress design.....	101
4.10 Three Span with 0.6 in and 0.7 in. strands and $f_c$ 12.0 and 15.0 ksi continuous for live load.....	105

4.10.1 Stress at release using strength at release .....	105
4.10.2 Stress at release using working stress design.....	109
IMPLEMENTATION.....	113
REFERENCES .....	114
Appendices.....	115

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Precast prestressed concrete girder bridges have become the most dominate bridge system in the United States. In the early design stages, preliminary design becomes a vital first step in designing an economical bridge. Within the state of Nebraska, the two standard precast prestressed products used are Inverted Tee (IT) girders and University of Nebraska (NU) I-girders. In the early 1990's, Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) developed design charts for NU I-girders in order to assist in member selection and preliminary design. In 2004, design charts were developed for IT girders. However, the NU I-girder charts have since become obsolete because they were developed for low strength concrete (6 ksi) and 0.5 inch prestressing strand. In addition, the charts were based off of AASHTO Standard Specifications. Since then, NDOR has adopted AASHTO LRFD Specifications for superstructure design and the Threaded Rod (TR) continuity systems in their standard practice. Therefore, the new design charts are based on the latest AASHTO LRFD Specifications for superstructure design and NDOR Bridge Operations, Policies, and Procedures (BOPP manual).

With the increasing use of 0.6 and 0.7 inch diameter strand as well as increasing concrete strengths, there is a need for new preliminary design charts for NU I-girders. The new design aids provide bridge designers with different alternatives of girder section size (from NU900 to NU2000), girder spacing (from 6-12ft), number of prestressing strands (up to 60), prestressing strand diameter (from 0.6 to 0.7 inch), and compressive strength of concrete (from 8ksi to 15ksi). Three sets of design charts are developed to cover simple span, two-span continuous bridges and three span continuous bridges. Each set contains two different

type of charts: summary charts and detailed charts. Summary charts give designers the largest possible span length allowed given girder spacing, concrete strength, and NU I-girder sections. Detailed charts give designers the minimum number of prestressing strands required given girder spacing, span length, and concrete strength. All sets of charts provide designers with the limit state that controls the design. If needed, this allows the design to be optimized in an efficient manner.

All design charts were developed using two different design methods for concrete strength at release: Strength Design Method and Working Stress Method. In the state of Nebraska, the designer is permitted to use the strength design method and/or the working stress method. This was done to allow for the comparison of the two methods as well as give designers an option on which method to use based off of company policy. For two span continuous girder bridges, the TR continuity system was used. This system allows the deck weight to act continuously throughout the bridge system where as the conventional continuity system is continuous for live load only<sup>1</sup>. A comparison of TR continuity and the conventional bridge continuity system is shown later in this paper.

The new design aids provide bridge designers with an efficient and reliable tool to optimize the selection and preliminary design of NU I-girders. This will eliminate the tedious and time-consuming process of evaluating several alternatives to achieve a feasible and economical design. It is expected that the new design aids will save time, money, and effort spent in performing unnecessary design iterations. The developed design aids will satisfy both current and future needs of bridge designers.



## 1.1 GIRDER SECTION PROPERTIES

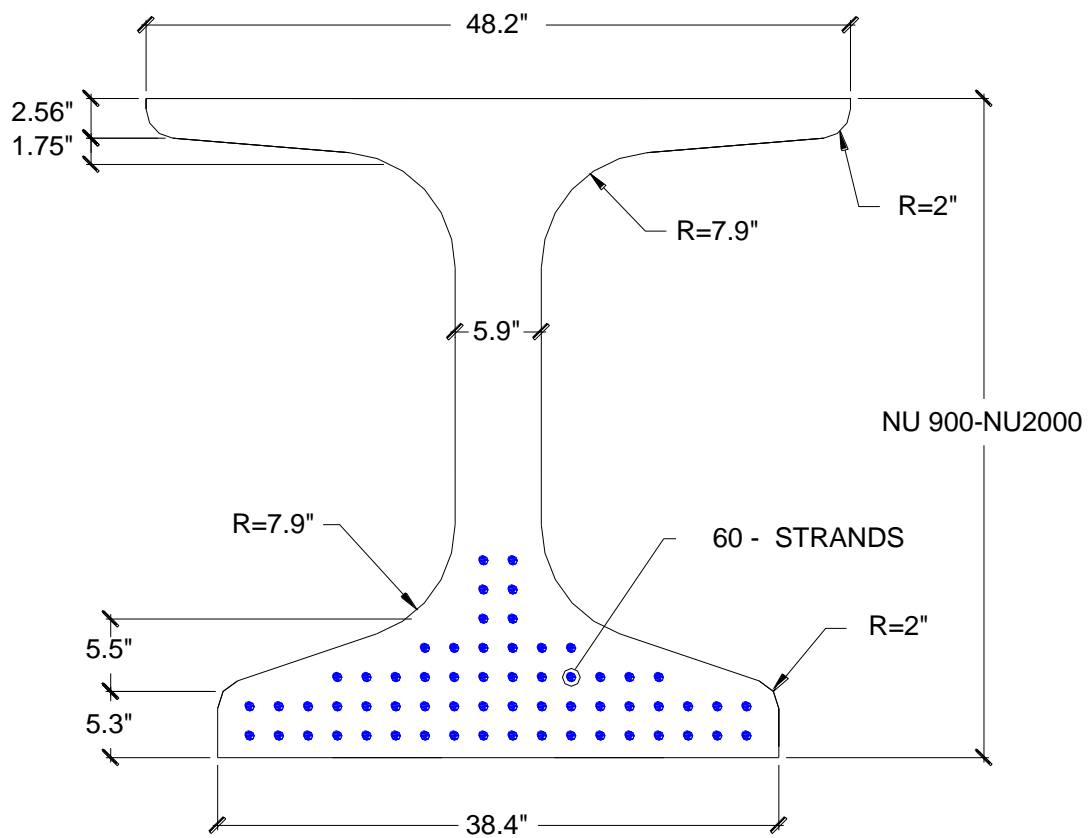


Figure 1 Pretensioned Only Nebraska University I-Girder with Strand Template

Table 1 NU Girder Properties

Section	Height in (mm)	Web Width in (mm)	Top Flange Width in (mm)	Bottom Flange Width in (mm)	A in <sup>2</sup> (mm <sup>2</sup> )	Y <sub>b</sub> in (mm)	I in <sup>2</sup> (mm <sup>4</sup> * 10 <sup>6</sup> )	W <sub>t</sub> Kips/ft KN/m
NU 900	35.4 (900)	5.9 (150)	48.2 (1225)	38.4 (975)	648.1 (418,111)	16.1 (410)	110,262 (45,895)	0.680 (9.85)
NU 1100	43.3 (1100)	5.9 (150)	48.2 (1225)	38.4 (975)	694.6 (448,111)	19.6 (497)	182,279 (75,870)	0.724 (10.56)
NU 1350	53.1 (1350)	5.9 (150)	48.2 (1225)	38.4 (975)	752.7 (485,610)	24.0 (608)	302,334 (126,841)	0.785 (11.44)
NU 1600	63.0 (1600)	5.9 (150)	48.2 (1225)	38.4 (975)	810.8 (523,111)	28.4 (722)	458,482 (190,835)	0.840 (12.33)
NU 1800	70.9 (1800)	5.9 (150)	48.2 (1225)	38.4 (975)	857.3 (553,111)	32.0 (814)	611,328 (254,454)	0.894 (13.03)
NU 2000	78.7 (2000)	5.9 (150)	48.2 (1225)	38.4 (975)	903.8 (583,111)	35.7 (906)	790,592 (329,069)	0.942 (13.74)

## 1.2 DESIGN ASSUMPTIONS OF PRETENSIONED PRECAST NU I-GIRDERS

Design Code:

- AASHTO LRFD 4th edition 2007
- NDOR Bridge Office Policies and Procedures (BOPP) Manual 2009

Design Criteria:

- Service III
- Strength I Precast
- Strength I Composite (Multiplier of 2.0 was used for the ultimate moment  $M_{LL+IM}$  and ultimate shear  $V_{LL+IM}$ )
- Release Stresses (Strength Design Method and working stress design method)
- Shear Limit

- Negative Moment Fatigue
- Crack Control

Structural System:

- Simple Span
- Two Span Continuous (Equal Spans)
- Three Span Continuous (0.8L, 1.0L, 0.8L) According to PCI Bridge Design Manual

Girder Sections:

- NU 900, NU 1100, NU 1350, NU 1600, NU 1800, NU 2000
- Interior Girders
- $w_c = 0.150$  kcf

Girder Spacing:

- 6, 8, 10, and 12 ft

Girder Compressive Strength at Final:

- 8, 10, 12, and 15 ksi

Girder Compressive Strength at Release:

- $0.75 * f'_c = 6, 7.5, 9, \text{ and } 11.25$  ksi

## Deck Concrete:

- 4 ksi (for 8 and 10 ksi final compressive concrete strength)
- 5 ksi (for 12 and 15 ksi final compressive concrete strength)

## Deck Thickness:

- For Girder Spacing = 6-10ft,  $t_s = 7.5$  in.
- For Girder Spacing = 12 ft,  $t_s = 8.0$  in.
- Assume  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch reduction of deck slab thickness in computing composite properties to allow for long term wear.

## Haunch:

- Width = 48 in.
- Thickness for simple span = 1 in.
- Thickness for continuous span
  - Over positive section = 2.5 in.
  - Over negative section = 3.5 in.

## Strand Type:

- Grade 270 Low-relaxation,  $E_s = 28,500$  ksi
- Yield Strength = 243 ksi
- Jacking Stress =  $0.75 \cdot f_{pu}$

## Strand Diameter:

- 0.6 in (for 8, 10, and 12 ksi final compressive concrete strength)
- 0.7 in (for 12 and 15 ksi for final compressive concrete strength)

Strand Arrangement:

- 60 strands – 7 rows (18,18,12,6,2,2,2) @ 2" x 2" grid spacing
- Straight strands, two point draping allowed at  $0.4 \cdot L$
- Debonding allowed for a maximum of 40% of any row and 25% of total

Dead Load:

- Girder Weight
- Deck Weight
- Diaphragm = 0.25 k/ft
- Haunch Weight
- Asphalt (2 inch wearing surface)

Live Load:

- HL-93 - Design Truck + Design Lane

Misc:

- For continuous girders, (10)- 1 3/8"  $\varnothing$  x 50 ft Threaded Rods are placed 0.75 in. above the top flange of the girder over the negative moment section.
- Minimum deck reinforcement plus #5 to (2)- #8 bars may be placed in between the minimum reinforcement in order to obtain the maximum strength moment capacity over the negative section.

### 1.3 Developed Charts

Two types of charts were developed: summary charts and detailed charts. The charts will provide the designer with an excellent starting point for preliminary design. Note that the charts also provide the governing limit state controlling the design. This will allow bridge designers to adjust various design parameters if needed to fit their specific design.

#### 1.3.1 Summary Charts

Summary charts display the maximum attainable span versus girder spacing (6, 8, 10, and 12 ft.) for different girder sizes (NU 900, 1100, 1350, 1600, 1800, and 2000). This type of chart is convenient to use in the early stages of design to identify the spacing and approximate girder size to use for a given span length. Figure 2 shows an example of a summary chart. A total of five summary charts were developed to represent different combinations of concrete strength: 8, 10, 12 (0.6" and 0.7" strands), and 15 ksi.

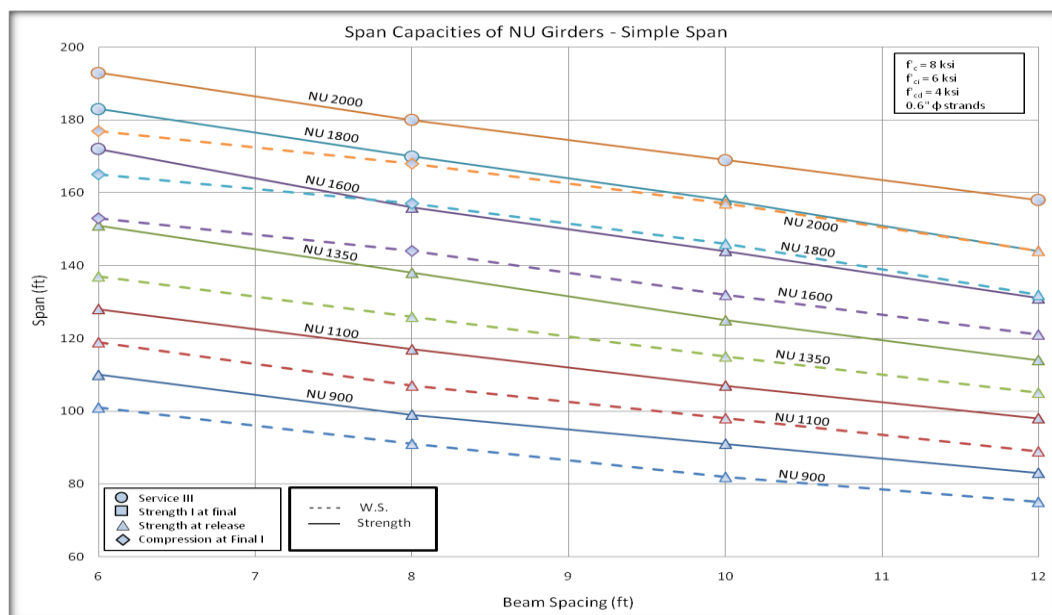


Figure 2 Example of a Summary Chart.

### 1.3.2 Detailed Charts

Detailed charts display the required number of strands and concrete strength for a specific girder given the span length and the girder spacing. Figure 3 shows an example of a detailed chart. A total of thirty detailed charts were developed in order to represent different combinations of girder size (NU 900 – NU 2000) and concrete strengths (8, 10, 12, and 15 ksi).

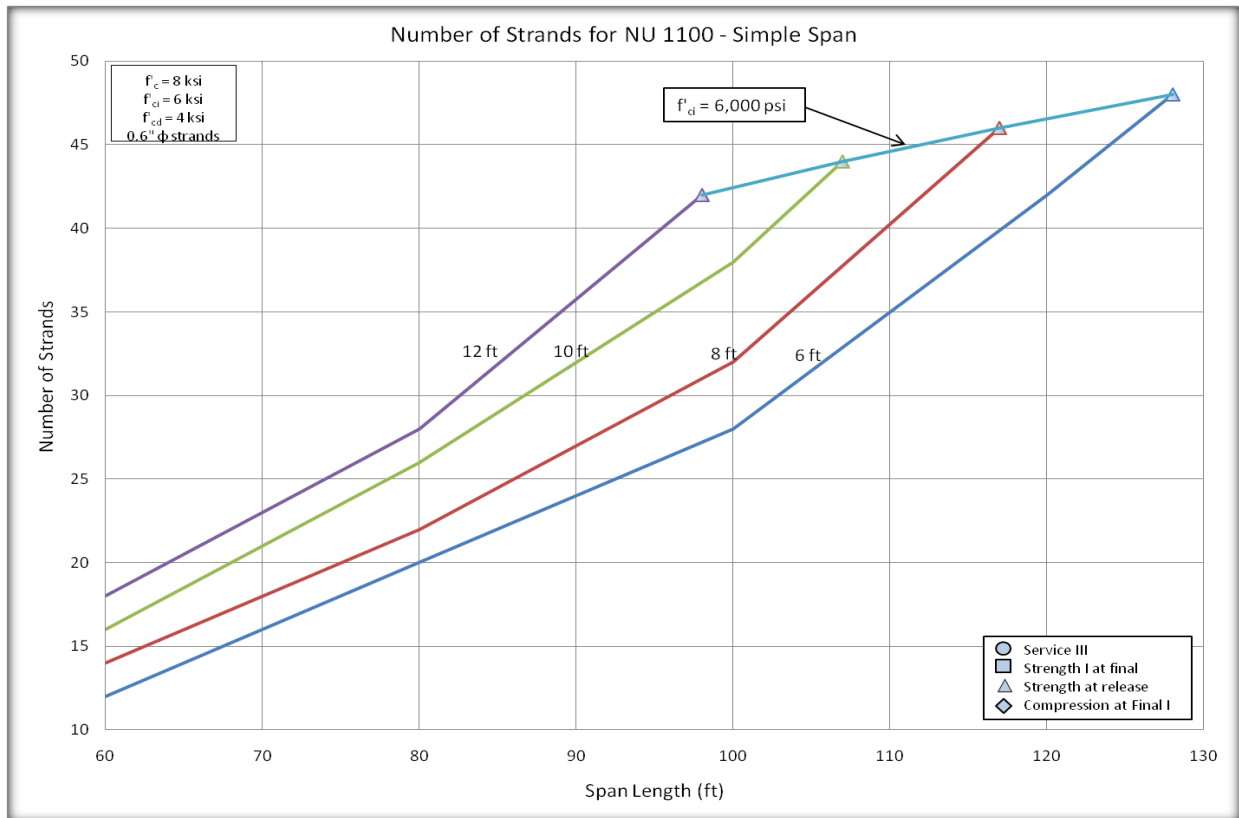


Figure 3 Example of detailed chart using Strength Design Method.

### 1.3.3 Developed Tables

Design tables were developed. The tables show the minimum required number of strands for a give span length with specific concrete strength and specific spacing. Table 2 is an example of the developed tables.

Table 2: Example of the developed tables

Girder Size		NU 1100							
Spacing (ft)		6		8		10		12	
Span (ft)	Strand Diameter (in)	$f'_c = 8 \text{ ksi}$	$f'_c = 10 \text{ ksi}$	$f'_c = 8 \text{ ksi}$	$f'_c = 10 \text{ ksi}$	$f'_c = 8 \text{ ksi}$	$f'_c = 10 \text{ ksi}$	$f'_c = 8 \text{ ksi}$	$f'_c = 10 \text{ ksi}$
60	0.6	12	12	14	14	16	16	18	18
	0.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
80	0.6	20	20	22	22	26	26	28	28
	0.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
100	0.6	28	28	32	32	-	36	-	42
	0.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
120	0.6	40	40	-	48	-	-	-	-
	0.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



## **2.0 EFFECT OF DESIGN PARAMETERS**

While preparing the design charts, it was important to compare results obtained from the design and evaluate the effects that variation in design parameters had on the final results. The most important design aspects that affected the design includes: girder type, prestressing strand diameter, concrete strength at release, concrete strength at final, and continuity for multi-span bridges.

### **2.1 GIRDER TYPE (NU-I GIRDER COMPARED WITH AASHTO)**

NU I prestressed precast girders have been adopted by NDOR and are used extensively within the state of Nebraska. The NU I-girders have even been used in other states such as Missouri and Texas, as well as in the country of Canada. Figure 4 below shows a comparison of the the maximum span lengths obtained using NU I and AASHTO prestressed precast girders using constant design parameters. The girders were compared and matched using the height of the girders. For example, the NU 1100 was compared with the AASHTO Type III girder. It is evident from Figure 4 that the NU I-girders provide a maximum span length of up to 10% longer over using a comparable AASHTO girder.

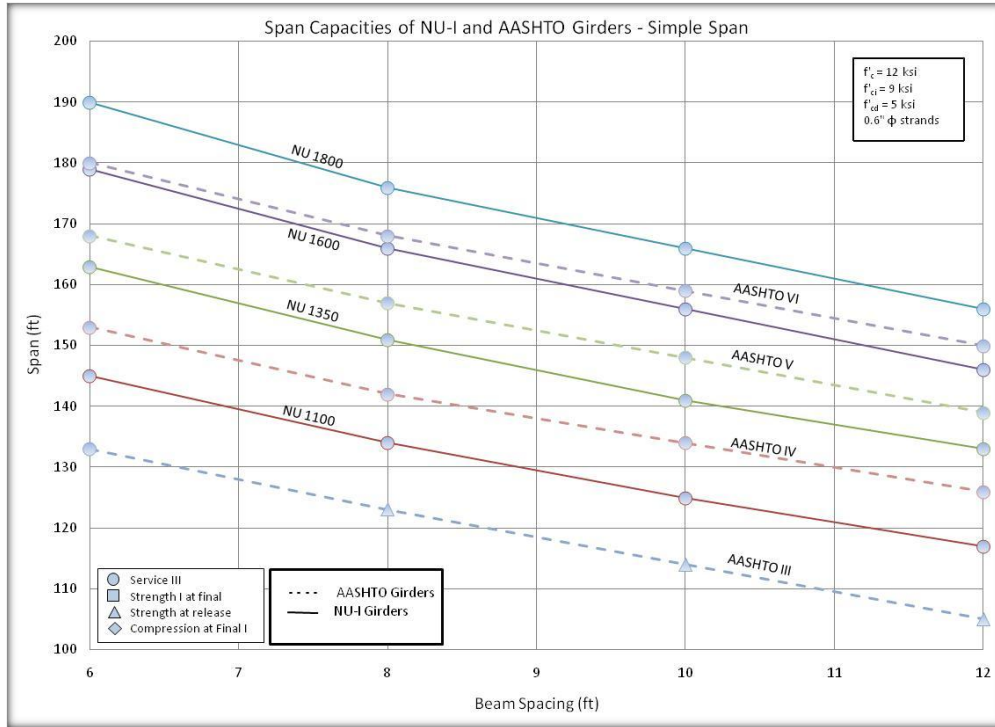


Figure 4 Example of summary chart comparing NU I and AASHTO girders.

## 2.2 PRESTRESSING STRAND DIAMETER (0.6 inch to 0.7 inch)

Presently, 0.7 inch strand is not commonly used in the industry. However, due to recent successful research, the future of prestressed precast concrete will embrace and increase use of 0.7 inch prestressing strand.

The use of 0.7 inch strand is in direct correlation with high strength concrete (HSC). There is a significant increase in the moment capacity when 0.6 and 0.7 inch strands are used in comparison with 0.5 inch strands. This increase occurs because the tensile force in the strands must reach equilibrium with the compressive forces occurring in the deck and girder. If the depth of the compression block in the top flange exceeds the deck thickness and reaches the top flange of the girder, the high concrete strength of the girder becomes an important factor in determining the moment capacity of the composite section.

The increase in strand diameter from 0.6 to 0.7 inch creates approximately 35% more prestressing area, which correlates to 35% more prestressing force. From 0.5 to 0.7 inch, there is a 92% increase in prestressing force. The use of larger diameter prestressing strands allows for shallower section depths and longer span lengths. This would also result in significant savings in material and labor costs due to the decrease in the amount of prestressing strands and fewer chucks required in the pretensioning process.

Figure 5 and Figure 6 below show the comparison of 0.6 and 0.7 inch prestressing strands using 12 ksi concrete. The summary chart in Figure 5 shows the maximum attainable span length versus girder spacing. The detailed chart in Figure 6 shows the minimum number of prestressing strands needed versus span length for an NU 900 girder.

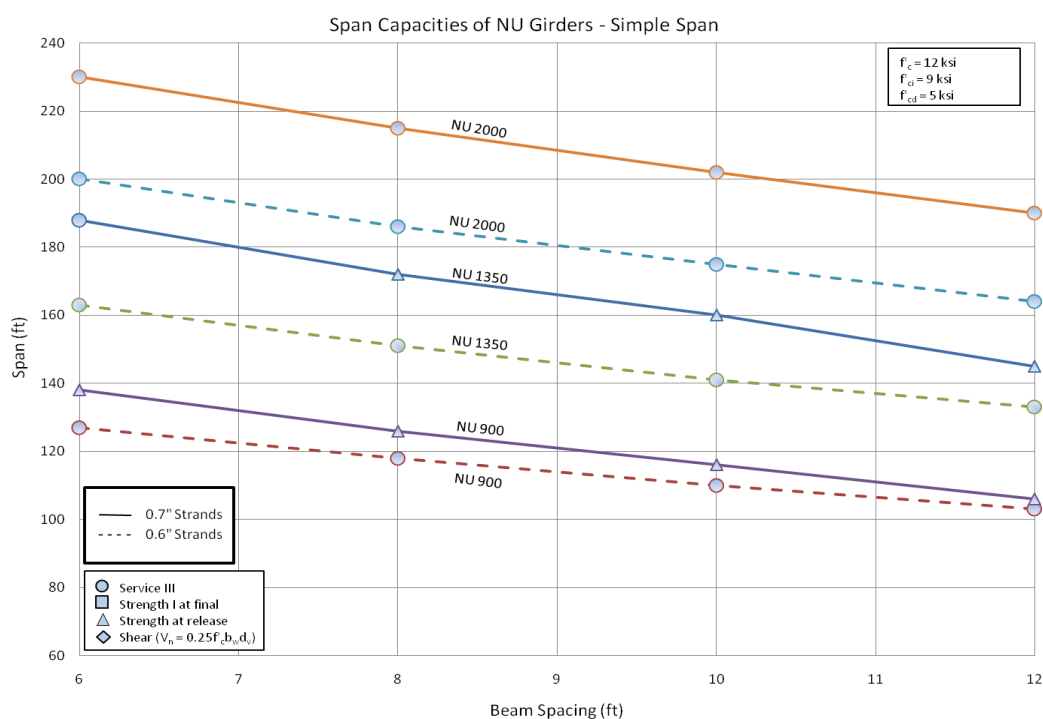


Figure 5 Summary chart comparison between 0.6 and 0.7 inch strands.

For clarity purposes, only NU 900, 1350, and 2000 are graphed. However, it is still quite clear that the use of 0.7 inch strand over 0.6 inch strand allows for a significant increase in span capacity. The largest variation in span length occurs with NU 2000 at 6ft girder spacing with a 15% increase in maximum span length. It is important to note that for smaller sections such as NU 900, there is an increase of 9% in maximum span length. This distinction occurs due to the strength at release limit state controlling the design. However, there is still a significant increase in span length when comparing 0.6 to 0.7 inch strand.

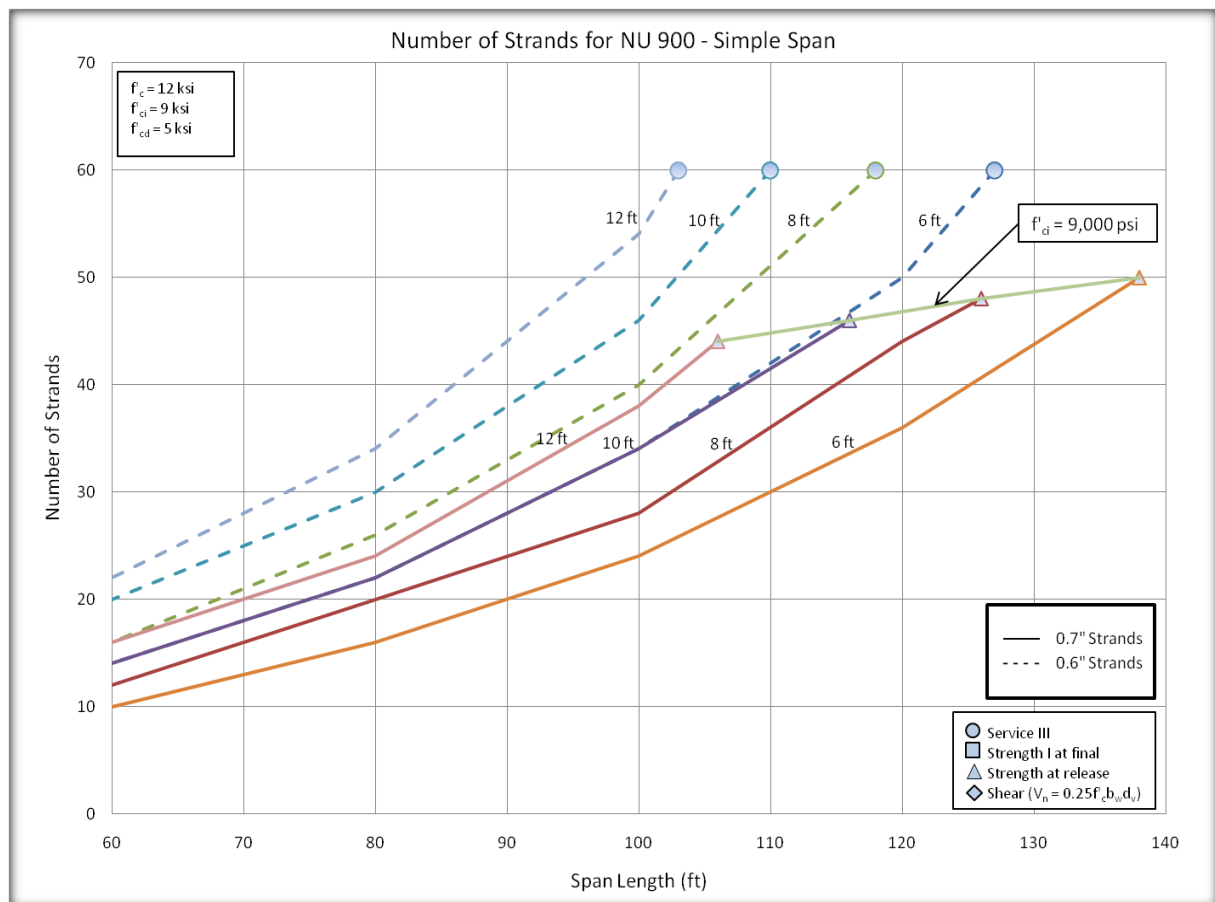


Figure 6 Detailed chart comparison between 0.6 and 0.7 inch strands.

The detailed chart in Figure 6 shows similarities to the summary chart in Figure 5. The girders using 0.6 inch strands are all controlled due to Service III limit state and can utilize the maximum 60 prestressing strands. For 0.7 inch strands, Strength at Release limit state governs the design. However, longer span lengths are attainable with fewer prestressing strands, which results in a significant decrease in material and labor costs.

### **2.3 COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH OF CONCRETE (8 ksi to 15 ksi)**

The use of high strength concrete (HSC) is another significant aspect of precast prestressed concrete design. Generally, standard concrete strength used in the state of Nebraska has been 8 ksi. HSC allows for higher compressive strength with very little increase in cost compared to standard. As stated before, HSC is especially important when used in correlation with 0.7 inch prestressing strand. The design charts created include concrete compressive strengths of 8, 10, 12, and 15 ksi. Compressive strengths of 8, 10, and 12 ksi include the use of 0.6 inch prestressing strands. Compressive strength of 12 and 15 ksi include the use of 0.7 inch prestressing strands. The compressive concrete strength at release is equivalent to  $0.75 \cdot f'_c$ .

The summary chart in Figure 7 and detailed chart in Figure 8 show the relationship between different compressive concrete strengths of 8, 10, and 12 ksi using 0.6 inch prestressing strands. As seen in the chart, NU 2000 has approximately a 4% increase in span length between 8 and 12 ksi. However, NU 900 has a 24% increase in span length, mostly due to the Strength at Release limit state.

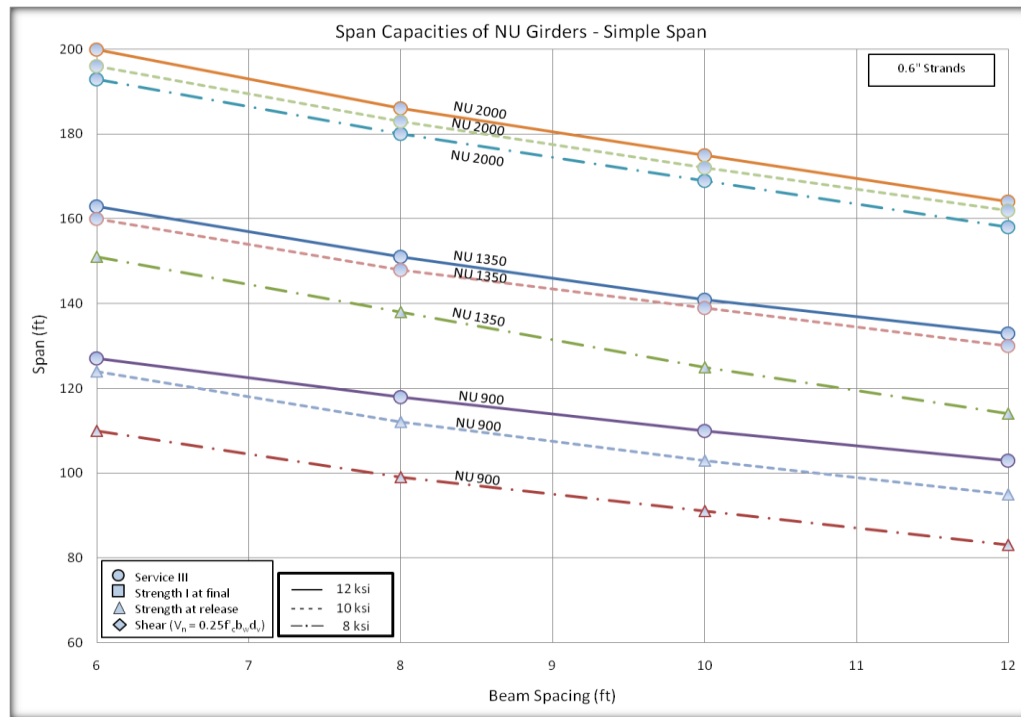


Figure 7 Summary chart for 8, 10, and 12 ksi concrete strengths.

