



AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

***FACTORS AFFECTING CONFINEMENT BEHAVIOR
OF AXIALLY LOADED REINFORCED CONCRETE
SHORT COLUMNS***

BY

Eng. Mohamed Abdel Halim Hassan

B.Sc. Civil Engineering 1993, Zagazig University

M.Sc. Civil Engineering 2002, Ain Shams University

A Thesis

*Submitted in partial fulfillment for the requirements of the degree
of Doctoral of Philosophy in civil engineering (Structural)*

Supervised by

Prof. Dr. Osama Hamdy Abdel-Wahed

Professor of R.C. structures

Faculty of Engineering-Ain Shams University

Dr. Amgad Ahmed Talaat

Assistant Professor - Structural Engineering Dep.

Faculty of Engineering-Ain Shams University

Dr. Marwan Tarek Shedid

Assistant Professor - Structural Engineering Dep.

Faculty of Engineering-Ain Shams University

2013

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
مَنْ كَانَ فِي حَرْبٍ مَعَهُ مَالٌ
فَلْيُقَاتِلْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ
لَعَلَّه يَكْفُرَ عَنْهُ
وَأَنْ يَكُونَ مِنَ الْخَائِبِينَ

EXAMINING COMMITTEE

- 1. PROF.DR. GHANI RAZAQPUR**
PROF. OF RC STRUCTURES - FACULTY OF ENGINEERING
McMASTER UNIVERSITY- CANADA
- 2. PROF.DR. OMAR ALI MOUSA EL-NAWAWY**
PROF. OF RC STRUCTURES - FACULTY OF ENGINEERING
AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITY-EGYPT
- 3. PROF.DR. OSAMA HAMDY ABDEL-WAHED**
PROF. OF RC STRUCTURES - FACULTY OF ENGINEERING
AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITY-EGYPT

STATEMENT

This dissertation is submitted to Ain Shams University for the degree of Doctoral of Science in Civil Engineering (Structural).

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No part of this thesis has been submitted for a degree or a qualification at any other University or Institute.

Date: / / **2013**

Signature:

Name: Mohamed Abdel - Halim Hassan

INFORMATION ABOUT THE RESEARCHER

Name : Mohamed Abdel-Halim Hassan Allam

Date of Birth : July 13, 1970

Place of Birth : El-Darrassah-Cairo-Egypt.

Qualifications : B.Sc. Degree in Civil Engineering, Faculty
of Engineering, Zagazig University, 1993.
: M.Sc. Degree in the civil Engineering,
Faculty of Engineering, Ain Shams
University, 2002.

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**AIN SHAMES UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF ENGINEERING
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT**

Abstract of the Ph.D. Thesis submitted by

Eng. Mohamed Abdel-Halim Hassan Allam

Title of the thesis:

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Supervisors:

Prof. Dr. Osama Hamdy Abd-el Wahed

Prof. of RC Structures

Dr. Amgad Ahmed Talaat

Ass. Prof. of RC Structures

Dr. Marwan Tarek Shedid

Ass. Prof. of RC Structures

Abstract

Reinforced concrete (RC) columns are considered the most important structural element in the skeleton type structures. The design of RC columns has been developed in the last third of 20th century through a large number of experimental and theoretical researches all over the world. Previous researchers studied the general behavior of RC columns under various loading types, different reinforcement details, several concrete grades, exposure to severe environmental conditions and verifications of code provisions.

The objective of this research is to establish a mathematical formula to predict the ultimate load capacity for axially loaded short columns taking into consideration the variation of lateral steel reinforcement represents the confinement effect for both square and circular RC columns. The effect of concrete compressive strength f_{cu} , the effect of concrete cross section shape (square – circular – rectangular) and the concrete cross section area were studied as well.

For this purpose, a total number of 12 specimens were prepared and tested experimentally under axial load to study the parameters that correlated to confinement. Tested columns were divided into 2 main groups in which one of them contains 9 specimens with a concrete compressive strength equal to 25 MPa and varying in transverse steel volumetric ratio, concrete cross section shape in addition to cross section area. The second group contains 3 specimens with a concrete compressive strength equal to 40 MPa. to study the effect of concrete compressive strength.

The results of all tested specimens (ultimate loads-strains-deformations...etc) were recorded and discussed. Different gains of strength, stiffness and ductility were recognized. Mathematical formulas to correlate the axial capacity for both square and circular specimens were determined as well. the longitudinal steel for all specimens was kept constant with a ratio of 1.28% of the concrete cross section area.

To verify the experimental results, the tested specimens were analyzed numerically using a non linear finite element program and the obtained results were compared to those obtained experimentally. the ultimate loads, deformations and strains were also recorded and compared.

Also, a parametric study was carried out using the non linear finite element program mentioned above. The parameters studied were the concrete compressive strength and transverse steel volumetric ratio for both square and circular columns and the concrete cross section area of square columns.

For all of the two phases of the research (experimental work, numerical analysis) the equations correlating axial capacity of the column to transverse steel volumetric ratio were obtained. For the parametric study, the equations correlating the axial capacity of the column to the transverse steel volumetric ratio and concrete compressive strength were obtained for both square and circular columns. The equation correlating the axial capacity of the square columns to the concrete cross section area of the columns was obtained as well.

The overall research conclusions were listed at the end of the research in addition to the future research suggestions.

