



This is a repository copy of *Strut-and-Tie Modeling of Reinforced Concrete Deep Beams*.

White Rose Research Online URL for this paper:
<http://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/132401/>

Version: Accepted Version

Article:

Ismail, K.S., Guadagnini, M. orcid.org/0000-0003-2551-2187 and Pilakoutas, K. orcid.org/0000-0001-6672-7665 (2018) *Strut-and-Tie Modeling of Reinforced Concrete Deep Beams*. *Journal of Structural Engineering*, 144 (2). ISSN 0733-9445

[https://doi.org/10.1061/\(ASCE\)ST.1943-541X.0001974](https://doi.org/10.1061/(ASCE)ST.1943-541X.0001974)

Reuse

Items deposited in White Rose Research Online are protected by copyright, with all rights reserved unless indicated otherwise. They may be downloaded and/or printed for private study, or other acts as permitted by national copyright laws. The publisher or other rights holders may allow further reproduction and re-use of the full text version. This is indicated by the licence information on the White Rose Research Online record for the item.

Takedown

If you consider content in White Rose Research Online to be in breach of UK law, please notify us by emailing eprints@whiterose.ac.uk including the URL of the record and the reason for the withdrawal request.



eprints@whiterose.ac.uk
<https://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/>

1 **Strut-and-Tie Modelling of RC Deep Beams**

2 Kamaran S. Ismail ¹, Maurizio Guadagnini ², Kypros Pilakoutas ³

3 ¹ Lecturer, Department of Civil Engineering, Salahaddin University-Erbil, Kirkuk Road,
4 Erbil, Iraq E-mail address: ksismail1@sheffield.ac.uk, ksi312ismail@gmail.com

5 ² Senior Lecturer, Department of Civil and Structural Engineering, The University of
6 Sheffield, Sir Frederick Mappin Building, Mappin Street, Sheffield S1 3JD, UK

7 ³ Professor of Construction Innovation and Director of the Centre for Cement and Concrete,
8 Department of Civil and Structural Engineering, The University of Sheffield, Sir Frederick
9 Mappin Building, Mappin Street, Sheffield S1 3JD, UK

10 **ABSTRACT**

11 Strut-and-tie models are often used for the design of shear critical deep members since they
12 can rationalise the shear transfer within discontinuous or disturbed regions in RC structural
13 elements. Most current codes of practice adopt the strut-and-tie method but provide very little
14 guidance on how to select appropriate strut-and-tie layout and dimensions. Furthermore, the
15 effectiveness factors used to account for the biaxial state of stresses in struts of deep beams
16 are not reliable. This paper reviews the application of strut-and-tie models for the design of
17 RC deep beams and evaluates current formulations of the effectiveness factor. Experimental
18 and numerical studies are used to assess how the effectiveness factor is influenced by
19 different parameters including concrete compressive strength, shear span to depth ratio and
20 shear reinforcement ratio and to arrive at a more reliable strain based effectiveness factor.
21 Various effectiveness factors are examined against an extensive database of experimental
22 results on RC deep beams with and without shear reinforcement. The results show that the
23 proposed effectiveness factor yields the most reliable and accurate predictions and can lead to
24 more economic and safe design guidelines.

25 INTRODUCTION

26 RC deep beams where behaviour is predominantly controlled by shear are used in a wide
27 range of structures, such as transfer girders in tall buildings and bridges. It is crucial to
28 predict their capacity accurately as the safety of the entire structure relies on their
29 performance. However, the shear behaviour of RC members is a complex phenomenon,
30 which is influenced by a large number of parameters (Tan and Lu 1999, Collins et al. 2008).
31 This complexity is more pronounced in deep beams as the applied load is transferred mainly
32 through the formation of arching action which causes a highly nonlinear strain distribution in
33 the cross section.

34 Most codes of practice rely on empirical or semi-empirical equations for design; however,
35 these equations are limited by the extent of the experimental results used for their calibration.
36 Although designing RC deep beams based on these empirical approaches is generally very
37 conservative, they can also lead to very unsafe results (Collins et al. 2008). Collins et al.
38 (2008) examined the accuracy of the shear approaches available in codes of practice such as
39 EC2 and ACI, against an extensive database of RC beams, it was found that shear strength
40 prediction of vast number of the beams are unconservative. There are also unsafe results even
41 after application of the safety factors (Collins et al. 2008). Approaches based on finite
42 element analysis can account for the nonlinearities that describe the behaviour of this type of
43 members, and can lead to good results if an accurate concrete material model is used;
44 however, their implementation is not always practical for design purposes. Thus, design
45 approaches based on the implementation of strut-and-tie mechanistic models have been
46 adopted by modern design codes such as EC2, ACI 318-14 and Model Code 2010 since they
47 appear more rational and relatively simple to apply.

