

ANALYTICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE TENSILE EXPERIMENTS TO PRISMS WITH VARYING LONGITUDINAL RATIO FOR STUDYING THE LATERAL BUCKLING OF R/C WALLS

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Abstract

In the context of the present work, the influence of the longitudinal reinforcement ratio on the phenomenon of lateral buckling of reinforced concrete walls is examined. The present investigation is basically analytical but it contains experimental results of 6 test specimens published from the first author already. These specimens simulate only the extreme boundary edges of structural walls to study the basic mechanism of the transverse instability phenomenon. The elongation degree used for all six specimens is equal to 30%. The geometric dimensions are the same for all specimens. What differentiates the specimens from each other is the longitudinal reinforcement ratio. More specifically, the longitudinal reinforcement ratios used are 1.79%, 2.68%, 3.18%, 3.68%, 4.02% and 4.19%. The loading stages for all specimens are as follows: (a) Uniaxial central tensile loading on each test specimen, (b) Uniaxial central compression loading on each specimen till its failure due to buckling. The present study focuses on the tensile loading stage only. Extreme tensile strain of 30‰ is used to take into account the cases of extreme seismic excitations. First, the experimental results from an already accepted publication are presented and afterwards they are followed by the numerical investigation of these 6 specimens using appropriate finite element software. Useful conclusions are drawn regarding the precision of the experimental tests investigating the influence of the longitudinal reinforcement ratio on the phenomenon of transverse buckling. These conclusions are substantiated both experimentally and analytically, as the results of the tensile experiments are compared with the corresponding results of the analytical investigation.

Keywords: Longitudinal reinforcement ratio, Lateral buckling, Seismic walls, Tensile load

1 INTRODUCTION

Engineers worldwide have been troubled for the structural behavior and soil-structure interaction for various types of structures [1]–[10]. Structural walls play an important role in the structures' behavior and safety against horizontal loads and especially against earthquake cyclic loading [11], [12]. It is well-known that the vast part of seismic loading is resisted by seismic walls in reinforced concrete structures [13]–[26]. One critical mode of failure which can appear during earthquake cyclic loading is the lateral buckling of R/C shear walls [27]–[36]. It has been observed that such type of failure is so critical that can lead to partial or total collapses of multi-storey reinforced concrete buildings [37]. This phenomenon can appear when the boundary edges of seismic walls have sustained a large size of tensile loading during the first semi-cycle of seismic loading and then are subjected to a compressive loading during the second semi-cycle of earthquake loading [38]–[41]. Transverse buckling appears when the cracks formed during the first stage of tensile loading have such a large width that makes it impossible to be closed during the second stage of compressive loading [42]–[50].

The present study uses experimental tests performed already by the first author trying to investigate the mechanical parameters affecting the transverse instability [51]. These specimens were all subjected to tensile strain equal to 30‰ but they had a different longitudinal reinforcement ratio. In the framework of the present work, the six specimens subjected to tensile loading are modelled using finite element software and the results of this analytical investigation are compared to the existing experimental results concerning the tensile loading stage. It is noted that the experiments have taken place in the Laboratory of Strength of Materials of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the analysis of the results has taken place in Demokritos University of Thrace.

2 EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH

2.1 Test specimen characteristics

The experimental investigation for the six test specimens has been described in detail by the first author already [51]. Figure 1a shows the geometrical characteristics of one of the six test specimens and more specifically the test specimen detailed with longitudinal reinforcement of 4 bars of 8 mm diameter and 2 bars of 10 mm diameter. Figure 1b displays the load test setup used for the application of the tensile loading. It is noted the fact that the tensile loading is the first stage of the two loading stages. In the framework of the present study, only the experimental results of the tensile loading stage are compared to the analytical ones. Table 1 shows the test specimens' characteristics.

N/A	Specimen	Dimensions (cm)	Longitudinal reinforcement	Transverse reinforcement	Longitudinal reinforcement ratio (%)	Elongation degree (‰)
1	S-1.79-4Ø8	15x7.5x76	4xD8	D4.2@33 mm	1.79	30.00
2	S-2.68-6Ø8	15x7.5x76	6xD8	D4.2@33 mm	2.68	30.00
3	S-3.19-4Ø8+2Ø10	15x7.5x76	4xD8+2xD10	D4.2@33 mm	3.18	30.00
4	S-3.68-4Ø10+2Ø8	15x7.5x76	4xD10+2xD8	D4.2@33 mm	3.68	30.00
5	S-4.02-4Ø12	15x7.5x76	4xD12	D4.2@33 mm	4.02	30.00
6	S-4.19-6Ø10	15x7.5x76	6xD10	D4.2@33 mm	4.19	30.00

Table 1: Dimensions of the test specimens.

