

# THERMAL ANALYSIS OF GLAZED SURFACE BY FEM

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*Abstract- In the current work finite element analysis (FEA) of glazed surface of a structure is performed by considering its thermal breakage due to atmospheric temperature changes. Especially location, topography, terrain, type of glass panel and size and thickness of panel are considered. Later the analysis is performed for wind pressure, suction acting on the surface and temperature difference. Different cases are considered – (i) varying truss widths, (ii) varying cable position and (iii) varying number of cables.*

*After reviewing the results one can choose an economical and efficient steel supporting structure to support the glazing which yields minimum displacement and stresses.*

*Keywords: Maximum principal major stress, maximum displacement, truss width, cable position, temperature difference.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 General

The current work is carried out to study the effects of temperature change on glass façade and the supporting steel frame. Here, analysis are carried out on structure models consisting of steel frame made up of truss, vertical columns, horizontal columns and cables and the glass façade. In the analysis various iterations of models are considered basically by varying (i) truss width (ii) number of cables (iii) position of cables. The finite element method (FEM) approach is adopted for modeling glass façade in the analysis. Later combinations of temperature, wind pressure and dead load are considered and analysis is performed. The models are checked for deflection and stresses for different iterations as mentioned.

### 1.2 Software STAAD.Pro

Pre processor, processor and post processors for the analysis were carried out by using STAAD.Pro V8i which is a user friendly graphical user interface (GUI). Which is having provision to assign material properties apart from default ones.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Data Considered for Study

Glass details:

Glass type - Annealed glass

Strength – 55N/mm<sup>2</sup>

Panel size – 1.5mx4.2m

Thickness = 17.52mm

Modulus of elasticity for glass = 60-70GPa

Unit weight = 25 kN/m<sup>3</sup>

Other details:

Location – Mumbai, India

Basic wind speed,  $V_b = 44\text{m/s}$

Terrain – Category 2, Class C

Mean maximum temperature = 33.5°C

Mean minimum temperature = 20.8°C

Plan dimension:

Length = 75m

Width = 40m

Total height,  $H = 30.5\text{m}$

Height of the model,  $h = 19.7\text{m}$

Maximum allowable displacement:

Span/200 = 19700/200

= 98.5mm

≈ 98mm

## 2.2 Modeling in STAAD.Pro

Main objectives of modeling are to ensure that it represents the characteristics of the real structure. Many trials were made until a model was finalized. It consists of a combination of different types of members. It comprises of – (i) Glass façade, (ii) Steel frame, (iii) Connections and (iv) Cables.

### 2.2.1 Glass Façade

Designed as Plate member

Thickness = 17.52 mm

Rectangular mesh of size 0.3m x 0.3m each is done

Panel size – 1.5m x 4.2m

Space between adjacent glass pane 2 - 4mm

### 2.2.2 Steel Frame

#### i. Truss

Height = 19.7m

Two parallel vertical members connected by short horizontal members.

Horizontal member width (varying) – 0.63m, 0.75m, 0.90m and 1.10m

Vertical member – 1.05m

Sections used – Pipe Sections

Vertical members - 1651M Steel Pipe

Horizontal members – 889M Steel Pipe

#### ii. Vertical Columns

Height = 19.7m

Each member = 2.1m

Section used – Pipe

Section 1143M Steel Pipe

#### iii. Horizontal Supporting Members

Provided at 4 levels of height- 4.2m, 8.4m, 12.6m and 16.8m

Section used – Pipe section

1143M Steel Pipe

Length of each member = 1.5m

### 2.2.3 Connections

Spider connections are adopted

4-armed and 2-armed spiders are used

4-armed spider is used at top and bottom ends of glass panels

2-armed spider is used at mid-height of the glass panels

Section used – Solid Circular Steel

section Diameter – 0.12m

4-armed spider:

2-arms are connecting top of the panel are assigned  $M_x$ ,  $M_y$ ,  $M_z$  releases.

2-arms connecting bottom of the spider are assigned  $F_y$ ,  $M_x$ ,  $M_y$ ,  $M_z$  releases.

2-armed spider:

They are provided at mid-height of the panels.

Both the ends are released for  $F_y$ ,  $M_x$ ,  $M_y$ ,  $M_z$ .

Connection arm between the spider and the steel frame

Section used – Solid Circular Steel section

Diameter = 0.12m

### 2.2.4 Cables

Provided at varying levels of height –

(i) 2 down i.e. @ 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> level from top

(ii) 2 top i.e. @ 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> level from top

(iii) 3 cables i.e. @ 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> level from top

(iv) Alternate 1 and 3 i.e. @ 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> level from top

Section used – Solid Circular Steel section

Diameter = 0.01m

Initial tension assigned = 5 kN/m<sup>2</sup>

## 2.3 Supports

Four types of supports are used in the STAAD model-

(i) Fixed but  $F_x$ ,  $F_y$ ,  $M_x$ ,  $M_y$ ,  $M_z$  released.

(ii) Fixed but  $F_z$ ,  $F_y$ ,  $M_x$ ,  $M_y$ ,  $M_z$  released.

(iii) Fixed but  $F_y$ ,  $M_x$ ,  $M_y$ ,  $M_z$  released.

(iv) Pinned Support

## 2.4 Load Assigned in STAAD

### i. Dead load

Selfweight = 2.7594 kN/m

### ii. Wind load

WPRES = -0.896 kN/m<sup>2</sup>

WSUC = 1.152 kN/m<sup>2</sup>

iii. Combinations

Dead load  $\pm$  0.75Wind load + Temperature load (DL $\pm$ 0.75WL+TL)

- Dead load + 0.75Wind pressure + Temperature load (DL+0.75WPRE+TL)
- Dead load + 0.75Wind suction + Temperature load (DL+0.75WSUC+TL)
- Dead load - 0.75Wind pressure + Temperature load (DL+0.75WPRE+TL)
- Dead load - 0.75Wind suction + Temperature load (DL+0.75WSUC+TL)

2.5 Analysis

Models for different iterations are designed and all the materials, properties and loads are assigned. And analysis is run. The results of analysis are imported in post processing. The displacements at every nodes, reactions, and stresses etc are well produced in STAAD in an easy-to-understand manner. Graphs are plotted in MS Excel to repret the trend of change in structure behavior under different conditions of loading and varying parameters.

2.6 Model

In the current study 16 models are analyzed by considering 4 different truss widths and 4 different types of cable positions to obtain an economic and efficient structure. Each model with a specific truss width is analyzed considering 4 types of cable positions.

Table: 1- Models

Truss width in m	Cable position			
	2 cables down	2 cables top	3 cables	Alternate cables @ 1 and 3 level
0.63	2 cables down	2 cables top	3 cables	Alternate cables @ 1 and 3 level
0.75	2 cables down	2 cables top	3 cables	Alternate cables @ 1 and 3 level
0.90	2 cables down	2 cables top	3 cables	Alternate cables @ 1 and 3 level
1.10	2 cables down	2 cables top	3 cables	Alternate cables @ 1 and 3 level

Considering an example model, with truss width 0.63m and 2 cables down at 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> levels.

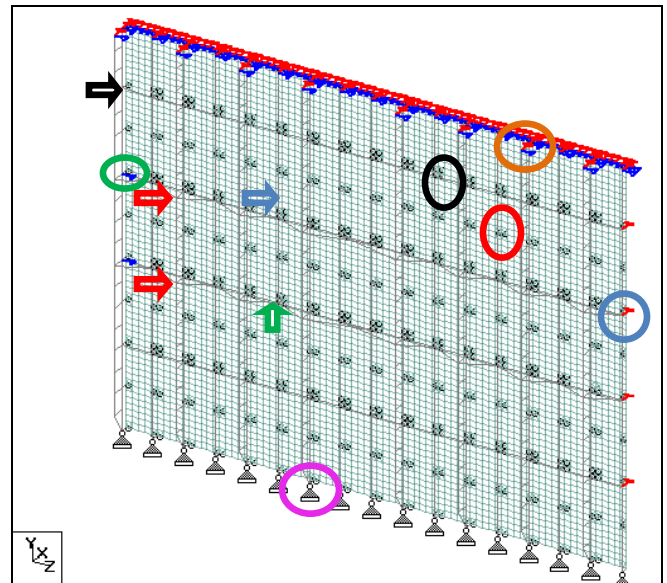












Fig-1: Model

In the fig-1

-  Shows the truss. In the considered case , width of which is 0.63m.
-  Shows the cables
-  Shows the vertical column
-  Shows the horizontal supporting member
-  Shows the 4-armed spider connections
-  Shows the 2-armed spider connections
-  Shows the pinned support
-  Shows the fixed but  $F_x, F_y, M_x, M_y, M_z$  released support
-  Shows the fixed but  $F_y, F_z, M_x, M_y, M_z$  released support
-  Shows the fixed but  $F_y, M_x, M_y, M_z$  released support

Various views are shown as below from fig-2 to fig-5, however different cable positions are shown for other models from fig-6 to fig-8