48 The use of strut-and-tie models (STM) dates back to the pioneering work of Wilhelm Ritter
49 (1899) who tried to explain the contribution of shear reinforcement to the shear strength of
50 beams. Ritter's truss mechanism was later modified by Morsch Morsch (1902) to better
51 represent the shear behaviour of RC beams. The design of RC members by STM relies on the
52 lower bound theory of plasticity and assumes that both concrete and steel are perfectly plastic
53 materials. As this is not true, there is a need to implement modification factors to adjust both
54 dimension and strength of the strut elements. However, existing guidelines do not provide
55 sufficient information on the effect of all important parameters or the size and strength of the
56 strut elements (Park and Kuchma 2007). This paper aims to develop a unified procedure for
57 using the STM for the design of RC deep beams and predict accurately the size and strength
58 of each element.

59 **STRUT-AND-TIE MODEL**

60 Strut-and-tie models attempt to represent the stress field that develops in the D-regions of
61 concrete elements by approximating the flow of internal compression and tension stresses by
62 means of struts and ties, respectively. The selection of an adequate strut-and-tie model is
63 necessary to capture the strength of RC deep beams with acceptable accuracy. It is commonly
64 accepted that the strut-and-tie mechanism is the basic load transfer mechanism in RC deep
65 beams (Tuchscherer et al. 2014); however, in some cases the truss action mechanism is also
66 thought to contribute to the transfer of the applied load (Bakir and Boduroğlu 2005, Brena
67 and Roy 2009). The type of load transfer mechanism that develops in RC deep beams is
68 mainly controlled by the shear span to depth ratio (a/d) and amount of shear reinforcement.
69 For beams with a/d less than 1.0, the applied load is transferred to the support through the
70 formation of one concrete strut regardless of the amount of shear reinforcement. The adoption
71 of the STM (Figure 1-a) is therefore suitable for the design and analysis of such elements.

72 Beams with a/d between 1.0 and 2.0 and with shear reinforcement, can develop a
 73 combination of both tied-arch and truss action mechanism (Brena and Roy 2009). However,
 74 estimating the percentage of load transferred by each of these mechanisms is quite
 75 challenging as this varies based on a/d and amount and spacing of shear reinforcement (Brena
 76 and Roy 2009). For the sake of simplicity, the adoption of a model based on the development
 77 of either a single strut-and-tie (Figure 1-a) or a truss (Figure 1-b) is generally adopted. The
 78 ability of these models to capture the real structural behaviour of RC deep beams is assessed
 79 in this paper with the aim of developing enhanced design equations.

80 The current codes of practice do not provide adequate guidance on selecting the size of the
 81 elements in the STM. ACI 318-14 provides Eq. 1 and 2 for estimating the width of the
 82 inclined strut at the top (W_{ST}) and bottom nodes (W_{SB}) (Figure 1-a), respectively. However,
 83 there is no guidance on how to estimate the independent parameters (h_{CS} , h_{Tie} and θ) in these
 84 equations. Therefore designers are free to choose the size of the elements in the model;
 85 however, this could lead to unsafe or over conservative design solutions (Brown and Bayrak
 86 2008, Collins et al. 2008, Sagaseta and Vollum 2010).

$$87 \quad W_{ST} = l_{PT} \sin \theta + h_{CS} \cos \theta \quad (1)$$

$$88 \quad W_{SB} = l_{PB} \sin \theta + h_{Tie} \cos \theta \quad (2)$$

89 In the current research programme the width of the strut in the top compression zone (h_{cs}) is
 90 assumed to be equal to the depth of neutral axis as determined by section analysis (Eq. 3)
 91 (Park and Kuchma 2007).

$$92 \quad h_{CS} = \left(\sqrt{(n\rho)^2 + n\rho} - n\rho \right) d \quad (3)$$

93 where l_{PT} and l_{PB} are the width of the loading and support plates, and θ is the angle of the
94 strut with respect to the horizontal axis of the beam (Eq. 4).

$$95 \quad \theta = \tan^{-1} \frac{d - h_{CS}/2}{a} \quad (4)$$

96 where d is the effective depth and a is the shear span of the beam.

