



Ain Shams University
Faculty of Engineering

**Behavior of High-Strength Concrete Filled Steel
Tubes for Long Columns**

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STATEMENT

This thesis is submitted to Ain Shams University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science in Structural Engineering.

The work included was carried out by the author at Reinforced Concrete Laboratory of the Faculty of Engineering, Ain Shams University.

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

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ABSTRACT

TITLE: “Behavior of High-Strength Concrete Filled Steel Tubes for Long Columns”

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Composite columns consisting of concrete-filled steel tubes have become increasingly popular in structural applications around the world. Today's possibility to produce concrete with higher compressive strength allows the design of more slender columns, which leads to greater profits. It is of great practical and economic interest not to have any mechanical shear connectors at the interface between the concrete core and the steel tube, and no additional reinforcement in the concrete core besides the surrounding steel tube. By using composite columns consisting of concrete-filled steel tubes instead of traditional reinforced concrete columns the problem of concrete cover spalling can be avoided. Furthermore, inward buckling of the steel tube is prevented by the concrete core, thus increasing the stability and the strength of the column as a system. The structural behaviour of short concrete filled steel tube system and the beneficial effect of confinement has been investigated by many researchers over the past decades. It was of interest to investigate the structural behaviour of concrete filled tubes for columns with higher slenderness ratios.

The research program included in this thesis evaluates the structural performance of concrete filled steel tubes as long columns. The main variables in the study were to investigate how the structural behavior of the column was affected by: the filling concrete strength, the steel tube thickness,

adding reinforcing steel bars and applying initial load eccentricity. In order to achieve this, experiments and non-linear finite element analyses were used in combination. A total of sixteen columns were tested up to failure under static loading conditions. The tested concrete filled steel tubes were compared to traditional reinforced concrete columns.

The analytical program considered in this study includes performing nonlinear finite element models using ABAQUS v6.7 program. These models are performed to simulate the columns behaviour and to extend study of the behaviour of such columns. The FE results were compared to those obtained from the experiments and the results agreed in a satisfactory way. Also an extended study was held using the program to extend understanding of the effect of column slenderness ratio on achieving the beneficial effect of confinement in composite columns. The effect of slenderness ratio on the column ultimate capacity is investigated as well. Comparison between the ultimate column capacities obtained from the finite element program and those calculated using Euro code 4 and AISC LRFD specifications is also introduced.

Research findings indicate that for all tested CFST columns the load bearing capacities were guided by the combined effect of the column's lateral deflection and the compression yielding of the outer steel tube with signs of tube local buckling. The additional moment due to high slenderness played an effective role in accelerating the column failure and affected in general the column response. In general utilizing CFST system enhances the column ultimate strength and ductility as compared to traditional reinforced concrete columns. Utilizing high strength concrete in combination with CFST system enhances the column stiffness in the elastic zone and increase column

strength. The extended study results showed that the column strength enhancement provided by confinement effect is better achieved in short columns rather than long columns. Strength enhancement in normal strength concrete is higher than high strength concrete. Increasing column slenderness ratio reduces column ultimate capacity significantly. The implemented design codes were found to be conservative in calculating the ultimate column strengths in most cases.

Keyword: Composite columns, High-strength concrete, nonlinear finite element models, Confinement effect.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General	1
1.2 Advantages of CFST systems.....	1
1.3 High Strength Concrete Filled Tubes.....	4
1.4 Scope and Objectives.....	5
1.5 Contents of the Thesis.....	5

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction.....	8
2.2 Advantages of Utilizing CFST Systems	9
2.3 Composite Structures.....	11
2.4 Composite Columns.....	12
2.5 Mechanical Behaviour of the Interface between Steel Tube and Concrete Core.....	15
2.5.1 Concrete Behaviour in Uniaxial State	15
2.5.2 Concrete Behaviour in Multi axial State.....	21
2.6 Short Concrete Filled Steel Tubes.....	23
2.6.1 Passive Confinement Effect.....	23
2.6.2 Confined Concrete Behaviour.....	26
2.6.2.1 Theoretical Background	26
2.6.2.2 Analytical Models.....	28
2.6.2.2.1 Constant Confinement Model according to Mander et al. (1988).....	29
2.6.2.2.2 Confinement Level in Circular Sections.....	31
2.7 Previous Experiments on Circular Concrete Filled Steel Tube Column.....	33
2.7.1 Behaviour of Axially loaded Short CFST Columns	33
2.7.2 Long Concrete Filled Steel Tube Columns.....	38
2.8 Structural Behaviour of Concrete Filled Steel Tubes as Long Columns.....	43

3. EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM

3.1 Introduction.....	48
3.2 Materials Used	49
3.2.1 Steel Tubes.....	49
3.2.2 Concrete.....	50
3.2.3 Interior Steel Reinforcement Bars.....	51
3.3 Fabrication of Columns	52

3.4 Groups I, II and III Column specimens.....	52
3.4.1 Test Specimens.....	53
3.4.2 Instrumentation.....	54
3.4.3 Test Setup.....	55
 4. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS	
 4.1 Introduction.....	69
4.2 Overview on General Behaviour of Columns.....	69
4.3 Structural Behaviour of Group I Columns	73
4.3.1 Failure Loads, Longitudinal and Transverse Strains for Group I Column Specimens	73
4.3.2 Failure Modes of Group I Specimens	74
4.3.2.1 Control Specimens, C1 and C2.....	74
4.3.2.2 Hollow Steel Tube, C3	75
4.3.2.3 Concrete Filled Tube Columns, C4, C5, C6, C7 and C8	76
4.3.3 Load Lateral Deflection of Group I Column Specimens	81
4.3.3.1 Control Specimens, C1 and C2	81
4.3.3.2 Concrete Filled Tube Columns, C4, C5, C6, C7 and C8	81
4.3.4 Deformed Shape at Various Load Levels for Group I Column Specimens	83
4.3.4.1 Control Specimens, C1 and C2	83
4.3.4.2 Concrete Filled Tube Columns, C4, C5, C6, C7 and C8	84
4.3.5 Load Strain Behaviour of Group I Column Specimens	87
4.3.5.1 Concrete Strain for Control Specimens, C1 and C2	87
4.3.5.2 Steel Tube Strain for Concrete Filled Tube Columns, C4, C5, C6, C7 and C8	89
4.4 Structural Behaviour of Groups, II and III Columns	93
4.4.1 Failure Loads, Longitudinal and Transverse Strains for Groups II and III Specimens	93
4.4.2 Failure Modes of Groups, II and III Specimens	94
4.4.3 Load Lateral Deflection for Groups, II and III Columns	98
4.4.4 Deformed Shape at Various Load Levels for Groups II and III Column Specimens	101
4.4.5 Load Strain Behaviour of Groups II and III Column Specimens ...	105
4.5 Comparison between Column Specimens in terms of Load Strain Behaviour	108
4.5.1 Comparison between CFST System and Traditional Reinforced Concrete Columns	108
4.5.2 Effect of Filling Concrete Strength	110
4.5.3 Effect of Longitudinal Steel Reinforcement	112
4.5.4 Effect of Changing Steel Tube Thickness	114