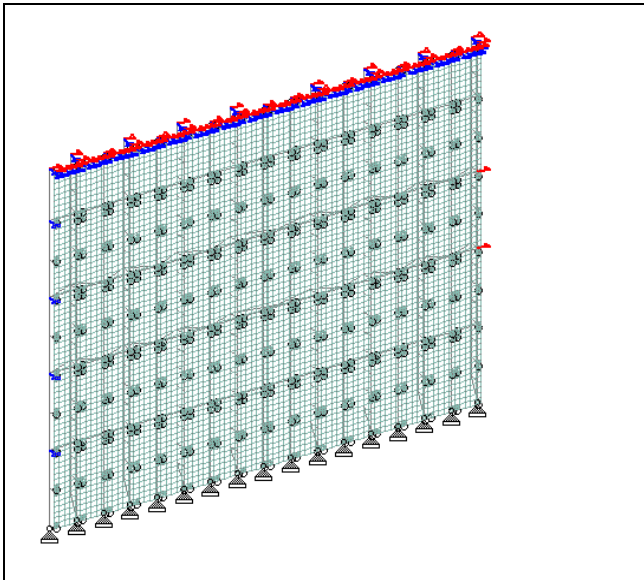


Fig-2: 2D front view

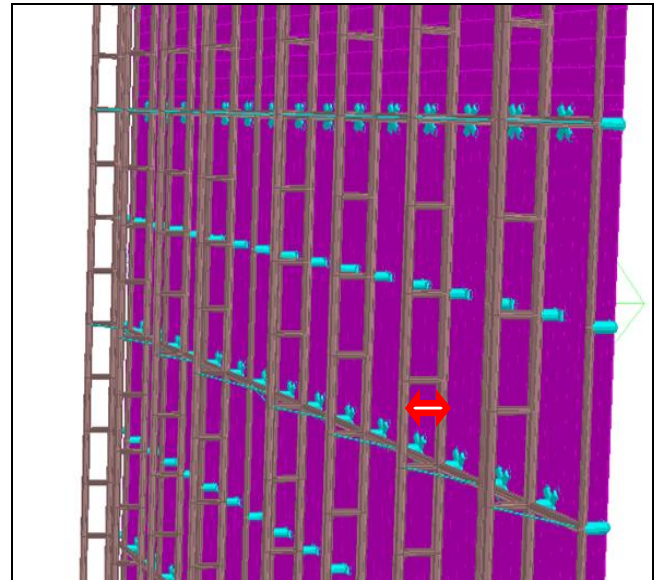


Fig-4: 3D back view indicating truss width

↔ Shows the truss width.  
In this case truss width is 0.63m

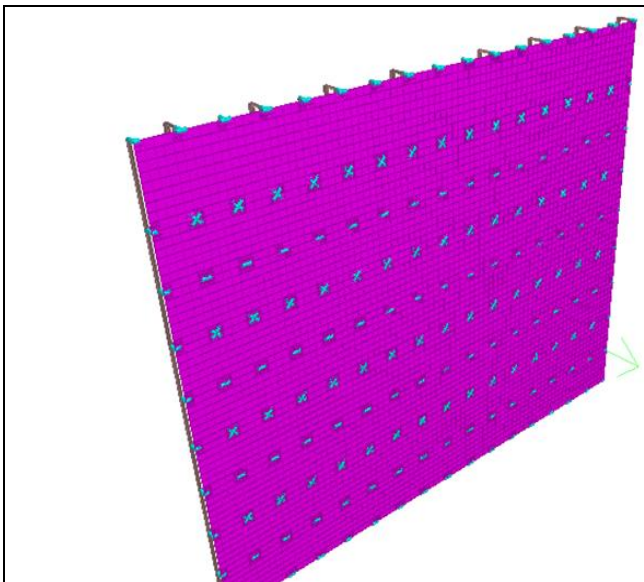


Fig-3: 3D front view

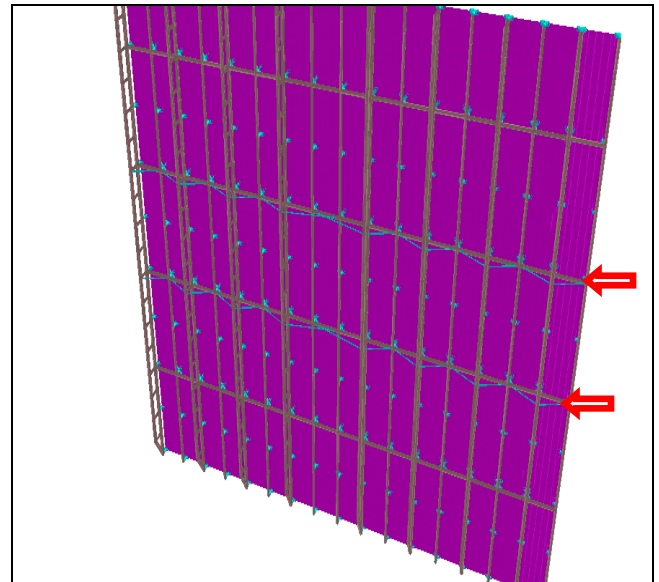


Fig-5: 3D back view indicating 2 cables down position

In this image the arrows point to the cables which are at 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> levels, as the name says 2 cables down.

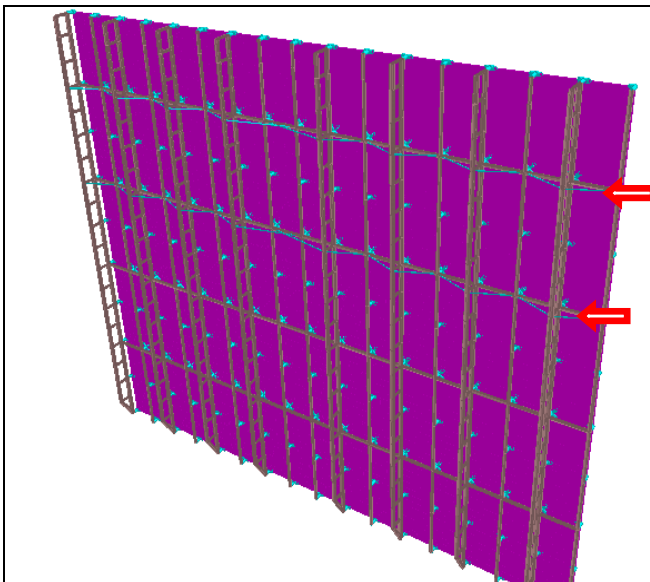


Fig-6: 3D back view indicating 2 cables top position

In this image the arrows point to the cables which are at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> levels, as the name says 2 cables top.

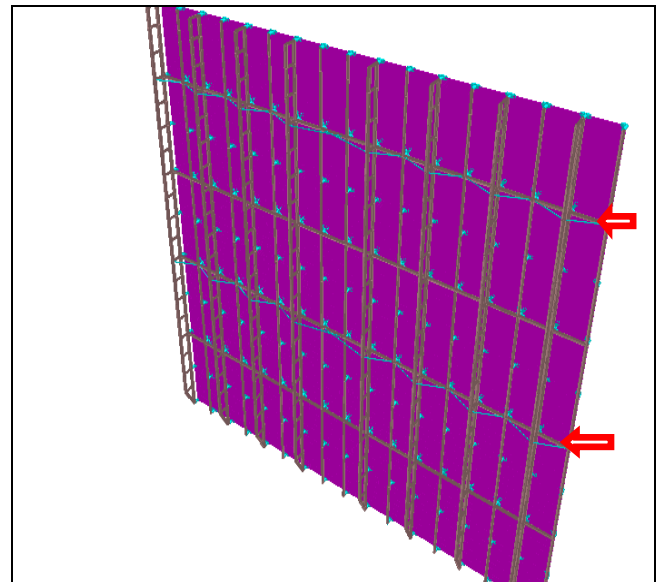


Fig-8: 3D back view indicating alternate 1 and 3 cables position

The arrows point at the cables which are at 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> levels, as the name says alternaten1 and 3 levels.

### 3. STRESS DISTRIBUTION IN GLASS FACADE DUE TO TEMPERATURE LOAD

#### 3.1 0.63m truss

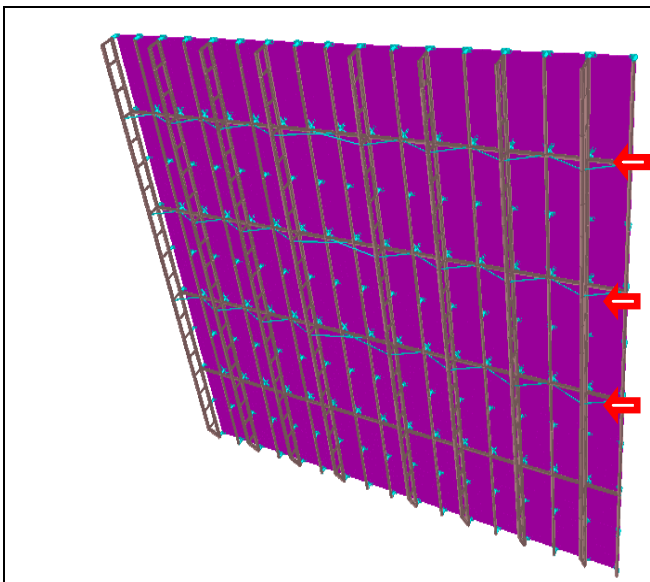


Fig-7: 3D back view indicating 3 cables position

The arrows point at the cables which are at the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> levels, as the name says 3 cables.

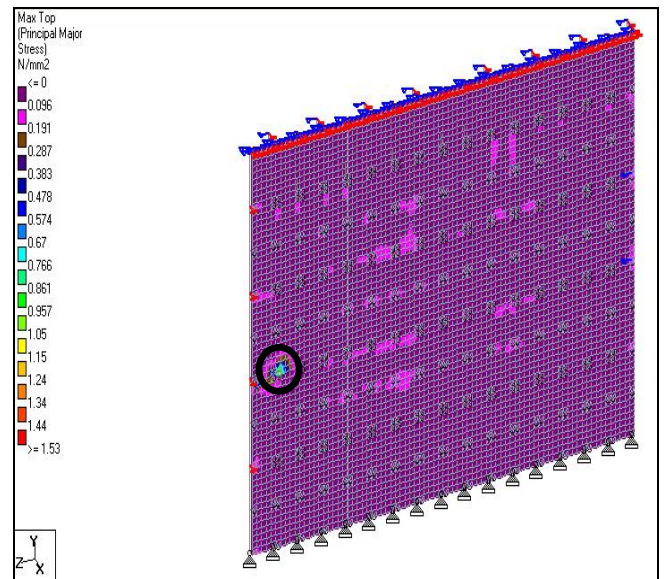


Fig-9: 2 cables down

Encircled region represents maximum stress.