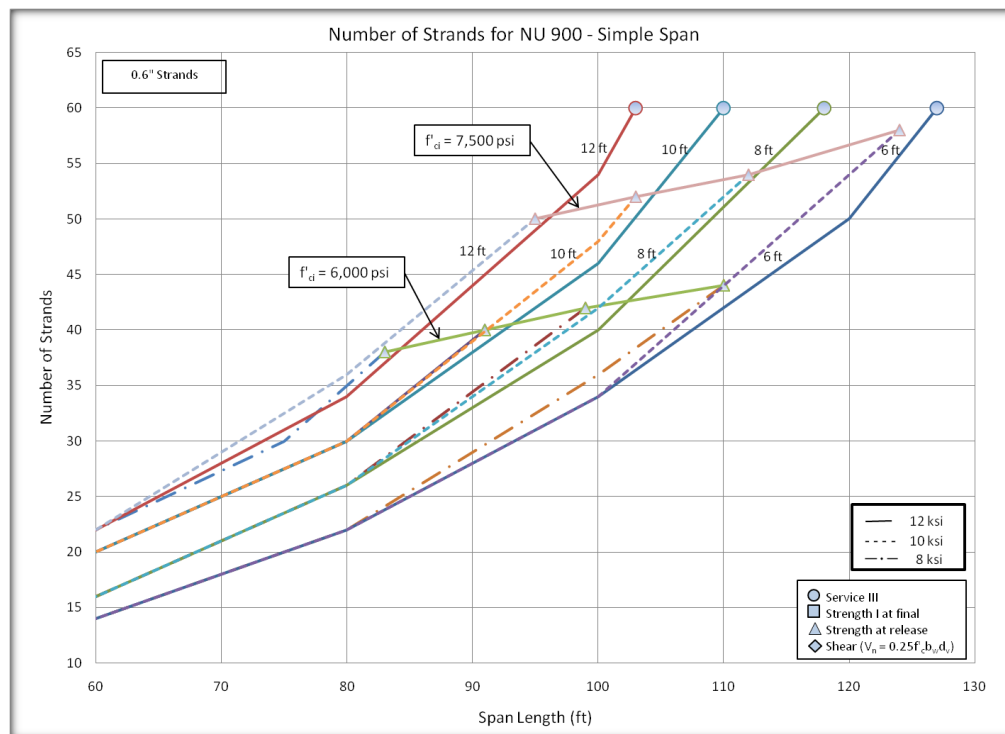


Figure 8 Detailed chart comparison between 8, 10 and 12 ksi concrete strengths.

It can be concluded that the compressive strength at release and the depth of the girder controls the effect of high strength concrete. For shallower sections, the higher strength concrete of 12 ksi has a higher strength at prestress transfer. Therefore, it was not controlled by strength at release limit state and can obtain much higher maximum span lengths.

## **2.4 STRENGTH DESIGN METHOD VS. WORKING STRESS METHOD FOR CONCRETE STRENGTH AT RELEASE**

The compressive strength at prestress transfer plays a vital role in the design of prestressed precast concrete bridge girders. Often times, the concrete strength at release can govern a design, thus preventing a more efficient design. This section compares the results obtained from Strength Design Method versus Working Stress Method based off of the simple span design charts. The strength design at release method allows for longer spans because of the elimination of unnecessary limits imposed by the Working Stress Method on the concrete at release. This allows the design to be controlled by Service III rather than Service at Release. This approach permits the prestressing strands to be released at a lower concrete strength than the working stress method. Currently, the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) leaves the decision of whether to use strength design or working stress design up to the bridge designer's digression.

Using the strength design method, the precast members can be treated as a reinforced concrete column subjected to an axial compressive force and the moment that coincides<sup>3</sup>.

The method will solve for  $f'_{ci}$  and the centroid axis by solving the force and moment equilibrium equations. Another advantage of the strength design method approach allows for the calculation of any top bonded reinforcement required to maintain strength at transfer with controlled tension cracking without using the uncracked section analysis of an already cracked section<sup>4</sup>.

As stated earlier, the strength design method allows the prestressing strands to be released at a lower concrete strength than the working stress method. This would allow for a more rapid production cycle. It would lower the cost for curing and demand for debonding and/or draping of strands. Overall, there would be a significant increase in efficiency for the precast/prestressing industry.

With a decrease in the required concrete strength at release, there is an allowance for higher span lengths, lower costs for accelerated curing, and lower demand for debonding and draping of strands at the ends of the girders<sup>4</sup>. The strength design method allows designers to eliminate the limit of  $0.196\sqrt{f'_{ci}}$  as stated in the AASHTO LRFD 2007 code<sup>5</sup>. See Figure 9 for a summary chart and Figure 10 for a detailed chart comparison of strength design vs. working stress design methods for concrete strength at prestress transfer.

The summary chart in Figure 9 shows a large difference in the maximum attainable span length between the strength design method and the working stress method. There is approximately 10% greater span lengths when using the strength design method. For the



working stress method, the main governing limit is  $0.6 \cdot f'_{ci}$ , compression in the bottom fibers at prestress transfer<sup>4</sup> which accounts for the decrease in maximum span length calculated, related to the strength design method. The detailed chart in Figure 10 reiterates the same concepts, the strength design method allows for significantly larger maximum span lengths.

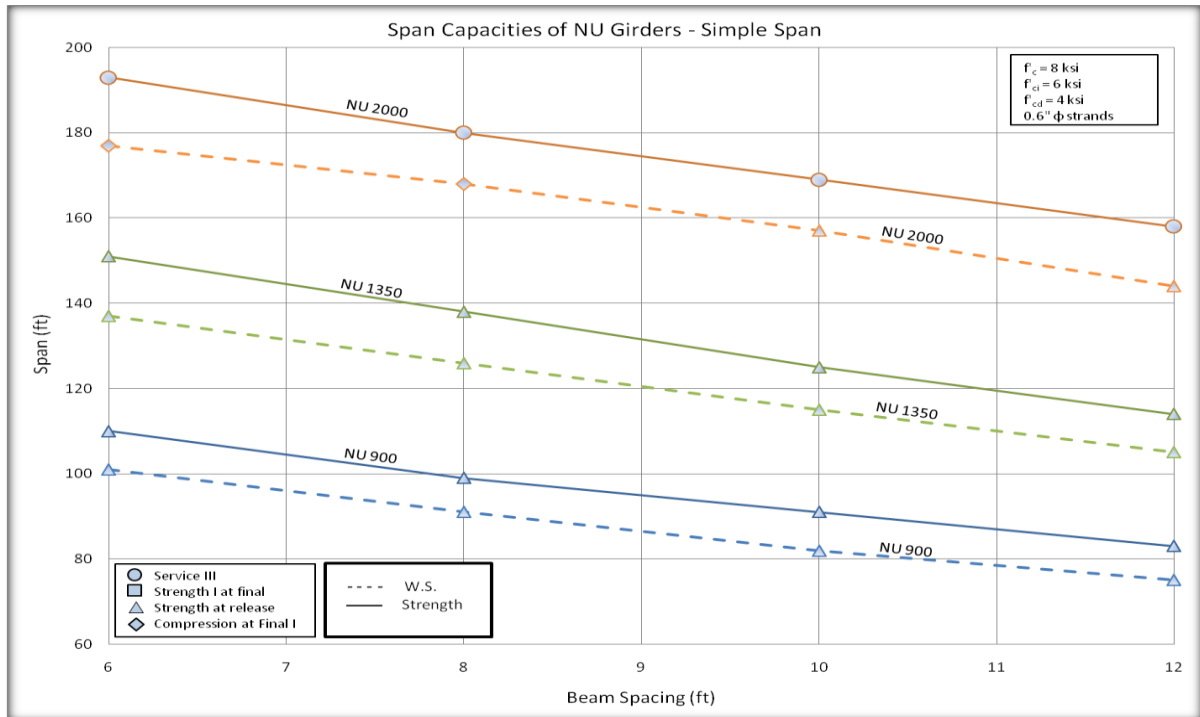


Figure 9 Summary chart comparing Strength Design Method and Working Stress Method.

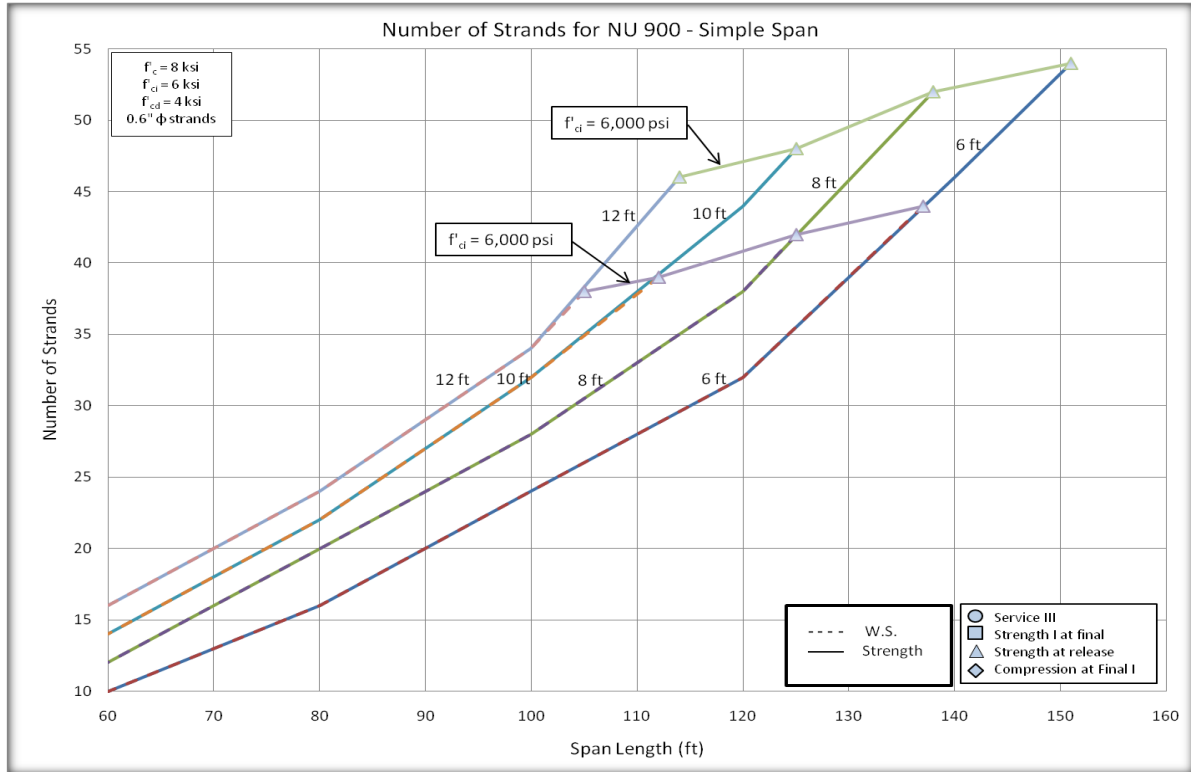


Figure 10 Detailed chart comparing Strength Design Method and Working Stress Method.

## 2.5 THREADED ROD CONTINUITY SYSTEM

There are many advantages of the TR continuity system versus the conventional bridge continuity system. TR continuity allows for longer span lengths, shallower girder depths, and a reduction in girder lines. The major advantages of this system are that the precast concrete girders are made continuous for about two-thirds of the total load, while the threaded rod system establishes continuity over the piers and resists the negative moment due to deck slab weight. The deflection and mid-span bending moments are also greatly reduced,

resulting in less prestressing and less camber. Lastly, this system allows designers to avoid post-tensioning. All of these advantages make for a more efficient and cost effective design.

A summary chart is shown below in Figure 11 to compare the maximum span lengths obtained from TR continuity system and the conventional continuity system.

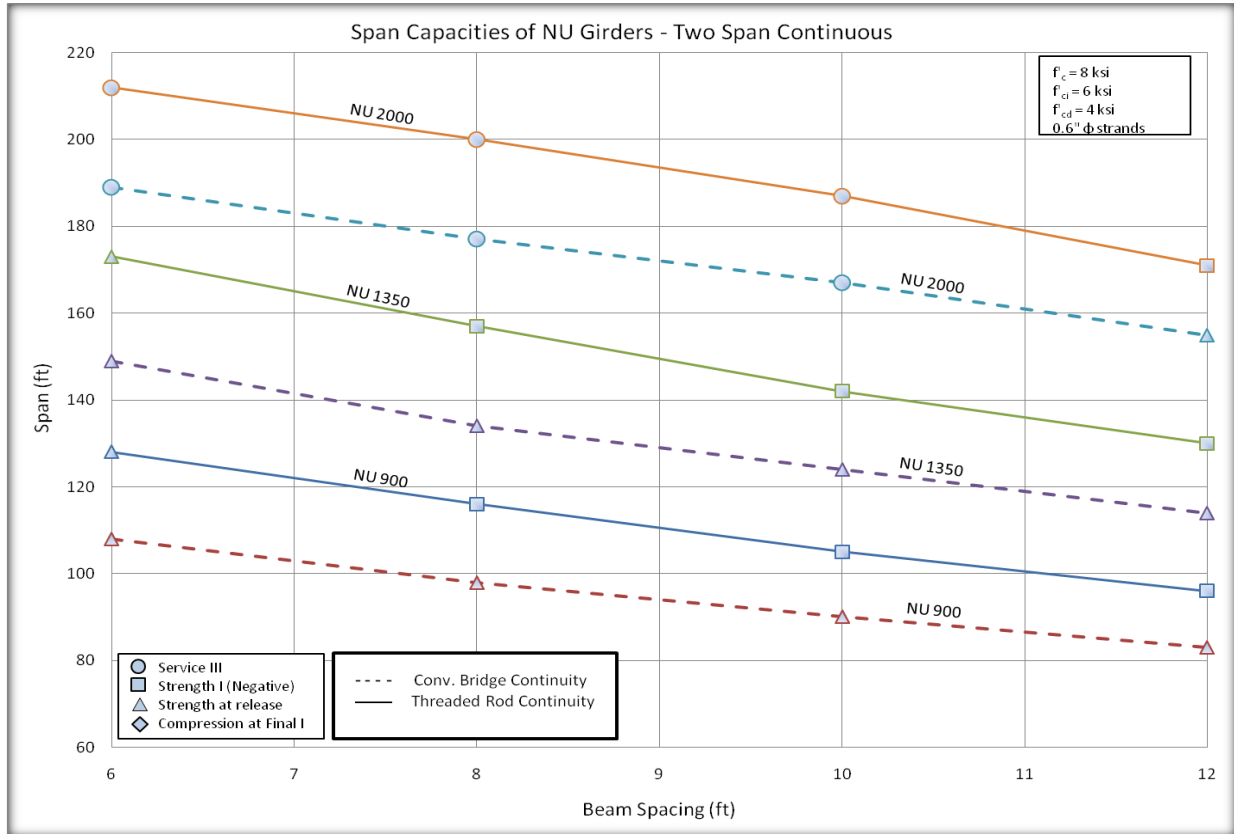


Figure 11 Summary chart comparison between TR continuity and Conventional continuity.

The summary chart in Figure 11 shows the significant advantage in maximum attainable span length when using Threaded Rod (TR) continuity versus the conventional bridge continuity method. The difference in span length can reach as high as 10-18% for any NU I-girder

precast section. For the conventional bridge continuity system, the designs were governed by the positive moment section.

For the TR continuity system, designs using 6ft girder spacing were typically governed by the positive moment. However, the majority of the designs were governed by the negative moment section by the Strength I (composite) limit state. To increase the maximum attainable span length for the TR continuity system, one could do the following to increase the negative moment capacity: add a steel plate to the bottom of the girder, add more threaded rods, increase the haunch thickness, increase top flange thickness, or increase web thickness. These options would allow for even high span lengths than shown in Figure 11.

### 3.0 DESIGN AID UTILIZATION EXAMPLES

#### 3.1 Design Example No. 1

Design a simple span NU I-Girder bridge for HL93 loading with a 105 ft design span. The total width of the bridge is 46'-8". Use strength design method for concrete stresses at release. Assume depth requirements only allow use of NU 900 girders. Using the preliminary design charts, the various design alternatives are shown in Table 3.

Table 3 Design Alternatives – Example No. 1

I-Girder	Girder Depth (in.)	Deck t (in.)	Total Depth (in.)	Spacing (ft)	No. Girder Lines	Concrete Strength (ksi)	Strand Dia (in.)	Number of Strands
NU 900	35.4	7.5	43.9	6	8	8	0.6	40
NU 900	35.4	7.5	43.9	6	8	10	0.6	44
NU 900	35.4	7.5	43.9	8	6	10	0.6	50
NU 900	35.4	7.5	43.9	6	8	12	0.6	40
NU 900	35.4	7.5	43.9	8	6	12	0.6	48
NU 900	35.4	7.5	43.9	10	5	12	0.6	56
NU 900	35.4	7.5	43.9	6	8	12	0.7	28
NU 900	35.4	7.5	43.9	8	6	12	0.7	36
NU 900	35.4	7.5	43.9	10	5	12	0.7	40
NU 900	35.4	8.0	44.4	12	4	12	0.7	44
NU 900	35.4	7.5	43.9	6	8	15	0.7	28
NU 900	35.4	7.5	43.9	8	6	15	0.7	36
NU 900	35.4	7.5	43.9	10	5	15	0.7	42
NU 900	35.4	8.0	44.4	12	4	15	0.7	44

\* A 1" Haunch thickness is added to the total depth thickness

For this example, only NU 900 girders were used. The alternative solutions were based on variations in girder spacing, concrete compressive strength, strand diameter, and number of

strands. For the total depth, a haunch thickness of 1 inch was assumed. The number of girder lines is selected to prevent from exceeding the overhang length limits.

### Recommendation

For this situation, it would be suggested to use the case highlighted in red. All of the cases are viable options and fit within the governing limits. However, due to the 12 ft spacing, only 4 girder lines are required. This alone will save a significant amount of money for cost of materials and cost of labor. Figure 12 and Figure 13 show how the preliminary design charts are utilized in this design example.

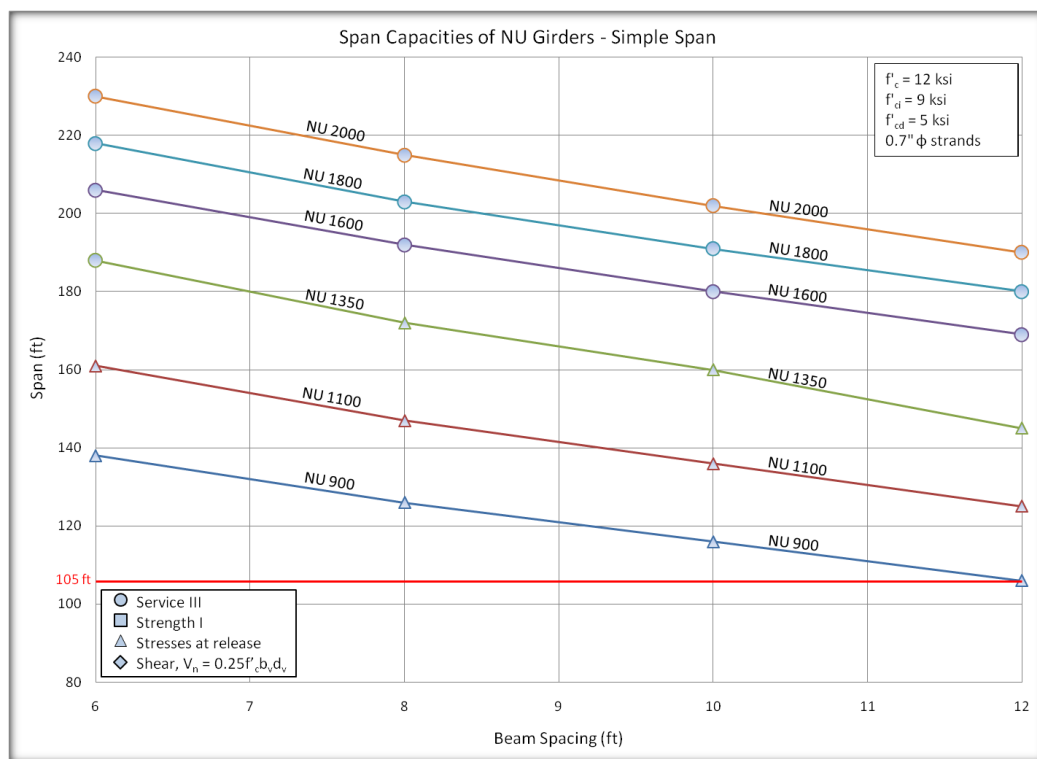


Figure 12 Summary Chart – Example 1

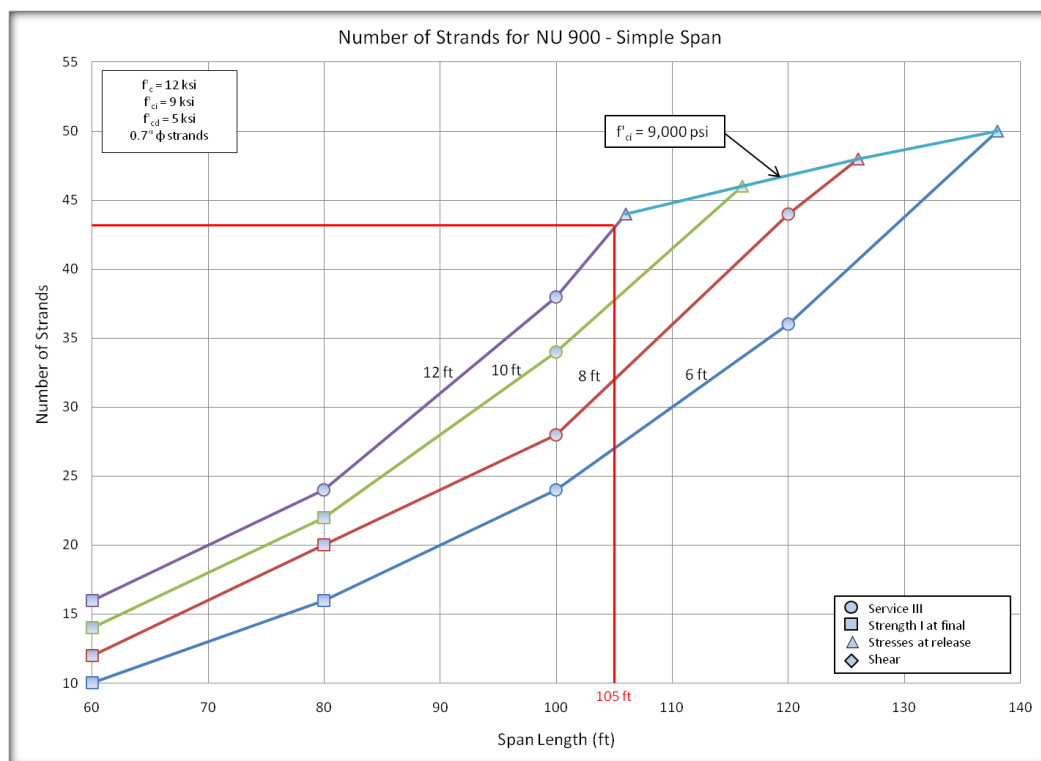


Figure 13 Detailed Chart – Example 1

### 3.2 Design Example No. 2

Design a two (equal) span NU I-girder bridge for HL93 loading with a 130 ft design span. The total width of the bridge is 46'-8". Use the working stress method for concrete stresses at release. Assume there are no depth requirements. Using the preliminary design charts, the various design alternatives are shown in Table 4.

Table 4 Design Alternatives for Example 2

I-Girder	Girder Depth (in.)	Deck t (in.)	Total Depth (in.)	Spacing (ft)	No. Girder Lines	Concrete Strength (ksi)	Strand Dia (in.)	Number of Strands
NU 1100	43.3	7.5	53.3	6	8	15	0.7	28
NU 1100	43.3	7.5	53.3	8	6	15	0.7	32
NU 1100	43.3	7.5	53.3	10	5	15	0.7	36
NU 1100	43.3	7.5	53.3	6	8	12	0.7	28
NU 1100	43.3	7.5	53.3	8	6	12	0.7	32
NU 1100	43.3	7.5	53.3	10	5	12	0.7	36
NU 900	35.4	7.5	45.4	6	8	12	0.7	34
NU 900	35.4	7.5	45.4	8	6	12	0.7	38
NU 1100	43.3	7.5	53.3	6	8	12	0.6	38
NU 1100	43.3	7.5	53.3	8	6	12	0.6	44
NU 1100	43.3	7.5	53.3	10	5	12	0.6	48
NU 900	35.4	7.5	45.4	6	8	12	0.6	50
NU 900	35.4	7.5	45.4	8	6	12	0.6	58
NU 900	35.4	7.5	45.4	6	8	10	0.6	52
NU 1100	43.3	7.5	53.3	6	8	10	0.6	38
NU 1100	43.3	7.5	53.3	8	6	10	0.6	46
NU 1100	43.3	7.5	53.3	10	5	10	0.6	52
NU 1350	53.1	7.5	63.1	6	8	8	0.6	34
NU 1350	53.1	7.5	63.1	8	6	8	0.6	38
NU 1350	53.1	7.5	63.1	10	5	8	0.6	42
NU 1100	43.3	7.5	53.3	6	8	8	0.6	40

\* A 2.5" Haunch thickness is added to the total depth thickness

For this example, many different combinations can be used to fulfill the 130 ft design span requirement. The alternative solutions are based off of variations in girder size, girder spacing, concrete compressive strength, strand diameter, and number of strands. For the total depth, assume a haunch thickness of 1 in. The number of girder lines is selected to prevent from exceeding the overhang length limits. It is important to choose the solution that is the most practical and can save in material and labor cost.



### *.Recommendation*

For this situation, it would be suggested to use the case highlighted in red. All of the cases are viable options and fit within the governing limits. However, due to the 10 ft spacing, only 5 girder lines are required. There are five total cases using 10 ft spacing. Therefore, choosing concrete compressive strength of 12 ksi and 0.7 in. diameter strands is the most practical option, thus requiring less prestressing strands. Figure 14 and Figure 15 show how the preliminary design charts are utilized in this design example.

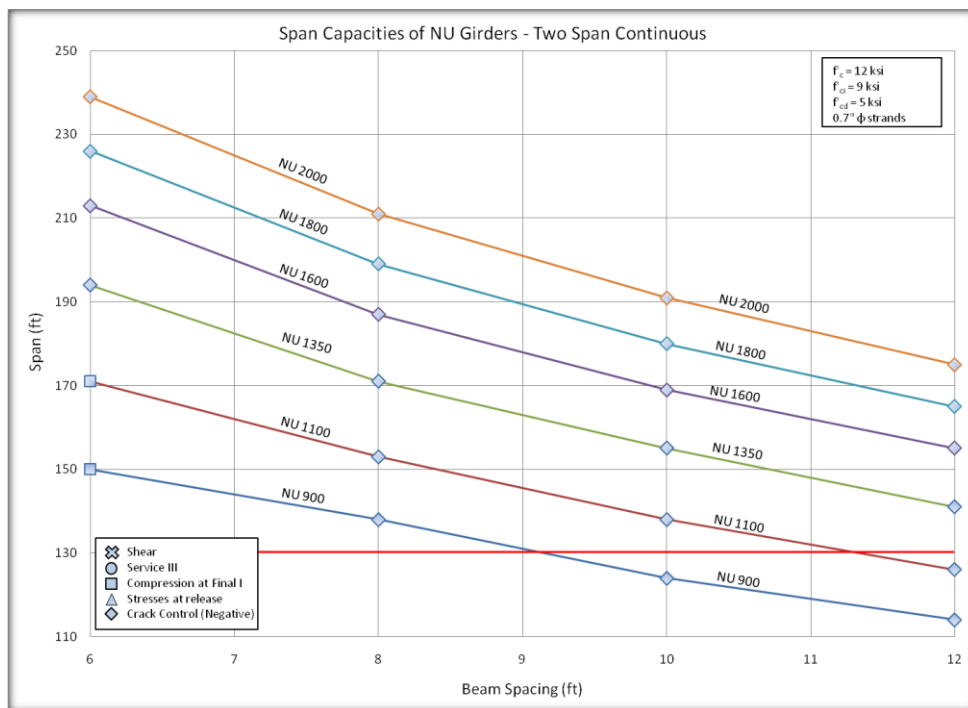


Figure 14 Summary Chart – Example 2

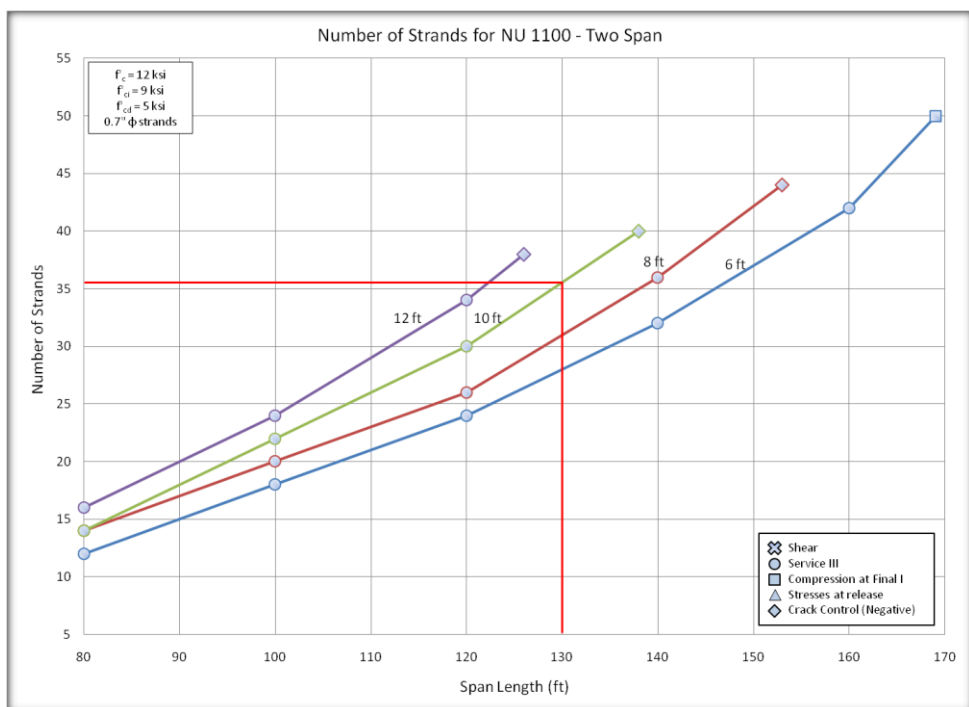
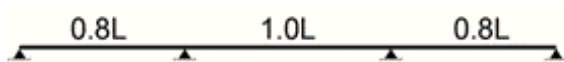


Figure 15 Detailed Chart – Example 2

### 3.3 Design Example No. 3

Design a three span continuous NU I-Girder bridge for HL93 loading. The span length outline is  $0.8L$ ,  $L$ ,  $0.8L$ .



Assume the middle span length is 200 ft long. The total width of the bridge is 46'-8". Assume depth requirements only allow use of NU 1600 girders. Also assume the precasting plant is only equipped to use 0.6 inch prestressing strand. Use the strength design method for stresses at release. Using the preliminary design charts, the various design alternatives are shown in Table 5. Figure 16 and Figure 17 show how the preliminary design charts are utilized in this design example.

Table 5: Design Alternatives – Example No. 3

I-Girder	Girder Depth (in.)	Deck t (in.)	Total Depth (in.)	Spacing (ft)	No. Girder Lines	Concrete Strength (ksi)	Strand Dia (in.)	Number of Strands
NU 1600	63.0	7.5	73.0	6	8	8	0.6	54
NU 1600	63.0	7.5	73.0	8	6	8	0.6	60
NU 1600	63.0	7.5	73.0	6	8	10	0.6	52
NU 1600	63.0	7.5	73.0	8	6	10	0.6	58
NU 1600	63.0	7.5	73.0	6	8	12	0.6	52
NU 1600	63.0	7.5	73.0	8	6	12	0.6	56

\* A 2.5" Haunch thickness is added to the total depth thickness

For this example, only NU 1600 girders are used. The alternative solutions are based off of variations in girder spacing, concrete compressive strength, strand diameter, and number of strands. For the total depth, assume a haunch thickness of 2.5 in. The number of girder lines is selected to prevent from exceeding the overhang length limits.

