

ANALYTICAL STUDY ON CONCRETE FILLED ELLIPTICAL STEEL TUBULAR COLUMN

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Abstract - Concrete filled steel tubular columns have gained immense importance in recent decades due to numerous benefits especially in developed countries like china, Japan, U.S.A, Britain. Experimental programs are expensive, time consuming and limited to small ranges of parameters, therefore it is important to develop an analytical model for Concrete filled elliptical steel tubular members. This research provides an analysis of the interaction between concrete core and steel tube in CFEST columns. For this analysis, ABAQUS software was selected. Using this software Analysis was done by varying the thickness of steel tube, length of the column, grade of concrete and diameter ratios (a/b) and then observe the performance of the CFEST column. Currently there is no design guidance available in any Code of Practice for this elliptical cross section. The main aim of the research presented in this paper is to develop a numerical method to be able to predict the axial compressive behaviour of short concrete-filled elliptical steel tubular columns. The ultimate load carrying capacity and failure modes were obtained from the numerical models and then compared against the experimental results; good agreements were obtained. Finally local buckling of steel tube associated with the concrete infill could be observed.

Key Words: abaqus, elliptical cfst column, finite element method, diameter -to -thickness ratio, buckling

1. INTRODUCTION

Concrete filled steel tubes [CFST] are composite members consists of steel tubes filled with concrete. The inner concrete core adds stiffness and compressive strength and it reduces local buckling. The outer steel tube acts as both longitudinal and lateral reinforcement and also it resists tension and bending moment. This type of composite column does not need any formwork. Therefore it reduces cost of construction, labour cost and construction time. Concrete filled steel tubular column research began in 1990s. Most of the researchers work with square, rectangular, circular cross section. Now, one of the new cross

section elliptical [fig4] attracted most of the architects and structural engineers due to their aesthetic appearance and excellent structural behaviour. Only few papers are available on the research of concrete filled elliptical steel tubular column can be found.

Researches on Experimental study of elliptical concrete filled steel columns under axial compression by Jamaluddin [1] showed that the strength and stiffness of CFEST increase as the concrete strength increases. Tests on CFEST beams and columns [3] by Quing Xin Ren showed that the compressive strength of CFEST Columns under axial compression is 2.47 times that of the hollow steel tubular columns. Using Abaqus/Standard software develop a model and then analyze the parameters like a)thickness of steel tube b)grade of concrete c)diameter ratios (a/b) d)length of the column.

2. FINITE ELEMENT ANALYSIS

Finite element analysis is a numerical method. In this paper, finite element software Abaqus/ standard was used to capture the structural behaviour of elliptical CFST column. ABAQUS is a highly sophisticated, Finite Element program designed primarily to model the behaviour of solids and structures under externally applied load. ABAQUS is used by a wide range of industries, including aircraft manufacturers, automobile companies, oil companies and micro electronics industries as well as national laboratories and research universities.

2.1 MODELING AND MATERIAL PROPERTIES

Abaqus provides a wide range of elements for different geometries and analysis types. In this paper, Concrete was modeled as a C3D8R [Continuum 3D 8noded reduced integration element] and Steel tube was modeled as a S4R [shell 4 node reduced integration element].

The Poisson's ratio for concrete and steel was 0.2 and 0.3. In this analysis, parts were meshed individually and then assembled for further process. More finer mesh generally leads to more accurate analysis, but also requires larger computational resources and time. Fig 1 shows meshed model.

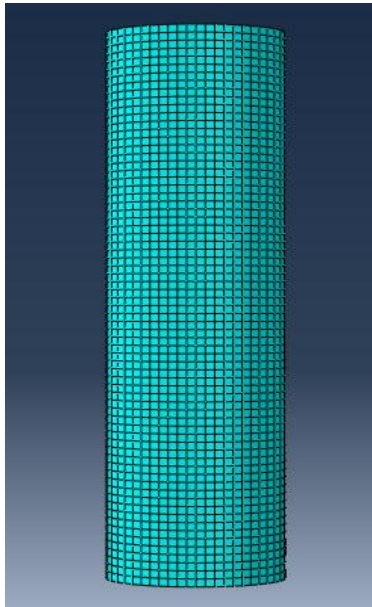


Fig - 1: Meshed model

2.2 ANALYSIS TYPE:

ABAQUS 6.13-4 has various types of analysis procedure to analyze the behaviour of models according to their needs. In this analysis for Concrete filled elliptical steel tubular columns, linear perturbation type of procedure was chosen. In our analysis linear perturbation buckle analysis was used to obtain the buckling load of the CFEST column. Linear perturbation buckle analysis provides Eigen values corresponding to buckle loads. The interface of FEM Software for assigning liner perturbation buckle analysis is shown in figure 2.