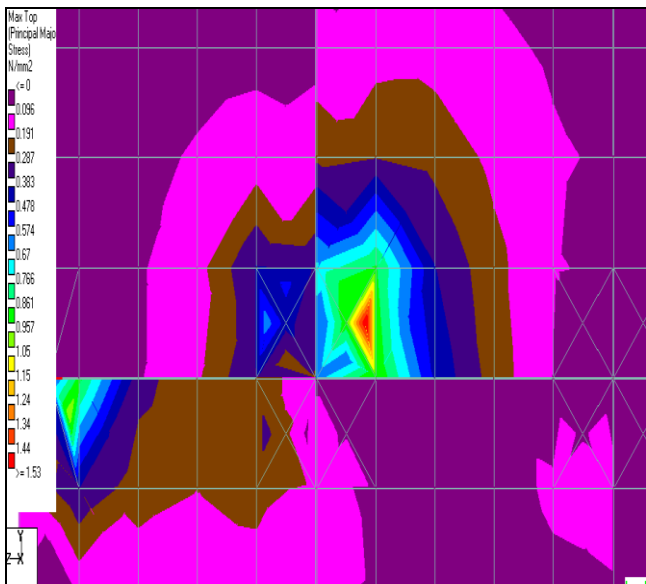


Fig-10: Closer view of encircled region showing stress distribution

Maximum principal major stress = 1.53 N/mm<sup>2</sup>

Similarly for other models stress distribution and maximum values of stress are shown in fig-11 to fig-25.