#### *Recommendation*

For this situation, it would be suggested to use the case highlighted in red. All of the cases are viable options and fit within the governing limits. However, due to the 8 ft spacing, only 6 girder lines are required versus using 6 ft spacing. Higher strength concrete is used in this example, which requires less prestressing strands. The use of larger girder spacing and larger prestressing strands will save a significant amount of money for cost of materials and cost of labor.

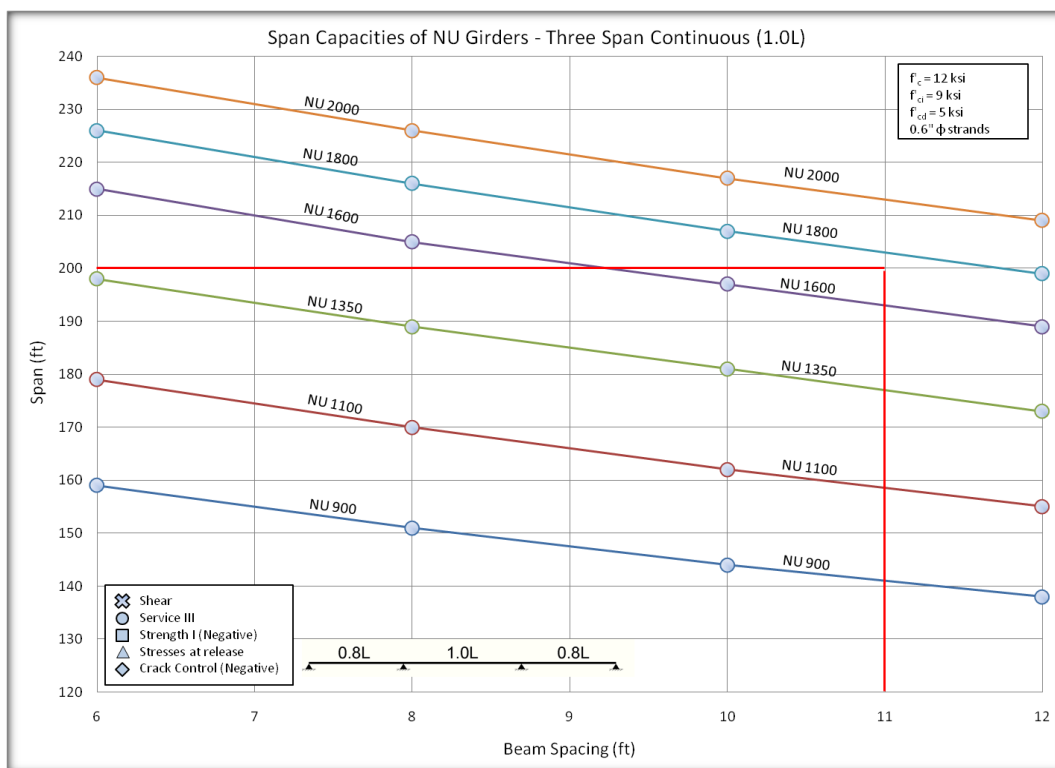


Figure 16 Summary Chart – Example 3

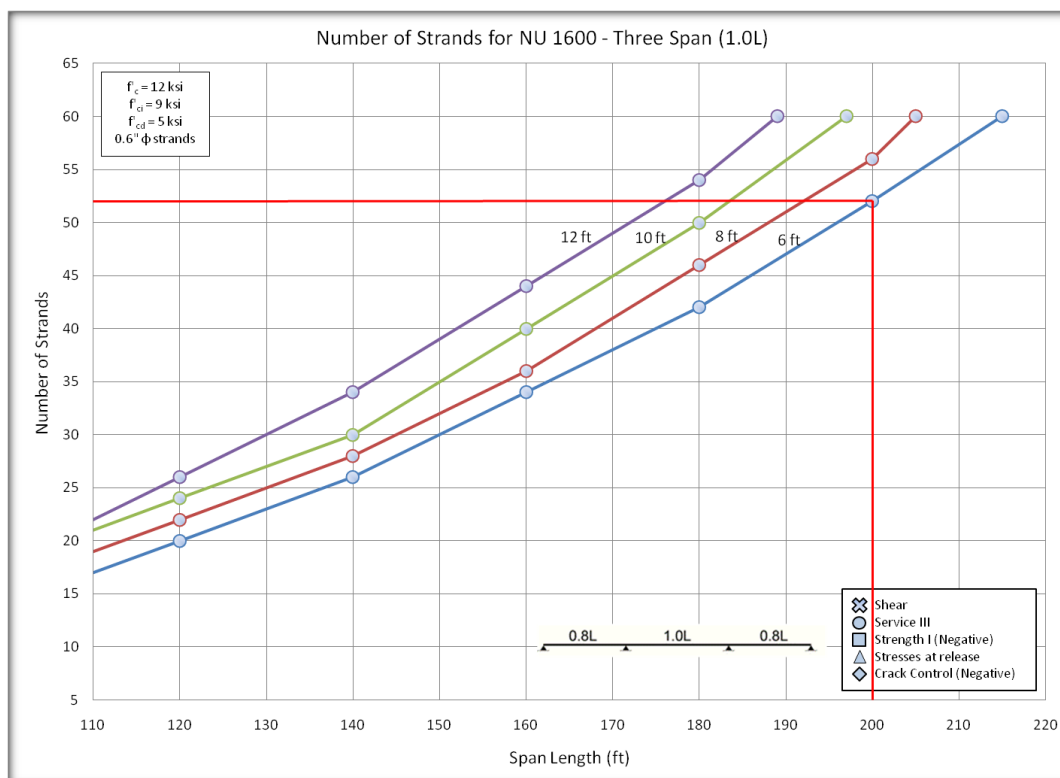


Figure 17 Detailed Chart – Example 3

## 4.0 DESIGN CHARTS

This section presents the summary charts for simple span, two continuous spans and three continuous spans. The section is presented as follow:

### 4.1 Simple Span with 0.6 in. strands and $f'_c$ 8.0 and 10.0 ksi

#### 4.1.1 Stress at release using strength at release

#### 4.1.2 Stress at release using working stress design

### 4.2 Two span with 0.6 in. strands and $f'_c$ 8.0 and 10.0 ksi, continuous for live load and deck weight

#### 4.2.1 Stress at release using strength at release

#### 4.2.2 Stress at release using working stress design

### 4.3 Two span with 0.6 in. strands and $f'_c$ 8.0 and 10.0 ksi, continuous for live load

#### 4.3.1 Stress at release using strength at release

#### 4.3.2 Stress at release method design

### 4.4 Three Span with 0.6 in. Strands and $f'_c$ 8.0 and 10.0 ksi continuous for live load and deck weight

#### 4.4.1 Stress at release using strength at release

#### 4.4.2 Working stress at release method design

### 4.5 Three Span with 0.6 in. Strands and $f'_c$ 8.0 and 10.0 ksi continuous for live load

#### 4.5.1 Stress at release using strength at release

#### 4.5.2 Working stress at release method design

### 4.6 Simple Span with 0.6 in. and 0.7 in. strands and $f'_c$ 12.0 and 15.0 ksi

#### 4.6.1 Stress at release using strength at release

#### 4.6.2 Stress at release using working stress design

4.7 Two Span with 0.6 in. and 0.7 in strands and  $f'_c$  12.0 and 15.0 ksi, continuous for live load and deck weight

4.7.1 Stress at release using strength at release

4.7.2 Stress at release using working stress design

4.8 Two Span with 0.6 in. and 0.7 in strands and  $f'_c$  12.0 and 15.0 ksi, continuous for live load

4.8.1 Stress at release using strength at release

4.8.2 Stress at release using working stress design

4.9 Three Span with 0.6 in and 0.7 in. strands and  $f'_c$  12.0 and 15.0 ksi continuous for live load and deck weight

4.9.1 Stress at release using strength at release

4.9.2 Stress at release using working stress design

4.10 Three Span with 0.6 in and 0.7 in. strands and  $f'_c$  12.0 and 15.0 ksi continuous for live load

4.10.1 Stress at release using strength at release

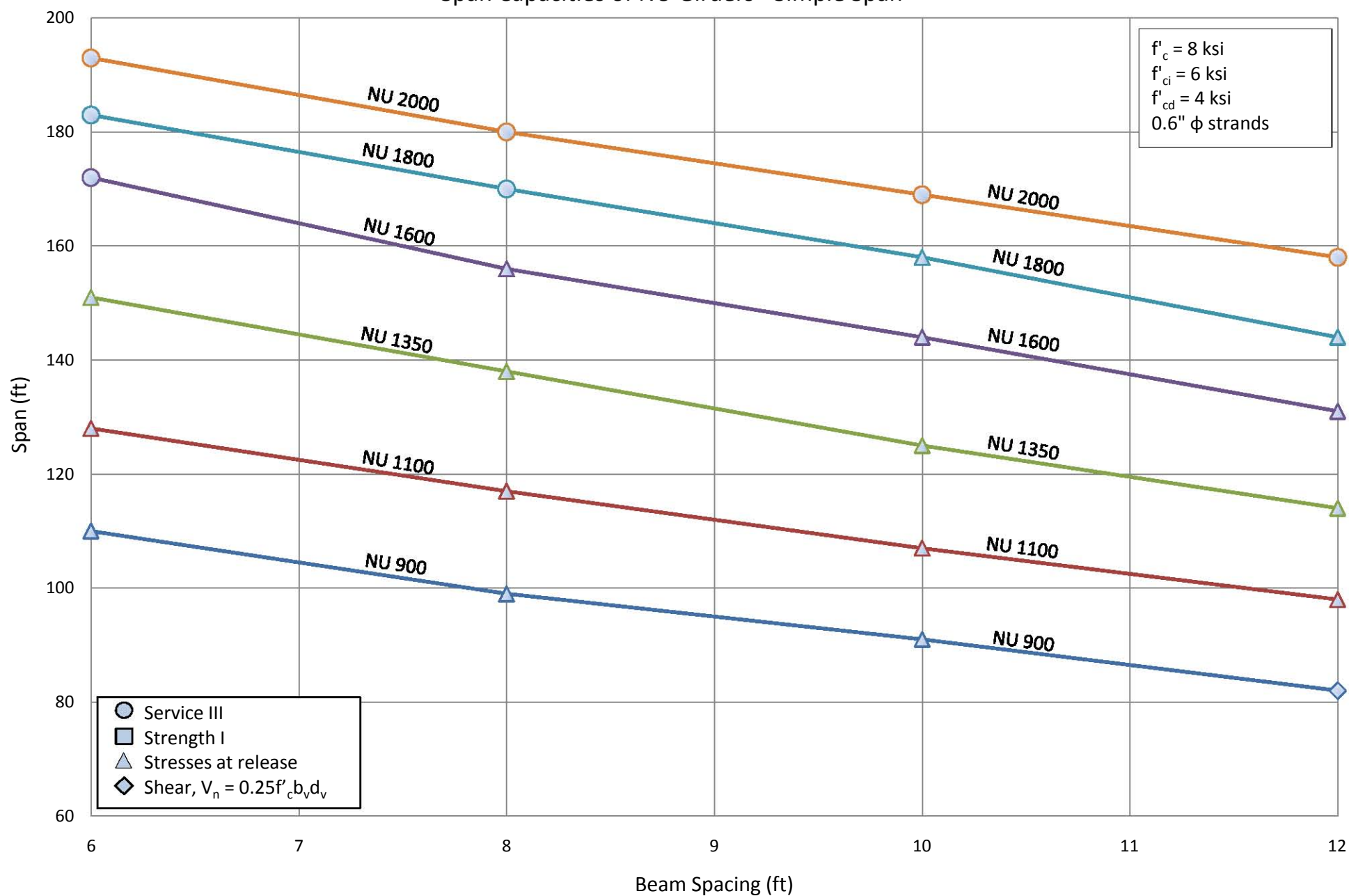
4.10.2 Stress at release using working stress design

For the detailed charts refer to appendices A, B, C, D, E and F.

#### **4.1 Simple span with 0.6 in. strands and $f'_c$ 8.0 and 10.0 ksi**

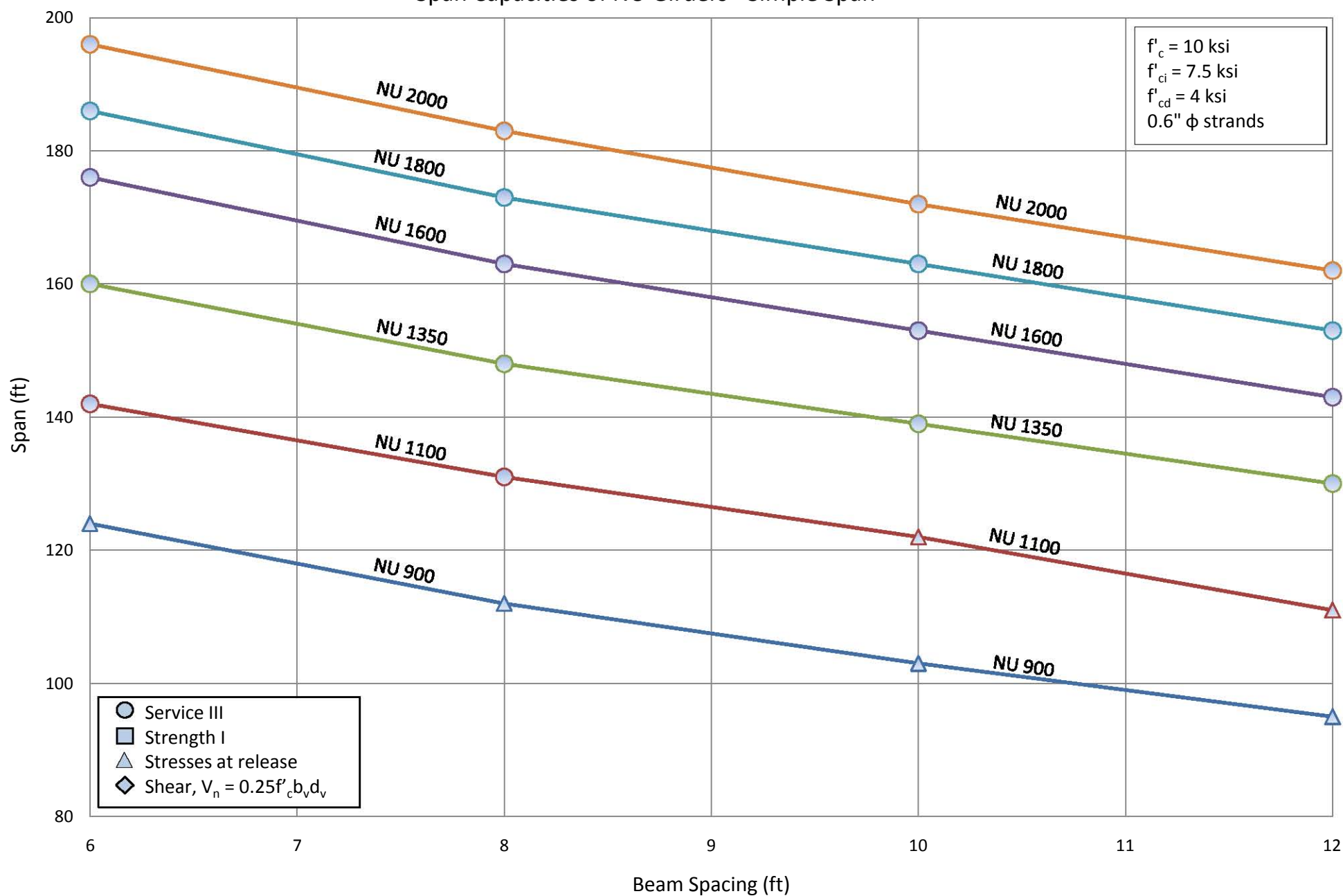
##### **4.1.1 Stress at release using strength at release**

Span Capacities of NU Girders - Simple Span



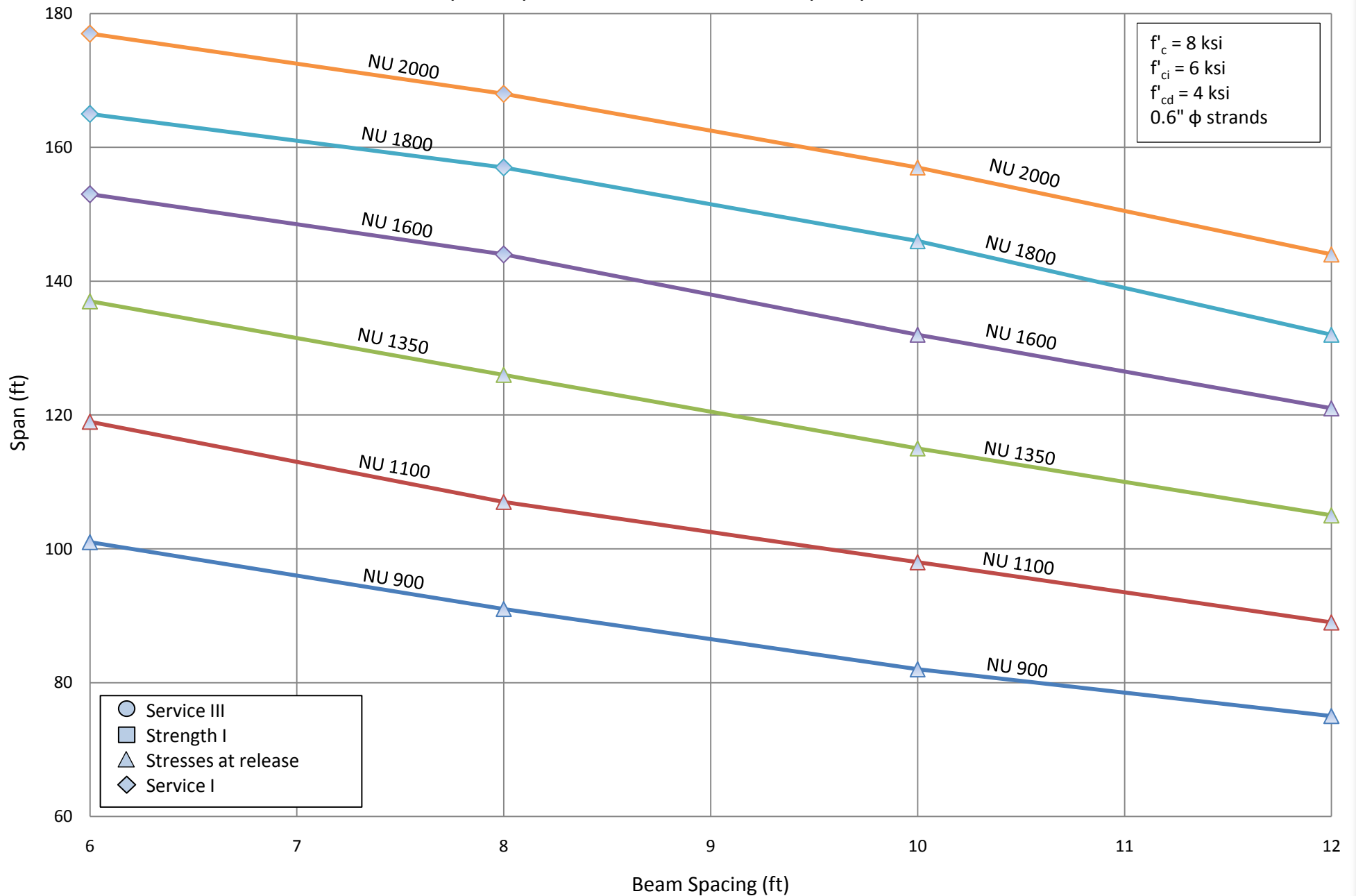


Span Capacities of NU Girders - Simple Span

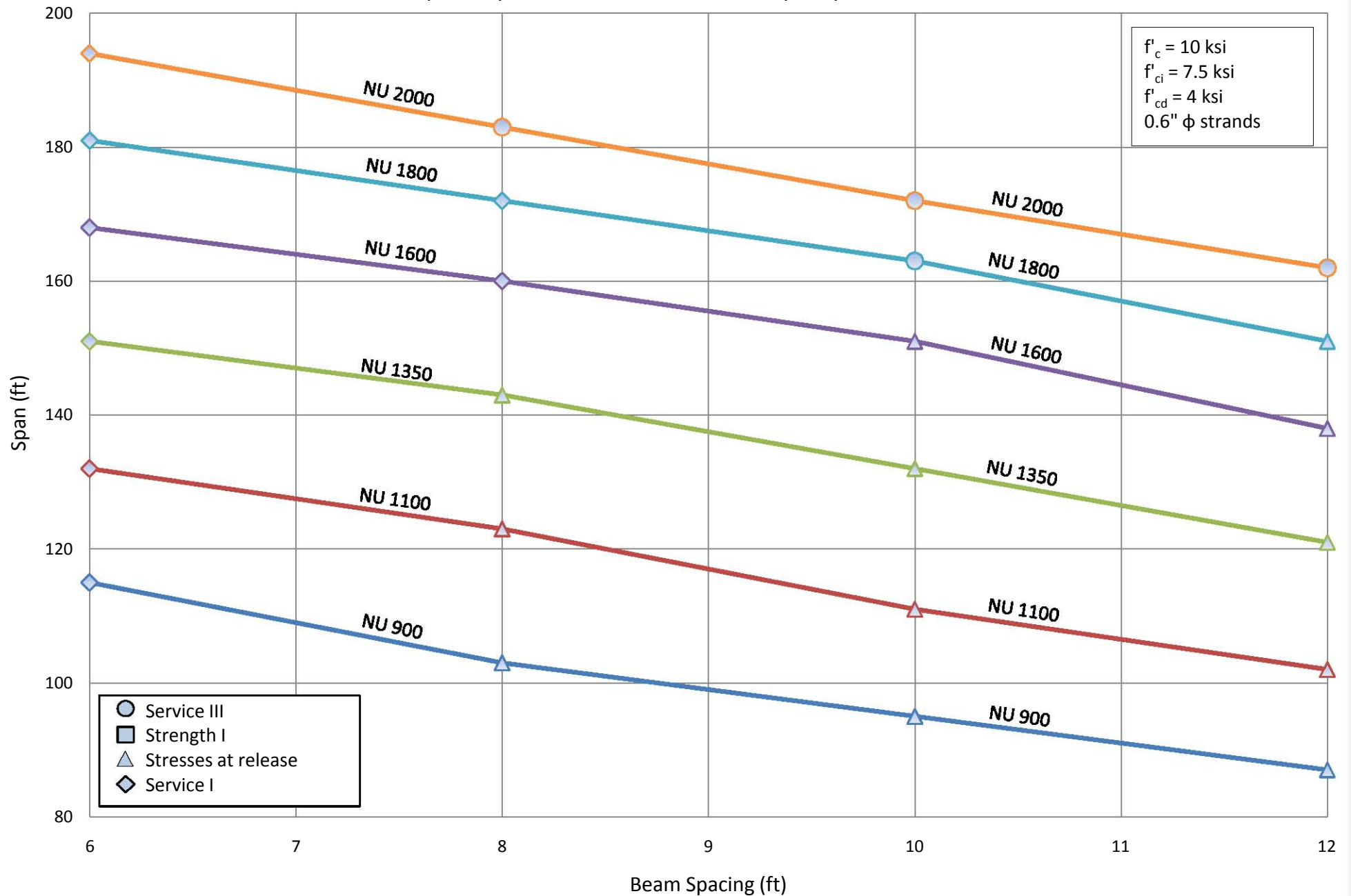


#### **4.1.2 Stress at release using working stress design**

Span Capacities of NU Girders - Simple Span



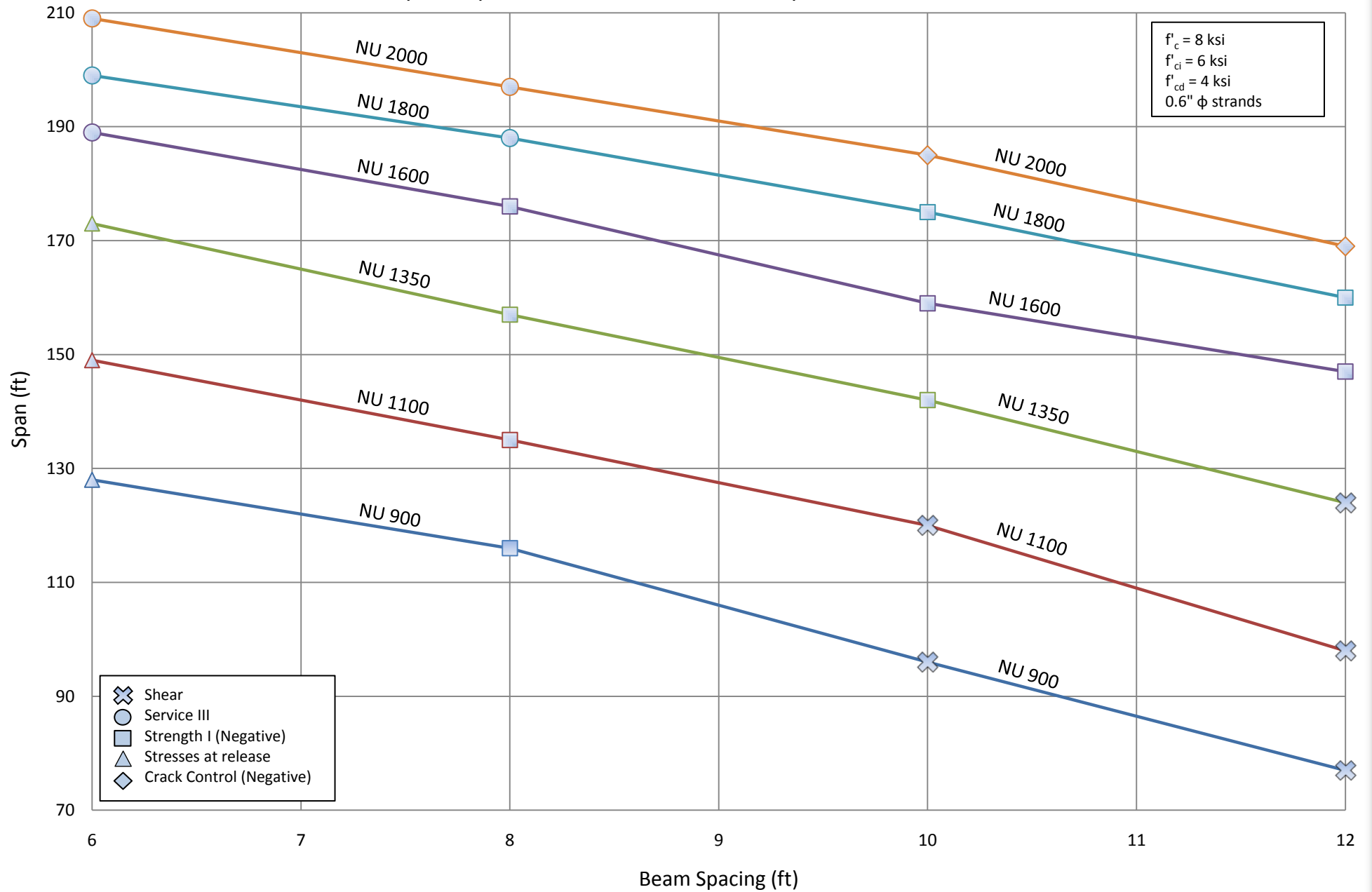
Span Capacities of NU Girders - Simple Span



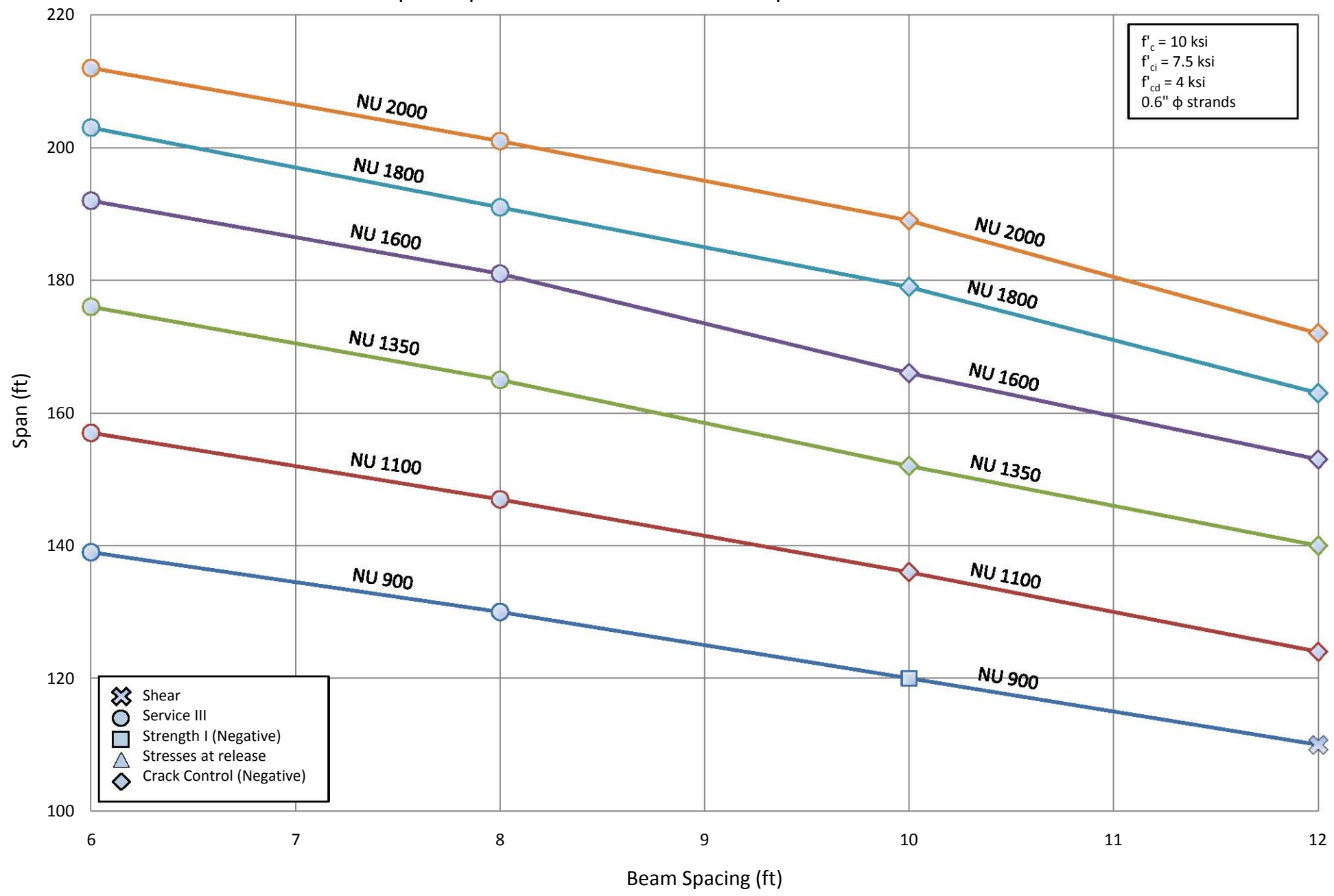
## **4.2 Two span with 0.6 in. strands and $f'_c$ 8.0 and 10.0 ksi, continuous for live load and deck weight**