Keywords

Axial loads; Confinement; Transverse (Tie) steel; Compressive concrete strength; Volumetric ratio; Short columns; Cross sectional area: Numerical study, Parametric study, Mathematical formula.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Statement

Acknowledgment

Abstract

Table of contents

Chapter (1): INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 General	1
1.2 Objectives of the study.....	2
1.3 Scope and contents.....	3
Chapter (2) : LITERATURE REVIEW AND BASIC VARIABLES	6
2.1 General.....	6
2.2 Effective confinement index	8
2.3 Proposed stress strain curve	10
2.4 Code provisions	24
Chapter (3) : EXPERIMENTAL WORK	34
3.1. General.....	34
3.2. Description of the tested specimens.....	34
3.2.1 The specimens constructed with concrete grade 25 MPa.....	35
3.2.2 The specimens constructed with concrete grade 40 MPa.....	35
3.3 Concrete mixtures.....	37
3.4 Casting, compacting and curing.....	37
3.5 Instrumentation and measurements.....	38
3.6 Loading apparatus	39
Chapter (4) : ANALYSIS OF THE EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS	49
4.1. General.....	49
4.2 General behavior of the tested specimens during testing.....	49
4.2.1 Cracking, failure loads and failure modes.....	49
4.2.2 Deformations and strains.....	51

4.2.3 Longitudinal steel strains.....	52
4.2.4 Lateral steel strains	53
4.3 Effect of the test variables on the general behavior of the tested column specimens.....	54
4.3.1 Effect of concrete compressive strength.....	54
4.3.2 Effect of tie shape for circular, rectangular and square specimens	55
4.3.3 Effect of transverse steel volumetric ratio for square specimens	56
4.3.4 Effect of transverse steel volumetric ratio for circular specimens	57
4.3.5 Effect of cross sectional area	58
4.4 Determination of the relation between transverse steel volumetric ratio and axial capacity of columns specimens	59
4.4.1 The Mathematical formula for square columns.....	59
4.4.2 The mathematical formula for circular columns.....	60
4.5 Summary and conclusions.....	62
Chapter (5) : NUMERICAL ANALYSIS.....	81
5.1 Introduction.....	81
5.2 Modeling of steel reinforcement.....	82
5.3 Element library.....	83
5.3.1 The solid (brick) element.....	83
5.3.2 Three dimensional truss element.....	83
5.3.3 Contact element.....	84
5.4 Finite element formulation and constitutive modeling.....	84

5.4.1 Reinforcement.....	84
5.4.2 Confined concrete.....	85
5.5 Description of the analyzed models.....	87
5.6 Material properties and real constants.....	88
5.7 Choice of finite element mesh	89
Chapter (6) : NUMERICAL RESULTS AND COMPARISON WITH EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS	96
6.1 General.....	96
6.2 The failure loads of the analyzed specimens.....	96
6.3 Deformation characteristics.....	98
6.4 Strain characteristics.....	99
6.4.1 Longitudinal concrete strains.....	99
6.4.2 Longitudinal steel strains.....	101
6.4.3 Lateral steel strains.....	102
6.5 Conclusions and comments.....	103
Chapter (7) : PARAMETRIC STUDY	128
7.1 Introduction	128
7.2 Effect of height and buckling of columns.....	129
7.3 Description of the analyzed columns.....	129
7.4 Boundary (end) conditions.....	133
7.5 Results of the finite element analysis.....	134
7.5.1 Effect of percentage transverse steel volumetric ratio on the ultimate load for square columns	134
7.5.2 Formulation of percentage transverse steel volumetric ratio parameter to the ultimate load for circular columns	137
7.5.3 Formulation of concrete compressive strength parameter to the ultimate load for square columns	139

7.5.4 Formulation of concrete compressive strength parameter to the ultimate load for circular columns	141
7.5.5 Formulation of cross section area parameter to the ultimate load for square columns	143
7.6 Recommended formula for the correlation between the percentage of transverse steel volumetric ratio and the ultimate load carried by the column	145
7.7 Concluded remarks.....	147
Chapter (8): SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS.....	161
8.1 Summary.....	161
8.2 Conclusions	162
8.3 Recommendations for future research work.....	167
REFERENCES.....	168

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

Reinforced concrete (RC) columns are considered the most critical structural elements in any buildings. Although steel and composite columns are often used in buildings, reinforced concrete columns consist the majority of columns found in most of the low-rise and medium-rise buildings worldwide.

It is well known that one of the functions of the transverse reinforcement in reinforced concrete columns is to provide lateral confinement to the concrete cross section which in turns increases the axial compressive strength of the concrete core and improves the ductility of the structural elements as will be discussed in the next chapter.

Also, it has been observed that columns with a good distribution of lateral reinforcement (spacing& configuration), besides shape of the transverse steel reinforcement (circular, square, or rectangular) lead to higher ductility and higher capacity. However, confinement doesn't affect stiffness except at later stages of loading once lateral tensile stress increase and ties are engaged by restraining volume increase of concrete.

Another important aspect which affects the behavior of reinforced concrete columns is the concrete compressive strength. However, the major problem when higher concrete strength is used in compression members is the sudden and brittle failure without enough warning.

1.2 Objectives of the study

The main objectives of the research are:

1. Studying the factors affecting the confinement behavior of the axially loaded RC short columns.
2. Experimentally investigating the effects of different variables such as concrete compressive strength f_{cu} , transverse steel volumetric ratio μ_t , shape of the cross section, and concrete cross section area A_c ; on the axial capacity, displacement and strains of RC short columns.
3. Modeling of the experimental results using a finite element computer program based on non-linear finite element formulation.
4. Conducting a parametric study using the verified model to investigate the effect of different parameters such as transverse steel volumetric ratio, concrete compressive strength and concrete cross section area on the axial