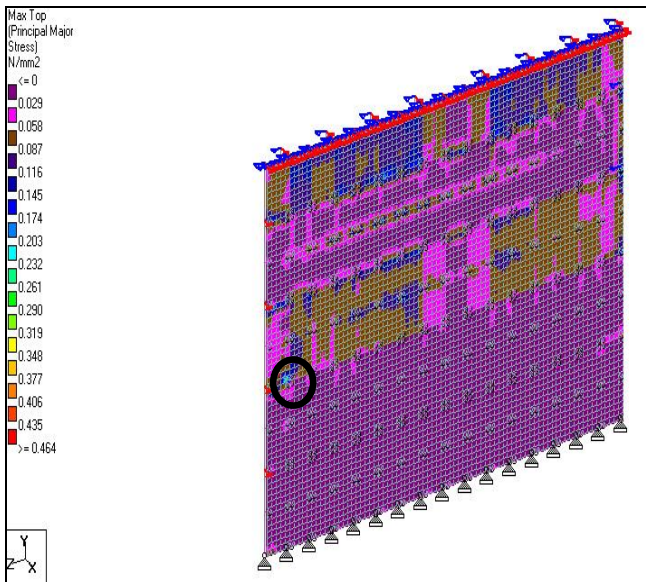


Fig-11: 2 cables top

Maximum principal major stress = 0.464 N/mm<sup>2</sup>

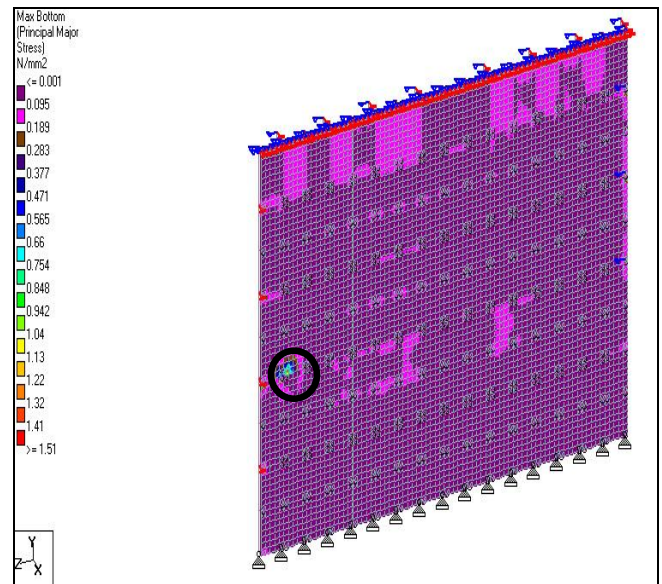


Fig-12: 3 cables

Maximum principal major stress = 1.51 N/mm<sup>2</sup>

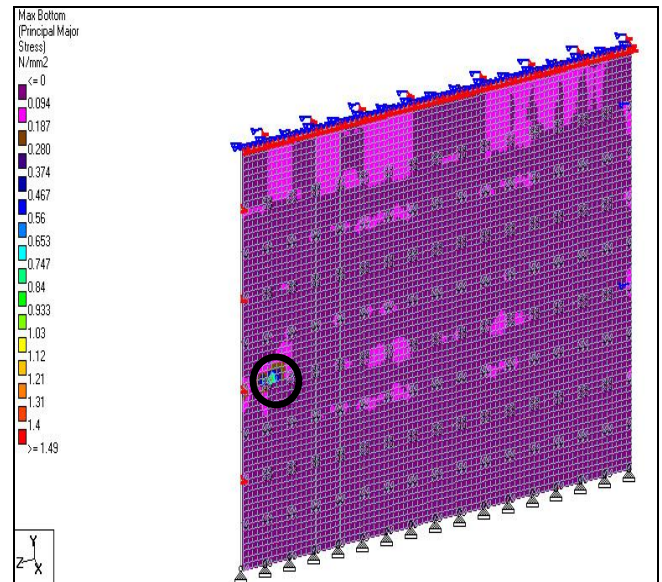


Fig-13: Alternate cables @ 1 and 3 level

Maximum principal major stress = 1.492 N/mm<sup>2</sup>

### 3.2 0.75m truss

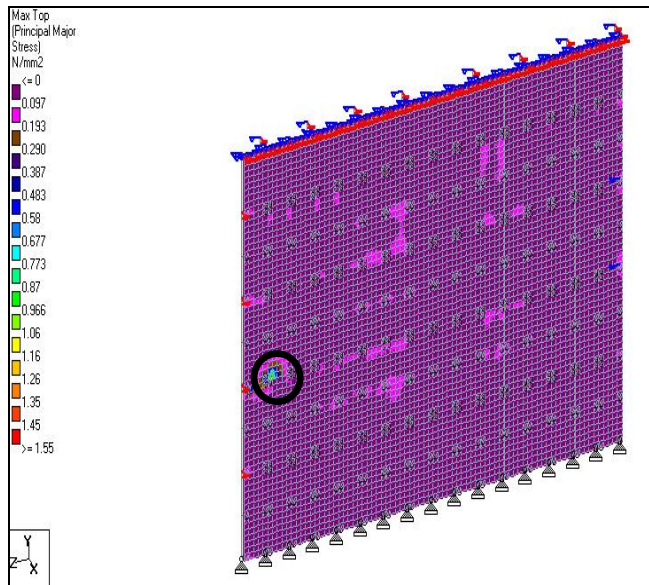


Fig-14: 2 cables down

Maximum principal major stress = 1.546 N/mm<sup>2</sup>

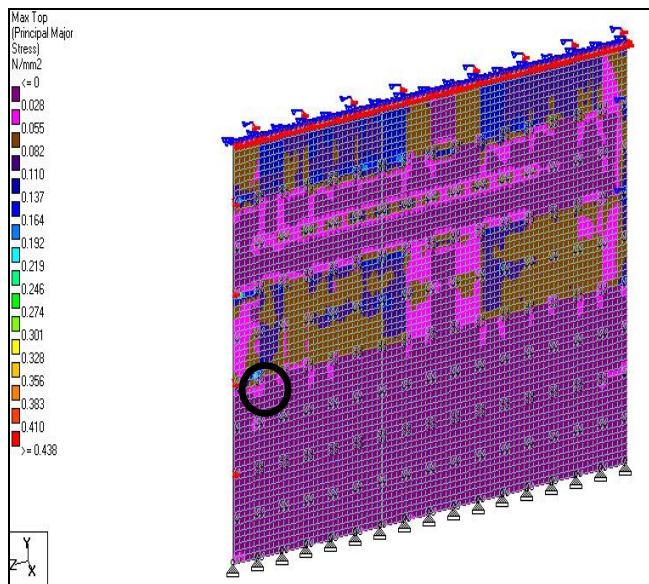


Fig-15: 2 cables top

Maximum principal major stress = 0.437 N/mm<sup>2</sup>

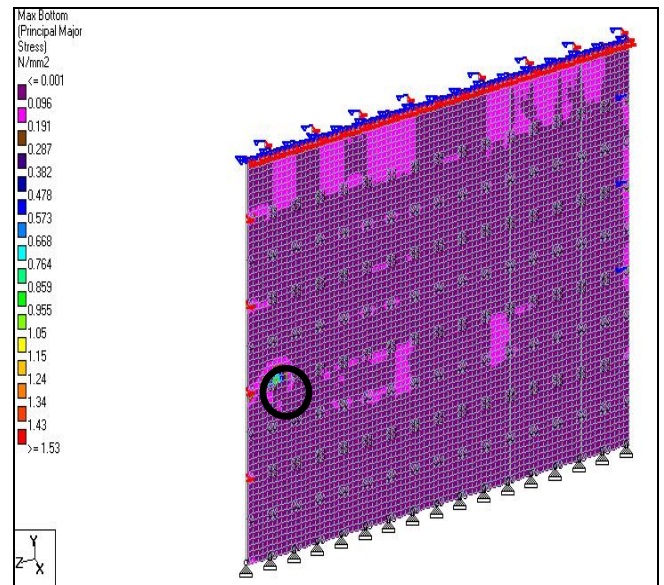


Fig-16: 3 cables

Maximum principal major stress = 1.526 N/mm<sup>2</sup>

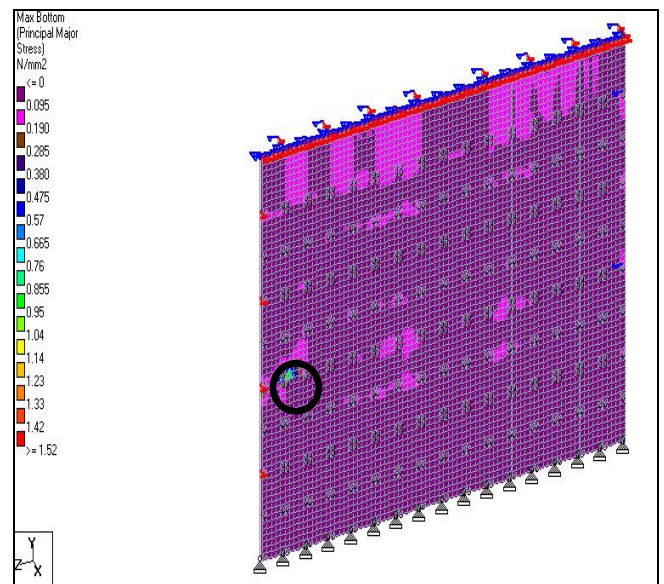


Fig-17: Alternate cables @ 1 and 3 level

Maximum principal major stress = 1.519 N/mm<sup>2</sup>

### 3.3 0.90m truss

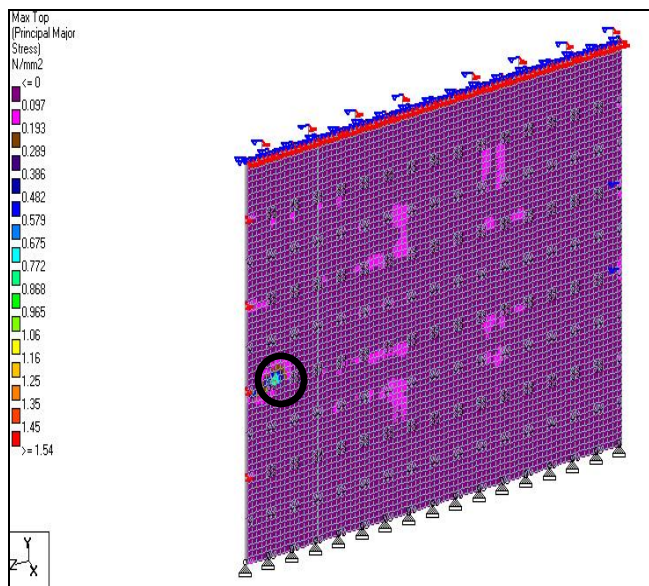


Fig-18: 2 cables down

Maximum principal major stress = 1.543 N/mm<sup>2</sup>

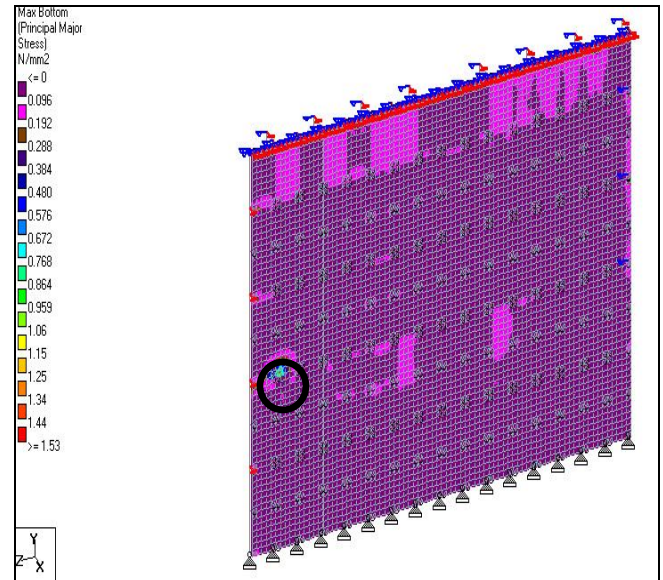


Fig-20: 3 cables

Maximum principal major stress = 1.53 N/mm<sup>2</sup>

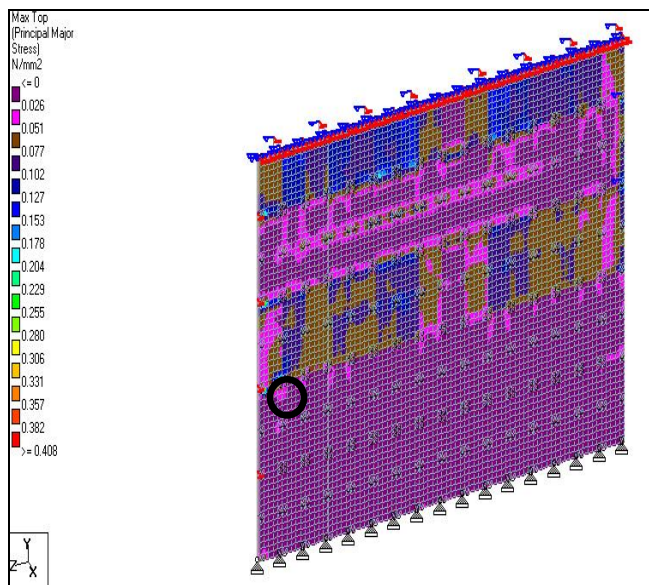


Fig-19: 2 cables top

Maximum principal major stress = 0.407 N/mm<sup>2</sup>

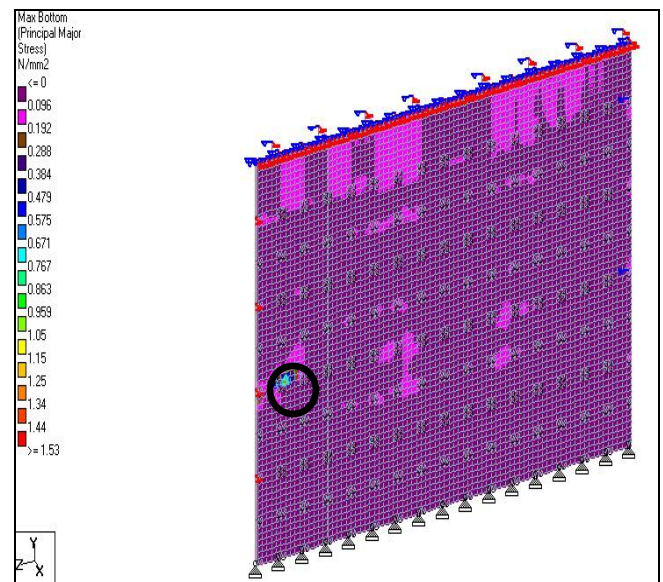


Fig-21: Alternate cables @ 1 and 3 level

Maximum principal major stress = 1.533 N/mm<sup>2</sup>



### 3.4 1.10m truss

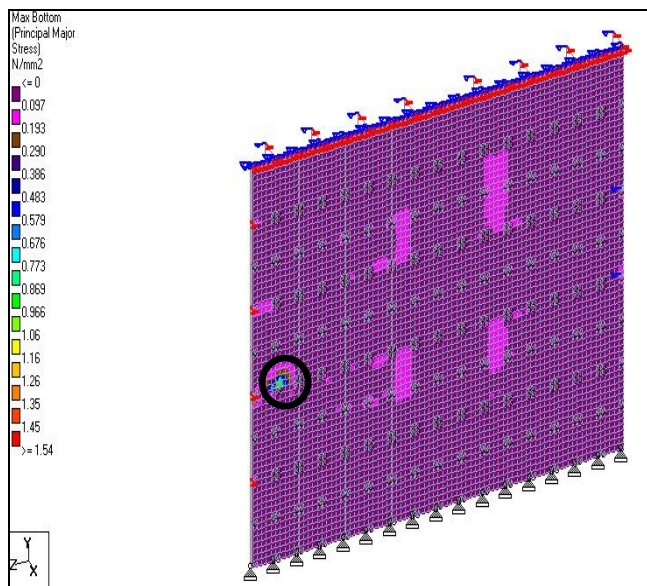


Fig-22: 2 cables down

Maximum principal major stress = 1.545 N/mm<sup>2</sup>

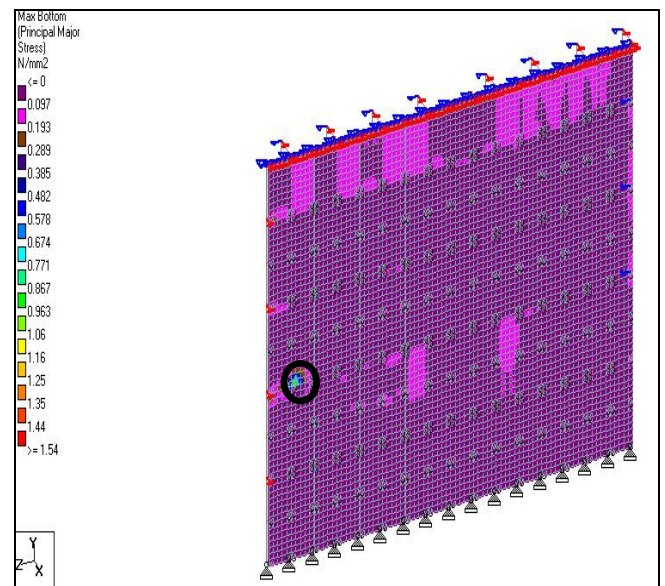


Fig-24: 3 cables

Maximum principal major stress = 1.54 N/mm<sup>2</sup>

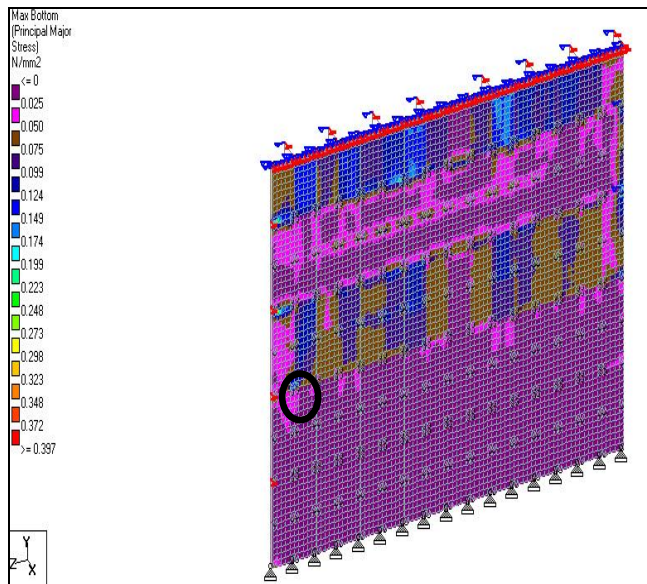


Fig-23: 2 cables top

Maximum principal major stress = 0.397 N/mm<sup>2</sup>

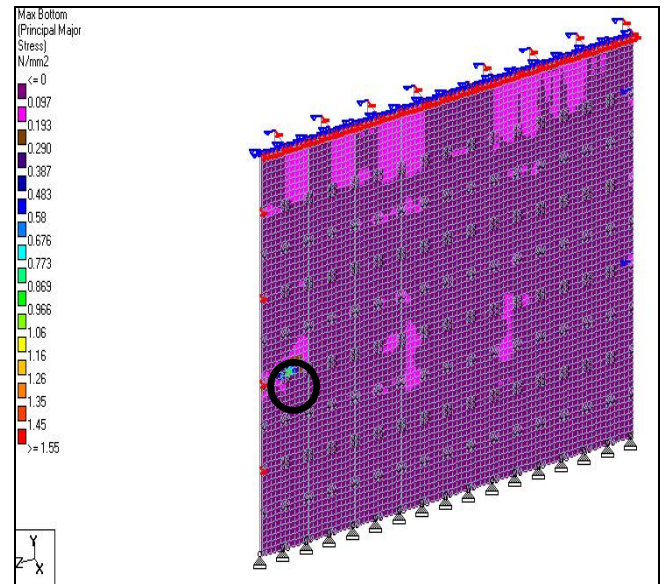


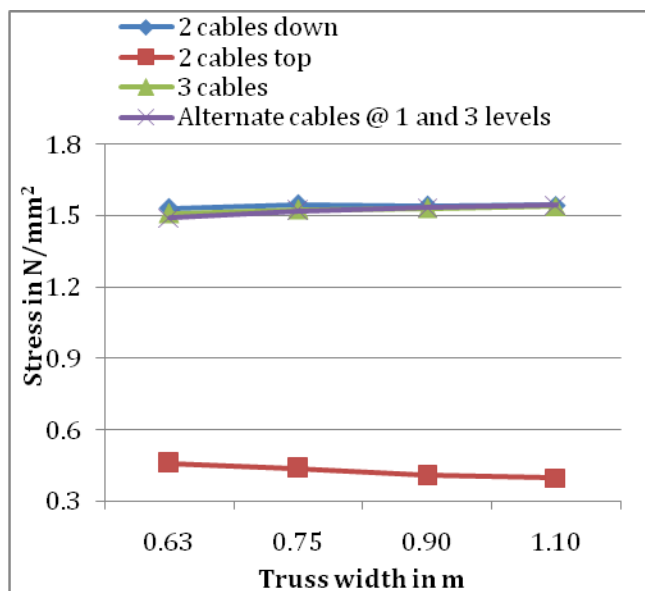