4.5.5 Effect of Initial Load Eccentricity	115
4.6 Comparison between Columns Specimens in terms of Load Lateral Deflection Relations	118
4.6.1 Comparison between Columns Specimens in group I	118
4.6.2 Comparison between Column Specimens in groups II and III	120
 5. FINITE ELEMENT ANALYSIS	
5.1 General.....	122
5.2 Finite Element Method History	124
5.3 Solution Strategy	124
5.3.1 Solution of Nonlinear Equations.....	126
5.3.1.1 Nonlinear Solution Methods in ABAQUS.....	126
5.3.1.2 Increments, and Iterations.....	127
5.3.1.3 Convergence of the Linear System of Equations.....	128
5.3.2 The Riks Method.....	131
5.3.2.1 Overview.....	131
5.3.2.2 Unstable Response.....	132
5.3.2.3 Ending a Riks Analysis Step.....	133
5.3.2.4 Modified Riks Algorithm.....	134
5.4 FE Models.....	136
5.5 Modelling parameters.....	137
5.5.1 Elements Used.....	138
5.5.1.1 Solid Elements.....	138
5.5.1.2 Shell Elements.....	139
5.5.1.3 Truss Elements.....	140
5.5.2 Material Models.....	141
5.5.2.1 General.....	141
5.5.2.2 Concrete Material.....	142
5.5.2.2.1 Variable Confined Concrete Model.....	142
5.5.2.2.2 Concrete Smeared Cracking Model.....	144
5.5.2.2.3 Compressive Behavior.....	144
5.5.2.2.4 Tensile Behavior.....	146
5.5.2.2.5 Tension Stiffening and Post Cracking Behavior.....	147
5.5.2.3 Steel Tubes Materials.....	148
5.5.2.3.1 Plasticity in ductile metals.....	148
5.5.2.4 Interior Steel Reinforcement.....	151
5.5.3 Mesh Configuration.....	152
5.5.3.1 Concrete Part Mesh.....	152
5.5.3.2 Steel Tube Mesh.....	153
5.5.3.3 Reinforcement Mesh.....	155
5.5.4 Interactions.....	155

5.5.4.1 Contact between Concrete Core and Steel Tube.....	155
5.5.4.1.1 General.....	155
5.5.4.1.2 Contact Pair Interaction Property.....	157
5.5.4.2 Interaction between Concrete Core and Interior Steel Reinforcement.....	159
5.5.5 Loading Conditions.....	160
5.5.5.1 Loading Application.....	160
5.5.6 Boundary Conditions.....	162

6. FINITE ELEMENT RESULTS

6.1 Introduction.....	164
6.2 Group I Column Models.....	165
6.2.1 Failure Loads and Strains.....	165
6.2.2 Failure Modes	167
6.2.3 Deformational Behaviour.....	173
6.2.4 Load versus Strain	176
6.3 Groups II and III Column Models.....	181
6.3.1 Failure Loads and strains.....	181
6.3.2 Failure Modes.....	184
6.3.3 Deformational Behaviour.....	189
6.3.4 Load Strain Behaviour.....	194
6.4 Verification of Adopted Models.....	198
6.4.1 Failure Loads.....	198
6.4.2 Load versus Lateral Deflection	201
6.5 Sensitivity of Geometrical and Material Variables on Column Behaviour According to FE Results	206
6.5.1 Confinement Effect.....	206
6.5.2 Effect of Concrete Strength Variation.....	208
6.5.3 Interior Longitudinal Steel Reinforcement.....	209
6.5.4 Effect of Steel Tube Thickness Variation	210
6.5.5 Effect of Load Eccentricity.....	210

7. PARAMETRIC STUDY

7.1 Introduction.....	212
7.2 Strength Enhancement due to Confinement Effect.....	212
7.3 Slenderness Effects and Codes Application.....	234
7.3.1 Additional Models and Codes Comparison.....	234
7.3.2 Ratio between FE Results, EC4, and LRFD versus Column's Slenderness Ratio for Columns in Groups C and D.....	244

7.4	Code Provisions for Design Strength of CFT Columns.....	249
7.4.1	Load and Resistance Factor Design Specifications (LRFD) according to AISC code	249
7.4.2	Euro Code Provisions (EC4).....	252
7.5	Proposed Formulas for Calculation of ULS Capacity of Concentrically Loaded CFT Columns.....	255
7.6	Comparison between Proposed Formulas, Euro code 4 and FE Results	258
7.7	Strength Enhancement due to Confinement in Eccentric Sections.....	260
7.8	ULS Capacity using Interaction Diagrams	263
7.9	ULS Capacity using Interaction Equations	267
 8. CONCLUSIONS		
8.1	Summary.....	270
8.2	Conclusions.....	271
8.2.1	Columns Subjected to Concentric Compression Loading.....	271
8.2.2	Columns Subjected to Eccentric Compression Loading (Groups II and III).....	273
8.2.3	Extended Study Program.....	274
 9. REFERENCES		