### **4.2.1 Stress at release using strength at release**

Span Capacities of NU Girders - Two Span Continuous



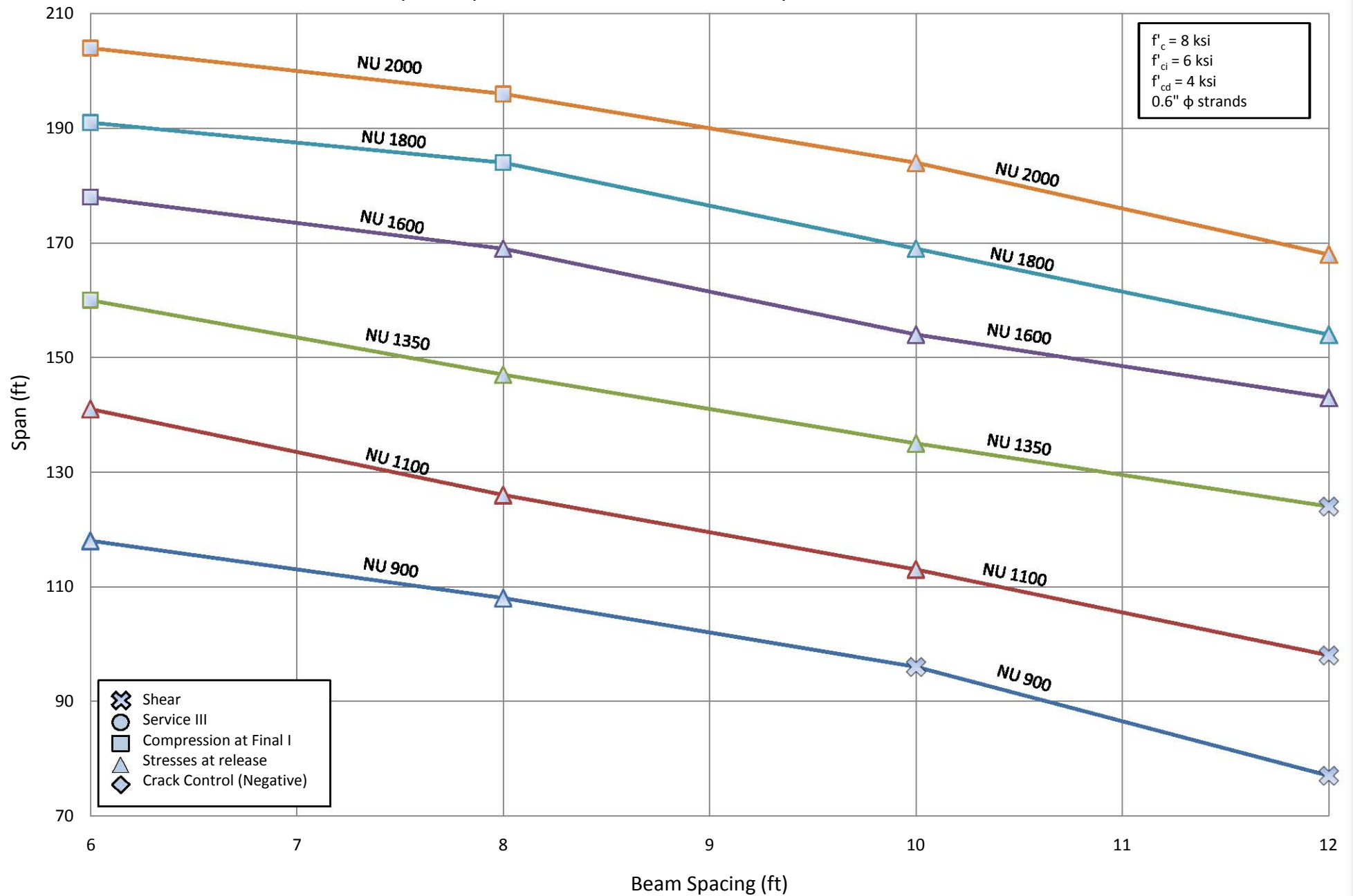
Span Capacities of NU Girders - Two Span Continuous



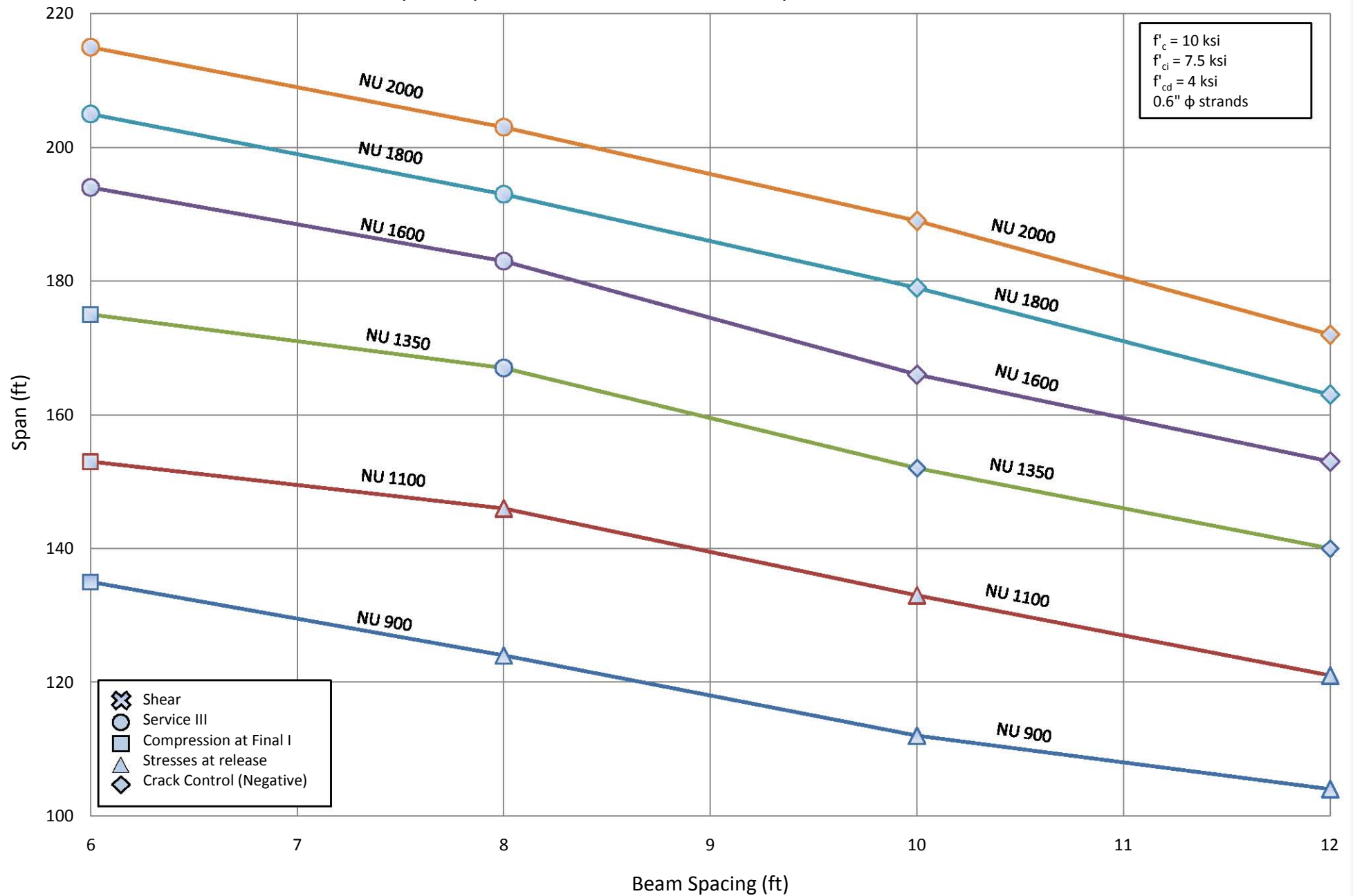
#### **4.2.2 Stress at release using working stress design**



Span Capacities of NU Girders - Two Span Continuous



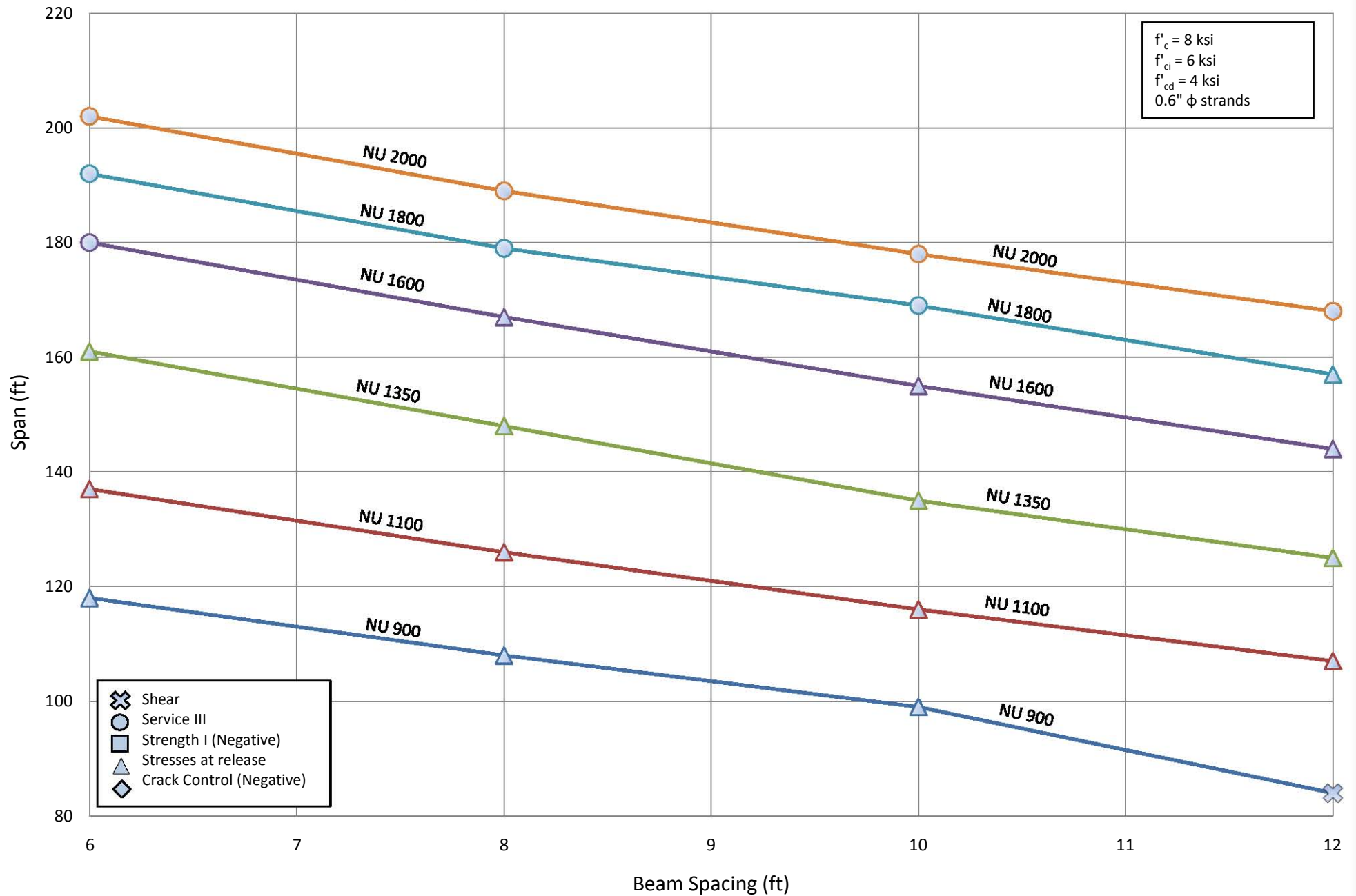
Span Capacities of NU Girders - Two Span Continuous



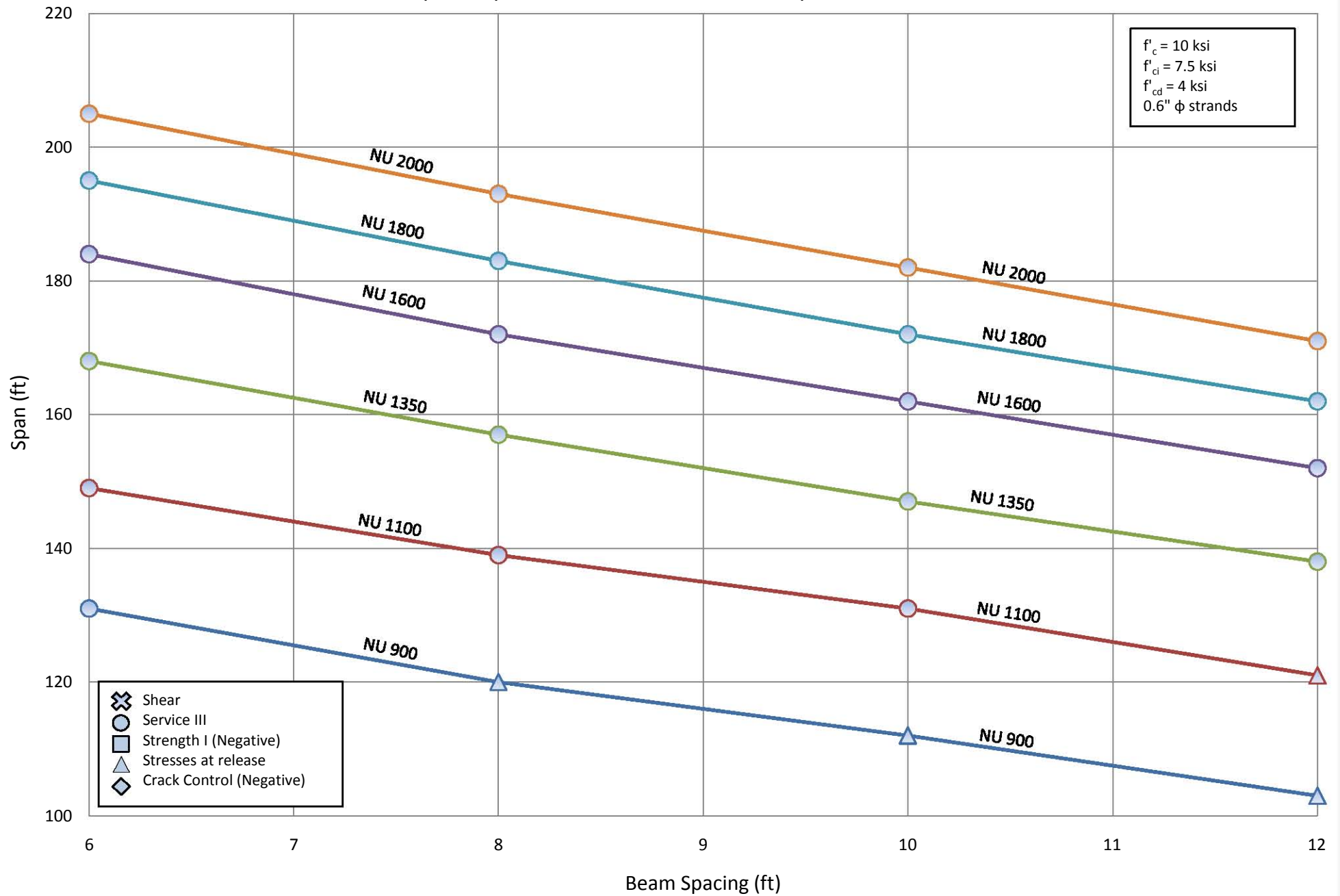
### **4.3 Two span with 0.6 in. strands and $f'_c$ 8.0 and 10.0 ksi, continuous for live load**

#### **4.3.1 Stress at release using strength at release**

Span Capacities of NU Girders - Two Span Continuous

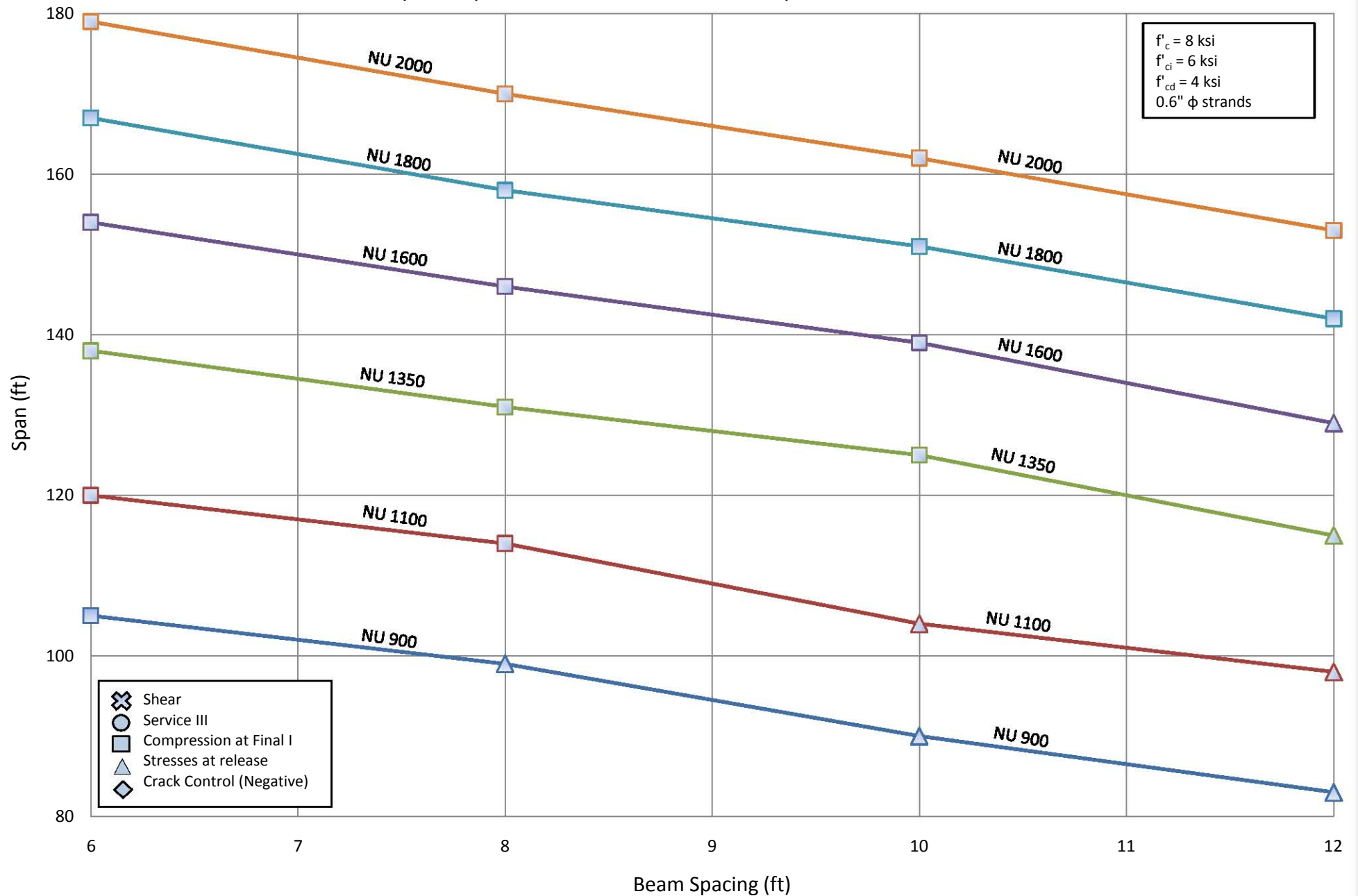


Span Capacities of NU Girders - Two Span Continuous

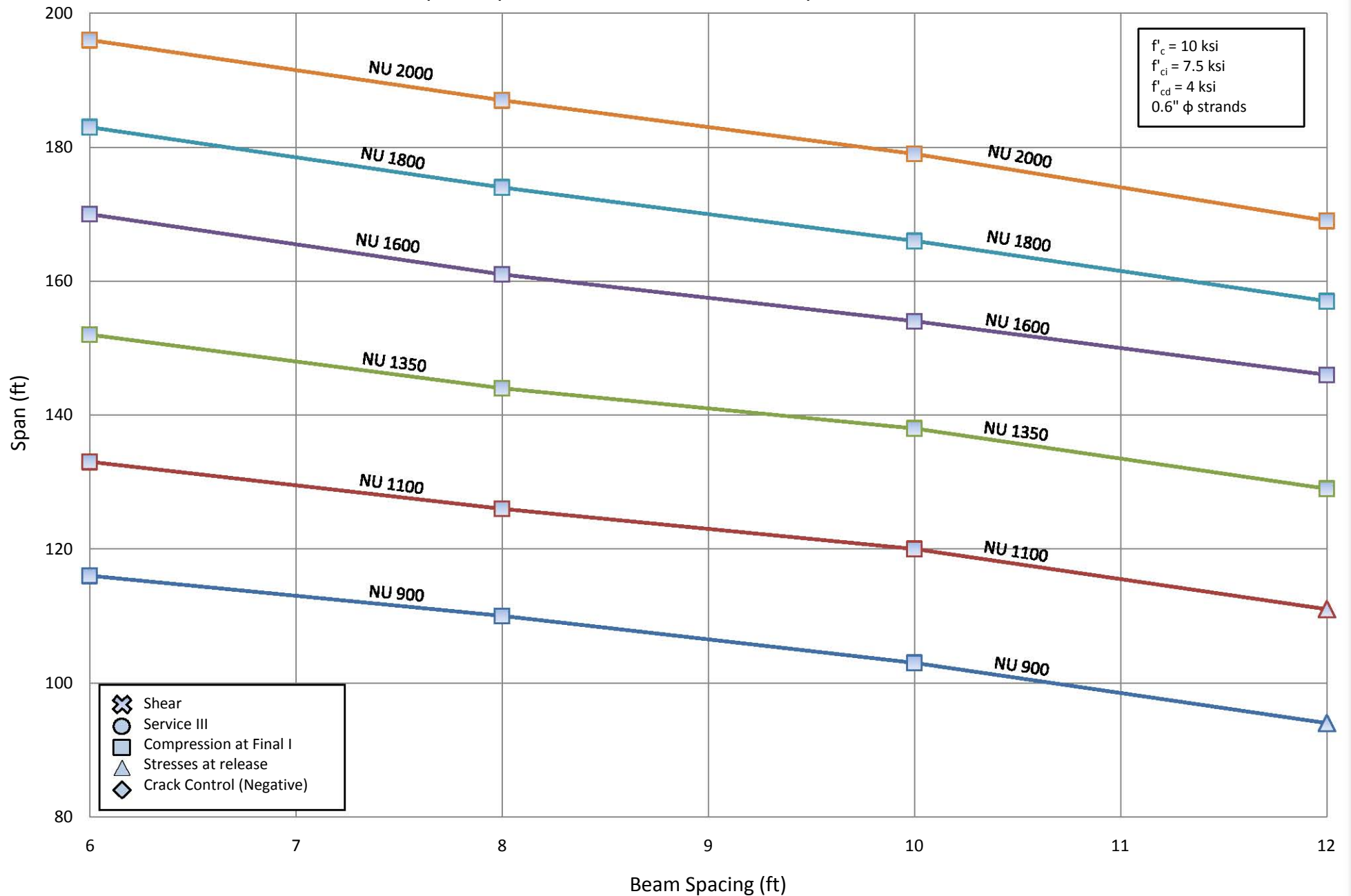


#### 4.3.2 Stress at release method design

Span Capacities of NU Girders - Two Span Continuous



Span Capacities of NU Girders - Two Span Continuous

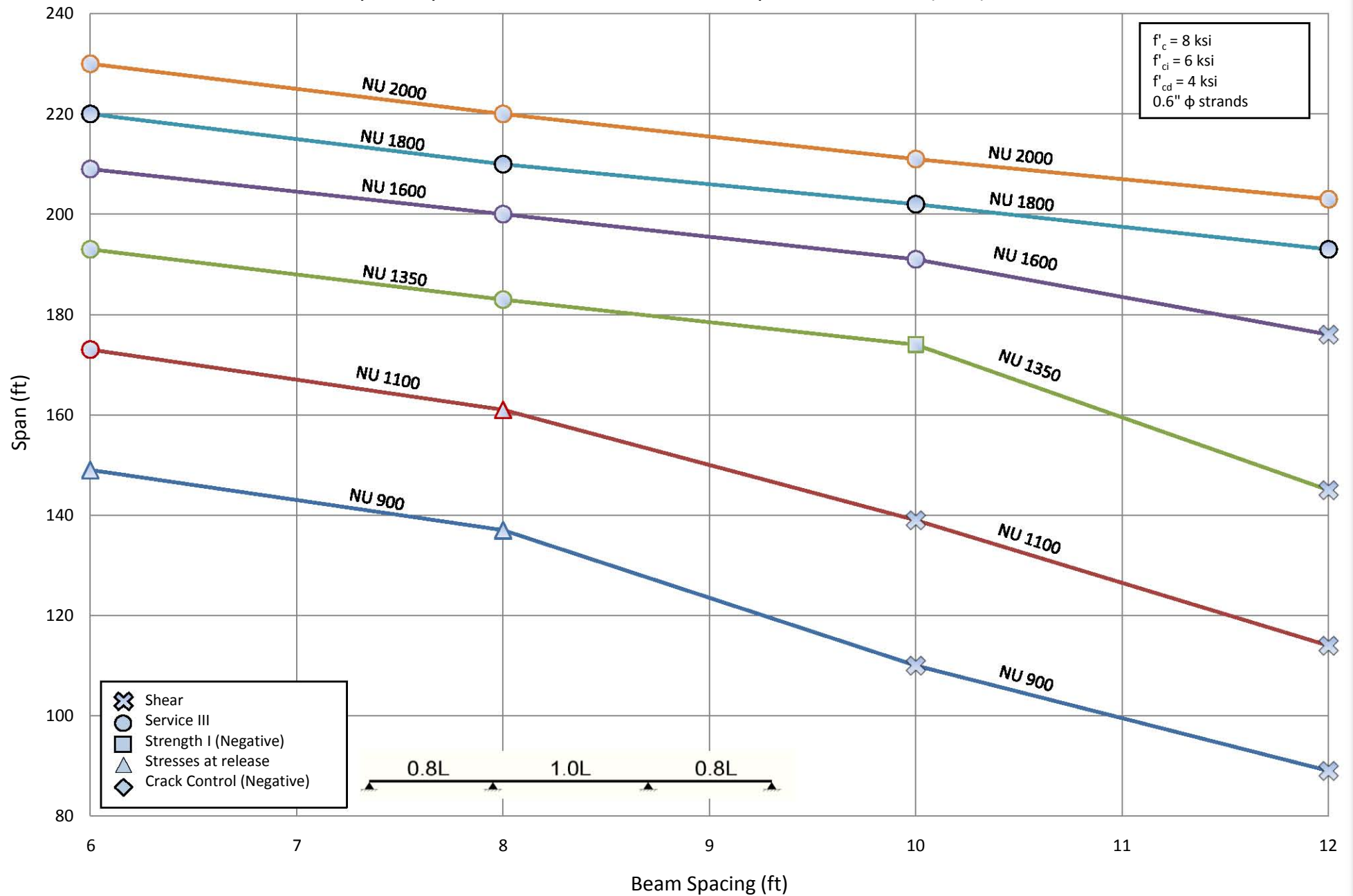




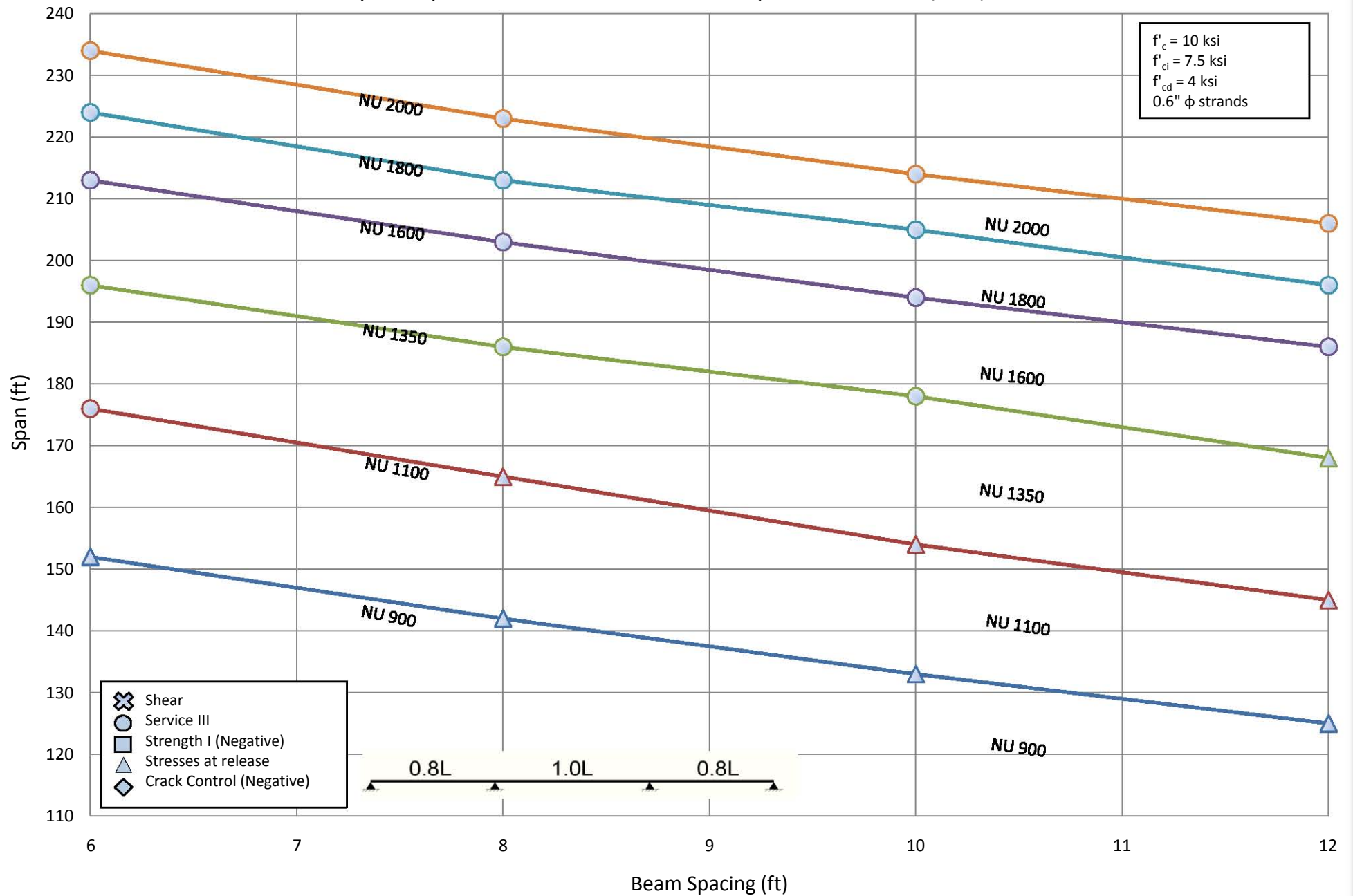
4.4 Three Span with 0.6 in. Strands and  $f'_c$  8.0 and 10.0 ksi continuous for live load and deck weight

**4.4.1 Stress at release using strength at release**

Span Capacities of NU Girders - Three Span Continuous (1.0L)

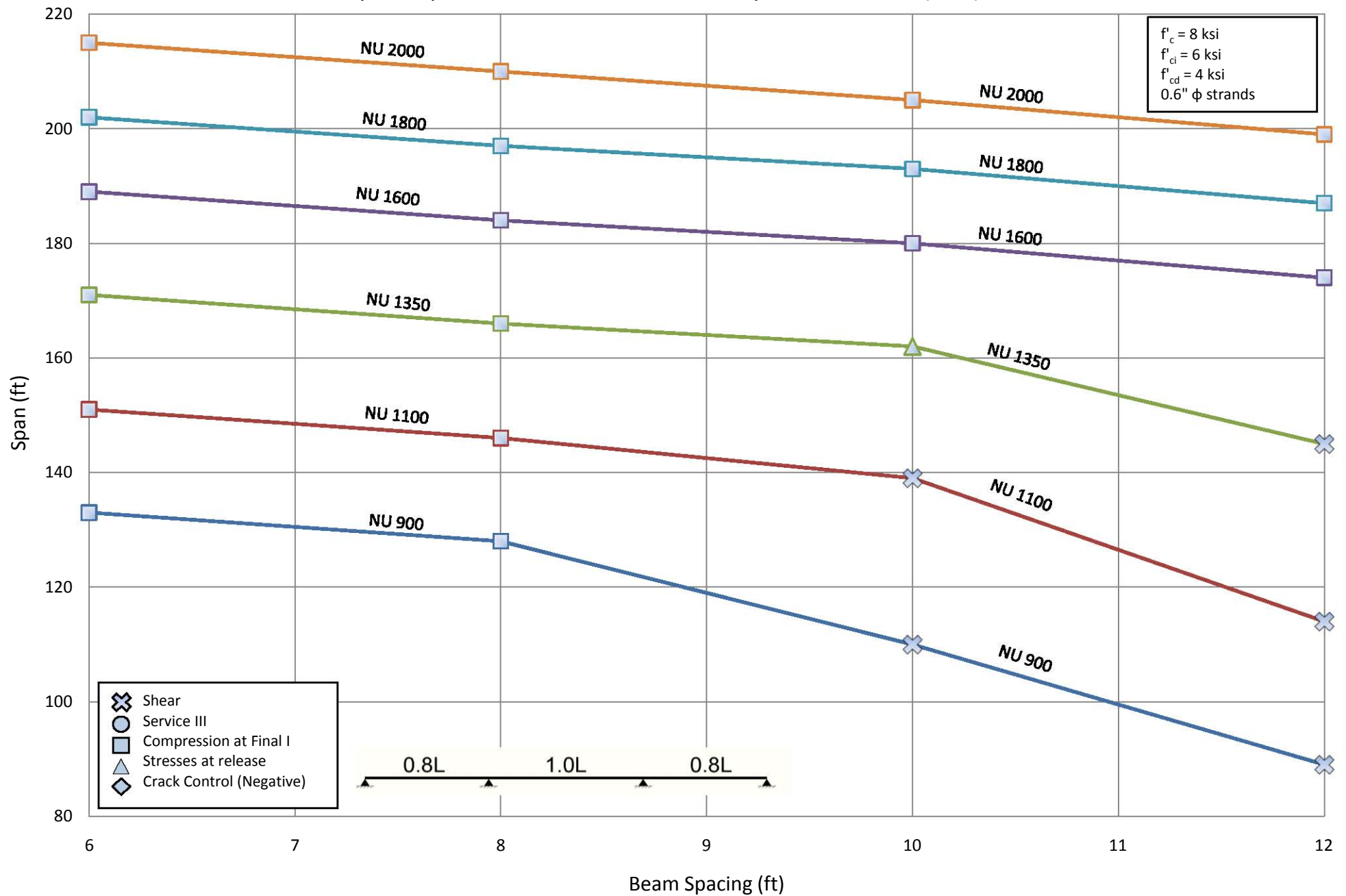


Span Capacities of NU Girders - Three Span Continuous (1.0L)