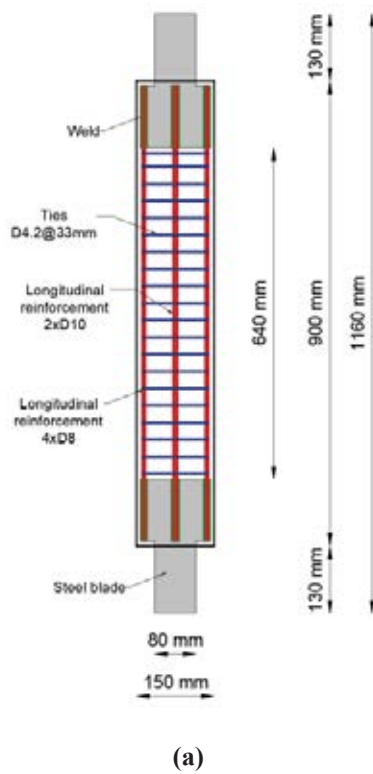


Figure 1: (a) Vertical reinforcement layout (Reinforcement differs for each specimen. Example shows a typical longitudinal reinforcement 4xD8+2xD10.), (b) Test setup for tensile loading.

2.2 Materials

Materials used and their characteristics were also described by the first author already [28]. Table 2 displays the concrete mechanical properties and Table 3 the steel characteristics.

N/A	Specimen	Concrete cube resistance (28 days) (MPa)	Concrete cube resistance (Compression test day) (MPa)	Concrete cylinder resistance (Compression test day) (MPa)
1	S-1.79-4Ø8	23.33	25.56	20.56
2	S-2.68-6Ø8	22.22	27.55	22.55
3	S-3.19-4Ø8+2Ø10	22.82	25.78	20.78
4	S-3.68-4Ø10+2Ø8	22.82	25.78	20.78
5	S-4.02-4Ø12	23.26	27.85	22.85
6	S-4.19-6Ø10	23.26	27.85	22.85

Table 2: Concrete mechanical properties.

Reinforcement	Yield strength (MPa)	Ultimate strength (MPa)
D8 (Longitudinal reinforcement)	603.77	743.10
D10 (Longitudinal reinforcement)	552.02	670.91
D12 (Longitudinal reinforcement)	560.27	666.43
D4.2 (Transverse ties)	552.02	670.91

Table 3: Reinforcement mechanical properties.

2.3 Experimental results

Each one of the six test specimens has been subjected to the same degree of elongation according to Table 1 and the results have been published by the first author already [51]. Figure 2 displays the shape of test specimens after the uniaxial tensile test has taken place. It is obvious that several cracks of different width have formed after the tensile loading according to the longitudinal reinforcement ratio that each specimen has.