Fig-25: Alternate cables @ 1 and 3 level

Maximum principal major stress = 1.545 N/mm<sup>2</sup>

### 3.5 Tables and Graphs

Table-1: Stress (in N/mm<sup>2</sup>) for various truss widths and corresponding cable positions

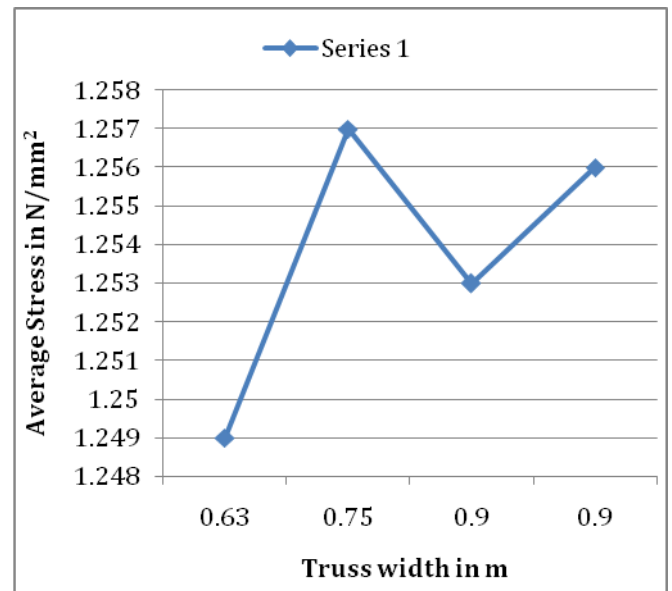
Cable position	Truss width in m			
	0.63	0.75	0.90	1.10
2 cables down	1.530	1.546	1.543	1.545
2 cables top	0.464	0.437	0.407	0.397
3 cables	1.510	1.526	1.530	1.540
Alternate cables @ 1 and 3 level	1.492	1.519	1.533	1.545



Graph-1: Stress for various truss widths

Table-2: Average stress for various truss widths

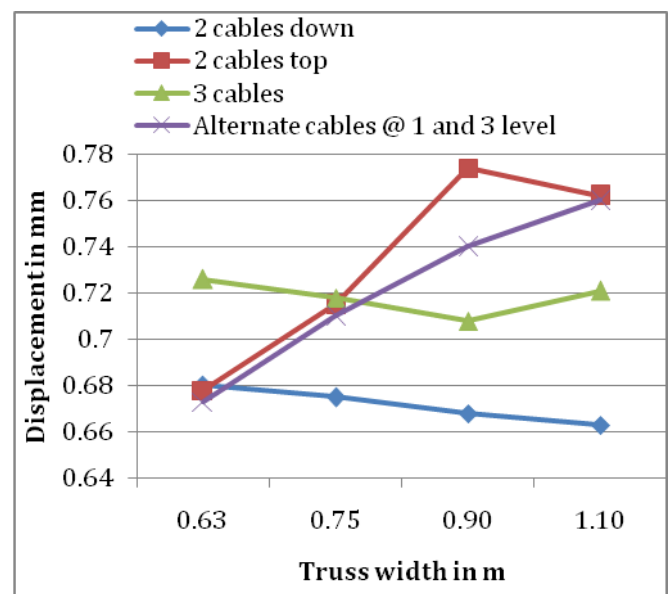
Truss width in m	Average stress in N/mm <sup>2</sup>
0.63	1.249
0.75	1.257
0.90	1.253
1.10	1.256



Graph-2: Average stress for various truss widths

Table-3: Displacement (in mm) for various truss widths and corresponding cable positions

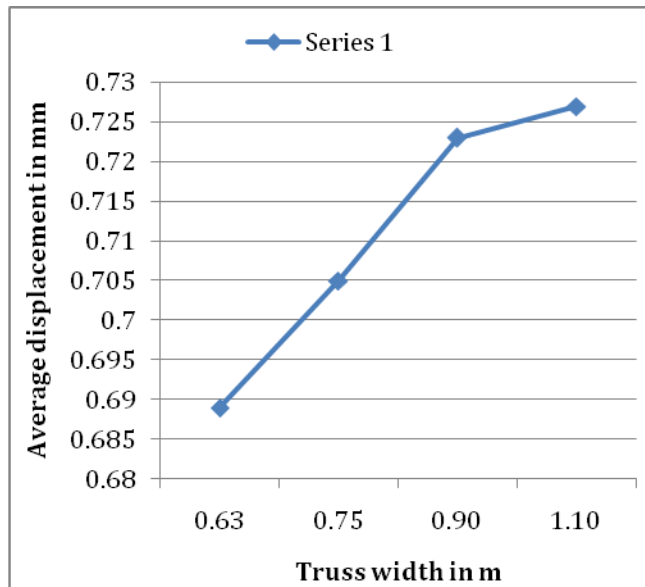
Cable position	Truss width in m			
	0.63	0.75	0.90	1.10
2 cables down	0.680	0.675	0.668	0.663
2 cables top	0.678	0.715	0.774	0.762
3 cables	0.726	0.718	0.708	0.721
Alternate cables @ 1 and 3 level	0.673	0.710	0.740	0.760



Graph-3: Displacement for various truss widths

Table-4: Average displacement for various truss widths

Truss width in m	Average displacement in mm
0.63	0.689
0.75	0.705
0.90	0.723
1.10	0.727



Graph-4: Average displacement for various truss widths

#### 4. STRESS DISTRIBUTION IN GLASS FACADE DUE TO LOAD COMBINATIONS (DL±0.75WL+TL)

Stress and displacement values obtained for the temperature load case are too smaller than the yield strength of the glass and maximum allowable displacement for the model, therefore analysis has been done by considering the load combinations to check the overall performance of the structure.

#### 4.1 0.63m Truss

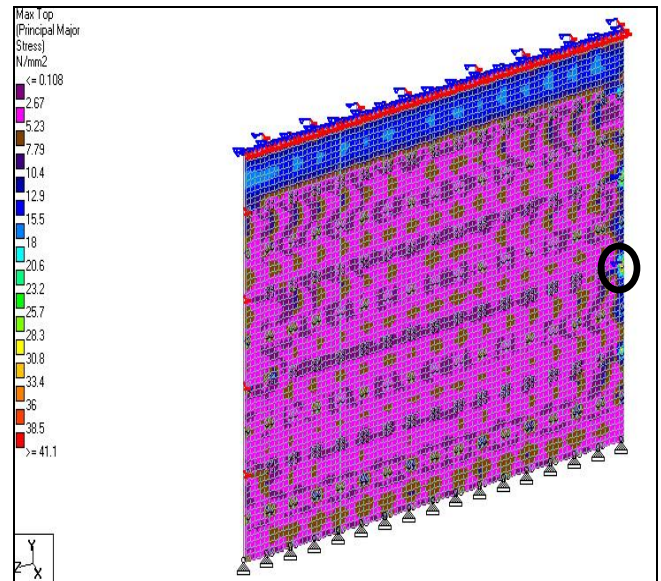


Fig-26: 2 cables down

Encircled region represents maximum stress.