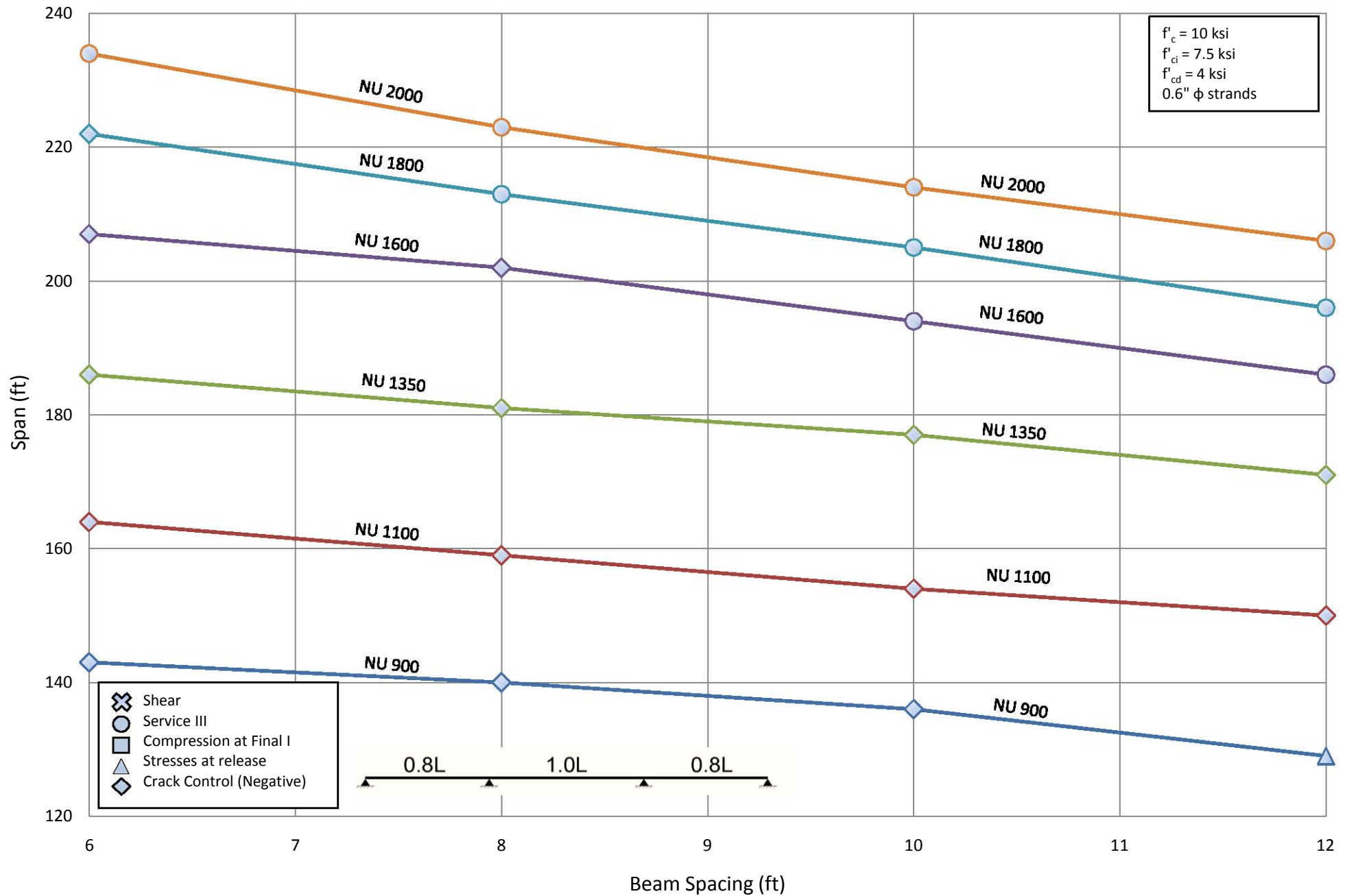


#### 4.4.2 Working stress at release method design

Span Capacities of NU Girders - Three Span Continuous (1.0L)

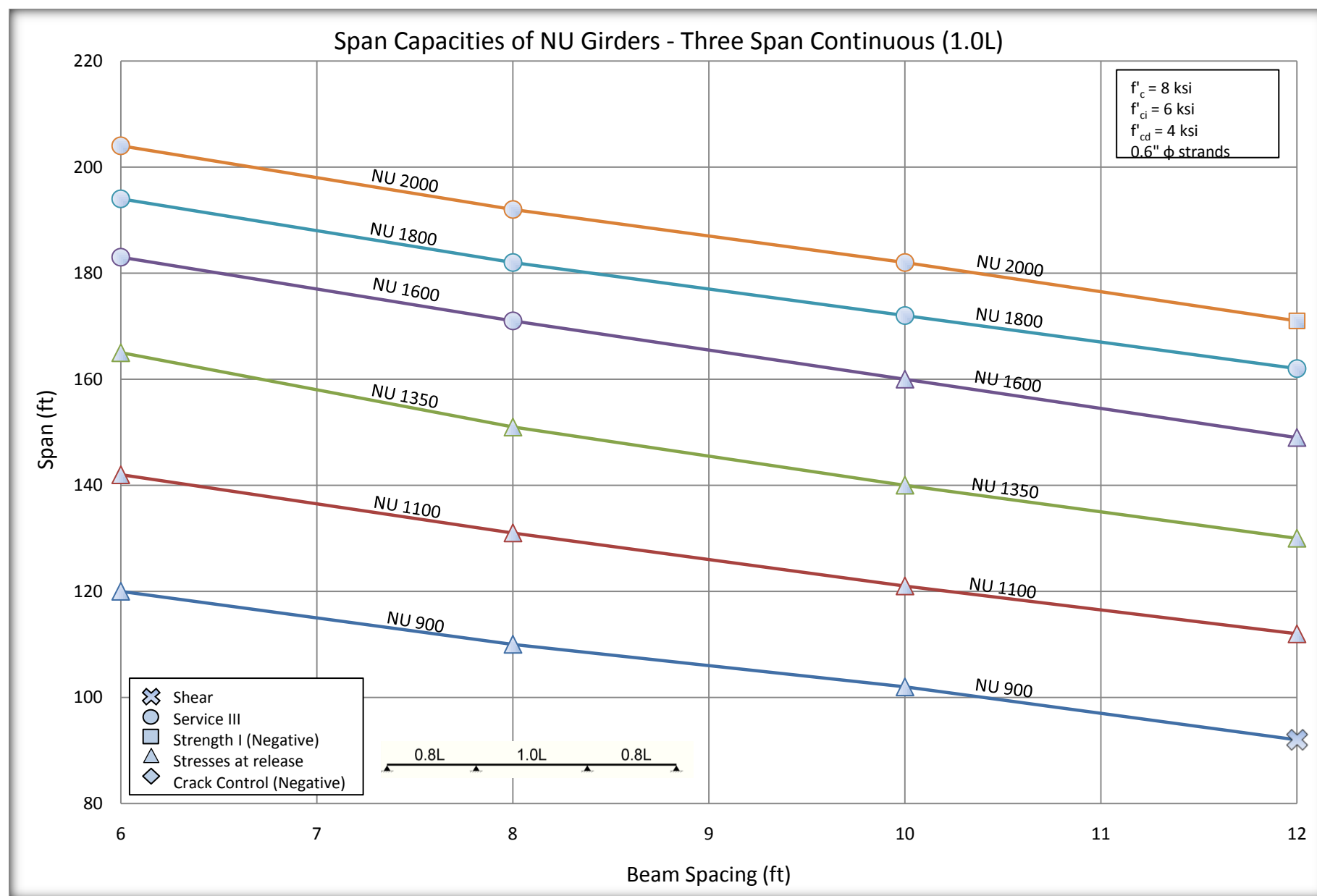


Span Capacities of NU Girders - Three Span Continuous (1.0L)

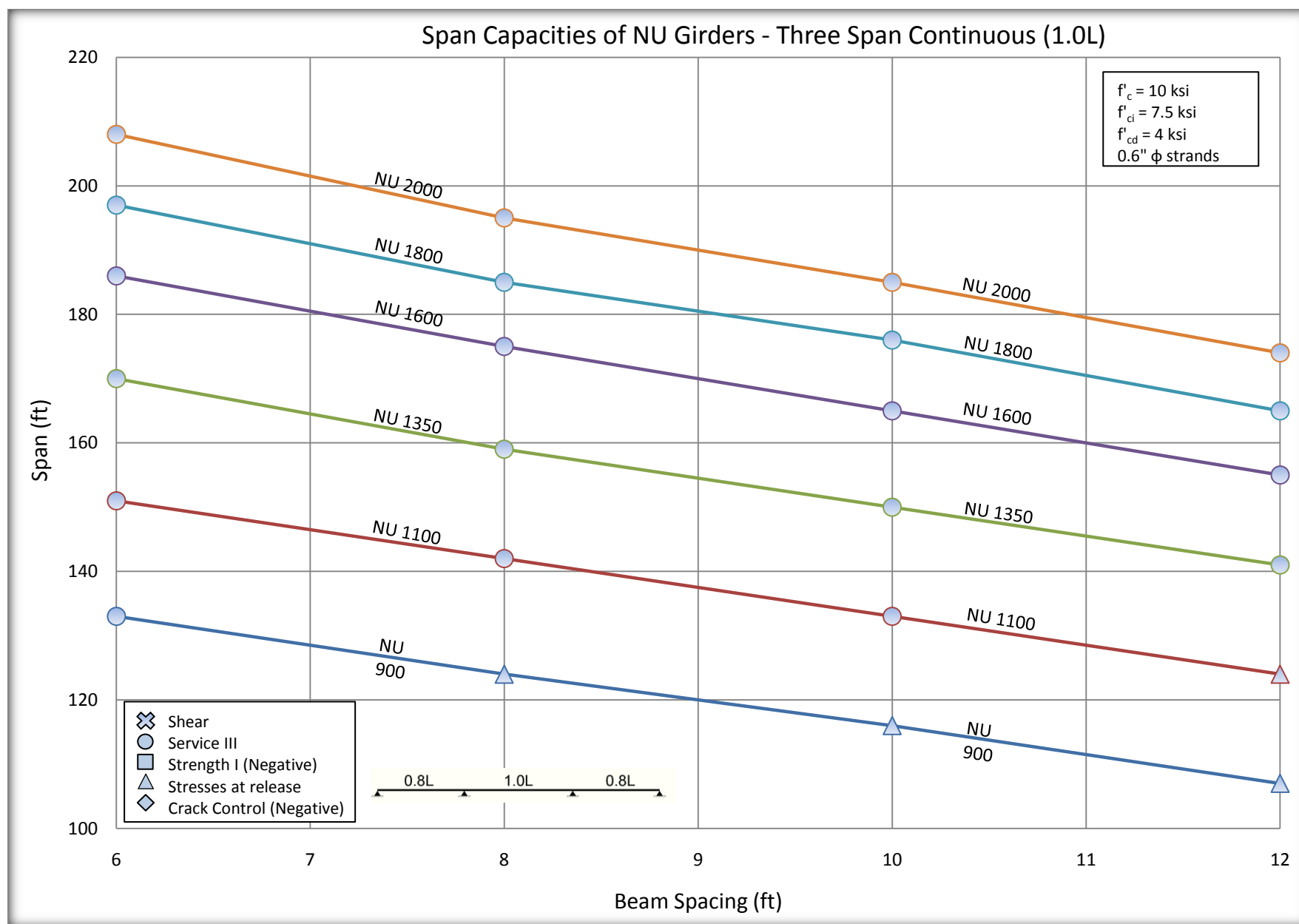


4.5 Three Span with 0.6 in. Strands and  $f'_c$  8.0 and 10.0 ksi continuous for live load

**4.5.1 Stress at release using strength at relea**

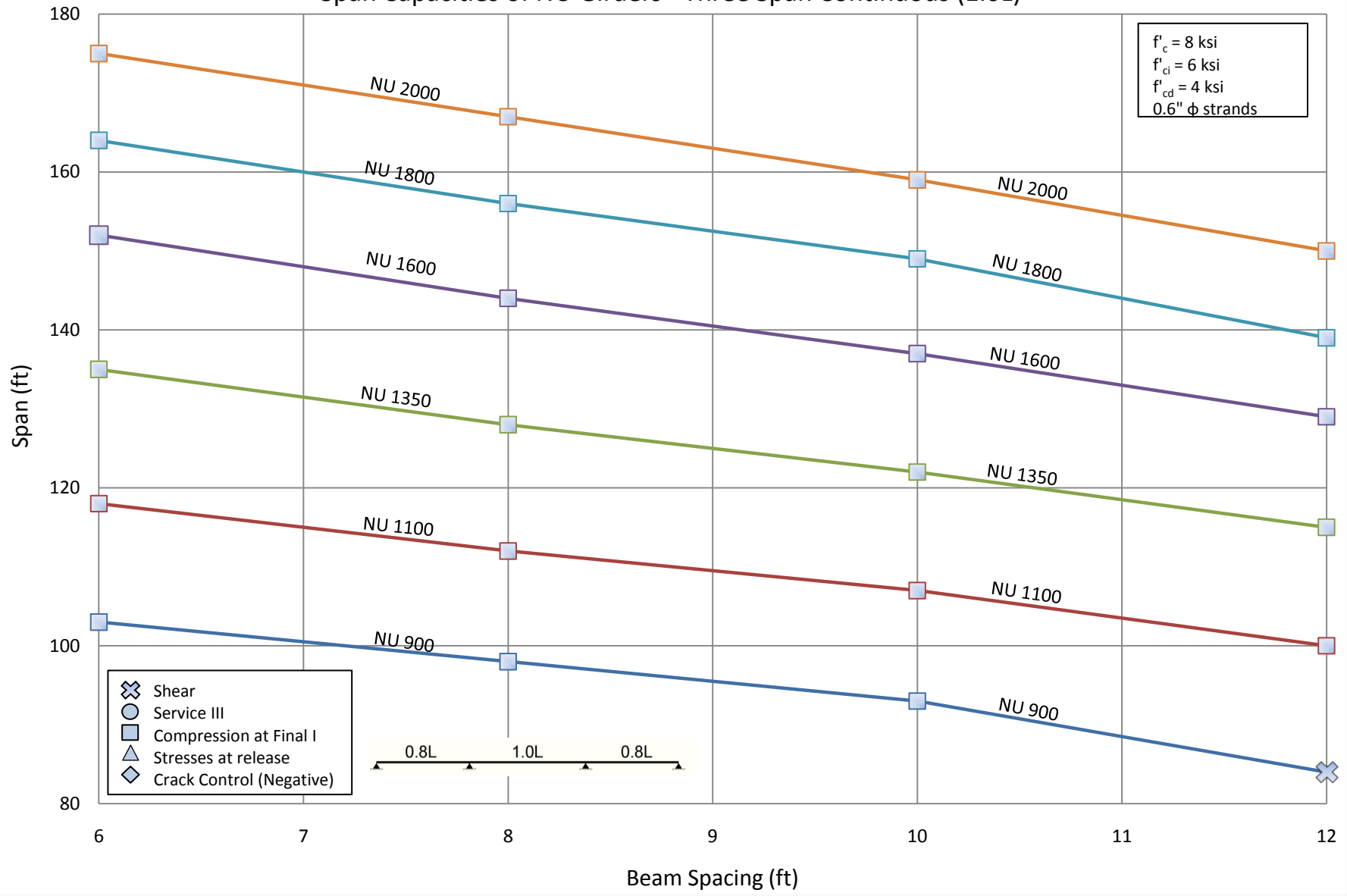


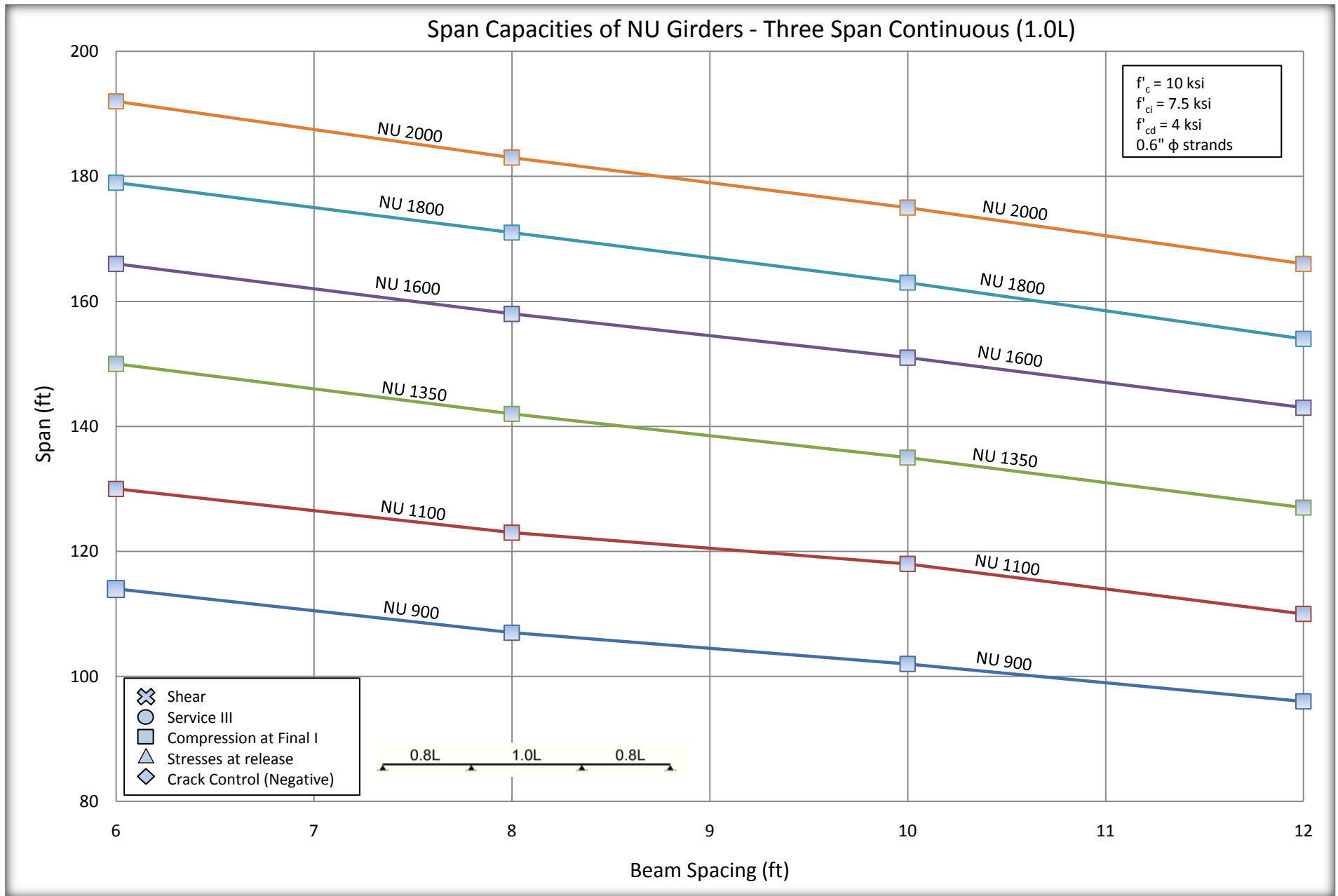




#### 4.5.2 Working stress at release method design

Span Capacities of NU Girders - Three Span Continuous (1.0L)

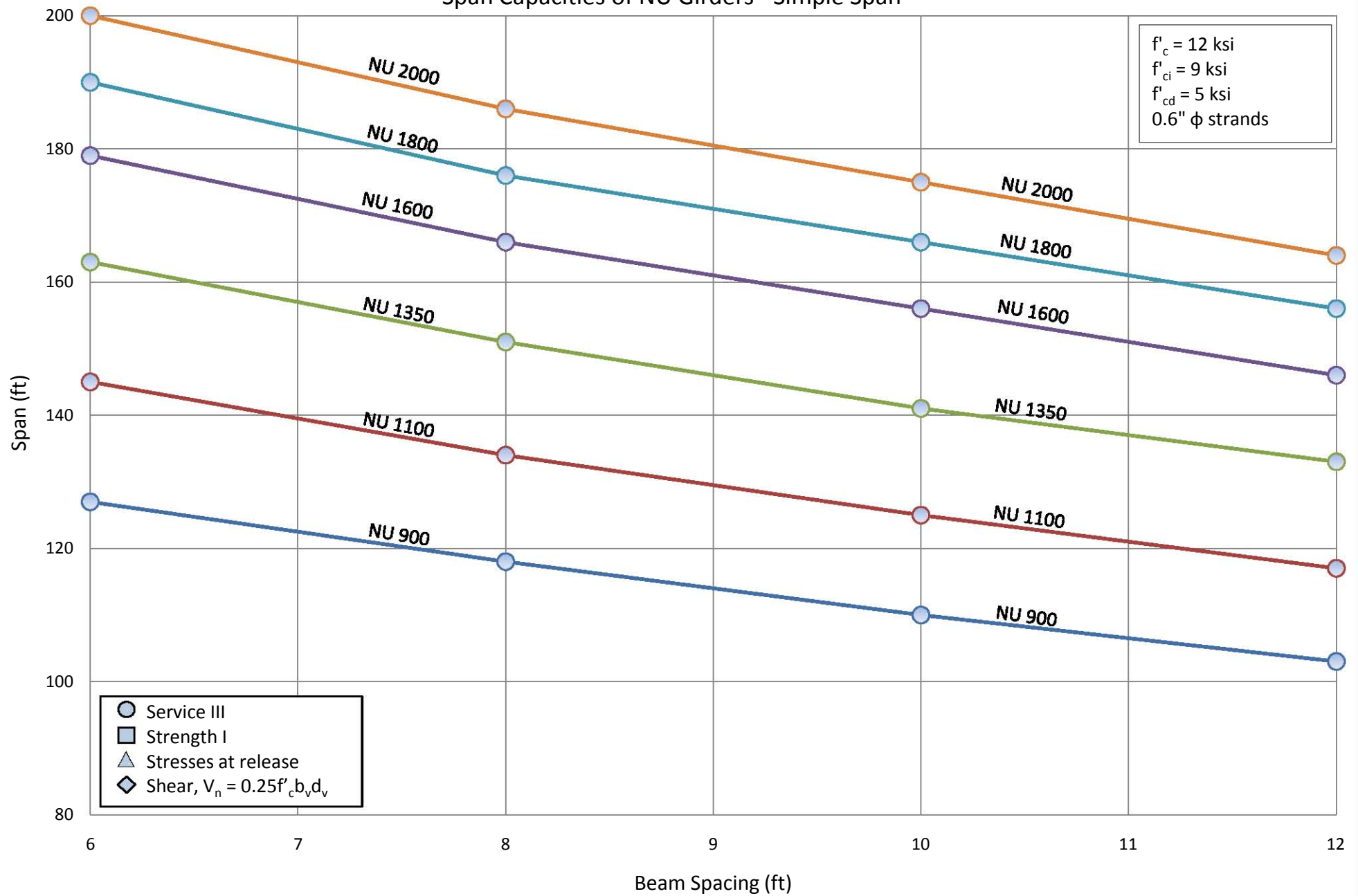




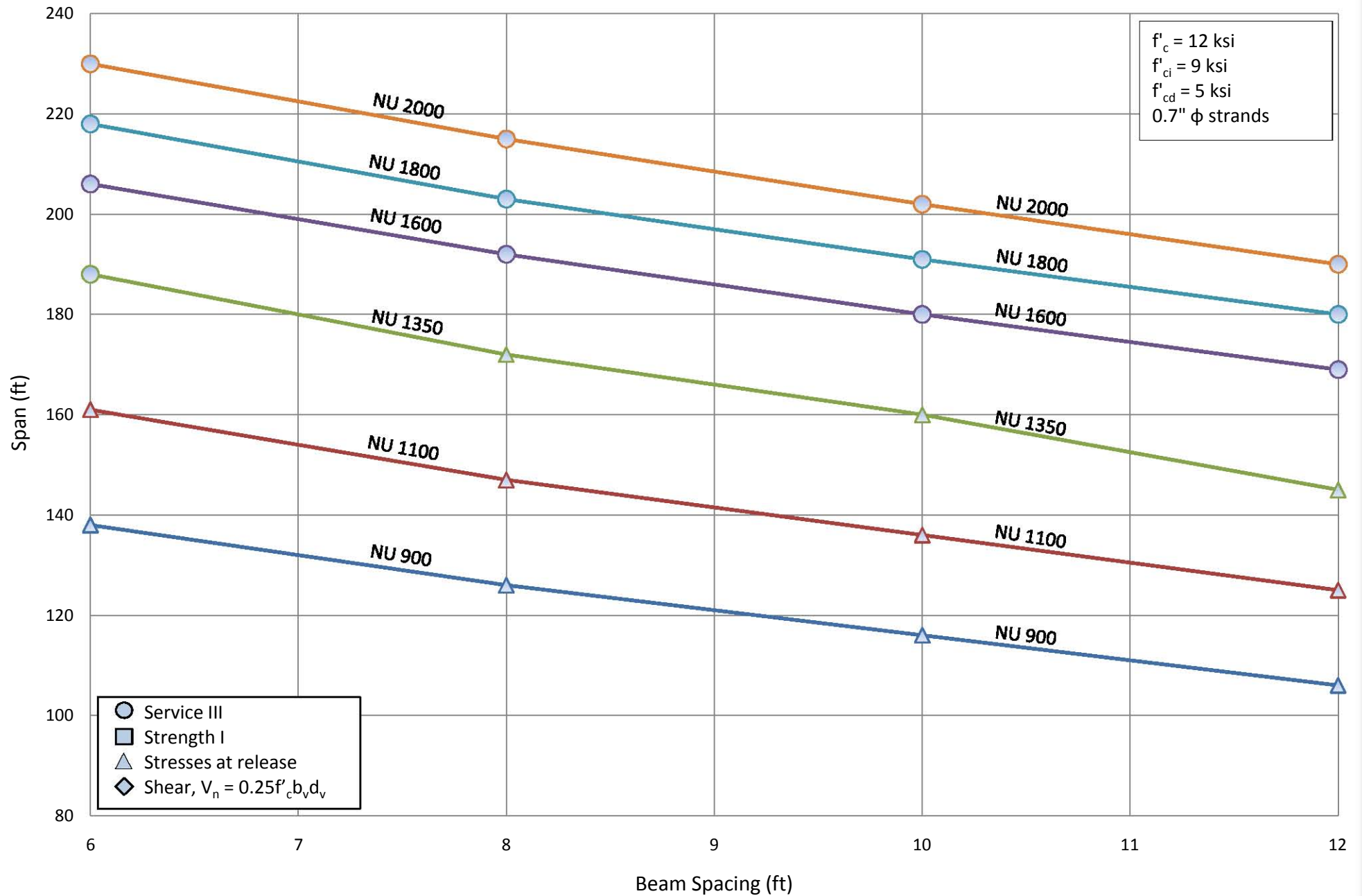
#### 4.6 Simple Span with 0.6 in. and 0.7 in. strands and $f'_c$ 12.0 and 15.0 ksi

##### 4.6.1 Stress at release using strength at release

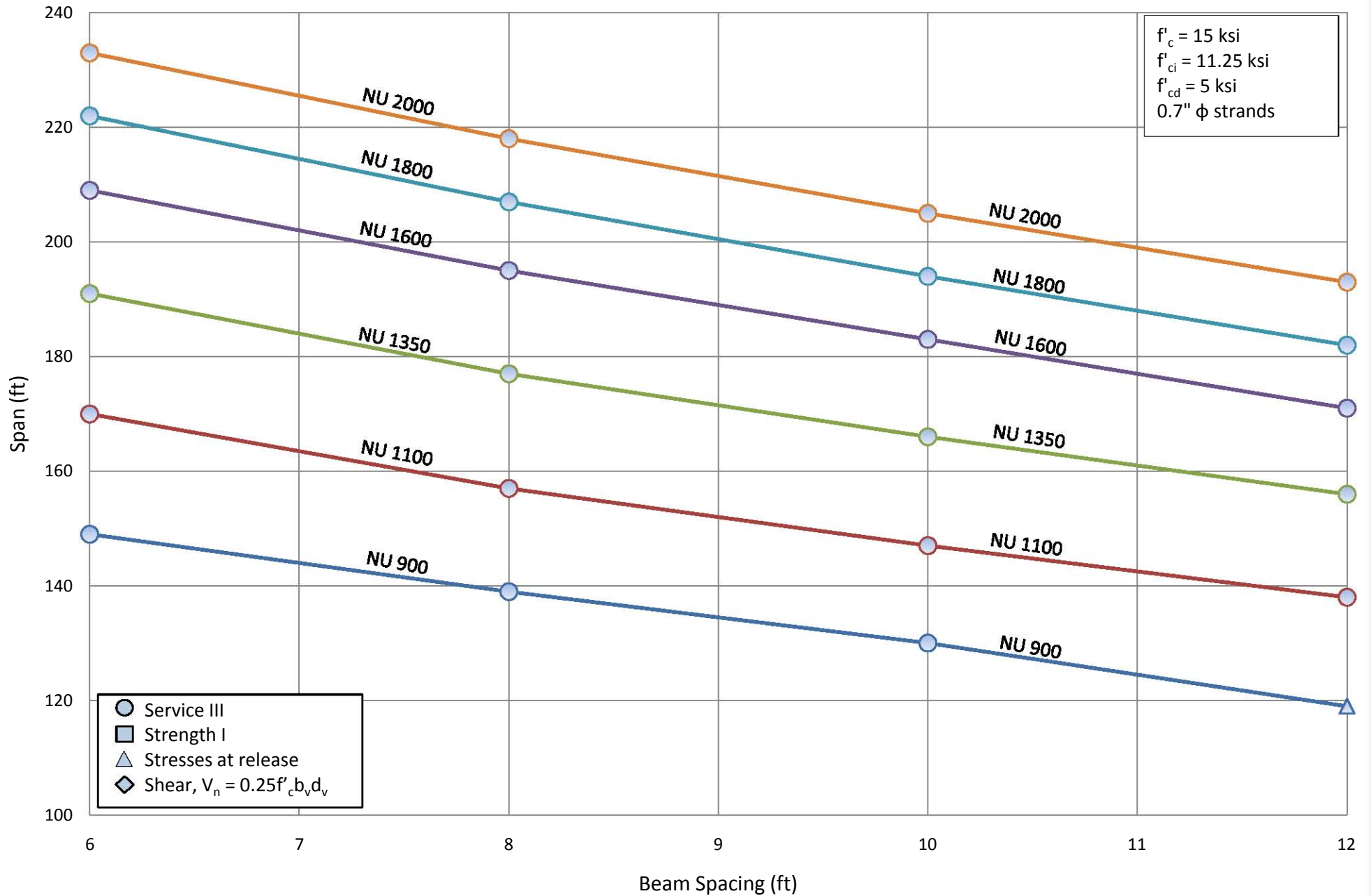
Span Capacities of NU Girders - Simple Span