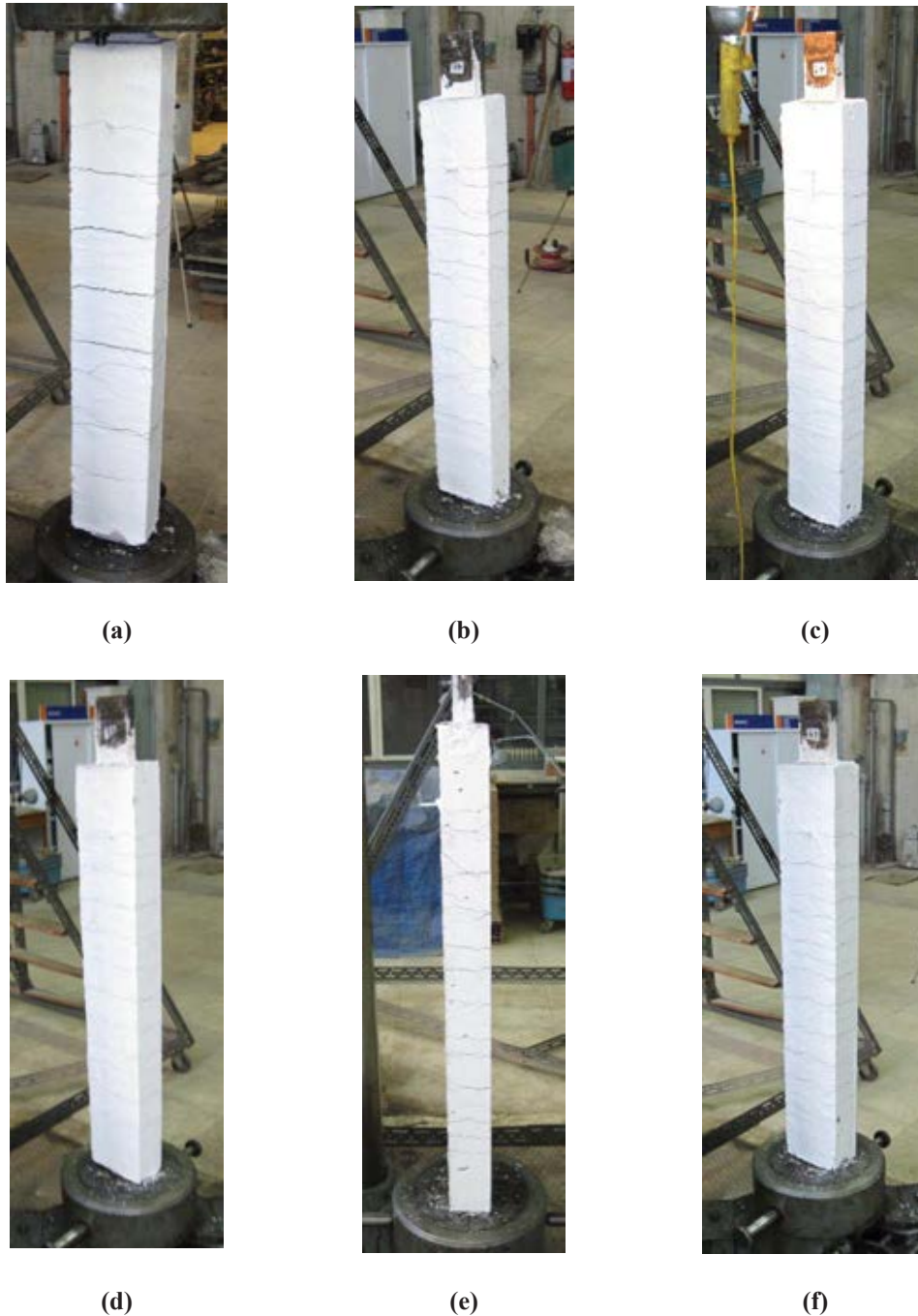


Figure 2: State of specimens after the end of the tensile experiment: (a) S-1.79-4Ø8, (b) S-2.68-6Ø8, (c) S-3.19-4Ø8+2Ø10, (d) S-3.68-4Ø10+2Ø8, (e) S-4.02-4Ø12, (f) S-4.19-6Ø10

3 ANALYTICAL RESEARCH

3.1 Modeling of test specimens

The analytical research has taken place using 3D elements to model specimens subjected only to tensile loading. Inelastic models are used both for concrete and steel. Figure 3 shows the 3D model both for the whole column section and its corresponding reinforcement steel.