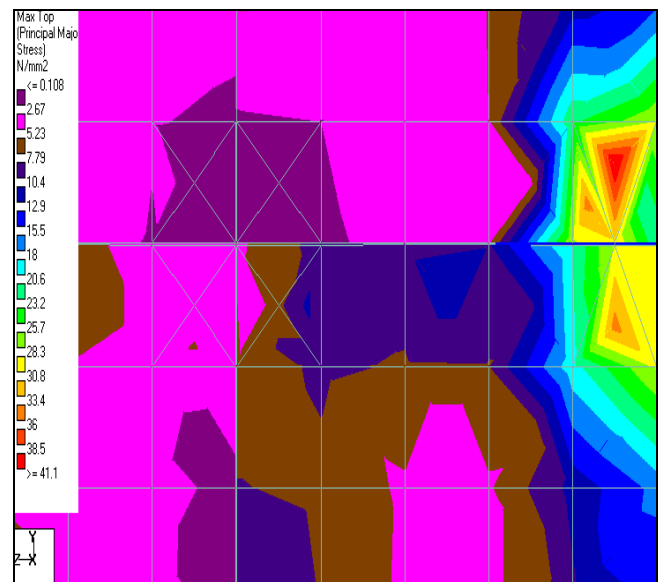


Fig-27: Closer view of encircled region showing stress distribution

Maximum principal major stress = 41.078 N/mm<sup>2</sup>

Similarly for other models stress distribution and maximum values of stress are shown from fig-28 to fig-42.