Span Capacities of NU Girders - Simple Span

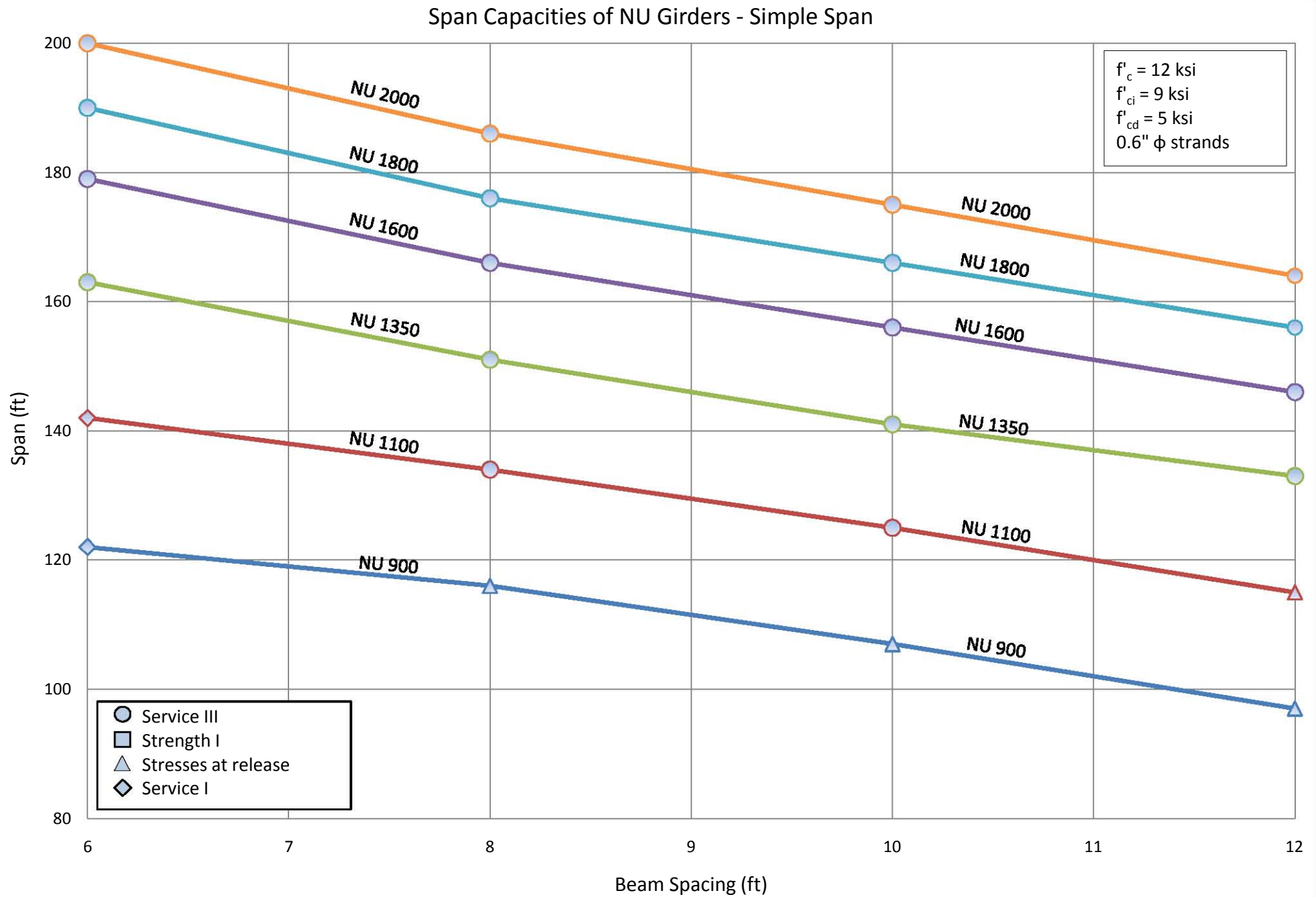


Span Capacities of NU Girders - Simple Span

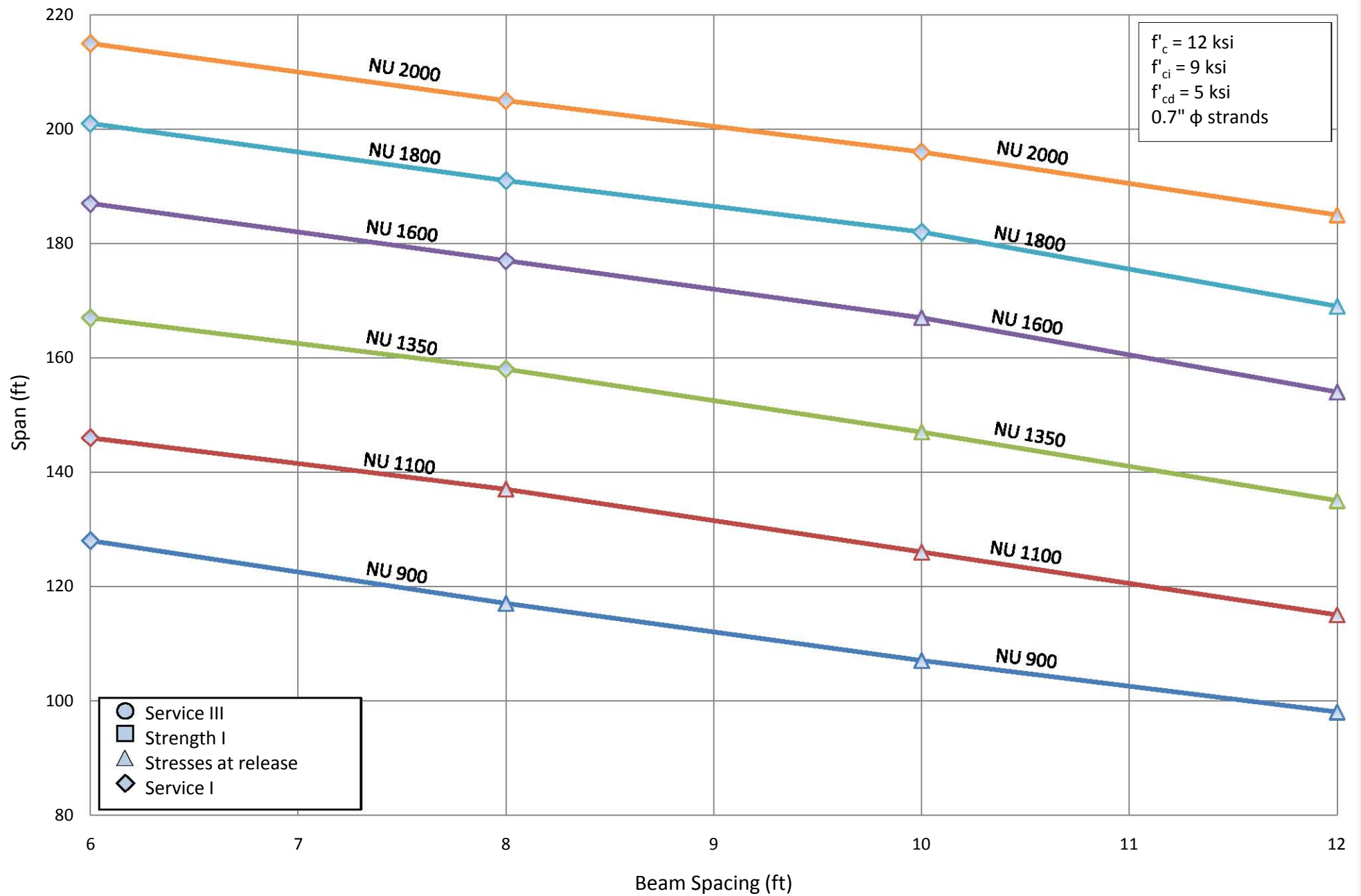




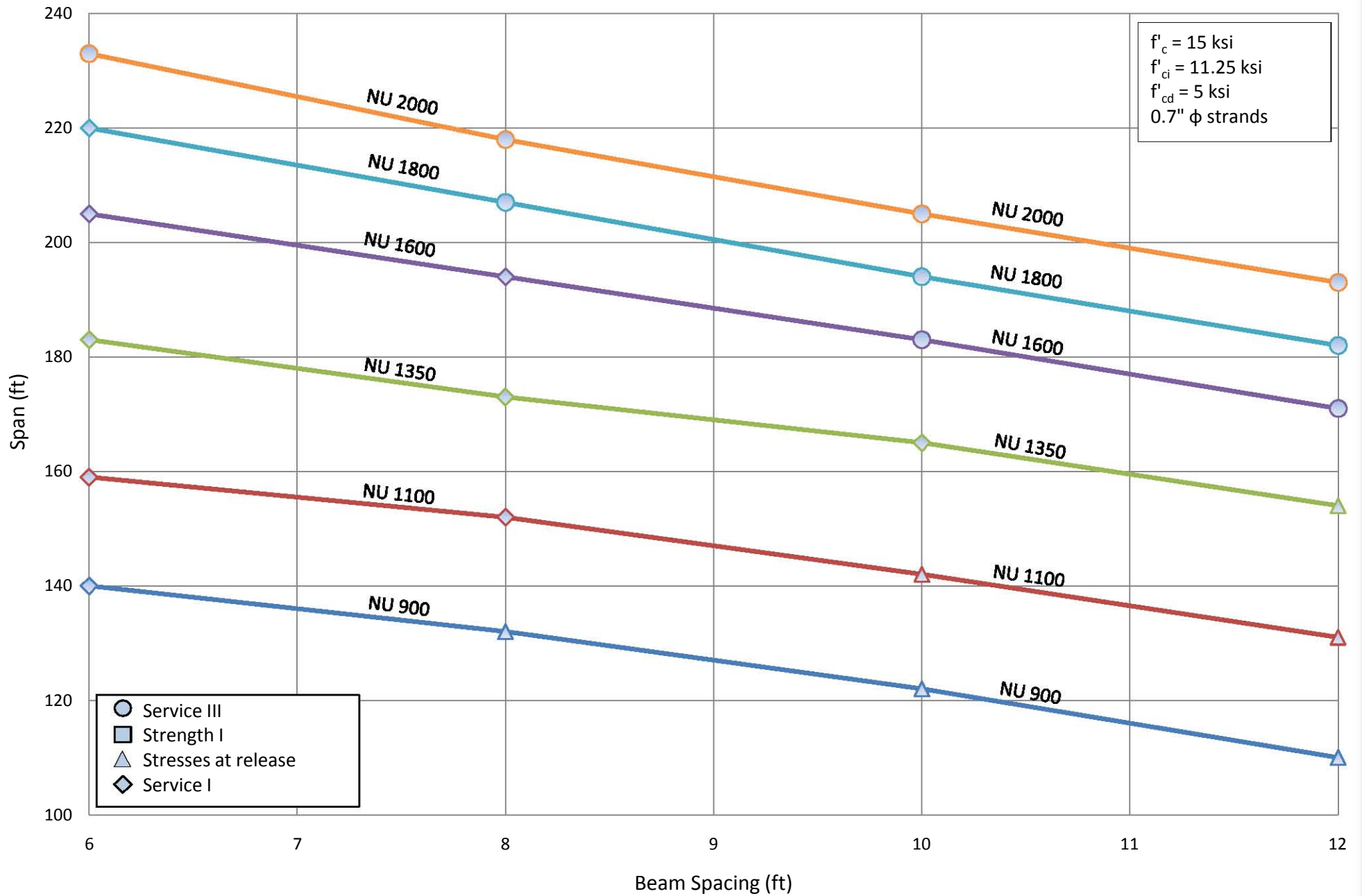
#### **4.6.2 Stress at release using working stress design**



Span Capacities of NU Girders - Simple Span



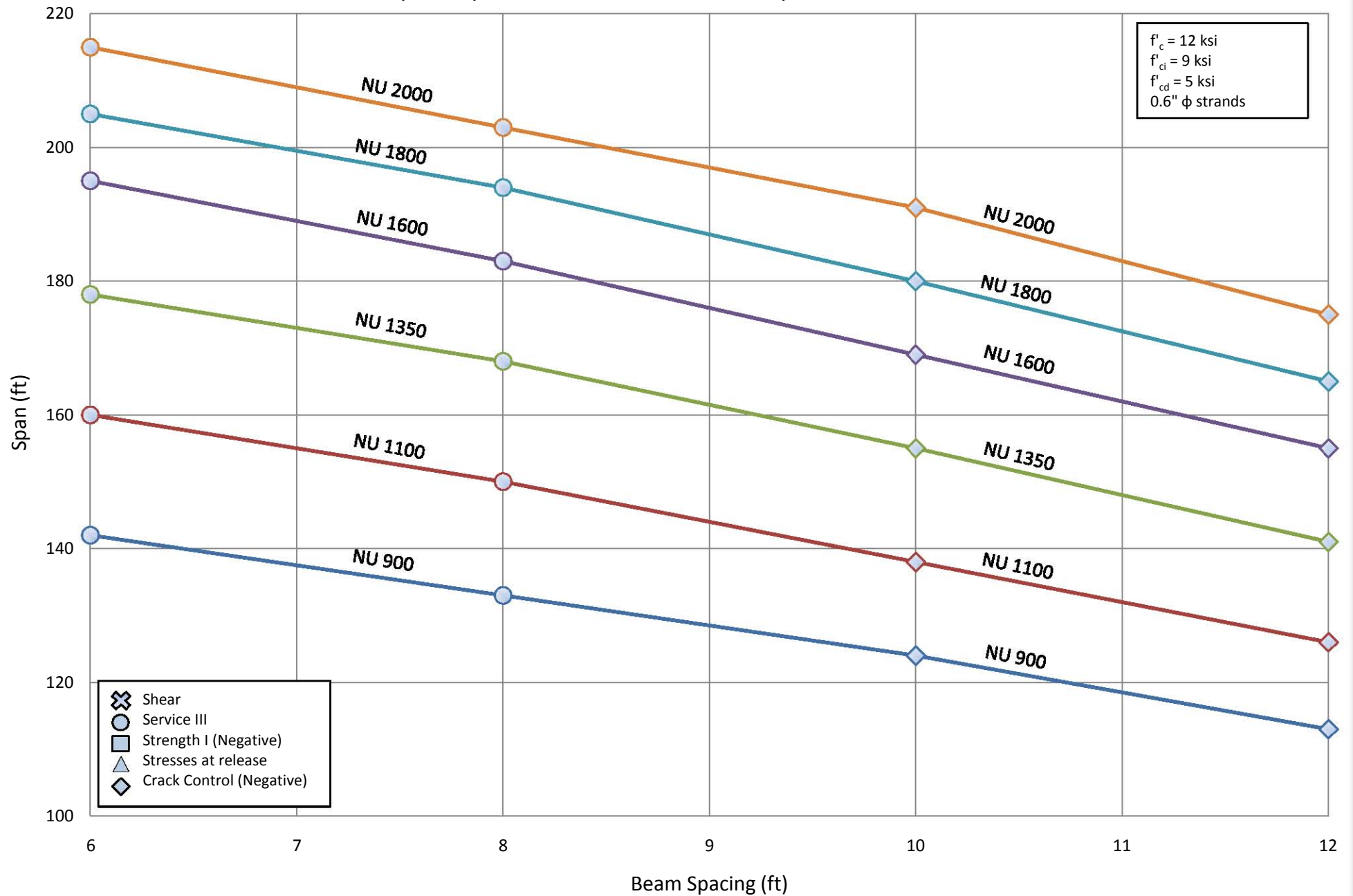
Span Capacities of NU Girders - Simple Span



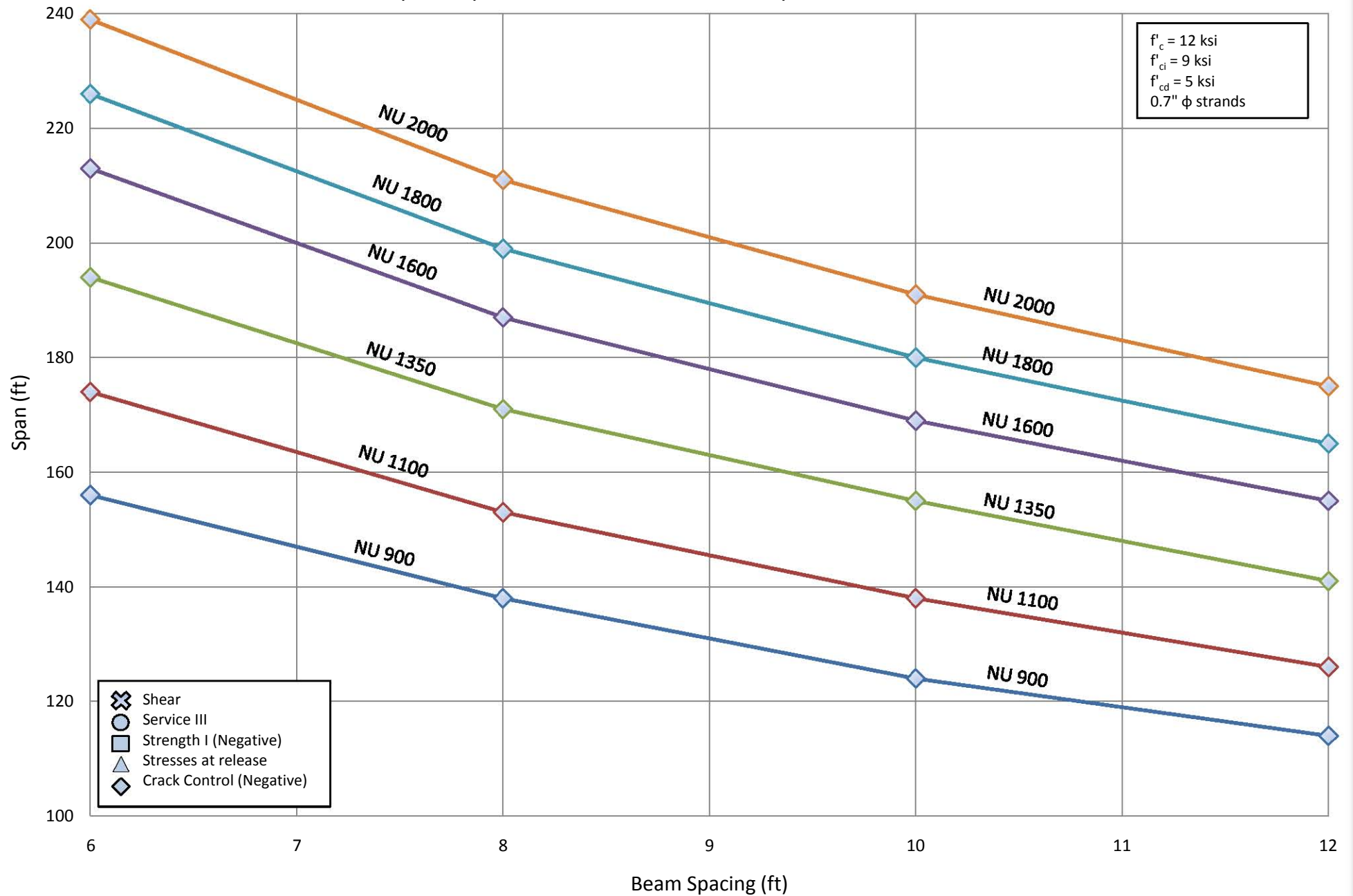
**4.7** Two Span with 0.6 in. and 0.7 in strands and  $f'_c$  12.0 and 15.0 ksi, continuous for live load and deck weight

**4.7.1 Stress at release using strength at release**

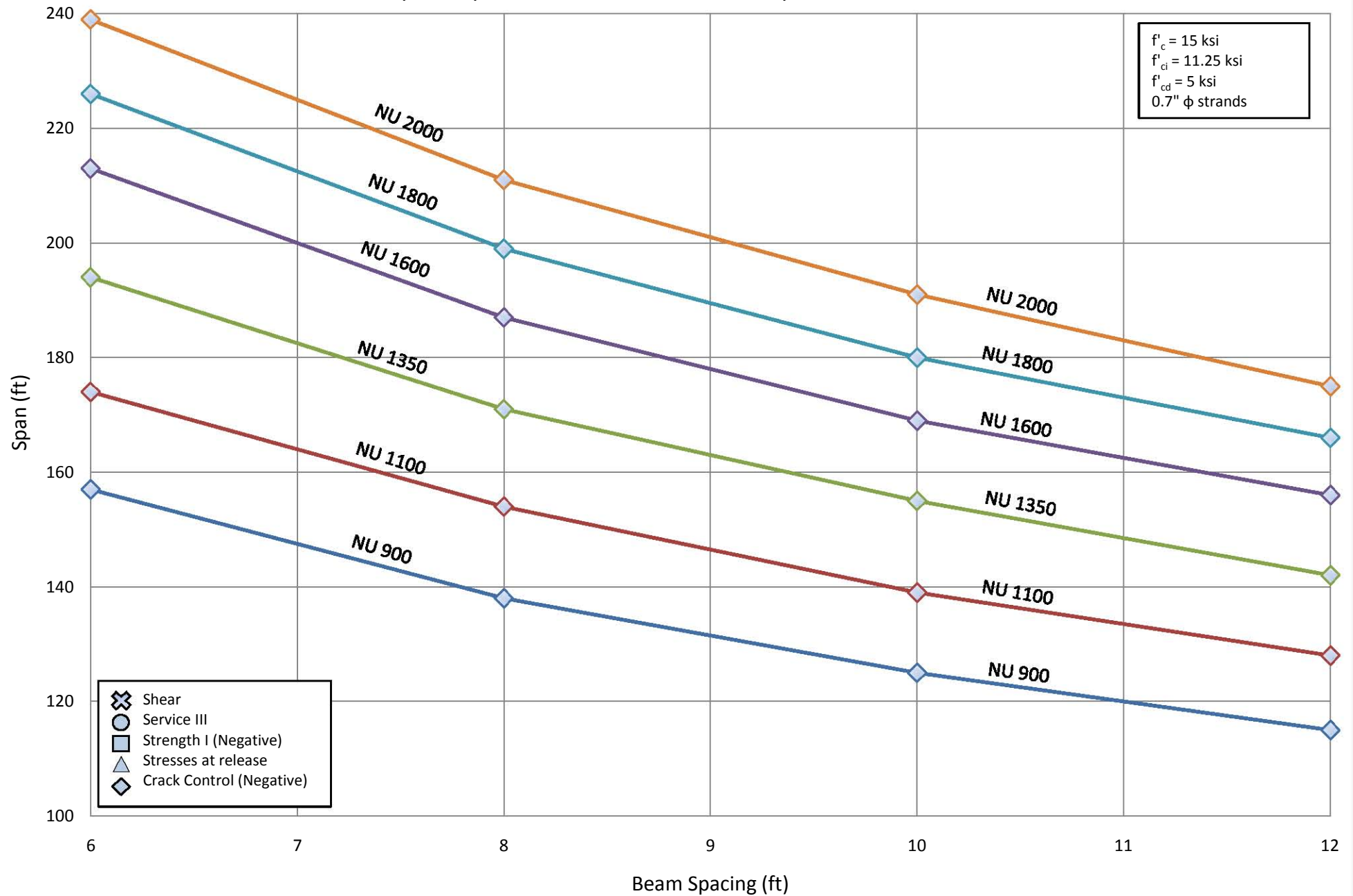
Span Capacities of NU Girders - Two Span Continuous



Span Capacities of NU Girders - Two Span Continuous



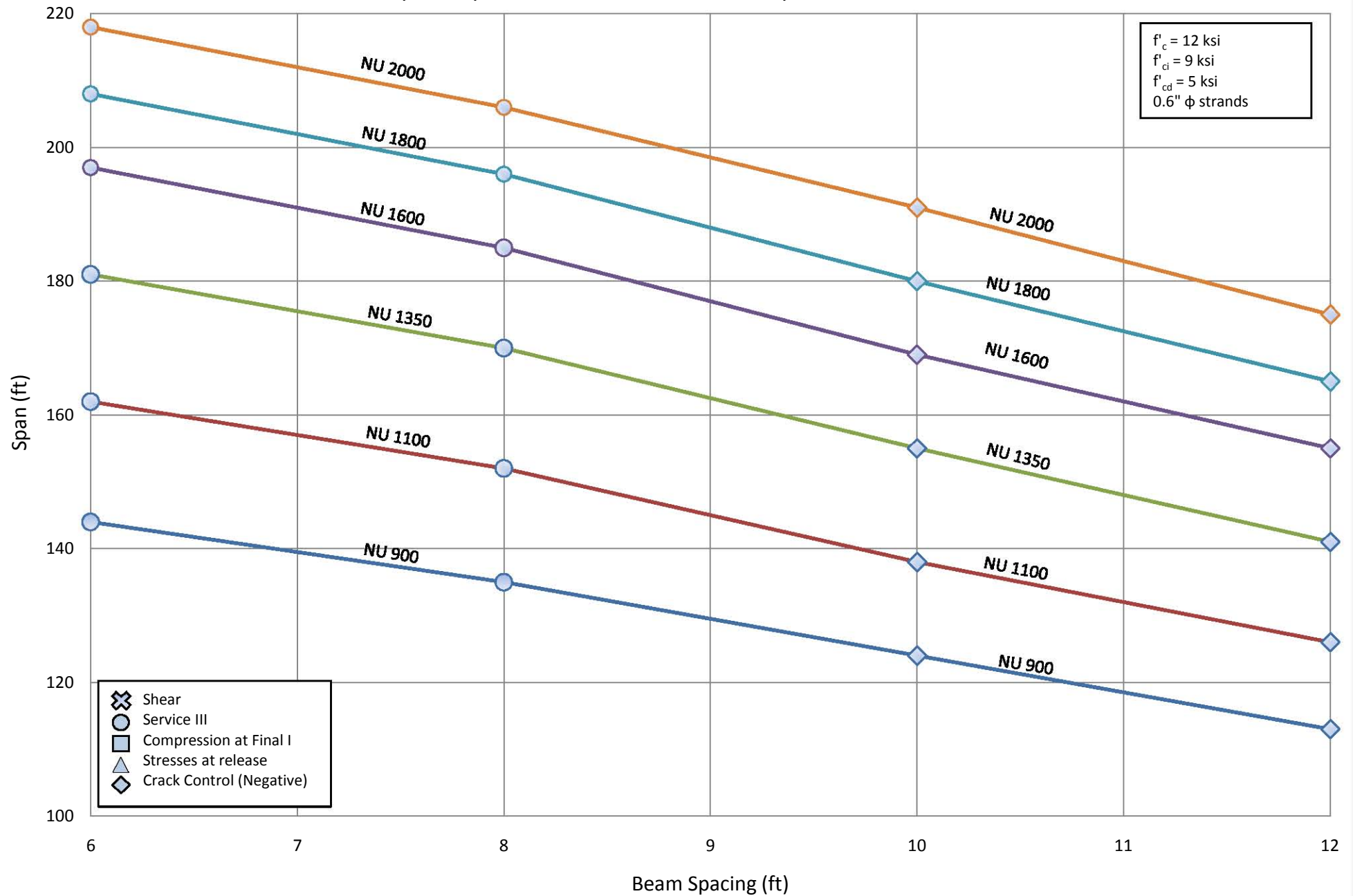
Span Capacities of NU Girders - Two Span Continuous



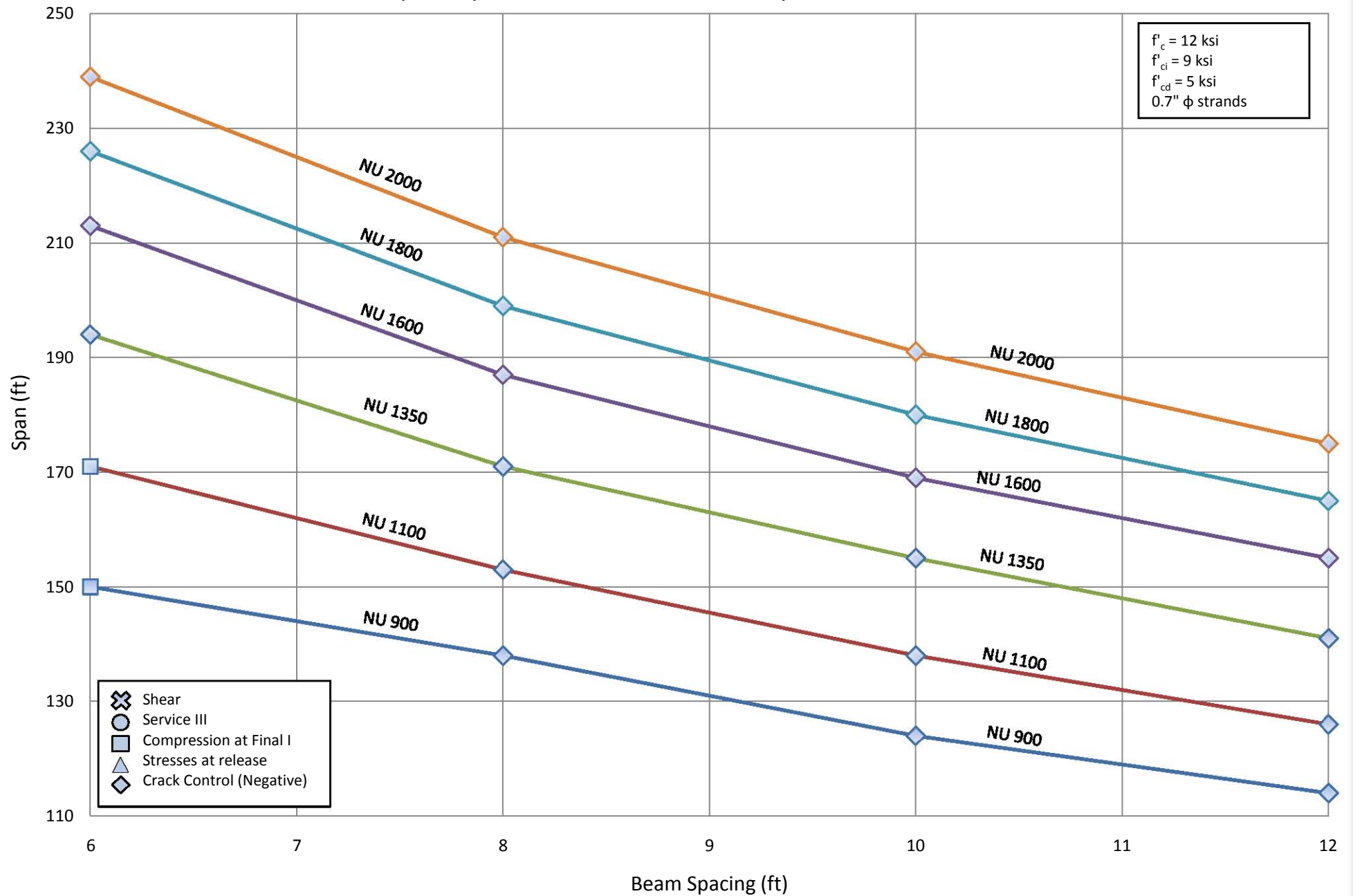


#### **4.7.2 Stress at release using working stress design**

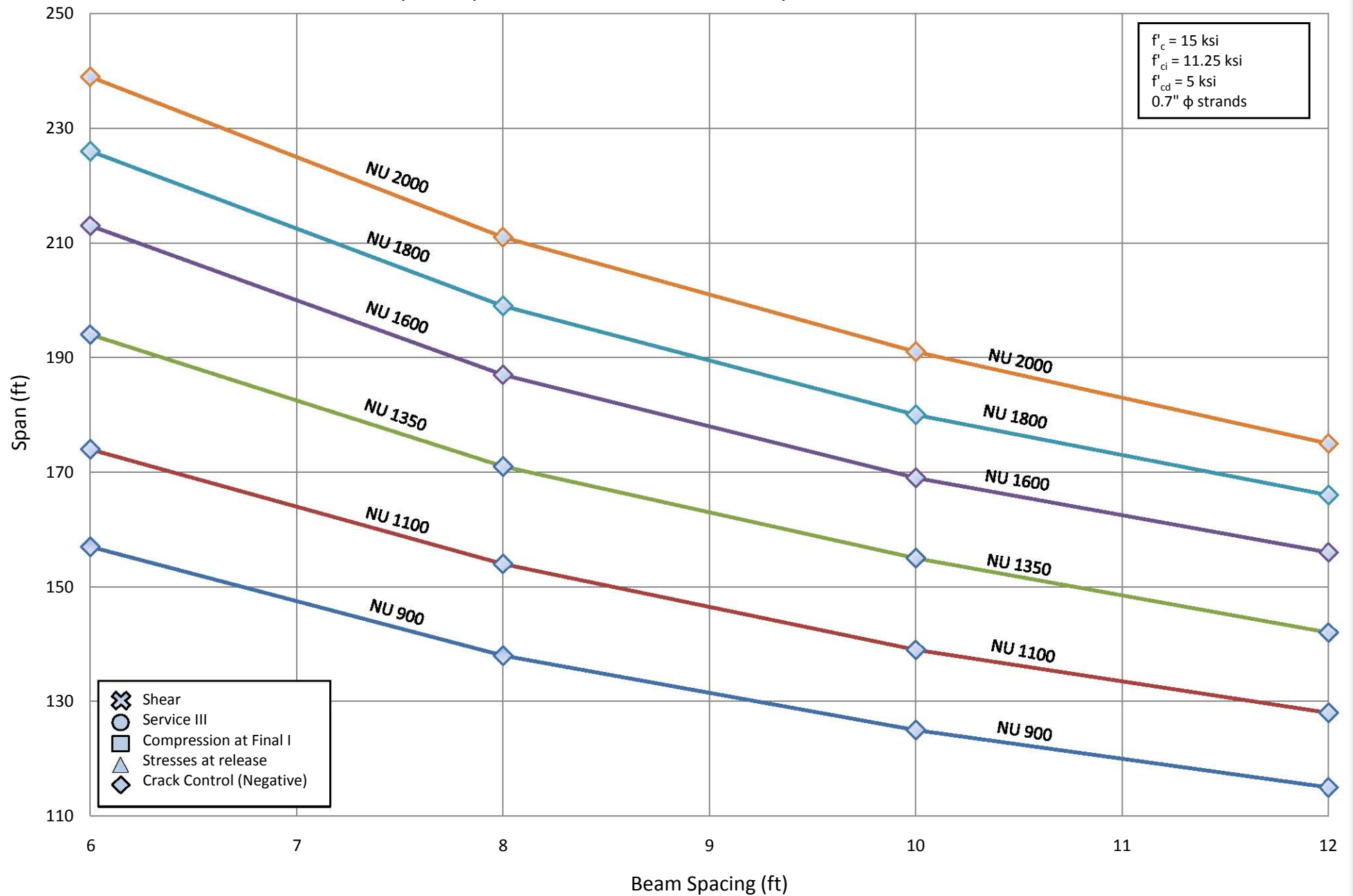
Span Capacities of NU Girders - Two Span Continuous