97 The height of the bottom node (h_{Tie}) is taken as twice the distance from the centre of the main
98 longitudinal reinforcement to the outer tensile face of the beam as shown in (Figure 1-c). The
99 width of the strut at the top (W_{ST}) and bottom (W_{SB}) nodes can be determined by the ACI 318-
100 14 Eq.s 1 and 2 respectively.

101 In the case of the truss model shown in Figure 1-b, the width of the strut in compression (h_{cs})
102 and the height of the bottom node (h_{Tie}) remain the same for both diagonals. The intersections
103 of strut, ties and applied loads or support reactions are termed nodes and their capacity is
104 critical when assessing a given STM.

105 **CONCRETE EFFECTIVENESS FACTOR**

106 **Node Strength Factor**

107 Nodes are generally named according to the type of interconnected members, i.e. C-C-C
108 (Compression-Compression-Compression), C-C-T (Compression-Compression-Tension) and
109 C-T-T (Compression- Tension -Tension), and their strength is a function of the state of stress
110 they are subjected to. C-C-C nodes are located in well confined regions and their strength can
111 generally exceed the uniaxial strength of concrete, but the latter can be conservatively used
112 for design. In this paper, with the exception of EC2, ACI 318-14 and Model Code 2010,
113 which they provide strength factors for the C-C-C nodes, to assess other strut effectiveness
114 factors available in the literature the uniaxial concrete strength is adopted.

115 Owing to the existence of tension forces in C-C-T and C-T-T nodes the maximum stress that
 116 can be developed in such nodes is generally lower than the uniaxial concrete strength and
 117 reduction factors are used to take this into account. Based on the test results of isolated C-C-T
 118 and C-T-T nodes, Jirsa et al. (1991) concluded that by using 80% of the uniaxial concrete
 119 compressive strength, the prediction of the nodal zone strength is conservative. Unless it is
 120 provided, a reduction factor of 0.8 is used to determine the strength of all C-C-T and C-T-T
 121 nodes in the assessment of STM with different strut effectiveness factor.

122 **Effectiveness Factor for Inclined Strut**

123 The presence of a transverse tensile field within the shear span weakens the resistance of the
 124 concrete struts. This is taken into account through the use of a concrete effectiveness factor
 125 (v). In 1985, Marti (1985) proposed the use of a simple reduction coefficient ($v=0.6$) as
 126 effectiveness factor, whilst Collins and Mitchell (1986) proposed Eq. 5 for their modified
 127 compression field theory (Vecchio and Collins 1986).

$$128 \quad v = \frac{1}{0.8 + 170\varepsilon_1} \quad (5)$$

$$129 \quad \varepsilon_1 = \varepsilon_s + (\varepsilon_s + 0.002) / \tan^2 \theta \quad (5a)$$

130 where ε_1 is the principal tensile strain, ε_s is the longitudinal tensile strain at mid-depth of the
 131 beam, which can be estimated assuming that plane sections remain plane (Collins et al.
 132 2008).

133 In 1993, Vecchio and Collins (1993) proposed a refined equation for the concrete
 134 effectiveness factor as shown in Eq. 6.

$$135 \quad v = \frac{1}{1.0 + K_c K_f} \quad (6)$$

136
$$K_c = 0.35 \left(\frac{-\varepsilon_1}{\varepsilon_2} - 0.28 \right)^{0.8} \geq 1.0 \quad (6a)$$

137
$$K_f = 0.1825 \sqrt{f_c} \geq 1.0 \quad (6b)$$

138 where ε_1 and ε_2 are the principal tensile and compressive strain, respectively, and f_c is the
139 concrete compressive strength.

140 Foster and Gilbert (1996) argued that concrete compressive strength and shear span to depth
141 ratio (a/d) influence the effectiveness of concrete cracked in tension and modified Collins and
142 Mitchell's equation (Eq. 5) to integrate the effect of these two parameters. This modified
143 equation (Eq. 7) was calibrated against a database of beams with concrete compressive
144 strength ranging from 20 to 100MPa.

145
$$v = \frac{1}{1.14 + (0.64 + f_c / 470)(a/d)^2} \quad (7)$$

146 Based on a series of nonlinear finite element analyses, Warwick and Foster (1993) proposed
147 the following concrete effectiveness factor (Eq. 8) for concrete compressive strength ranging
148 from 20 to 100MPa

149
$$v = 1.25 - \frac{f_c}{500} - 0.72 \left(\frac{a}{d} \right) + 0.18 \left(\frac{a}{d} \right)^2 \leq 1.0 \quad (8)$$

150 EC2 provides Eq. 9 to calculate the effective concrete strength of the inclined concrete strut

151
$$f_{ce} = 0.6v' f_{cd} \quad (9)$$

152 where v' can be calculated according to Eq. 9a and f_{cd} is the design concrete compressive
153 strength.