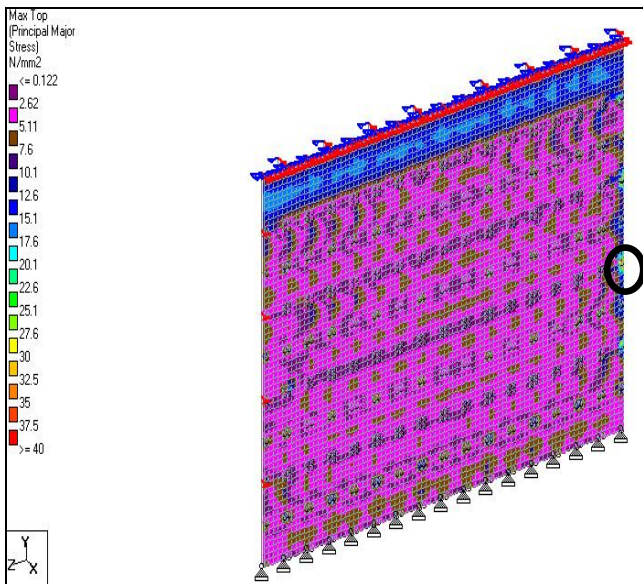


Fig-28: 2 cables top

Maximum principal major stress = 40.017 N/mm<sup>2</sup>

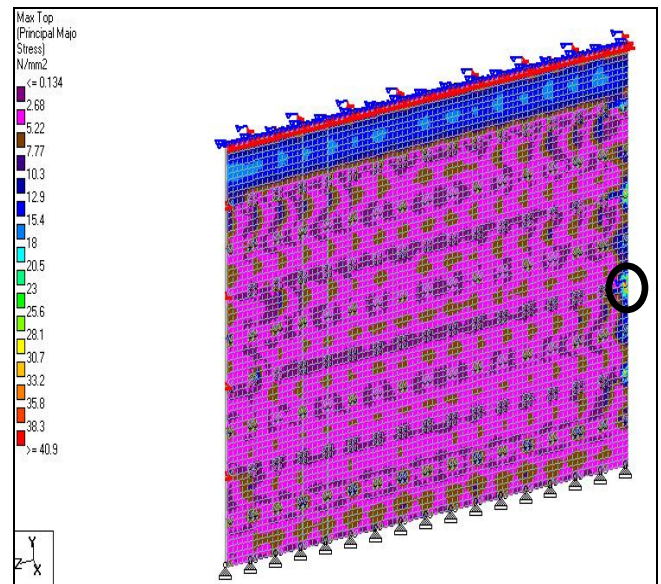


Fig-30: Alternate cables @ 1 and 3 level

Maximum principal major stress = 40.858 N/mm<sup>2</sup>

#### 4.2 0.75 truss

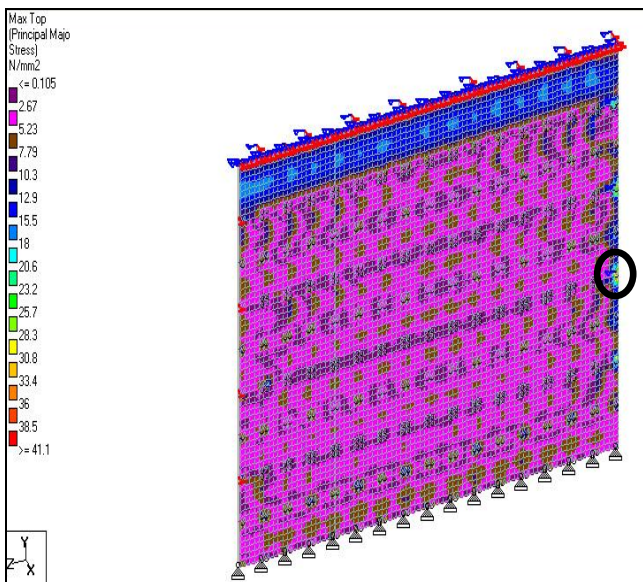


Fig-29: 3 cables

Maximum principal major stress = 40.078 N/mm<sup>2</sup>

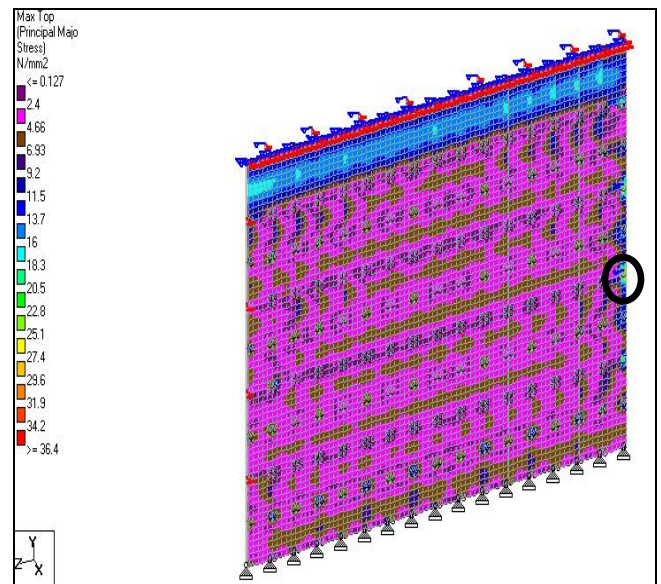


Fig-31: 2 cables down

Maximum principal major stress = 36.420 N/mm<sup>2</sup>

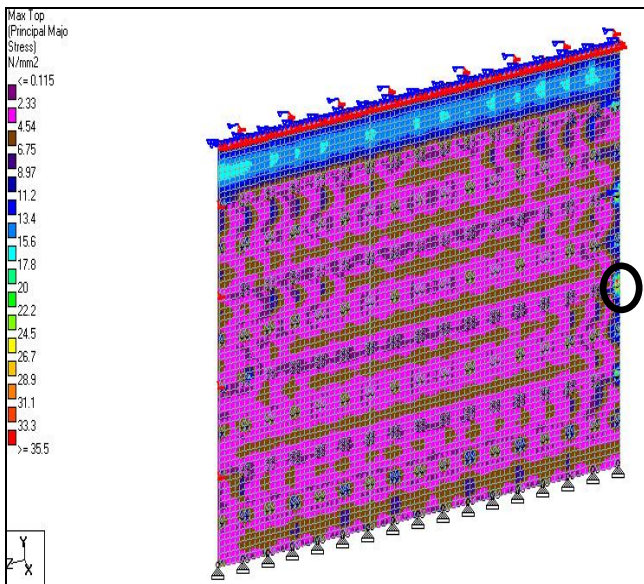


Fig-32: 2 cables top

Maximum principal major stress = 35.518 N/mm<sup>2</sup>

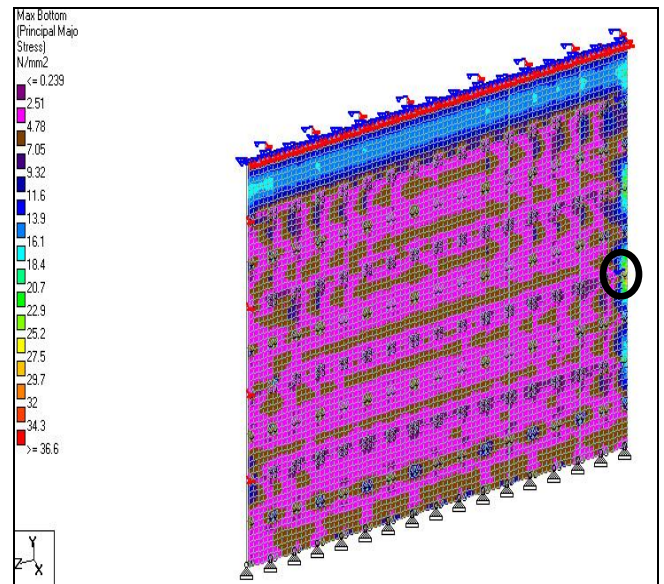


Fig-34: Alternate cables @ 1 and 3 level

Maximum principal major stress = 36.551 N/mm<sup>2</sup>

4.3 0.90m truss

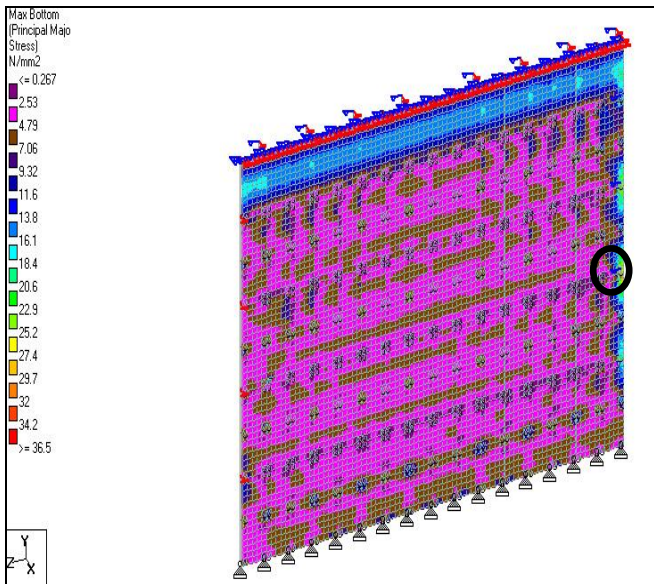


Fig-33: 3 cables

Maximum principal major stress = 36.477 N/mm<sup>2</sup>

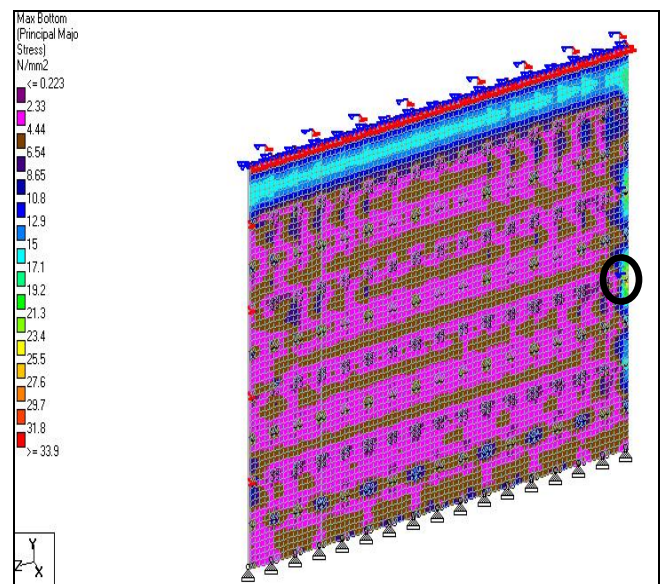


Fig-35: 2 cables down

Maximum principal major stress = 33.930 N/mm<sup>2</sup>

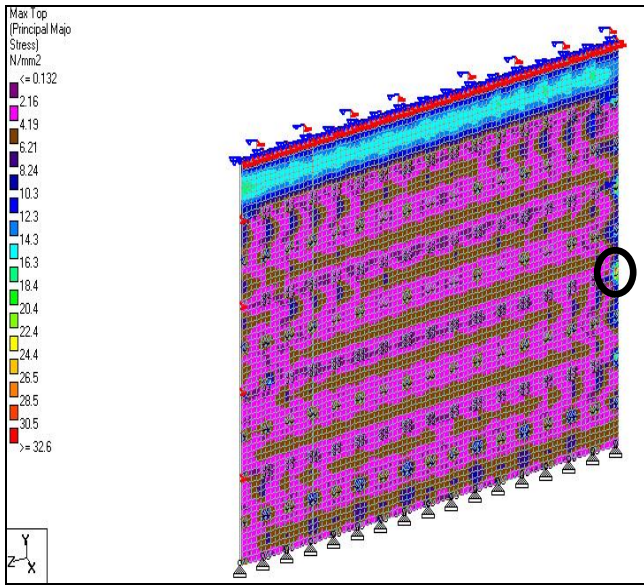


Fig-36: 2 cables top

Maximum principal major stress = 32.556 N/mm<sup>2</sup>

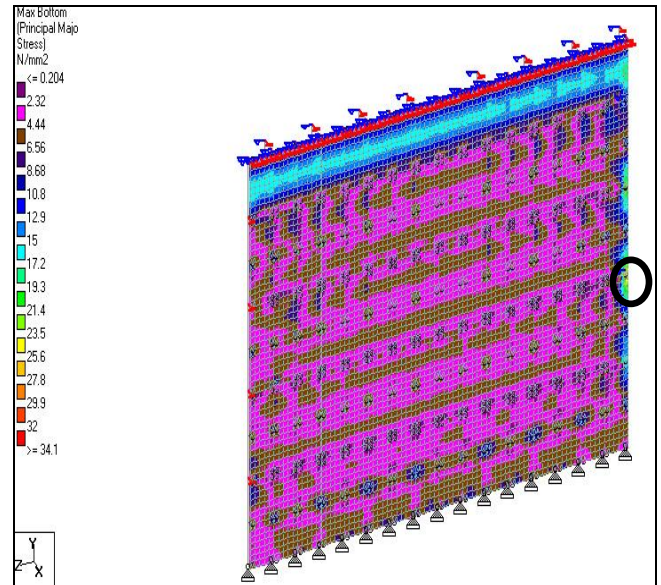


Fig-38: Alternate cables @ 1 and 3 level

Maximum principal major stress = 34.119 N/mm<sup>2</sup>

4.4 1.10 m truss

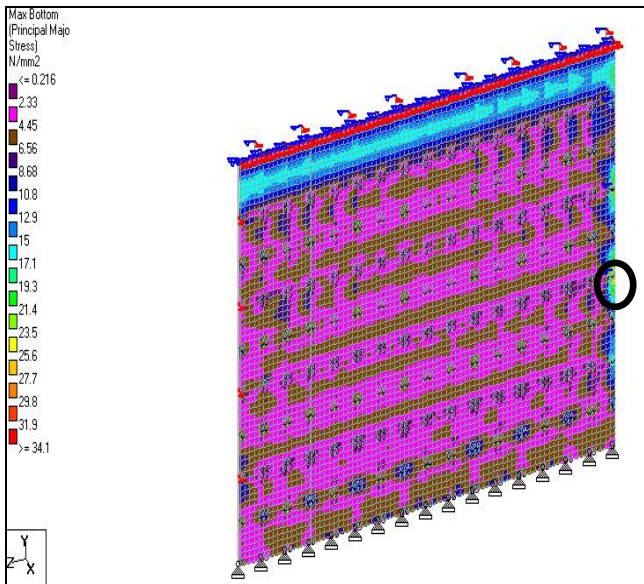


Fig-37: 3 cables

Maximum principal major stress = 34.058 N/mm<sup>2</sup>

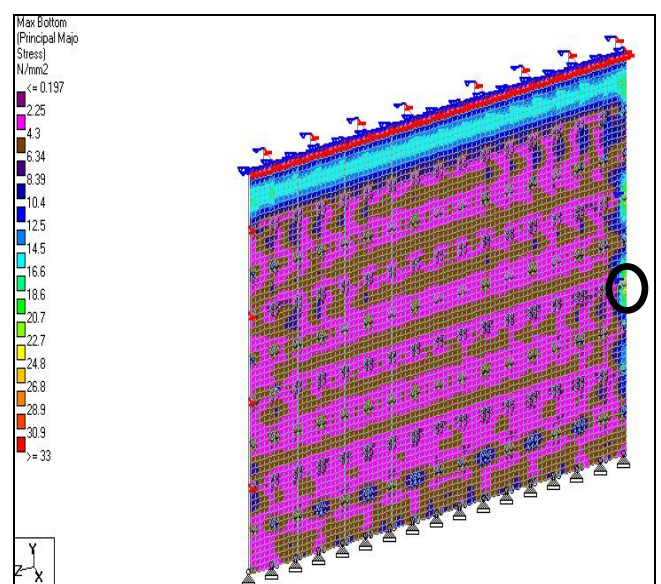


Fig-39: 2 cables down

Maximum principal major stress = 32.981 N/mm<sup>2</sup>

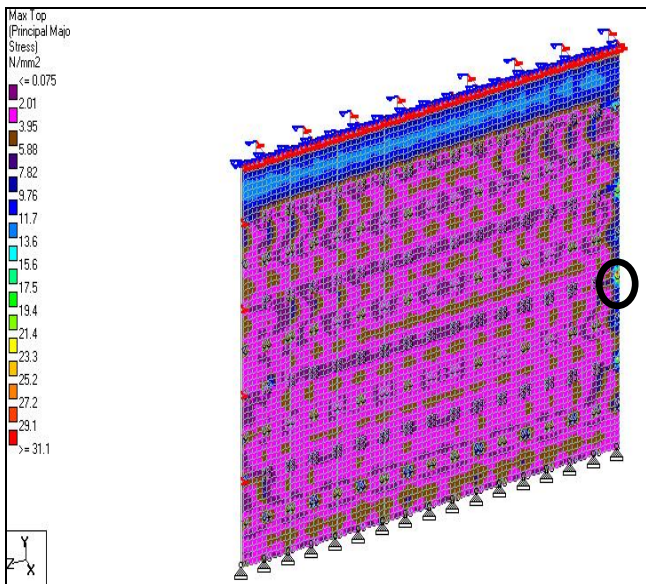


Fig-40: 2 cables top

Maximum principal major stress = 31.057 N/mm<sup>2</sup>

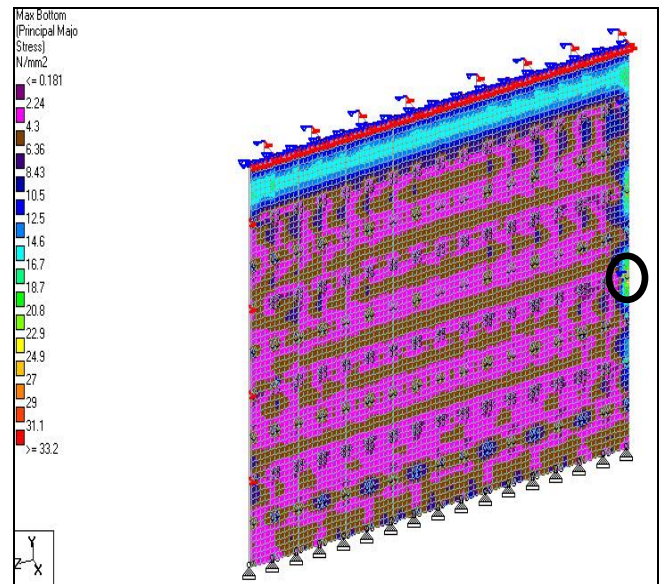


Fig-42: Alternate cables @ 1 and 3 level

Maximum principal major stress = 33.106 N/mm<sup>2</sup>

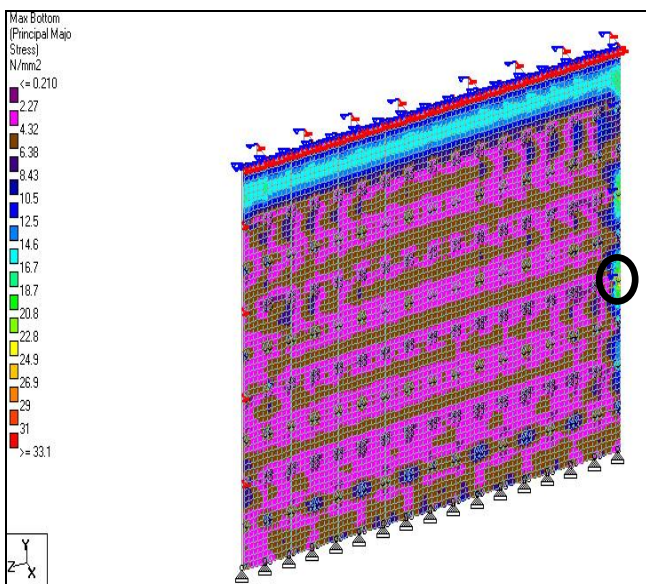


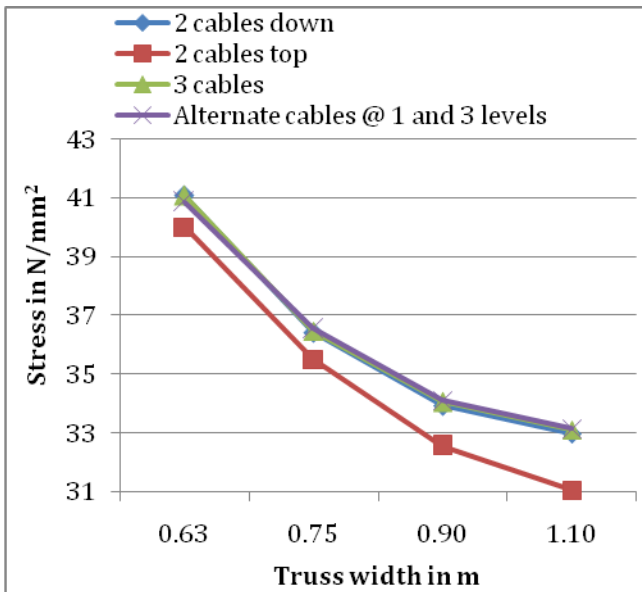
Fig-41: 3 cables

Maximum principal major stress = 33.106 N/mm<sup>2</sup>

#### 4.5 Tables and Graphs

Table-5: Stress (in N/mm<sup>2</sup>) for various truss widths and corresponding cable positions

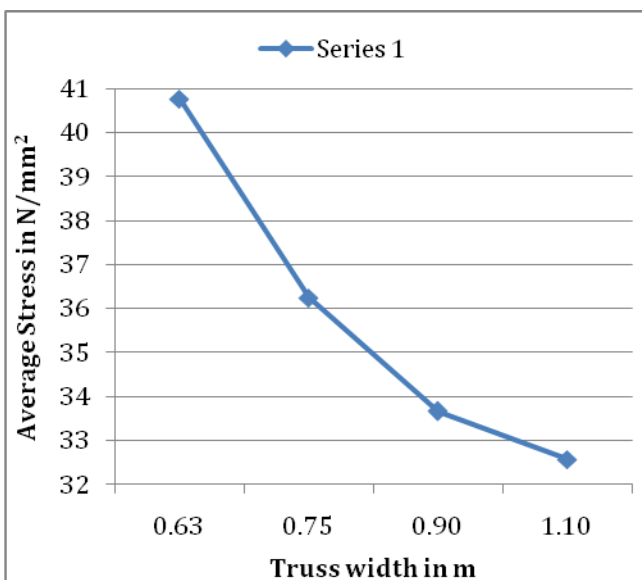
Cable position	Truss width in m			
	0.63	0.75	0.90	1.10
2 cables down	41.078	36.420	33.930	32.981
2 cables top	40.017	35.518	32.556	31.057
3 cables	41.078	36.477	34.058	33.106
Alternate cables @ 1 and 3 level	40.858	36.551	34.119	33.160



Graph-5: Stress for various truss widths

Table-6: Average stress for various truss widths

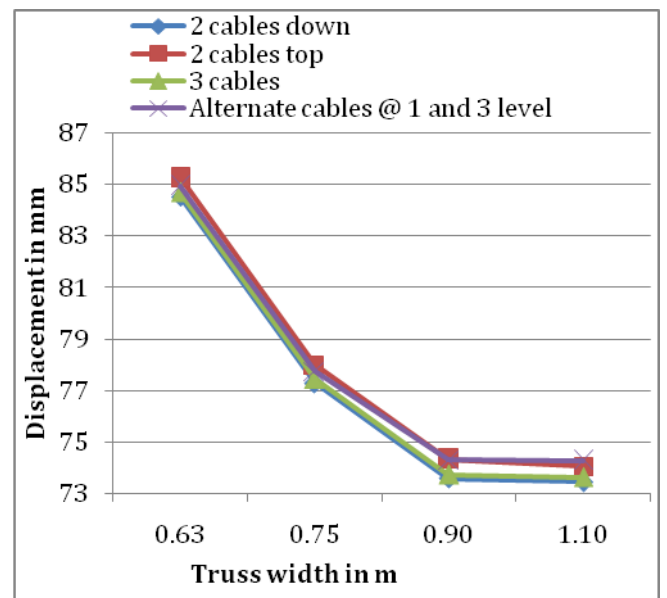
Truss width in m	Average stress in N/mm <sup>2</sup>
0.63	40.757
0.75	36.241
0.90	33.665
1.10	32.576



Graph-6: Average stress for various truss widths

Table-7: Displacement (in mm) for various truss widths and corresponding cable positions

Cable position	Truss width in m			
	0.63	0.75	0.90	1.10
2 cables down	84.515	77.276	73.569	73.444
2 cables top	85.240	77.995	74.322	74.059
3 cables	84.674	77.437	73.735	73.641
Alternate cables @ 1 and 3 level	84.925	77.742	74.293	74.278

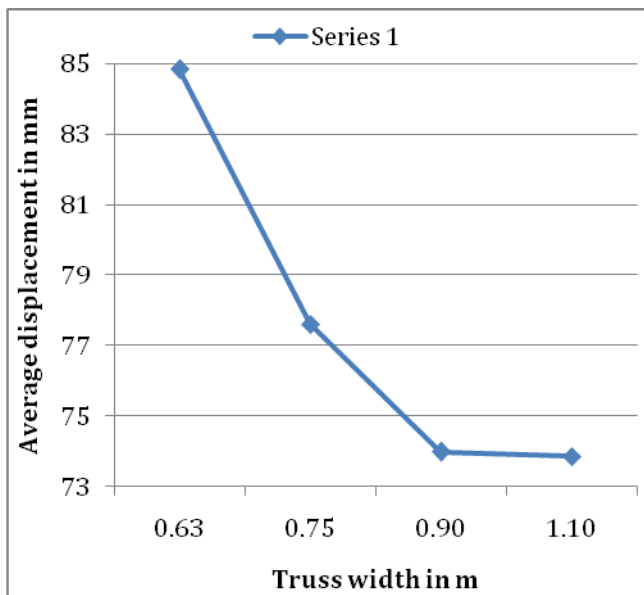


Graph-7: Displacement for various truss widths

Table-8: Average displacement for various truss widths

Truss width in m	Average displacement in mm
0.63	84.839
0.75	77.613
0.90	73.979
1.10	73.855





Graph-8: Average displacement for various truss widths

## 5. OBSERVATIONS

### 5.1 Temperature Load Case

#### 5.1.1 Displacement

- It was observed that for 0.63m truss minimum displacement is obtained for model with two cables at 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> levels and maximum displacement is obtained for model with three cables at 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> levels.