Span Capacities of NU Girders - Two Span Continuous



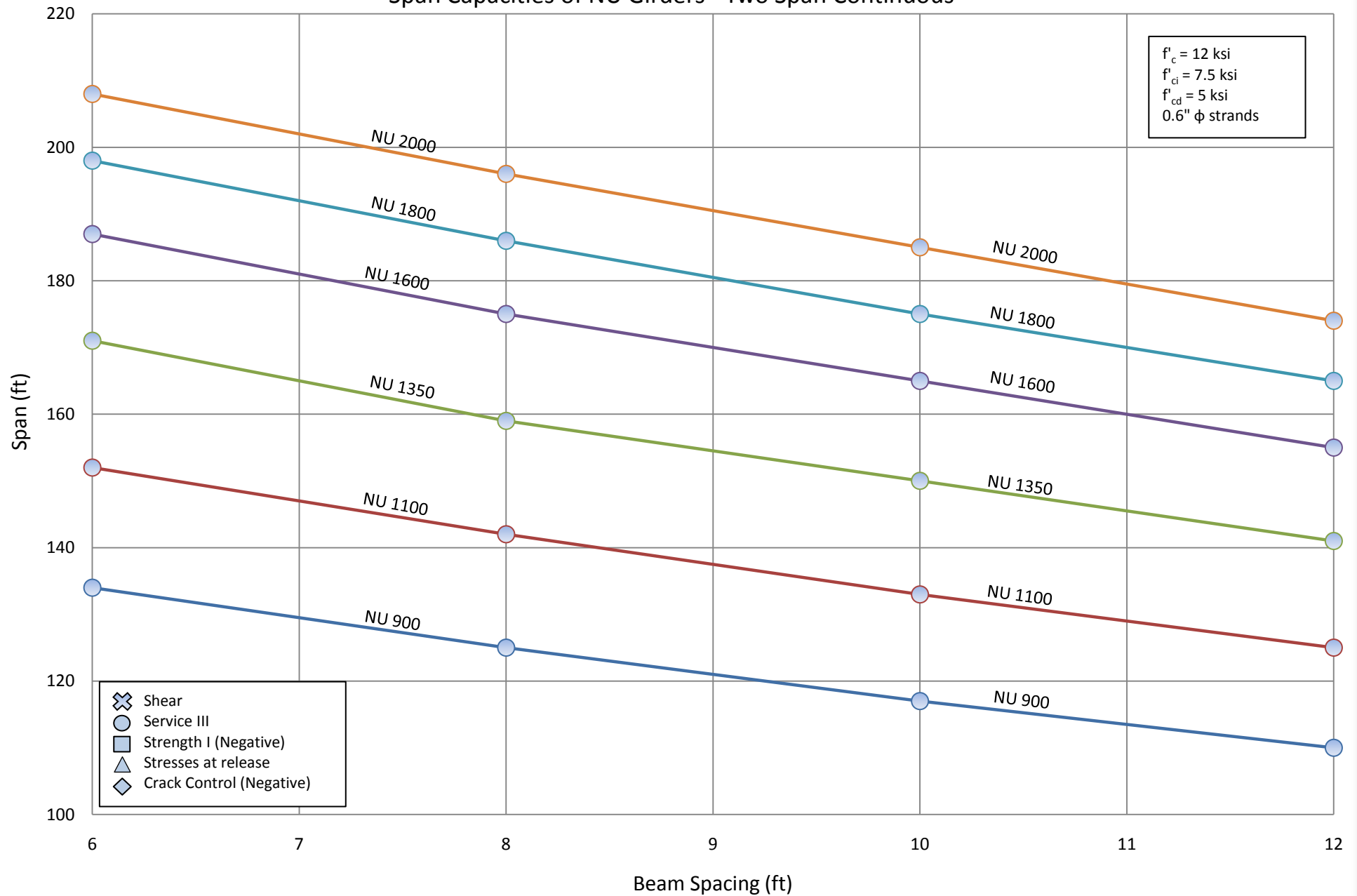
Span Capacities of NU Girders - Two Span Continuous



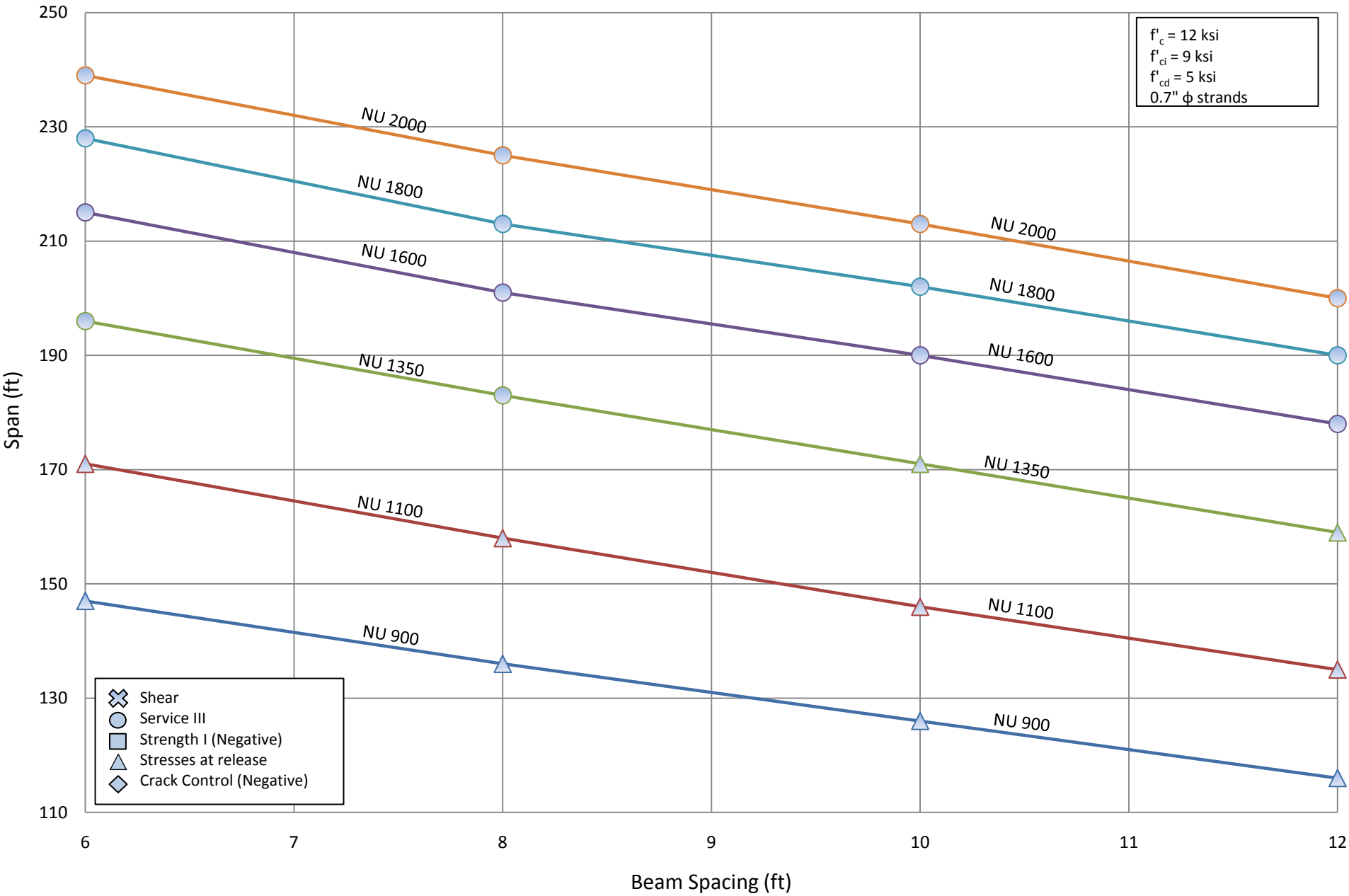
4.8 Two Span with 0.6 in. and 0.7 in strands and  $f'_c$  12.0 and 15.0 ksi, continuous for live load

**4.8.1 Stress at release using strength at release**

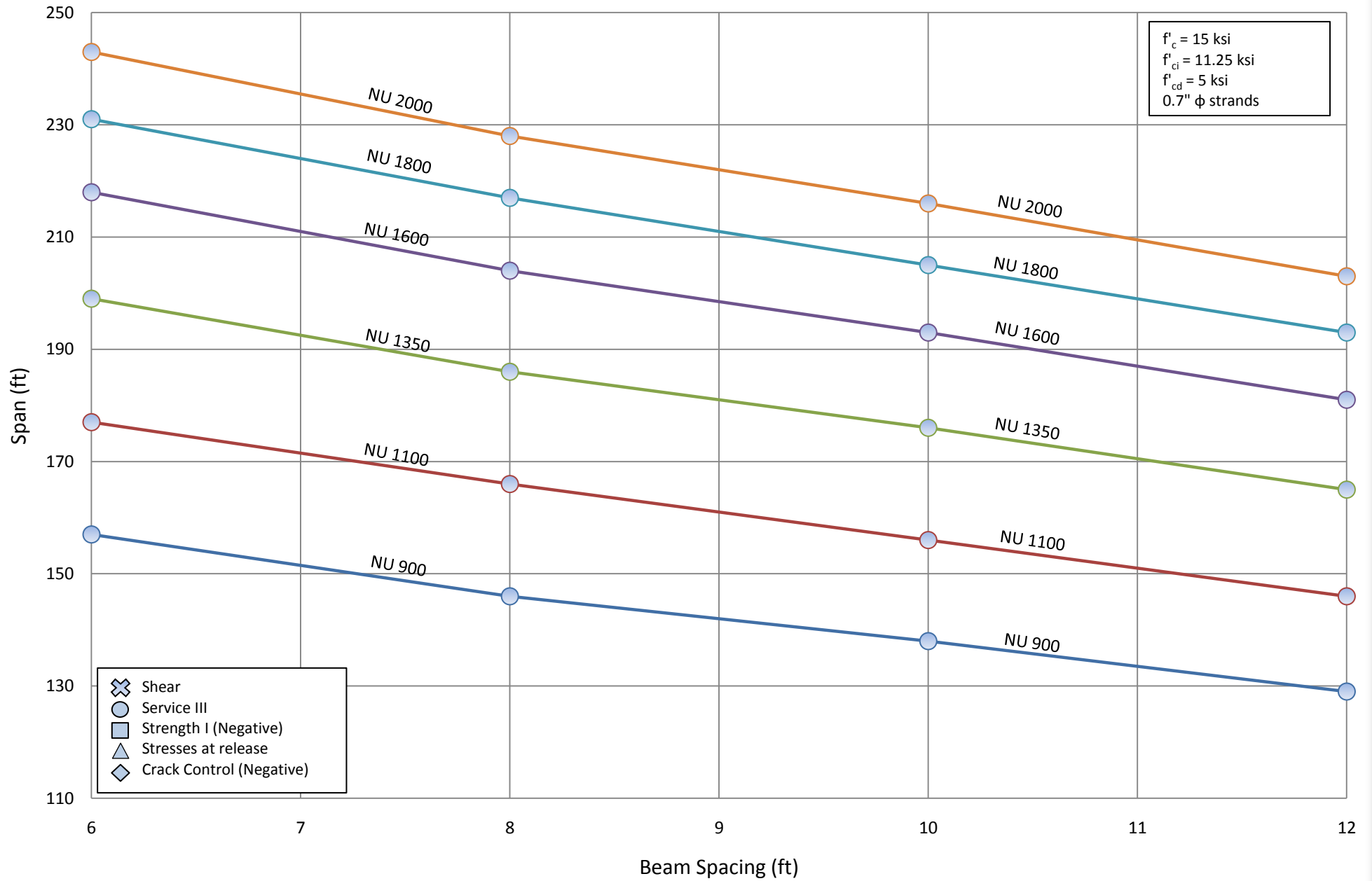
Span Capacities of NU Girders - Two Span Continuous



Span Capacities of NU Girders - Two Span Continuous



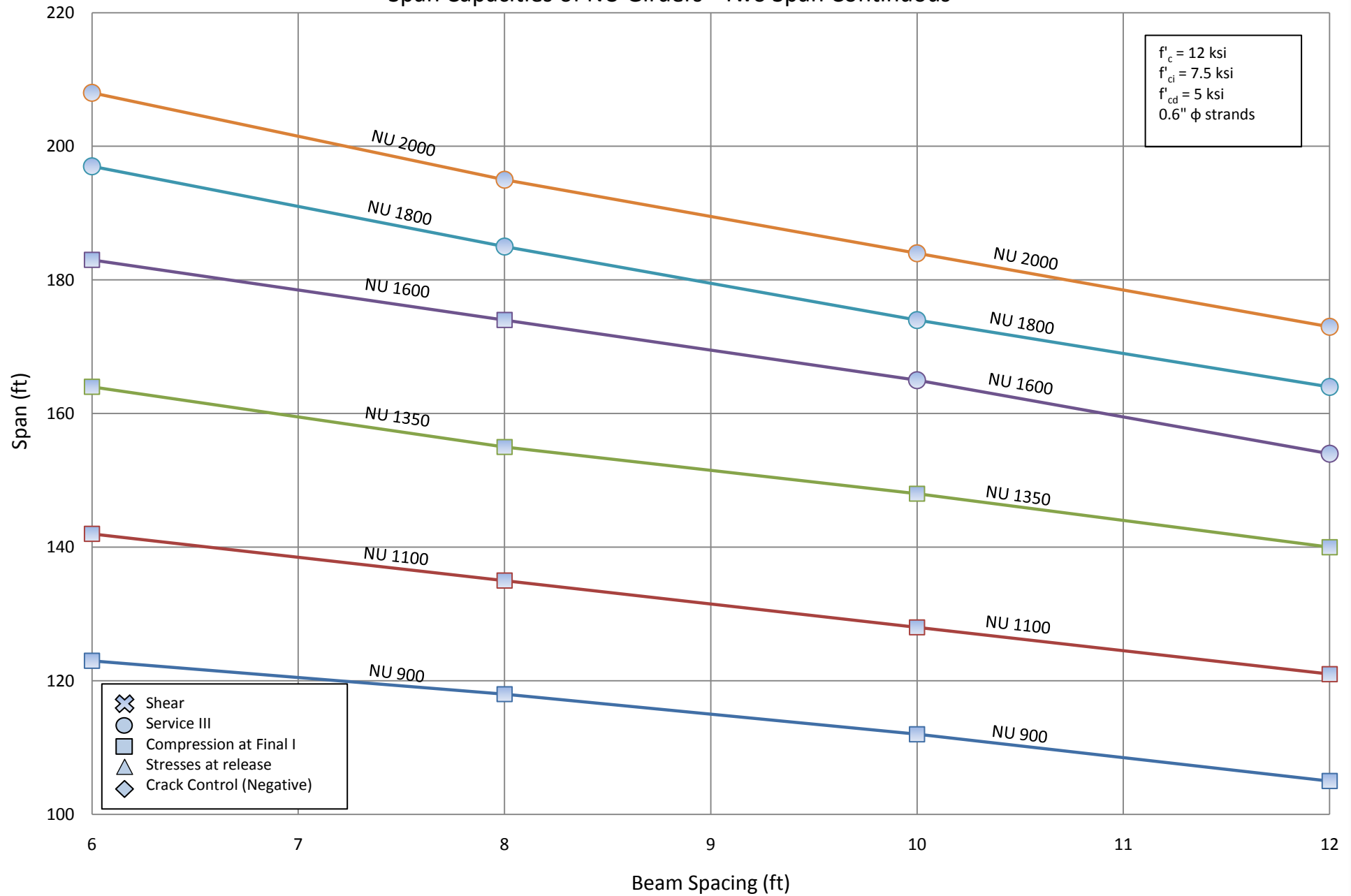
Span Capacities of NU Girders - Two Span Continuous



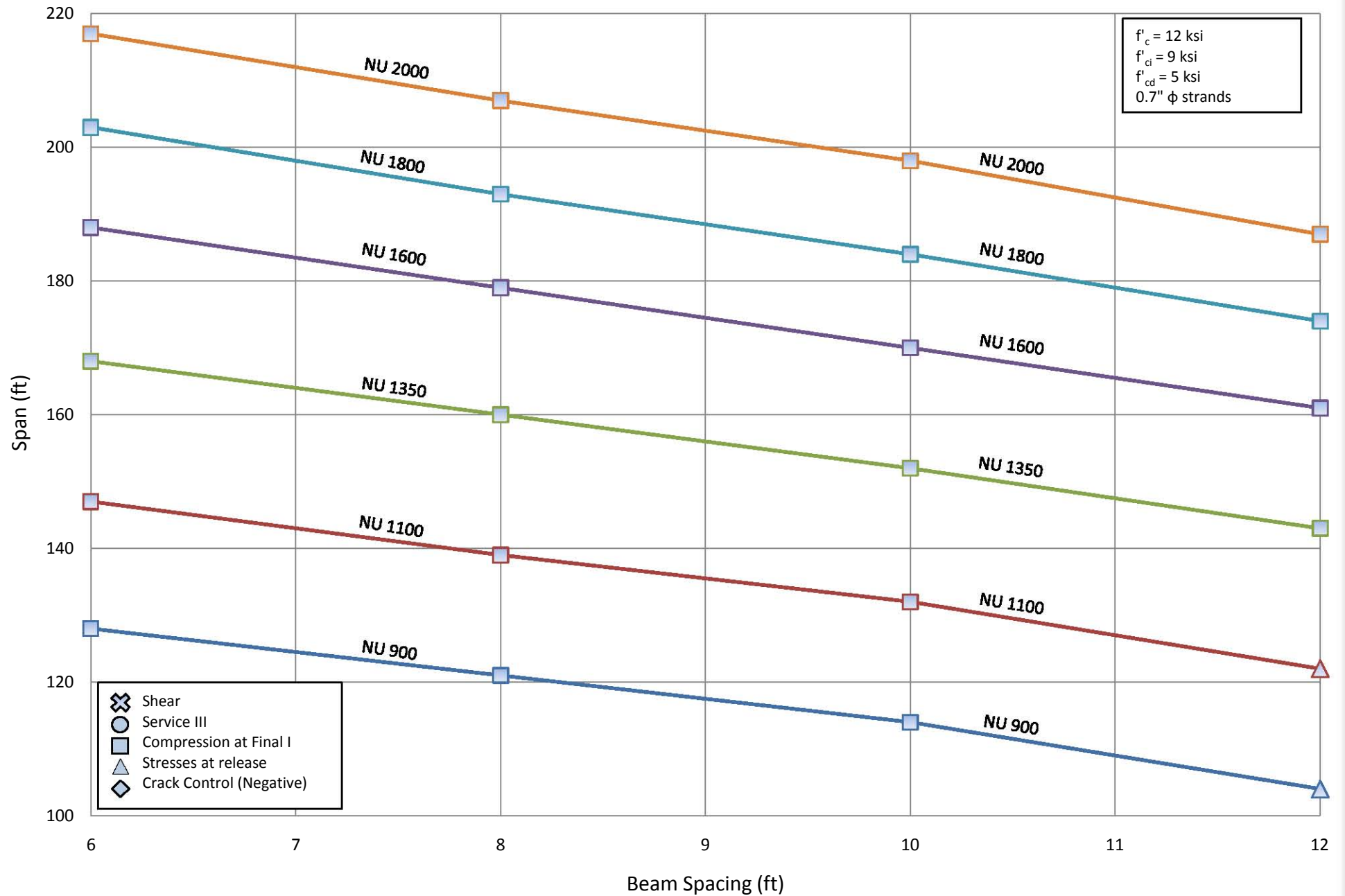


#### **4.8.2 Stress at release using working stress design**

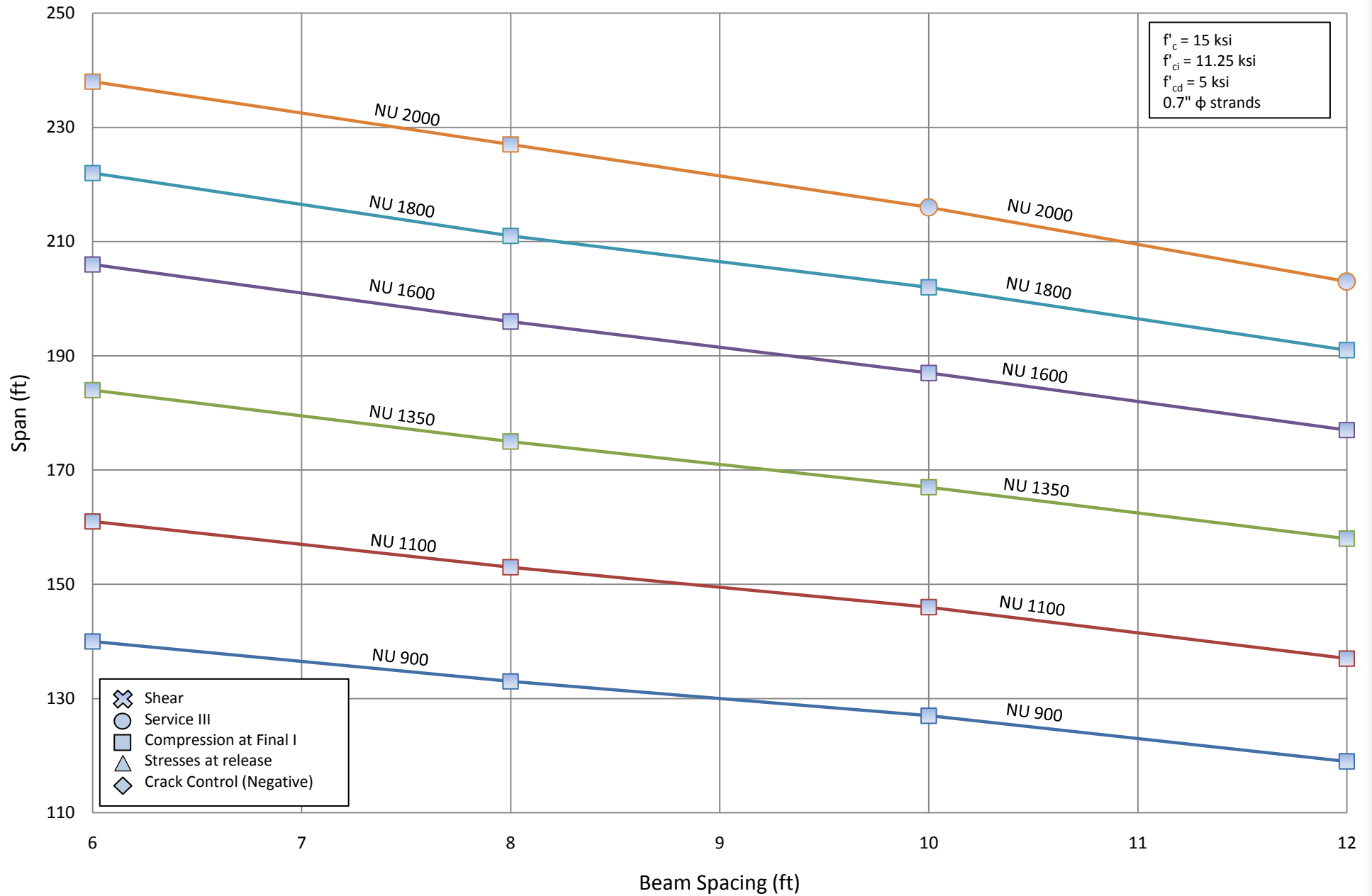
Span Capacities of NU Girders - Two Span Continuous



Span Capacities of NU Girders - Two Span Continuous



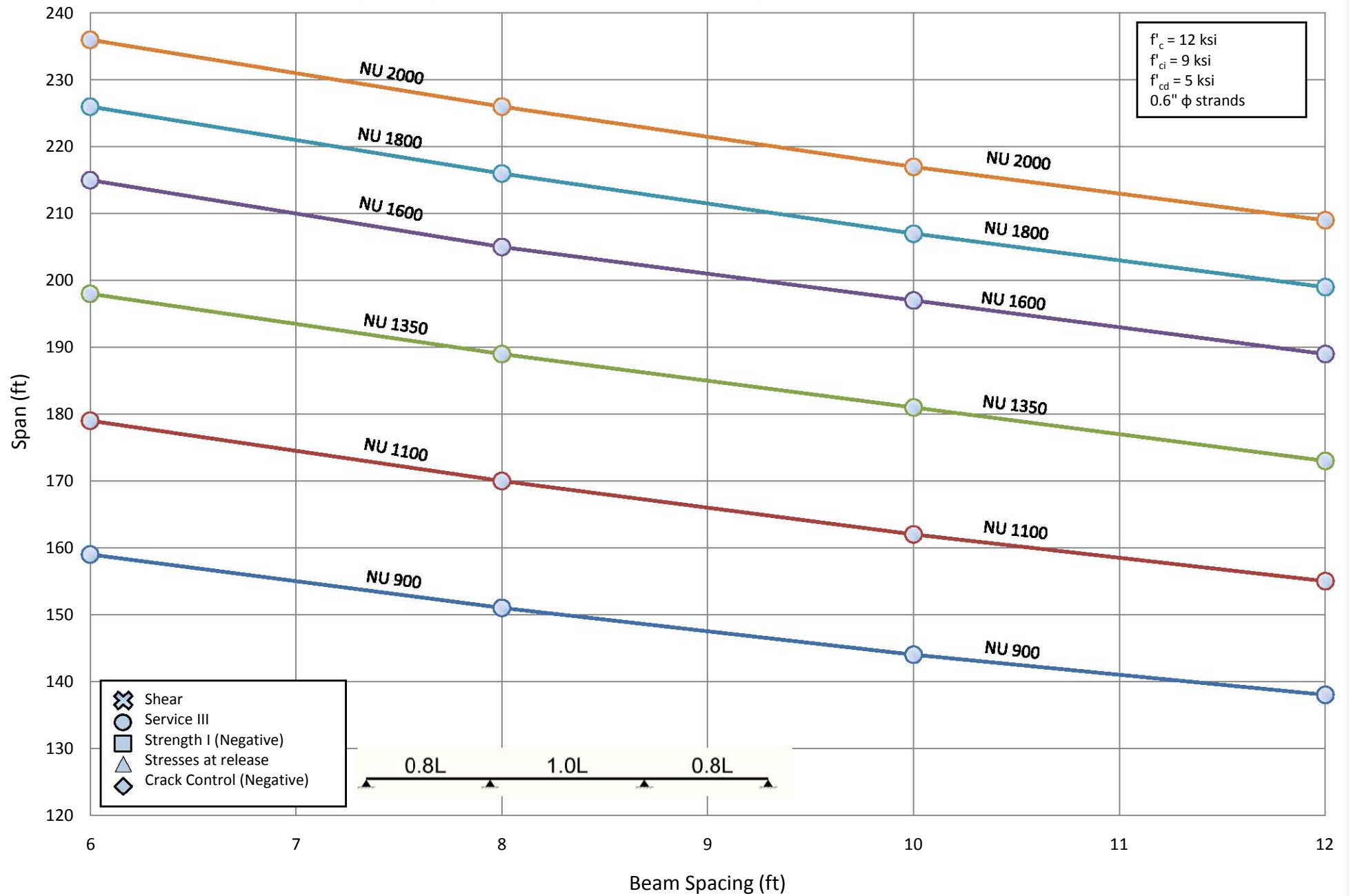
### Span Capacities of NU Girders - Two Span Continuous



4.9 Three Span with 0.6 in and 0.7 in. strands and  $f'_c$  12.0 and 15.0 ksi continuous for live load and deck weight

**4.9.1 Stress at release using strength at release**

Span Capacities of NU Girders - Three Span Continuous (1.0L)