154
$$v' = 1 - \frac{f_{ck}}{250} \quad (9a)$$

155 According to ACI 318-14, the effective concrete strength (f_{ce}) can be calculated using Eq. 10

156
$$f_{ce} = 0.85\beta_s f'_c \quad (10)$$

157 where β_s is 0.75 for strut with shear reinforcement satisfying Eq. 10a, else β_s is taken as 0.6.

158
$$\sum \frac{A_{si}}{b_s s_i} \sin \alpha_i \geq 0.003 \quad (10a)$$

159 where A_{si} is the area of the reinforcement at spacing s_i in the i -th layer of reinforcement
 160 crossing a strut at an angle α_i to the axis of the strut.

161 Model Code 2010 use Eq. 11.

162
$$f_{ce} = k_c f_{cd} \quad (11)$$

163
$$k_c = 0.55 \left(\frac{30}{f_{ck}} \right)^{1/3} \leq 0.55 \quad (11a)$$

164 The above effectiveness factor models are assessed in this paper through a parametric
 165 investigation to gain additional insight on the role of each of the considered parameters and
 166 inform the development of a more accurate model.

167 **ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS**

168 An extensive database of 519 RC deep beam specimens (Clark 1951, Moody et al. 1954,
 169 Moody et al. 1955, Morrow and Viest 1957, Chang and Kesler 1958, Watstein and Mathey
 170 1958, Rodriguez et al. 1959, de Cossio and Siess 1960, Mathey and Watstein 1963,
 171 Leonhardt and Walther 1964, de Paiva and Siess 1965, Krefeld and Thurston 1966, Kani

172 1967, Ramakrishnan and Ananthanarayana 1968, Kong et al. 1970, Manuel et al. 1971,
173 Manuel 1974, Niwa et al. 1981, Smith and Vantsiotis 1982, Mphonde and Frantz 1984,
174 Rogowsky et al. 1986, Subedi et al. 1986, Ahmad and Lue 1987, Lehwalter 1988, Walraven
175 and Lehwalter 1994, Xie et al. 1994, Tan et al. 1995, Tan et al. 1997, Foster and Gilbert
176 1998, Kong and Rangan 1998, Shin et al. 1999, Tan and Lu 1999, Adebar 2000, Pendyala
177 and Mendis 2000, Oh and Shin 2001, Lertsrisakulrat et al. 2002, Yang et al. 2003, Tan et al.
178 2005, Seliem et al. 2006, Zhang and Tan 2007, Tan et al. 2008) (Table 1) was used to
179 evaluate the performance of the STM, and examine the effectiveness of existing approaches
180 in determining the concrete effectiveness factors.

181 **Suitability of models**

182 As discussed earlier a combination of arch and truss action can develop in beams with shear
183 reinforcement and shear span to depth ratio between 1.0 and 2.0. The specimens within the
184 database that satisfy these conditions (136 RC deep beams) were used to assess the accuracy
185 of the STM (Figure 1a) and Truss Model (TM) (Figure 1b) in predicting shear strength. The
186 strut effectiveness factor was taken as equal to one at this stage of the comparative study. The
187 results (Figure 2) show that the TM yields very conservative results in almost all of the
188 analyzed cases. In addition, the highly scattered results obtained from the implementation of
189 a TM suggest that such an approach cannot be used for the design of RC deep beams. Figure
190 2 shows that using the STM generally leads to more consistent and accurate results and is
191 more suitable for the design of RC deep beams with and without shear reinforcement. This
192 agrees with the findings of other researchers (Kani 1979, Tuchscherer et al. 2011). However,
193 the result of STM can be further improved if an appropriate effectiveness factor is adopted.
194 Therefore, STM (Figure 1a) will be used for the purpose of evaluating of the existing
195 effectiveness factors and proposing new effectiveness and node factors.