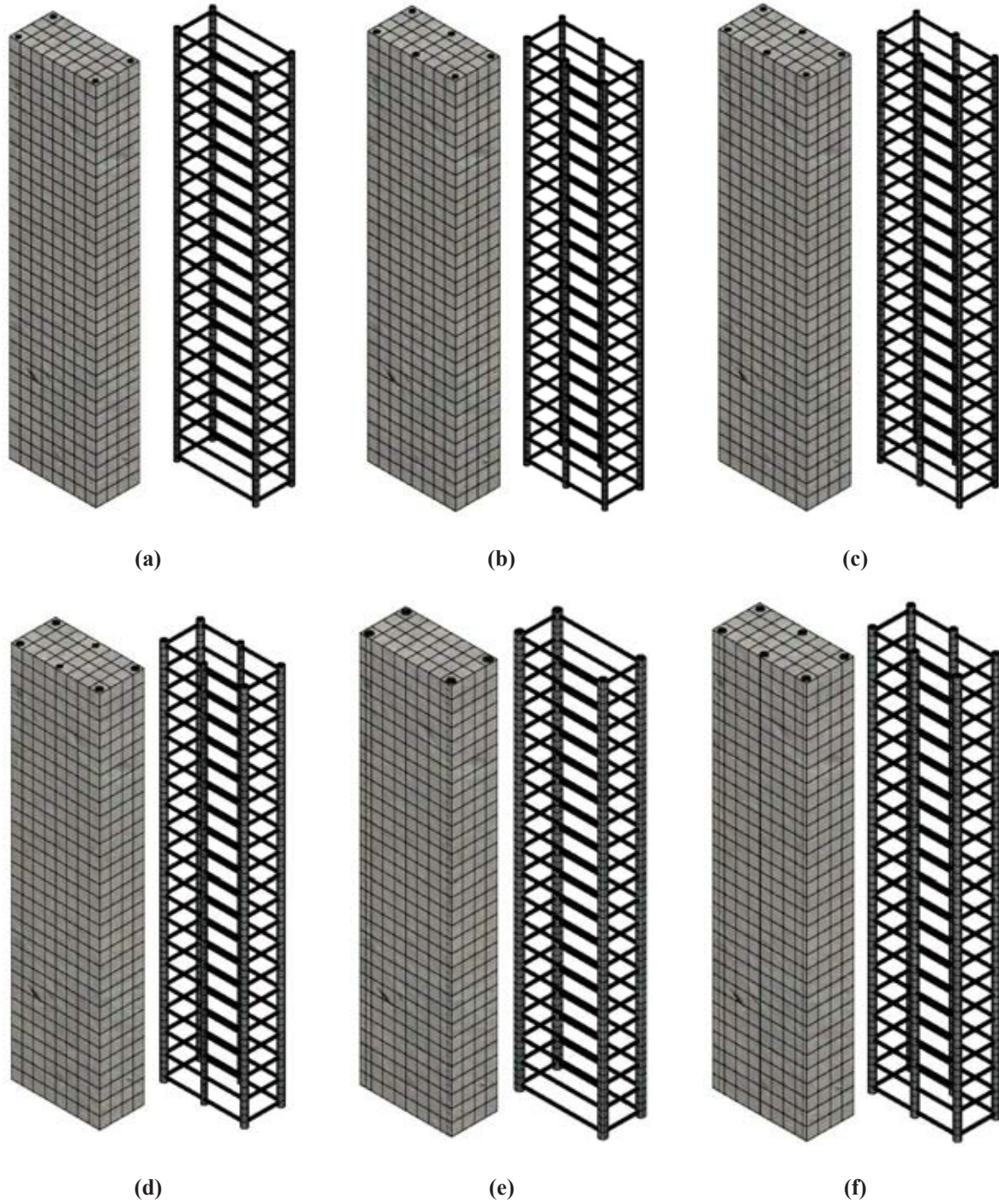


Figure 3: 3D model for column and reinforcement for: (a) S-1.79-4Ø8, (b) S-2.68-6Ø8, (c) S-3.19-4Ø8+2Ø10, (d) S-3.68-4Ø10+2Ø8, (e) S-4.02-4Ø12, (f) S-4.19-6Ø10

3.2 Analytical results

Figure 4 displays the displacement along the column height after the end of the tensile loading test for all six test specimens. The displacement is zero at the fixed column base.