2.3 BOUNDARY CONDITIONS AND LOADING

To stimulate the interaction between steel tube and Concrete, surface to surface interaction was used. The inner surface of the steel tube serves as a rigid surface and the outer surface of the concrete core acts as a slave surface. The coefficient of friction between the steel tube and concrete as 0.25. In this analysis, the bottom of the column was fixed where all the degrees of freedom were restrained and the other end was pinned condition was shown in fig 3. The uniform compressive loading is applied to the top surface of the column in the z direction directly.

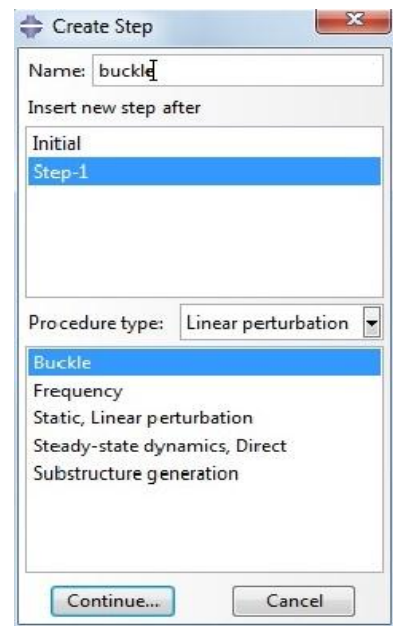


Fig -2: Step module

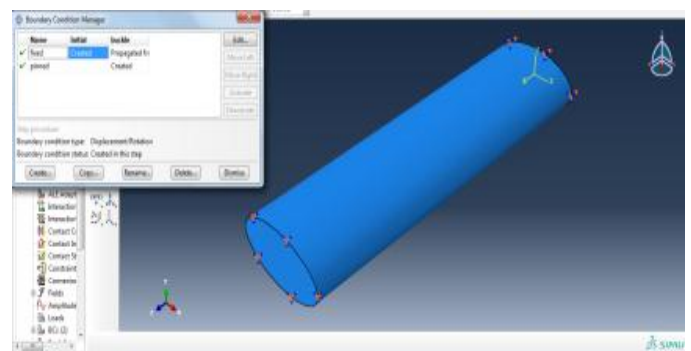


Fig - 3: Load module

3. SPECIMEN DETAILS

In this paper, FE model was developed according to experimental specimen [1]. In this analysis, totally four specimens with two grades of concrete (30, 60) were used and the steel tube sizes 200*100*5 and 150*75*4 which were commercially available sizes. The strength of the concrete-filled elliptical steel tubular columns investigated in this parametric study and the failure modes were predicted using the developed finite element model.

Table -1: Specimen details

No	specimen label	major axis 2a (mm)	Minor axis 2b (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Height (mm)	d/t
1	c-1-30	200	100	5.3	1400	37.03
2	c-2-60	200	100	5.6	1500	35.71
3	c-3-30	150	75	4.0	1600	37.5
4	c-4-60	150	75	4.1	1500	36.58