196 **Evaluation of existing effectiveness factors**

197 The eight different formulations for effectiveness factors presented in the previous section
198 earlier are assessed in the following. The results are shown in Figure 3 and Figure 4; and the
199 statistical analyses are summarized in Figure 5 and Figure 6 for RC deep beams with and
200 without shear reinforcement, respectively. Overall, for all eight effectiveness factors the
201 predictions for beams with shear reinforcement are more conservative than those without
202 shear reinforcement. The effectiveness factors proposed by Collins and Mitchell (Eq. 5),
203 Vecchio and Collins (Eq. 7) and Modified Collins and Mitchell (Eq. 10) lead to very
204 conservative results. This is most probably due to the fact that, in these equations, the tensile
205 strain in the concrete needs to be calculated based on the assumption that plane sections
206 remain plane after bending. However, this assumption is far from accurate for deep beams.
207 The effectiveness factor proposed by Marti (i.e. 0.6) (Marti 1985) can lead to very unsafe
208 results for RC deep beams without shear reinforcement, as the single factor proposed cannot
209 account for all parameters. Additionally, experimental and numerical investigations
210 conducted by the authors (Ismail et al. 2015, Ismail et al. 2015) show that in many cases the
211 effectiveness factor is lower than 0.6, especially for RC deep beams without shear
212 reinforcement. Although the effectiveness factor proposed by Warwick and Foster (Eq. 11)
213 accounts for the effect of concrete compressive strength and shear span to depth ratio, the
214 non-uniform performance of this model shows that other parameters affect shear behaviour
215 and their effect should be taken into account.

216 The models proposed by EC2, ACI 318-14 and Model Code 2010 also lead to very unsafe
217 results especially for RC deep beams without shear reinforcement. This can be attributed
218 again to the fact that these codes do not account for all the important influencing parameters
219 such as shear span to depth ratio and shear reinforcement (EC2 and Model Code 2010); or
220 concrete compressive strength and shear span to depth ratio (ACI 318-14).

221 The safety of the above models was further checked by introducing the appropriate material
222 partial safety factors (1.5 for concrete and 1.15 for steel) for all models except for ACI 318-
223 14 which is strength reduction factor (0.75). With the exception of the predictions by
224 equations of Collins and Mitchell and Vecchio and Collins for RC deep beams without shear
225 reinforcement, which are over conservative and uneconomic, all other models do not yield an
226 adequate level of safety for all RC deep beams with and without shear reinforcement. The
227 result of the analysis is summarised in Table 2. Therefore, a more sophisticated effectiveness
228 factor model that accounts for all influencing parameters and yields conservative and
229 economic results is required for design purposes. This paper aims to propose new node
230 strength factors and effectiveness factor that account for all influencing parameters and yield
231 more accurate results.

232 **PROPOSED EFFECTIVENESS FACTOR**

233 Equations describing the development of biaxial stress fields, such as those included in the
234 modified compression field theory (Vecchio and Collins 1986) can be used to determine the
235 effective compressive strength of concrete subjected to lateral tensile strain. Bazant and
236 Xiang (1997) derived a simple equation (Eq. 12) based on the theory of fracture mechanics to
237 predict the compressive strength (σ_c) of a concrete specimen subjected to lateral tensile strain.

$$238 \quad \sigma_c = \sqrt{2EG_f h/sD}^{-1/2} \quad (12)$$

239 where E and G_f are the modulus of elasticity and fracture energy of concrete, respectively; h
240 is the width of the crack band, s is the spacing of cracks in the crack band and D is the width
241 of the specimen.

242 Equation 12 can be used to estimate the effectiveness factor of an inclined strut. Model Code
243 2010 equations are used here to determine the modulus of elasticity and fracture energy of

244 concrete and D is taken as the width of the strut (W_s). The effectiveness factor v (Eq. 13) can
245 be expressed as the ratio between Eq. 12 and the uniaxial strength of the concrete (f_c) to
246 obtain:

$$247 \quad v = \sqrt{\frac{2EG_f h}{W_s s}} / f_c \quad (13)$$

248 According to Bazant and Xiang (1997), in the crack band the intact concrete between cracks
249 behaves as columns of width s . The strain energy in the crack band releases due to buckling
250 of these columns and failure occurs once the released energy reaches the fracture energy of
251 the concrete. The presence of lateral tensile strain increases the crack width in the crack band
252 which in turn increases the energy release rate and decreases the compressive capacity. This
253 means that the value of h/s is directly affected by lateral tensile strain. Since the value of h/s
254 needs to be determined by calibration of experimental results, the authors propose a more
255 direct approach where h/s in Eq. 13 is replaced by lateral tensile strain and the equation needs
256 to be calibrated by a factor (α) as shown in Eq. 14.

$$257 \quad v = \alpha \sqrt{\frac{2EG_f}{W_s \varepsilon_1}} / f_c \quad (14)$$

258 Although lateral strain is a more rational quantity to use, it still needs to be quantified either
259 by calculation or calibration of date.