- It was observed that for 0.75m truss minimum displacement is obtained for model with two cables at 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> levels and maximum displacement is obtained for model with three cables at 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> levels.
- It was observed that for 0.90m and 1.10m trusses minimum displacement is obtained for model with two cables at 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> levels and maximum displacement is obtained for model with two cables at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> levels.
- It was observed that average displacement is almost same with slight difference in decimal values.

#### 5.2.2 Stresses

- It was observed that for all the trusses minimum stress is obtained for model with two cables at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> levels and maximum stress is obtained for model with two cables at 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> levels.

- It was observed that average stress is almost same with slight difference in decimal values.

### 5.2 Load Combinations Case

#### 5.2.1 Displacement

- It was observed that for 0.63m and 0.75m trusses minimum displacement is obtained for model with two cables at 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> levels and maximum displacement is obtained for model with two cables at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> levels.
- It was observed that for 0.90m truss minimum displacement is obtained for model with two cables at 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> levels and maximum displacement is obtained for model with three cables at 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> levels.
- It was observed that for 1.10m truss minimum displacement is obtained for model with two cables at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> levels and maximum displacement is obtained for model with three cables at 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> levels.
- It was observed that average displacement is less for 0.90m and 1.10m truss widths as compared to 0.63m and 0.90m truss widths.

#### 5.2.2 Stresses

- It was observed that for all the trusses minimum stress is obtained for model with two cables at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> levels.
- It was observed that for 0.75m, 0.90m and 1.10m truss widths maximum stress is obtained for model with two cables at 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> levels and for 0.63m truss it is same for model with two cables at 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> levels and three cables at 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> levels.
- It was observed that average stress is less for 0.90m and 1.10m truss widths as compared to 0.63m and 0.90m truss widths.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

The average maximum stress obtained for model with 0.63m truss width is 40.757 N/mm<sup>2</sup> which is well below than the yield strength of the glass used i.e. 55 N/mm<sup>2</sup>. The stress values for all iterations are well within the limit. Hence model is said to be safe. The average displacement for model with 0.63m truss width is 84.839mm which is less than allowable displacement for

the structure i.e. 98mm. The displacement values for all iterations are well within the limit. Hence model is said to be safe. The stresses and displacements due to the temperature load alone are small; hence they affect least to the overall performance of the structure.

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