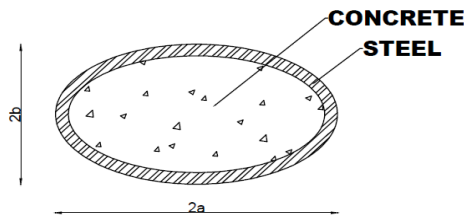


Fig - 4: Cross section of the specimen

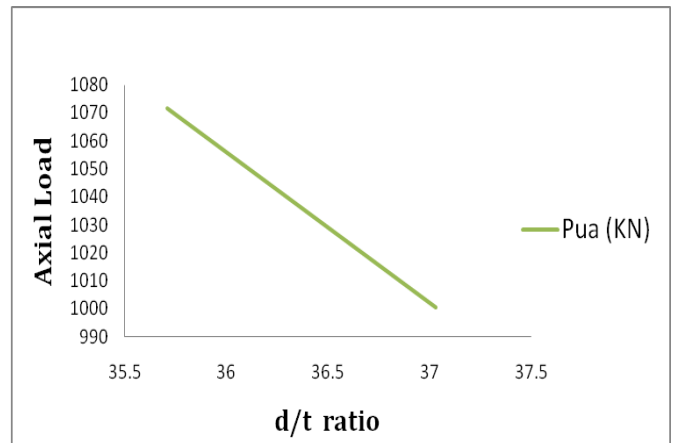


Chart -1: Load vs d/t ratio

4. VALIDATION WITH THE EXPERIMENTAL STUDY

The proposed model was used to numerically simulate different elliptical CFT columns. The accuracy of the numerical model is evaluated based on the difference between the experimental and ABAQUS peak load capacities. The model must also be able to successfully capture the deformed shape of the composite member. The final deformed shape of the concrete filled elliptical steel tubular column in fig 5 simulated in Abaqus 6.13-4.

Table -2 Comparison between Experimental and Analytical Results

No	Specimen label	P _u (KN)	P _{u(a)} (KN)
1	c-1-30	938.4	1000.4
2	c-2-60	1064	1071.8
3	c-3-30	650.8	654.6
4	c-4-60	742.8	762

Table - 2 shows a comparison between the maximum axial compressive loads P_u obtained from the experiments and the maximum axial compressive loads P_{u(a)} predicted by the finite element method: very good agreements have been obtained. The maximum difference observed between the experimental and analytical result is 5%.

From the above results, it can be found that from the first two specimens (200 × 100 × 5) second one carries more axial load compared to the first specimen. It shows that if diameter to thickness ratio decreases load carrying capacity increases was shown in chart -1. Therefore d/t ratio is one of the important parameter which influences the load carrying capacity. C-4-60 carries higher axial load compared to C-3-30 which indicates that high strength concrete carries more axial load. Analytical results are more accurate compared to theoretical results. This may be due to the consideration of specimen as a perfect model with zero imperfection was assumed.

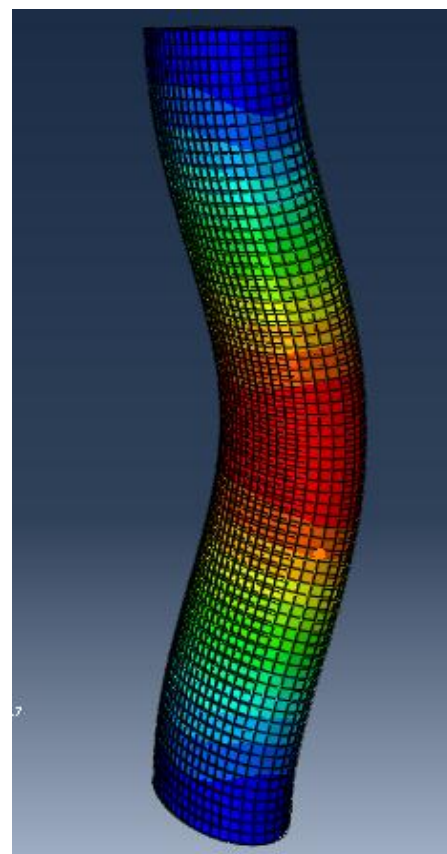


Fig - 5: Deformed shape

5. CONCLUSIONS

Various significant characteristics such as strength, stiffness and failure mode were discussed. Based on the above results, the following conclusions can be made

- 1) Increase in concrete strength increases the stiffness of the concrete core which reduces the lateral expansion.
- 2) With the increase in the length of CFEST column, load carrying capacity decreases.
- 3) Axial rigidity of elliptical CFEST increases with the decrease of the diameter to thickness ratio. The strength and stiffness depends upon the thickness of steel tube.
- 4) The effect of cross section has a significant role . In elliptical cross section because of the presence of major and minor axis direction it carries higher axial load compared to square and rectangular cross section.
- 5) The role of the concrete core is not only to resist compressive forces but also to reduce the potential failure of local buckling by the steel sections. Concrete core will prevent inward buckling and therefore buckling of steel tubes will generally occur towards outward.

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