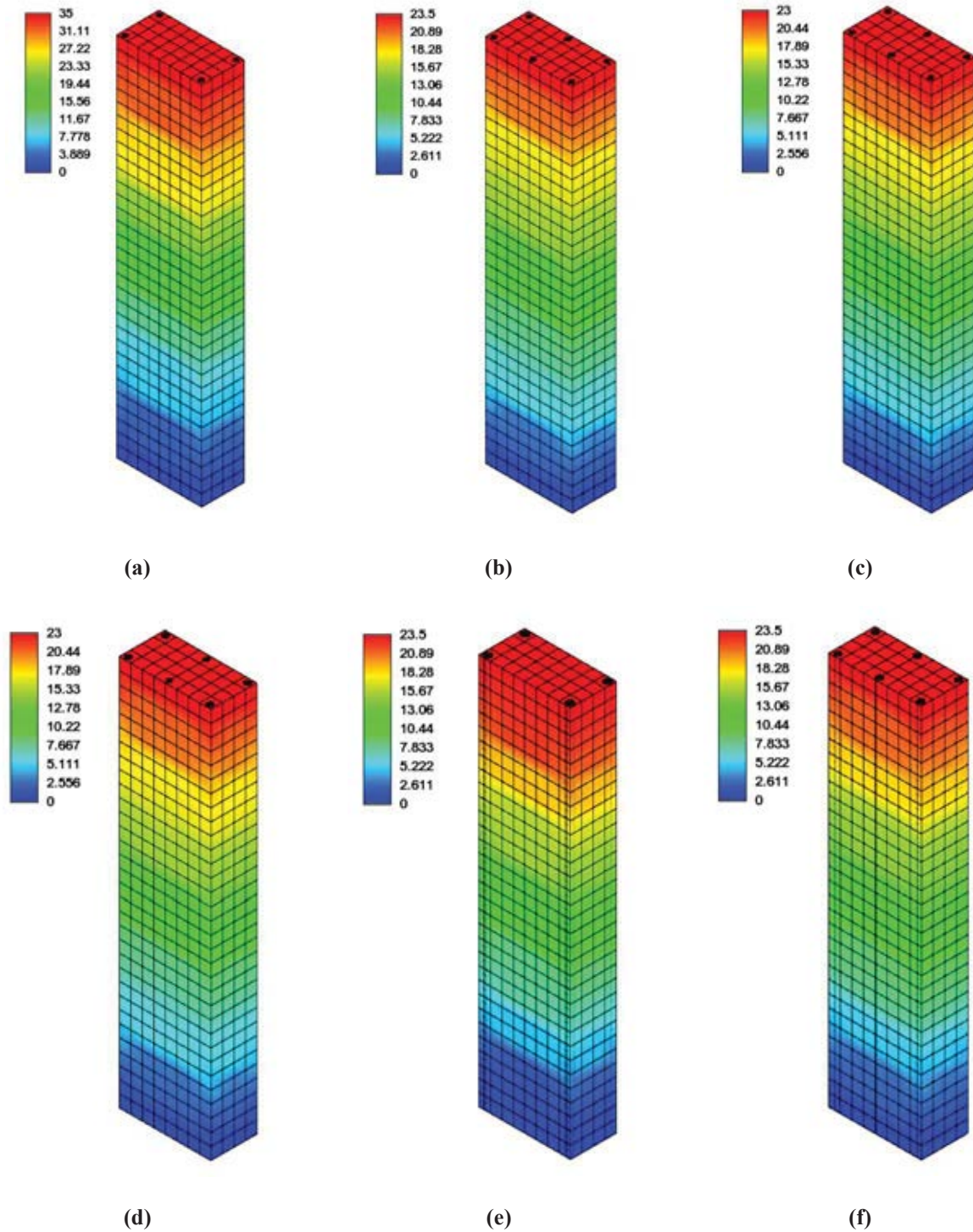


Figure 4: Displacement along the column axis at the end of the tensile test (mm): (a) S-1.79-4Ø8, (b) S-2.68-6Ø8, (c) S-3.19-4Ø8+2Ø10, (d) S-3.68-4Ø10+2Ø8, (e) S-4.02-4Ø12, (f) S-4.19-6Ø10

4 ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

4.1 Analytical versus experimental results

Figures 5-10 show the comparison between the experimental and the analytical diagrams of load versus elongation for specimens modeling the boundary edges of R/C walls.

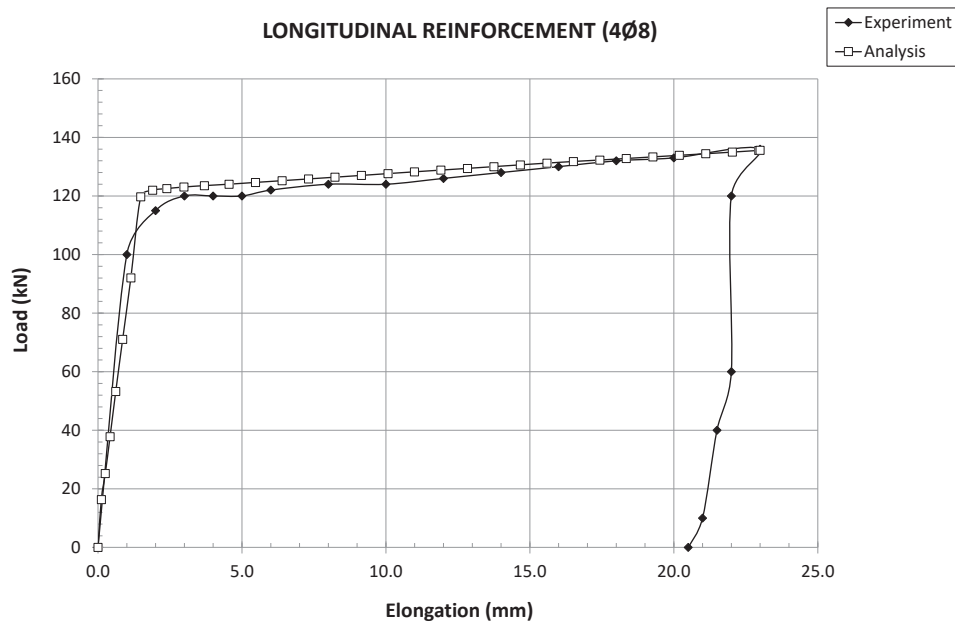


Figure 5: Load versus elongation diagram for specimen S-1.79-4Ø8.