260 **Lateral Tensile Strain in Shear Span**

261 Experimental and numerical data from the finite element model developed and validated by
262 the authors (Ismail et al. 2016a, Ismail et al. 2016b) was used to determine the lateral tensile
263 strain in the shear span of RC deep beams. Figure 7 shows the effect of concrete compressive
264 strength, shear span to depth ratio and effective depth on the lateral tensile strain obtained

265 using finite element analysis for beams with and without shear reinforcement. It can be seen
266 that shear span to depth ratio and effective depth influence the lateral tensile strain whilst
267 concrete compressive strength has almost negligible effect. Therefore, in estimating the
268 lateral tensile strain in the shear span of RC deep beams, shear span to depth ratio and
269 effective depth need to be accounted for. For dimensional purposes, the effective member
270 depth (d) can be normalized by 150mm (based on the experimental results of Walraven and
271 Lehwalter (1994), at the effective depth of 150mm, size effect is effective). Hence, based on
272 best fit analysis, Eq. 15 is proposed to estimate the lateral tensile strains (ε_1) in the shear span
273 of RC deep beams.

$$274 \quad \varepsilon_1 = 0.02 \frac{(a/d)^{0.5}}{(d/150)^{0.35}} \quad (15)$$

275 From a direct comparison with the finite element analysis results it can be seen in Figure 8
276 that this equation leads to a reasonable prediction of lateral tensile strain in the shear span of
277 RC deep beams.

278 **Determination of Factor α**

279 Back analysis was adopted to determine the value of α in Eq. 14 from experimental and
280 numerical data on RC deep beams. The finite element model was used to determine the
281 maximum principal concrete compressive strength in the shear span of the beams (see Table
282 3 and Table 4 more details of the used beams can be found elsewhere (Ismail et al. 2016-a,
283 Ismail et al. 2016-b, Ismail 2016-c)). The effectiveness factor (v) was calculated as the ratio
284 of the maximum principal compressive strength and uniaxial compressive strength of the
285 concrete. To account for the effect of shear reinforcement, two different values of α need to
286 be adopted as shown in Table 3 and Table 4 for RC deep beams with and without shear
287 reinforcement. An average value of 400 can be used as α for RC deep beams without shear

288 reinforcement or with shear reinforcement ratio less than 0.1%, whilst for RC deep beams
289 with shear reinforcement ratio greater or equal to 0.1% a value of 450 can be used as α . In
290 this context, the shear reinforcement can be taken either as the vertical or horizontal shear
291 reinforcement or a combination thereof.

292 **Node Strength Factor**

293 An accurate estimation of node strengths is also crucial for safe design solutions. For the
294 bottom node which is C-C-T, most codes of practice recommend using a strength which is
295 lower than the uniaxial concrete strength due to presence of a tie in this node. In reality,
296 concrete strength reduces due to the presence of lateral tensile strain and cracks. However, in
297 this region there is no cracking, which means that the tensile stress is always below the
298 concrete tensile strength. Hence, it is still safe to use the uniaxial compressive strength of the
299 concrete without any reduction in estimating the strength of the node.

300 The strength of the top node (C-C-C) is expected to be higher than the uniaxial concrete
301 strength because it is fully confined when the load is applied through a bearing plate.
302 Therefore, a factor with a value higher than one can be used to account for this confinement.
303 However, for the case when the load is applied through a concrete column, the degree of
304 confinement is lower than applying through bearing plates and the node is under biaxial
305 compression. Therefore, to safely estimate the strength of the C-C-C nodes, the uniaxial
306 concrete strength is used in this paper.

307 **Evaluation of Proposed Model**

308 The shear strength prediction according to the implementation of the STM using the proposed
309 concrete effectiveness factor (including lateral tensile strain predictions) and the factors for
310 estimating the strength of the nodes is shown in Figure 9 and summarized in Figure 5 and

311 Figure 6 for RC deep beams with and without shear reinforcement, respectively. The use of
312 the proposed model yields overall less conservative predictions with lower standard
313 deviations. This can lead to more economical design solutions, yet maintaining an appropriate
314 level of safety as shown in Table 2 and Figure 10 and 11 show the accuracy of the model for
315 different case scenarios for both beams with and without shear reinforcement respectively.