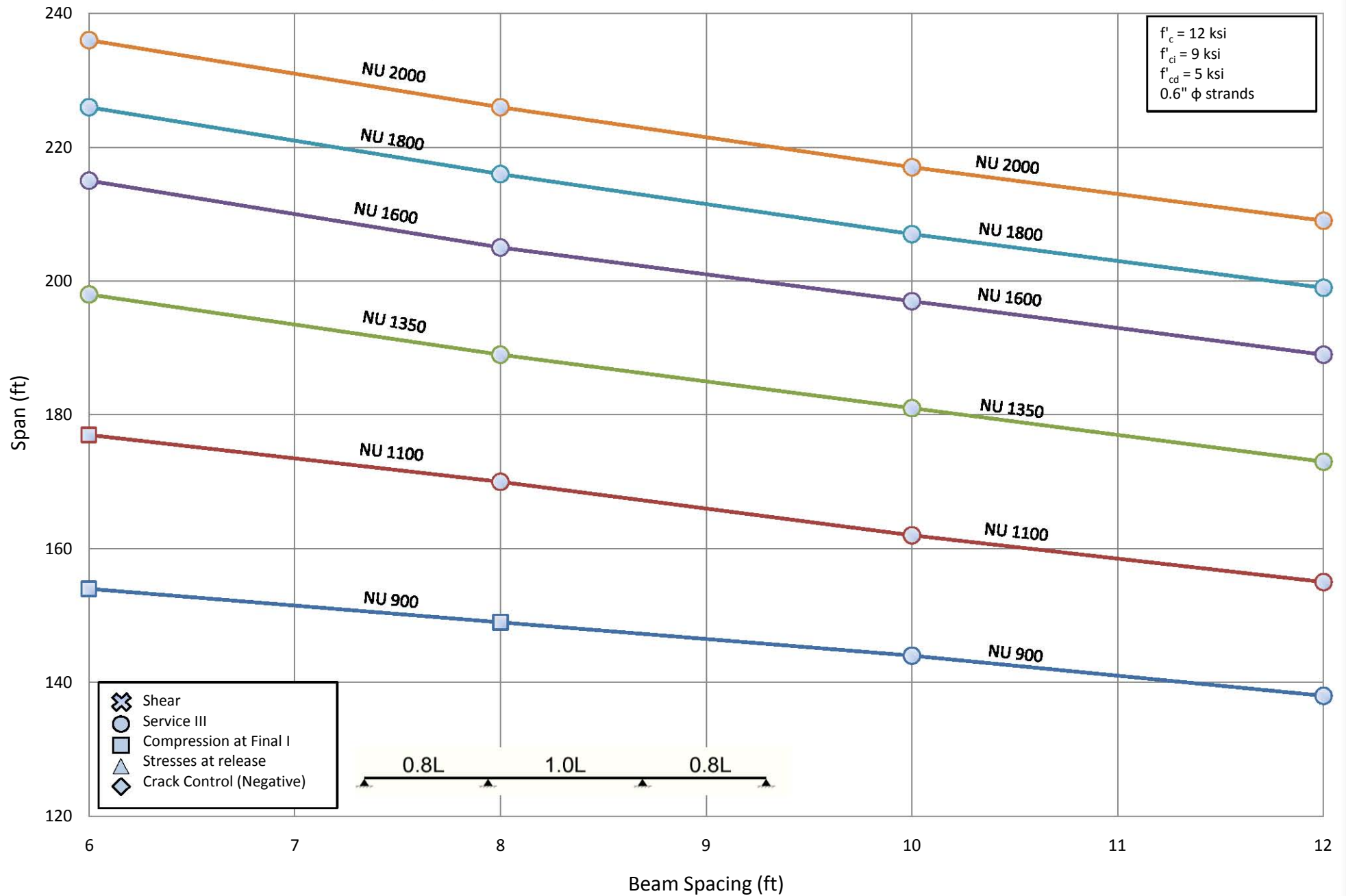




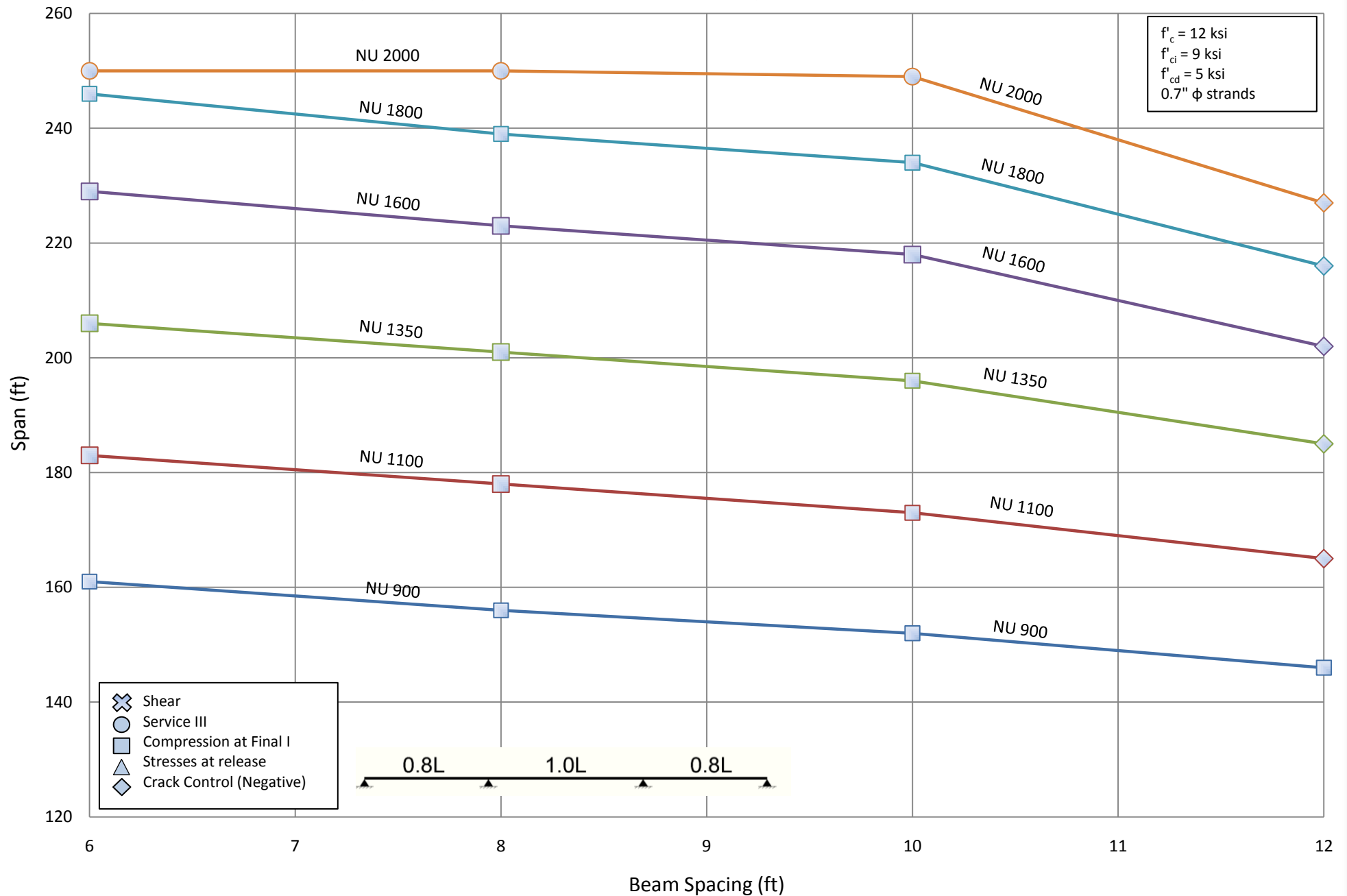


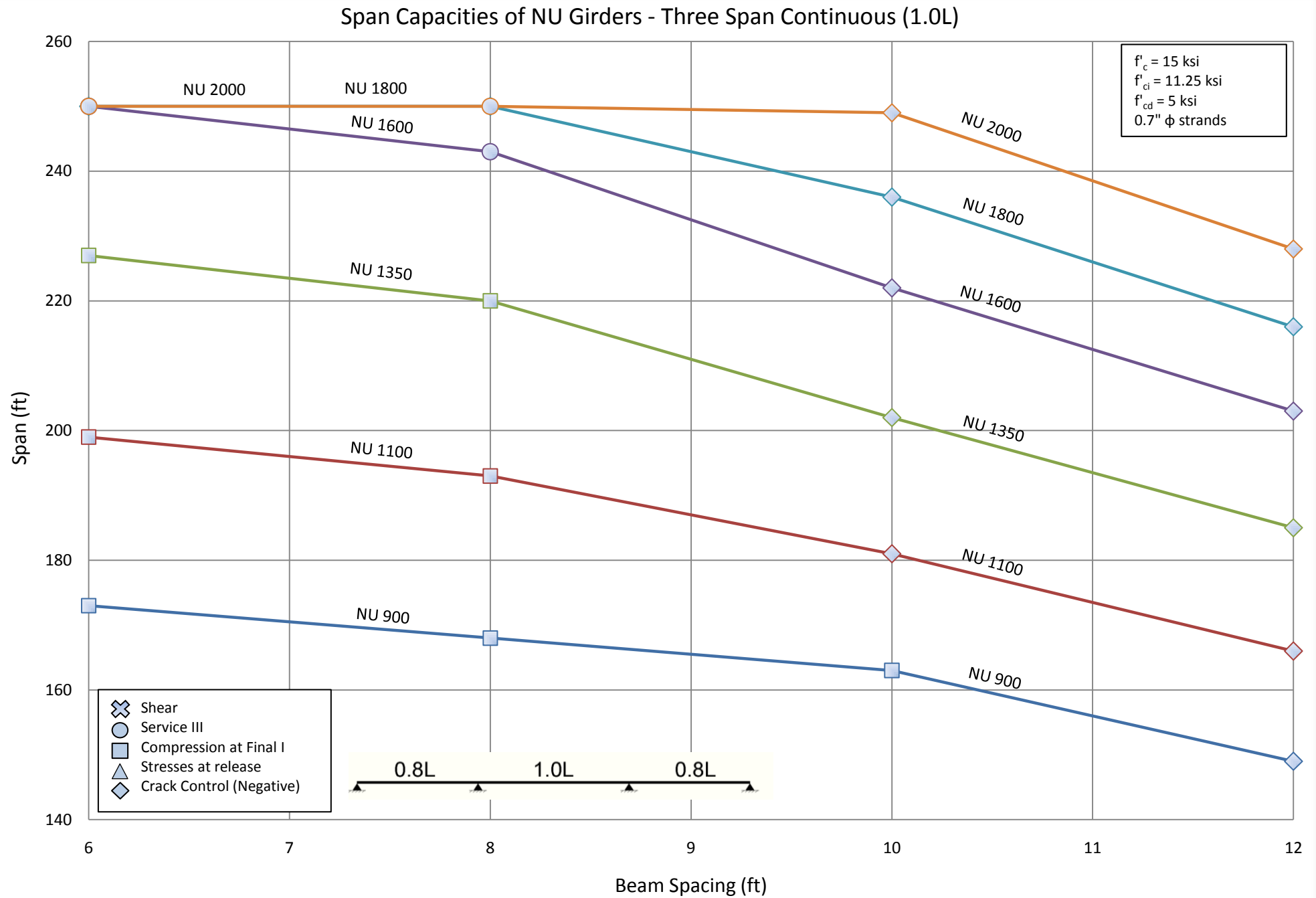
#### **4.9.2 Stress at release using working stress design**

Span Capacities of NU Girders - Three Span Continuous (1.0L)



Span Capacities of NU Girders - Three Span Continuous (1.0L)

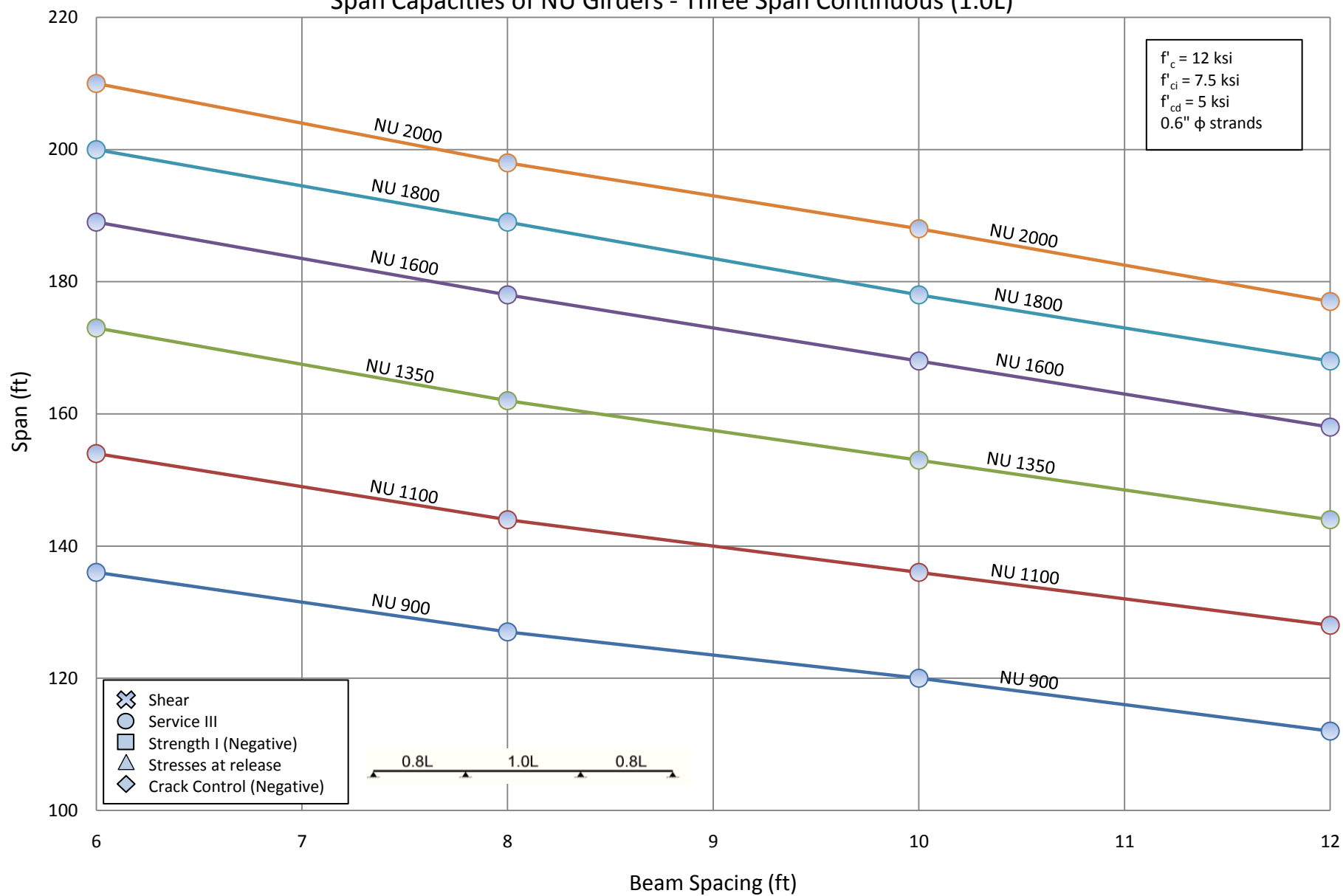




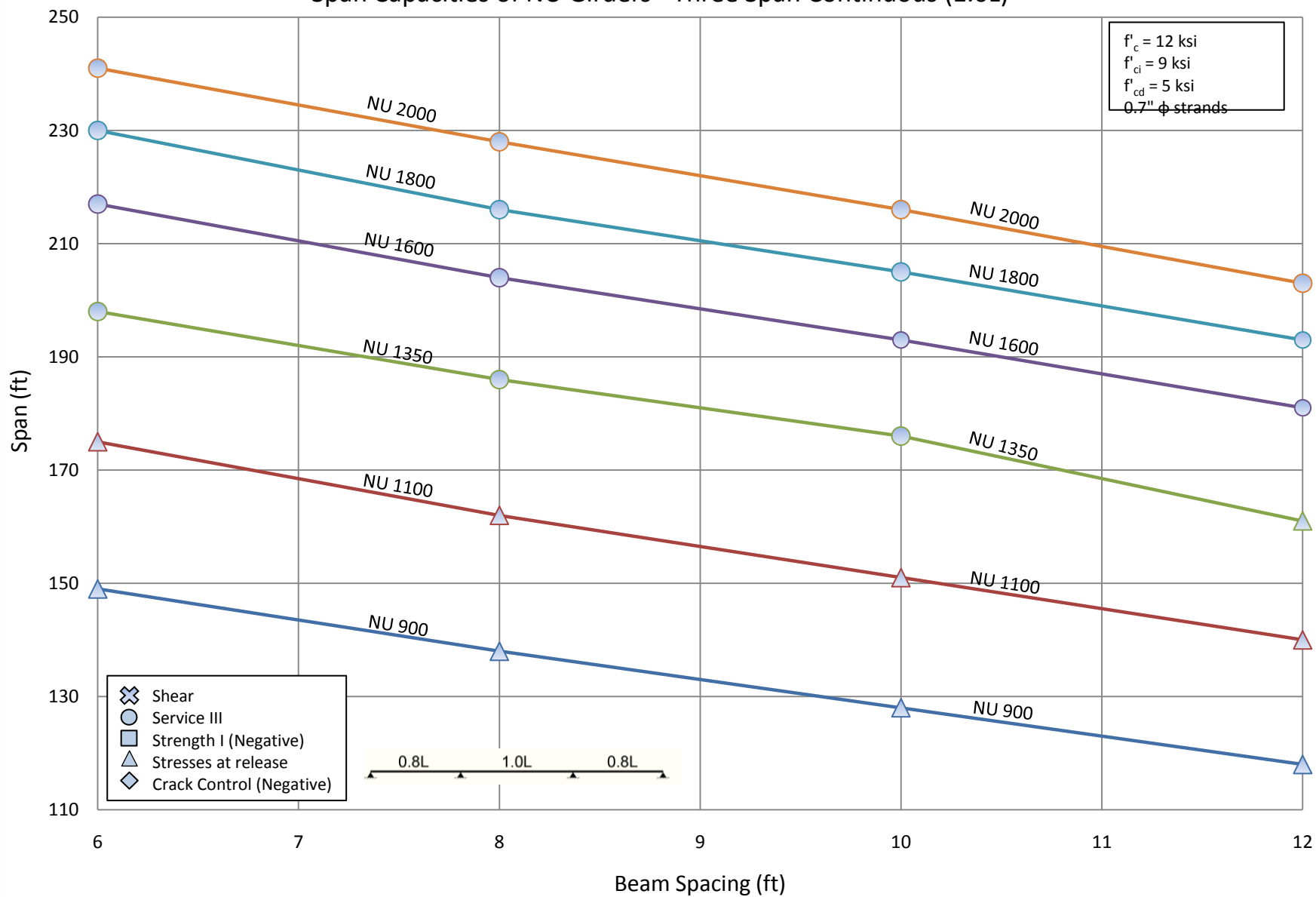
4.10 Three Span with 0.6 in and 0.7 in. strands and  $f'_c$  12.0 and 15.0 ksi continuous for live load

**4.10.1 Stress at release using strength at release**

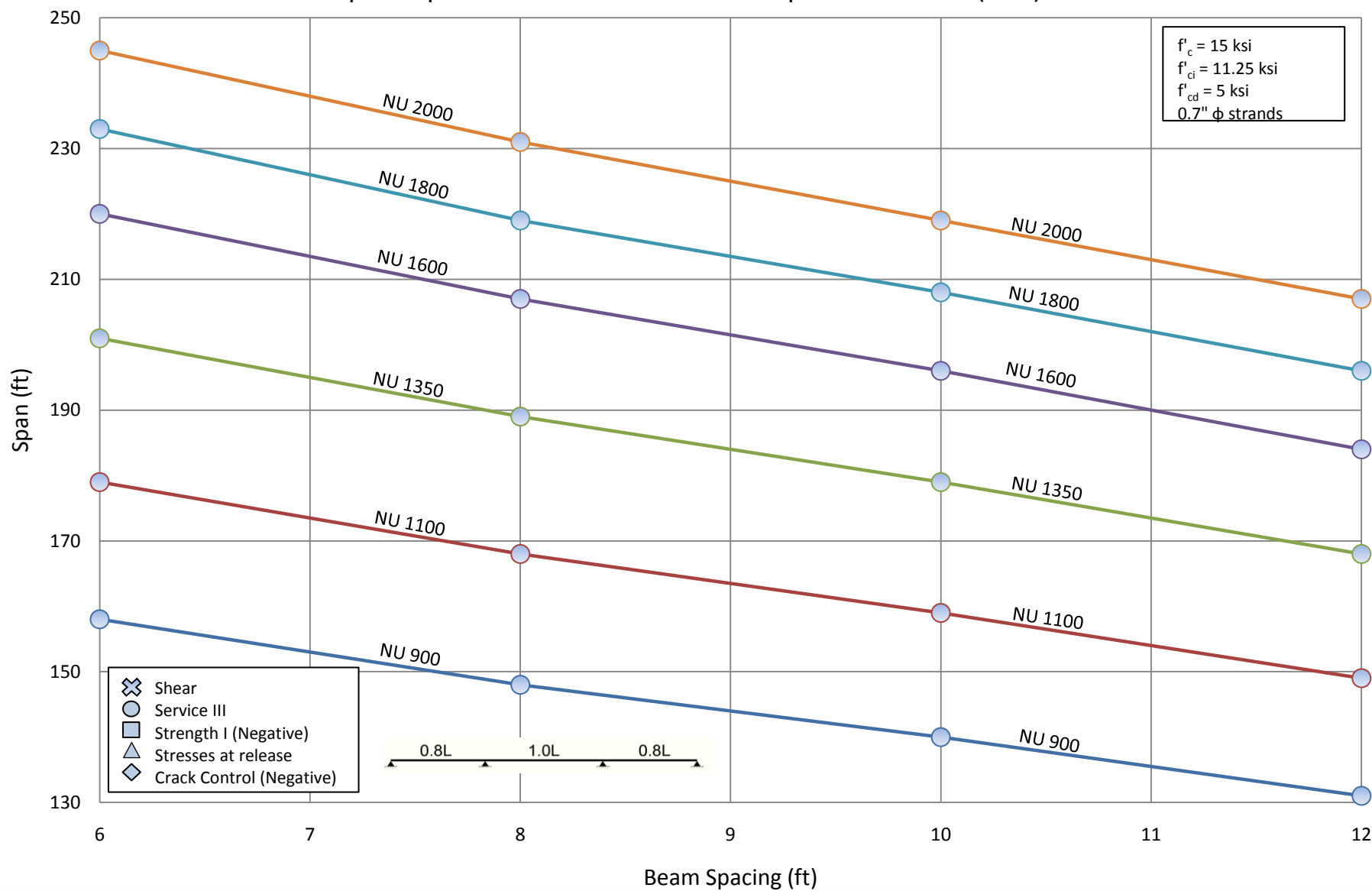
Span Capacities of NU Girders - Three Span Continuous (1.0L)



Span Capacities of NU Girders - Three Span Continuous (1.0L)



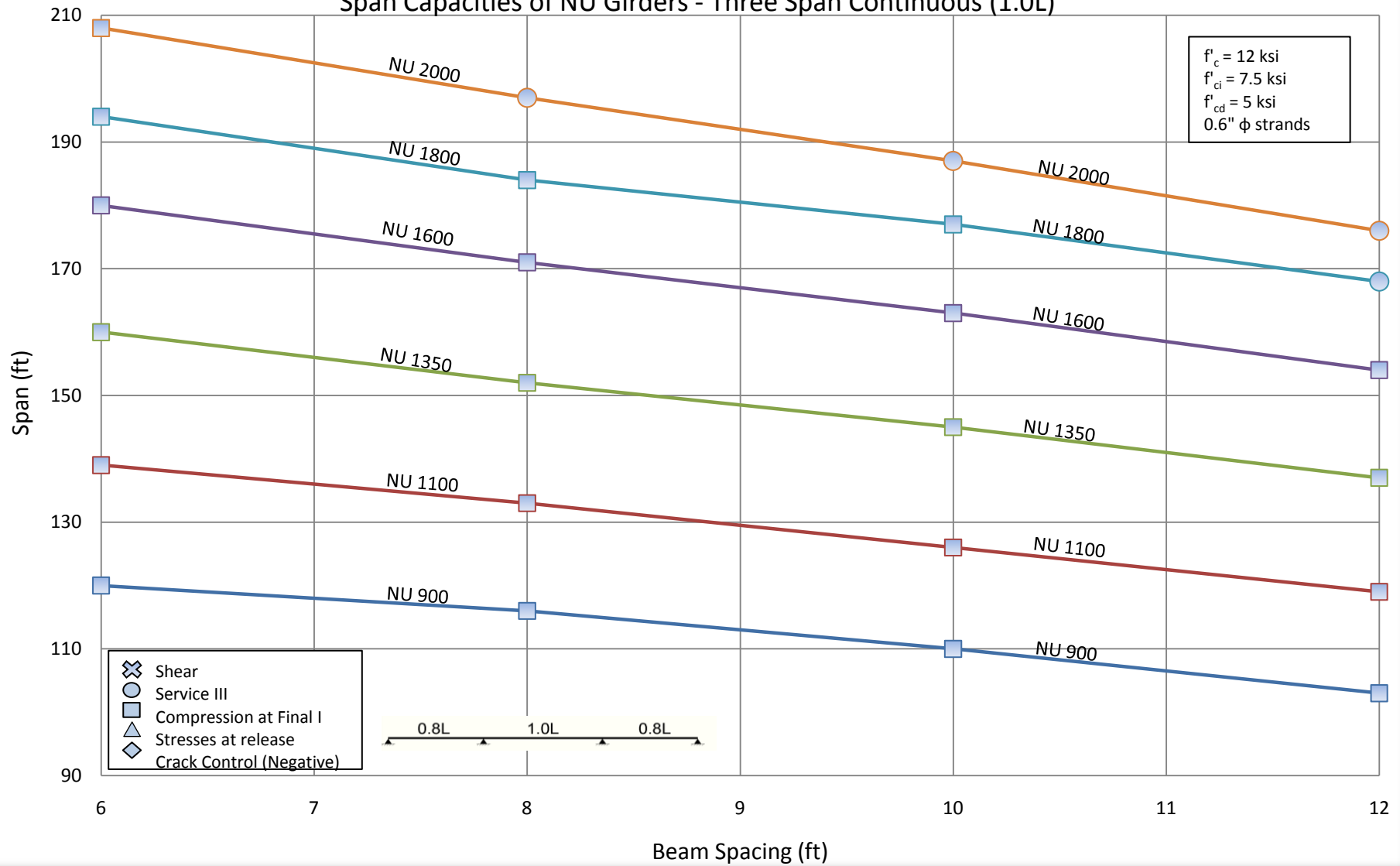
Span Capacities of NU Girders - Three Span Continuous (1.0L)



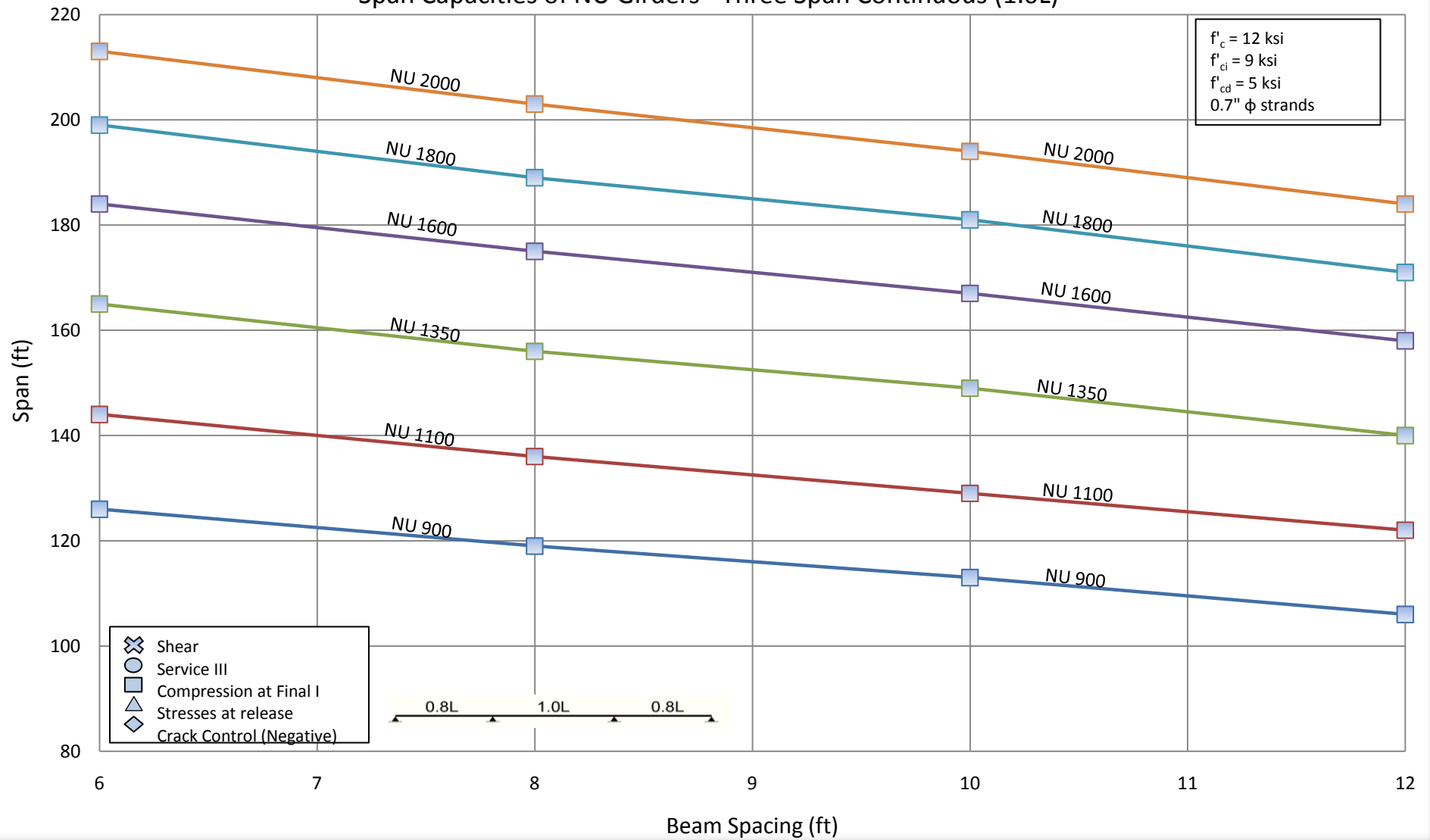


#### **4.10.2 Stress at release using working stress design**

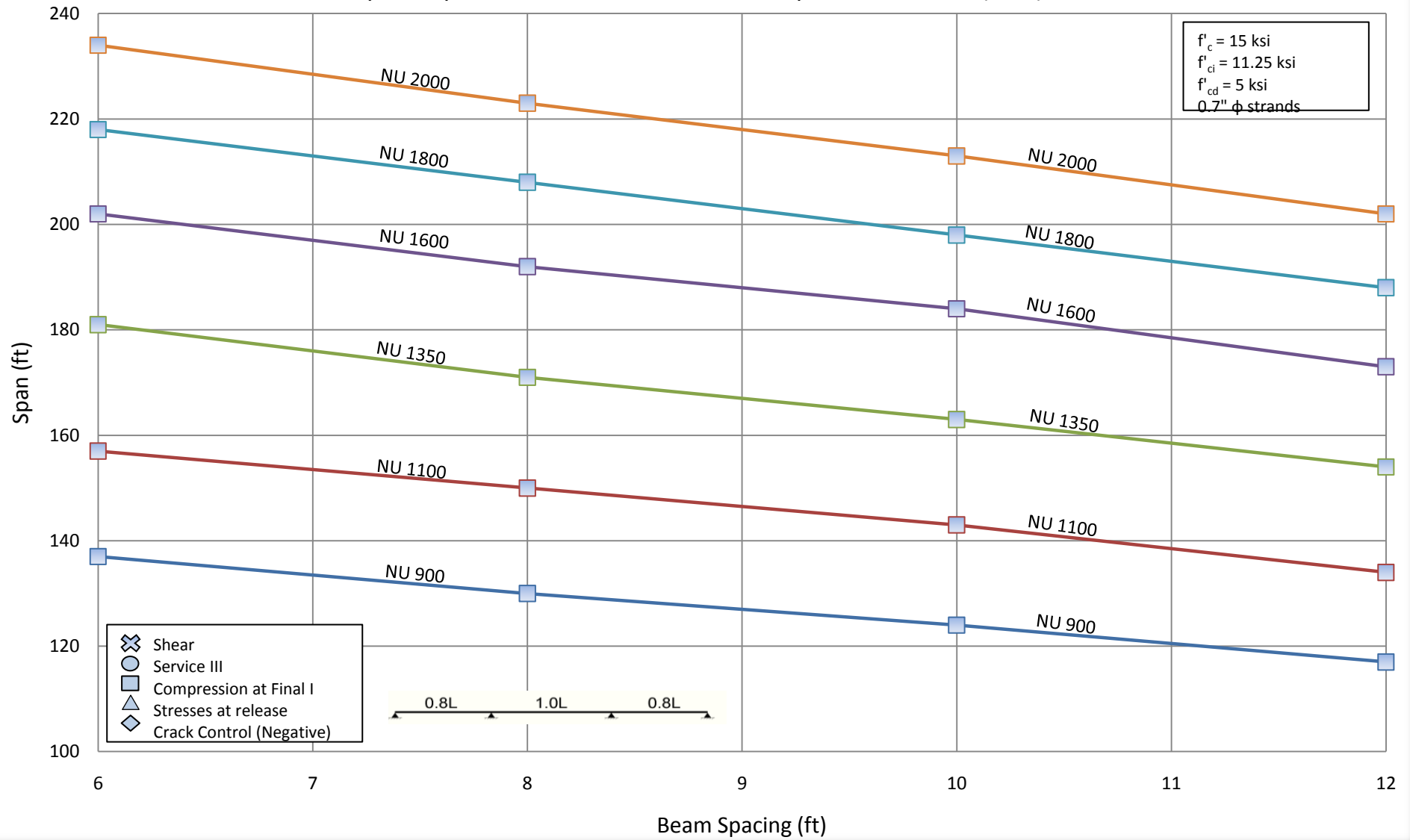
Span Capacities of NU Girders - Three Span Continuous (1.0L)



Span Capacities of NU Girders - Three Span Continuous (1.0L)



Span Capacities of NU Girders - Three Span Continuous (1.0L)



## **IMPLEMENTATION**

By Fouad Jaber

NDOR Assistant Bridge Engineer

The design charts and tables will be used for the preliminary design of new prestressed precast concrete NU-I girder bridges. The new design aids provide bridge designers with different design alternatives in terms of girder section size (from NU900 to NU2000), girder spacing (from 6 ft to 12 ft), number of prestressing strands (up to 60), prestressing strand diameter (0.6 inch and 0.7 inch), and compressive strength of concrete (from 8 ksi to 15 ksi).

The new design charts are based on the latest AASHTO LRFD Specifications and NDOR Bridge Operations, Policies, and Procedures (BOPP manual).

Three sets of design charts are developed to cover simple span, two-span continuous bridges, and three-span continuous bridges. Each set contains two types of charts: summary charts and detailed charts. Summary charts give designers the largest possible span length for a given girder spacing, concrete strength, and NUI-girder section. Detailed charts give designers the minimum number of prestressing strands required for a given girder spacing, span length, and concrete strength. All sets of charts provide designers with the limit state that controls the design, which facilitates design optimization in an efficient manner.

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8. Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute (PCI) (2003) "Precast Prestressed Concrete Bridge Design Manual", 2nd Edition, Chicago, IL

## **Appendices**

Appendix A Simple Span with 0.6 in. strands and  $f'_c$  8.0 and 10.0 ksi

Appendix B Two Span with 0.6 in. strands and  $f'_c$  8.0 and 10.0 ksi

Appendix C Three Span with 0.6 in. strands and  $f'_c$  8.0 and 10.0 ksi

Appendix D Simple Span with 0.6 in. and 0.7 in. strands and  $f'_c$  12.0 and 15.0 ksi

Appendix E Two Span with 0.6 in. and 0.7 in. strands and  $f'_c$  12.0 and 15.0 ksi

Appendix F Three Span with 0.6 in. and 0.7 in. strands and  $f'_c$  12.0 and 15.0 ksi