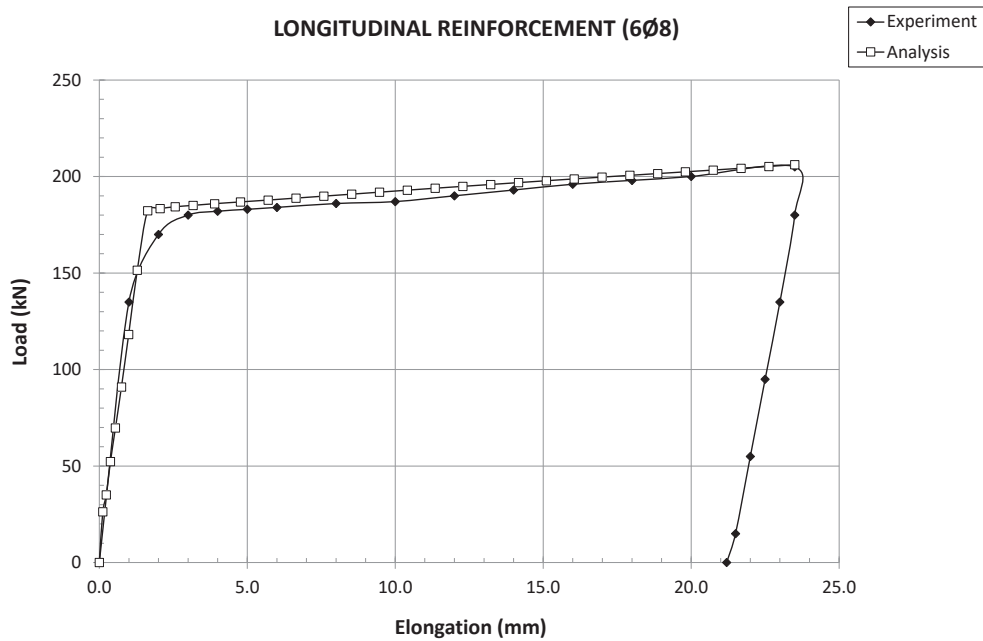


Figure 6: Load versus elongation diagram for specimen S-2.68-6Ø8.

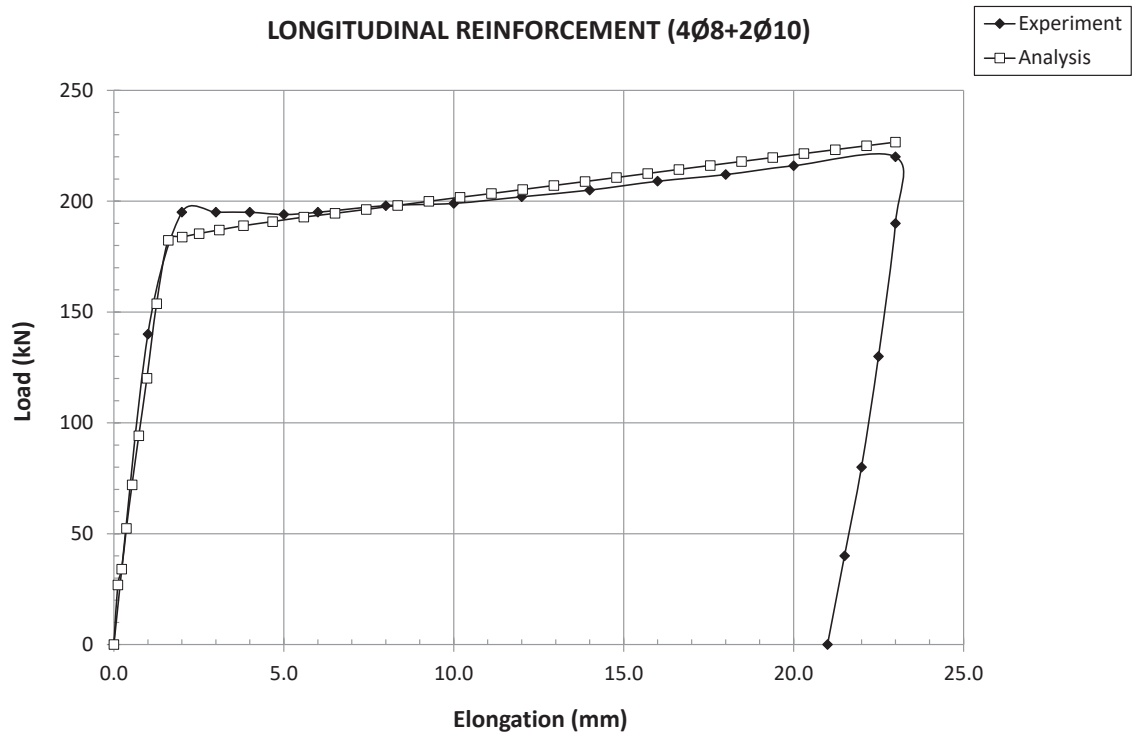


Figure 7: Load versus elongation diagram for specimen S-3.19-4Ø8+2Ø10.