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1: Effect of lateral confining pressure on the stress-strain response.....	2
Figure 1.2: High ductility for CFT system in high seismic zones compared to SRC columns.....	3
Figure 1.3: Longitudinal deformation under thermal loads for monolithic bridge.....	4
Figure 2.1: Wanxian Yangtze River Bridge Oblique View	9
Figure 2.2: Various types of composite columns [Mathias Johansson 2002]	13
Figure 2.3: Stress-strain relations for concrete of different strength Classes [Mathias Johansson 2002].....	16
Figure 2.4: Schematic stress-strain relation for a concrete cylinder in uniaxial compression [Mathias Johansson 2002]	18
Figure 2.5: Mechanism of failure [Carpinteri and Ingraffea 1984]	19
Figure 2.6: Idealization of the stress state around a single aggregate particle. [Vile 1968]	19
Figure 2.7: Schematic stress-strain relations for a concrete cylinder in triaxial compression Mathias Johansson [2002]	21
Figure 2.8: Force transfer between aggregates in concrete. Mathias Johansson [2002]	22
Figure 2.9: Effectively confined concrete for conventionally reinforced concrete columns and CFT columns [Mathias Johansson 2002]	24
Figure 2.10: General stress strain curve for confined and unconfined concrete (Mander et al.1988).....	31
Figure 2.11: Ratio test/EC4 vs. concrete cylinder strength for circular concrete filled tube columns (Dooglas Goode 2007).....	37
Figure 2.12: Ratio test/EC4 vs. slenderness ratio for short circular and rectangular concrete filled tube columns (Dooglas Goode 2007).....	37
Figure 2.13: Ratio test/EC4 vs. column slenderness ratio for circular long concrete filled tube columns (Dooglas Goode 2007).....	42
Figure 2.14: Various means of load application (Mathias Johansson and Kent Gylltoft 2001)	43
Figure 2.15: Test setup and load arrangement for tested columns (Mathias Johansson and Kent Gylltoft 2001)	44
Figure 2.16: Distribution of the axial force between the concrete section and the steel section versus deflection	46

Figure 3.1: Tension coupons geometry in accordance with the Egyptian Specifications	57
Figure 3.2: Casting and compacting concrete cubes	58
Figure 3.3: Interior steel reinforcement cages	58
Figure 3.4: Wooden shuttering of the specimens	59
Figure 3.5: Reinforcement cages are placed inside the tubes	59
Figure 3.6: Casting fresh concrete in tubes	60
Figure 3.7: Compacting of fresh concrete in tubes	60
Figure 3.8: Hammering on the tubes during casting the Specimens	60
Figure 3.9: Details of specimens C1 and C2 tested in group I	61
Figure 3.10: Details of specimens C3 and C4 tested in group I	62
Figure 3.11: Details of specimens C5 and C6 tested in group I	63
Figure 3.12: Details of specimens C7 and C8 tested in group I	64
Figure 3.13: Details of specimens C9, C10, C11 and C12 tested in group II	65
Figure 3.14: Details of specimens C13, C14, C15 and C16 tested in group III	66
Figure 3.15: Test setup, details of bottom steel base (fixation), upper steel cap (hinge) and positions of longitudinal and transverse steel gauges	67
Figure 3.16: Bottom steel base (fixation)	68
Figure 3.17: Upper steel cap	68
Figure 3.18: Upper steel cap (hinge) modification for group II and III specimens	68
Figure 4.1: (a) Deflection of a loaded slender column, (b) Primary bending moment due to initial load eccentricity, (c) Secondary bending moment due to column lateral deflection and (d) loading lines for columns of different slenderness	70
Figure 4.2: Failure mode of concrete columns, C1 and C2	75
Figure 4.3: Signs of concrete crushing and buckling of Steel bars on the compression face of the column	75
Figure 4.4: Failure mode of the hollow steel tube column specimen C3. (tube yielding and large lateral deflection) Signs of tube buckling inwards together with local buckling appear obviously	76
Figure 4.5: Failure modes for concrete filled steel tube columns C4, C5 and C6 tested in group I. (Compression yielding of steel tube and large lateral deflection of column)	79
Figure 4.6: Signs of steel tube local buckling at compression side in Columns C4 and C5 observed in the post peak stage	79