316 Figure 12 and Figure 13 show the effect of shear span to depth ratio, concrete compressive
317 strength and member depth (i.e. size effect) on the performance of the three codes of practice
318 discussed in this paper, along with the proposed effectiveness factor for RC deep beams with
319 and without shear reinforcement, respectively. It can be seen that ACI 318-14 which neglects
320 the influence of both shear span to depth ratio, concrete compressive strength and member
321 depth, offer the less reliable predictions. The EC2 and Model Code 2010, though they include
322 the effect of concrete compressive strength, do not sufficiently account for the effect of this
323 parameter and they do not account for the effect of shear span to depth ratio, as evidenced by
324 their variable degree of conservatism. The use of the proposed effectiveness factor accounts
325 for the effect of these parameters more accurately and leads to a more uniform performance
326 level for both RC deep beams with and without shear reinforcement.

327 **CONCLUSIONS**

328 The main conclusions of this research study can be summarized as follows:

- 329 1. A tie-arch mechanism is the main resisting mechanism in RC deep beams with and
330 without shear reinforcement and can be best represented by the strut-and-tie model.
- 331 2. The selection of an appropriate strut-and-tie model and size of its elements is critical
332 for accurate shear capacity predictions.

- 333 3. The effectiveness factor models based on the modified compression field theory show
334 poor correlation against the experimental results, with a large scatter and high
335 coefficients of variation.
- 336 4. The STM provision and the effectiveness factors of EC2, ACI 318-14 and Model
337 Code 2010 do not ensure adequate safety levels (after application of safety factors) for
338 RC deep beams without shear reinforcement.
- 339 5. A new model which utilises a concrete effectiveness factor based on predicted lateral
340 strain is proposed. The use of the proposed model leads to less conservative yet safe
341 predictions, and can accurately account for the effect of concrete compressive
342 strength, shear span to depth ratio, shear reinforcement and member depth.

343 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

344 The authors acknowledge the financial support of the Human Capacity Development
345 Program (HCDP) of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research/ Kurdistan
346 Regional Government for the PhD studies of Kamaran S. Ismail.

347 **REFERENCES**

- 348 ACI Committee, American Concrete Institute, and International Organization for
349 Standardization, (2014). Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete (ACI 318M-
350 14) and Commentary, American Concrete Institute.
- 351 Adebar, P. (2000). "One-way shear strength of large footings." Canadian journal of civil
352 engineering **27**(3): 553-562.
- 353 Ahmad, S. H. and D. Lue (1987). "Flexure-shear interaction of reinforced high strength
354 concrete beams." ACI Structural Journal **84**(4).

355 Bakir, P. and H. Bodurođlu (2005). "Mechanical behaviour and non-linear analysis of short
356 beams using softened truss and direct strut & tie models." *Engineering structures* **27**(4): 639-
357 651.

358 Bazant, Z. P. and Y. Xiang (1997). "Size effect in compression fracture: splitting crack band
359 propagation." *Journal of Engineering Mechanics* **123**(2): 162-172.

360 Brena, S. F. and N. C. Roy (2009). "Evaluation of load transfer and strut strength of deep
361 beams with short longitudinal bar anchorages." *ACI Structural Journal* **106**(5).

362 British Standards Institution, (2004). *Eurocode 2: Design of Concrete Structures: Part 1-1:*
363 *General Rules and Rules for Buildings*, British Standards Institution.

364 Brown, M. D. and O. Bayrak (2008). "Design of deep beams using strut-and-tie models--part
365 I: Evaluating US provisions." *ACI Structural Journal* **105**(4).

366 Chang, T. S. and C. E. Kesler (1958). Static and fatigue strength in shear of beams with
367 tensile reinforcement. *ACI Journal Proceedings*, ACI.

368 Clark, A. P. (1951). Diagonal tension in reinforced concrete beams. *ACI journal proceedings*,
369 ACI.

370 Collins, M. P., E. C. Bentz and E. G. Sherwood (2008). "Where is shear reinforcement
371 required? Review of research results and design procedures." *ACI Structural Journal* **105**(5).

372 Collins, M. P. and D. Mitchell (1986). *Rational Approach to Shear Design--The 1984*
373 *Canadian Code Provisions*. *ACI Journal Proceedings*, ACI.

374 Collins, M. P., D. Mitchell and E. C. Bentz (2008). "Shear design of concrete structures." *The*
375 *Structural Engineer Journal* **86**(10): 32-39.