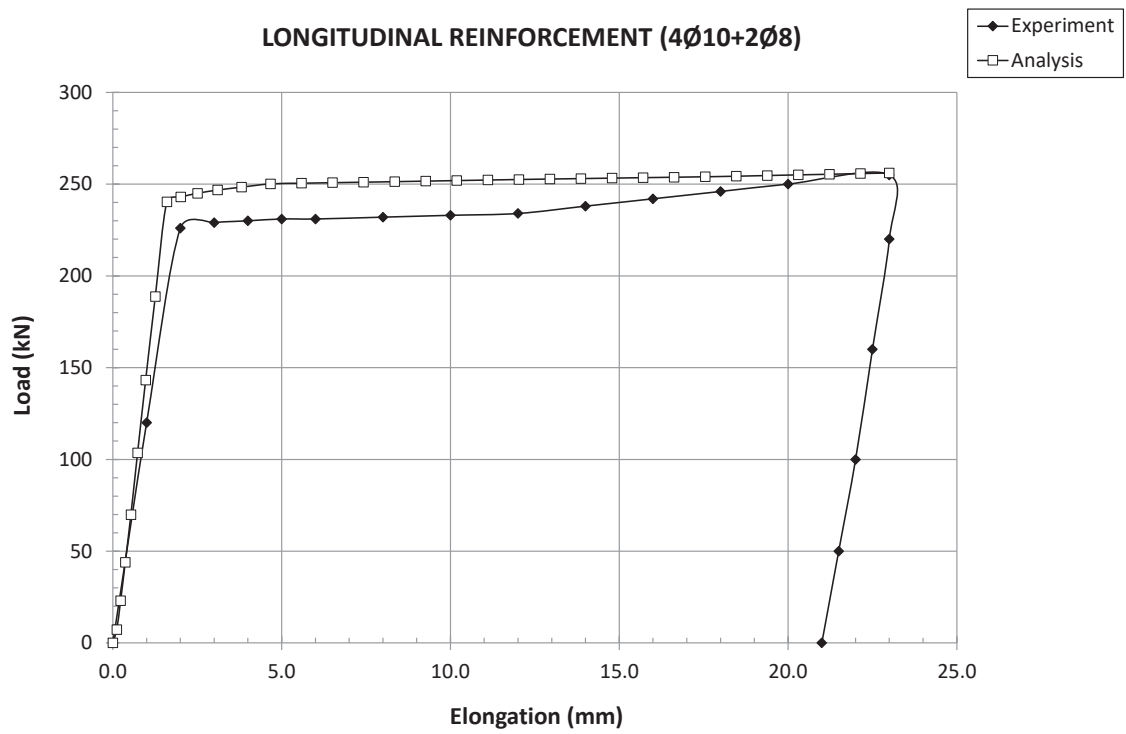
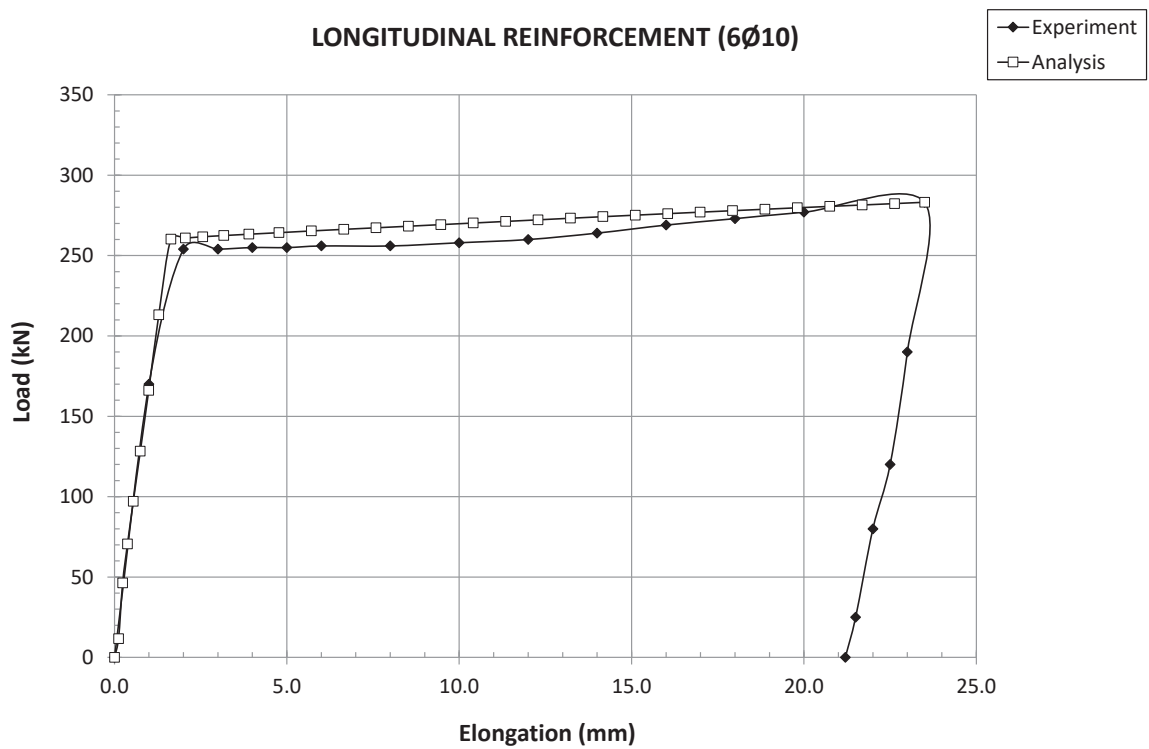
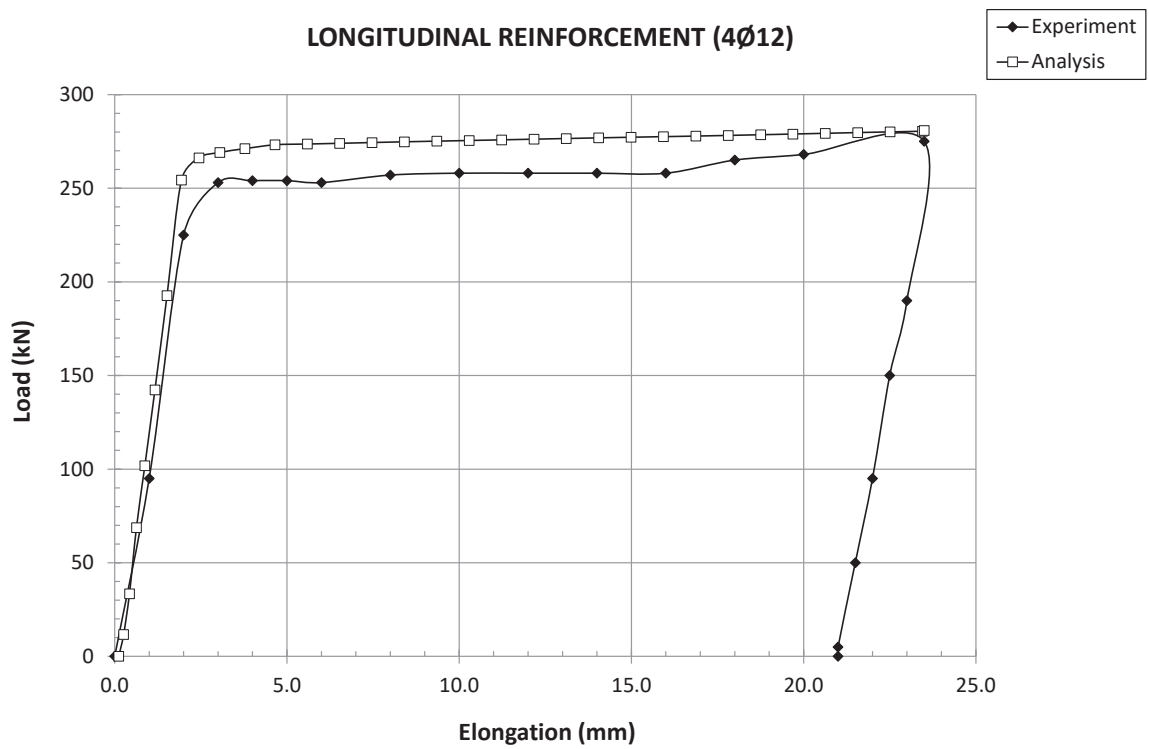


Figure 8: Load versus elongation diagram for specimen S-3.68-4Ø10+2Ø8.



4.2 Analysis of results

The analysis of the previous results leads to the following:

1. Figure 4 shows that the vertical displacement is zero at the base of the prisms since the base is rigid. The maximum vertical displacement is found towards the upper part of the specimens where the tensile load is applied. The same phenomenon at the tensile experiments, too.
2. It is obvious that there is a very good correlation between the experimental and the analytical results for all test specimens (Figures 5-10). This very good correlation can be noticed both for the elastic and the plastic branch, as well as for the point of yield.
3. The 640 mm effective length of the test specimens is the one which has been modelled only since this is the length in which the tensile elongation appears (Figure 1).

5 CONCLUSIONS

The conclusions resulted from the tensile experiments and the relevant analytical procedures concerning the behavior of the extreme edges of R/C walls are:

1. There is a very good correlation between the experimental results and the analytical results concerning the tensile loading. This very good correlation has to do with the elastic branch, the yielding point and the plastic branch for all six specimens.
2. The longitudinal reinforcement ratio is a significant mechanical parameter that affects the behavior of the extreme edges of seismic walls and its investigation has to be applied in the proper and right way following a correct procedure. The good convergence between the experimental and the numerical results proves that the procedure applied, probably, follows the correct methodology.
3. A future research could and should model the whole test specimen and not only the effective length in order to simulate even more precisely the experimental behavior.

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