376 de Cossio, R. D. and C. P. Siess (1960). Behavior and strength in shear of beams and frames
377 without web reinforcement. *ACI Journal Proceedings*, ACI.

378 de Paiva, H. R. and C. P. Siess (1965). "Strength and behavior of deep beams in shear."
379 *ASCE Structural Journal* **91**(ST5): 22.

380 Fib (2013). fib Model Code for Concrete Structures 2010, International Federation for
381 Structural Concrete.

382 Foster, S. J. and R. I. Gilbert (1996). "The design of nonflexural members with normal and
383 high-strength concretes." ACI Structural Journal **93**(1).

384 Foster, S. J. and R. I. Gilbert (1998). "Experimental studies on high-strength concrete deep
385 beams." ACI Structural Journal **95**(4): 382-390.

386 Ismail, K. S., M. Guadagnini and K. Pilakoutas (2016a). "Numerical Investigation on the
387 Shear strength of RC Deep Beams Using the Microplane Model." Journal of Structural
388 Engineering. 04016077.

389 Ismail, K. S., M. Guadagnini and K. Pilakoutas (2016b). "Shear Behaviour of RC Deep
390 Beams." ACI Structural journal. Accepted.

391 Ismail, K. S. (2016c). Shear Behaviour of Reinforced Concrete Deep Beams. Doctoral thesis,
392 University of Sheffield.

393 Jirsa, J., J. Breen and K. Bergmeister (1991). Experimental studies of nodes in strut-and-tie
394 models. IABSE Colloquium Stuttgart.

395 Kani, G. N. J. (1967). "How safe are our large reinforced concrete beams?" ACI journal
396 **64**(3): 128-141.

397 Kani, M. W., M. W. Huggins, and R. R. Wittkopp (1979). Kani on shear in reinforced
398 concrete, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Toronto.

399 Kong, F.-K., P. J. Robins and D. F. Cole (1970). Web reinforcement effects on deep beams.
400 ACI Journal Proceedings, ACI.

401 Kong, P. Y. and B. V. Rangan (1998). "Shear strength of high-performance concrete beams."
402 ACI Structural Journal **95**(6): 677-688.

403 Krefeld, W. J. and C. W. Thurston (1966). Studies of the shear and diagonal tension strength
404 of simply supported reinforced concrete beams. ACI Journal Proceedings, ACI.

405 Lehwalter, N. (1988). Bearing Capacity of Concrete Compression Struts in Truss-Systems,
406 Exemplified by the Case of Short Beams, PhD thesis, Darmstadt, 1988.(in German).

407 Leonhardt, F. and R. Walther (1964). "The Stuttgart Shear Tests, 1961." CACA
408 Translation(111).

409 Lertsrisakulrat, T., J. Niwa, A. Yanagawa and M. Matsuo (2002). Concept of concrete
410 compressive fracture energy in RC deep beams without transverse reinforcement.
411 Transactions of the Japan Concrete Institute.

412 Manuel, R. (1974). "Failure of deep beams." ACI Special publication **42**: 15.

413 Manuel, R. F., B. W. Slight and G. T. Suter (1971). "Deep beam behavior affected by length
414 and shear span variations." Am Concrete Inst Journal & Proceedings **68**(12).

415 Marti, P. (1985). Basic tools of reinforced concrete beam design. ACI Journal Proceedings,
416 ACI.

417 Mathey, R. G. and D. Watstein (1963). Shear strength of beams without web reinforcement
418 containing deformed bars of different yield strengths. ACI journal proceedings, ACI.

419 Moody, K., I. Viest, R. Elstner and E. Hognestad (1954). Shear Strength of Reinforced
420 Concrete Beams Part 1-Tests of Simple Beams. ACI journal proceedings, ACI.

421 Moody, K., I. Viest, R. Elstner and E. Hognestad (1955). Shear Strength of Reinforced
422 Concrete Beams Part 2-Tests of Restrained Beams Without Web Reinforcement. ACI Journal
423 Proceedings, ACI.

424 Morrow, J. and I. M. Viest (1957). Shear strength of reinforced concrete frame members
425 without web reinforcement. ACI Journal Proceedings, ACI.

426 Morsch, E. (1902). "Der eisenbetonbau, seine anwendung und theorie." Wayss and Freytag,
427 AG, Im Selbstverlag der Firma, Neustadt, AD Haardt: 118.

428 Mphonde, A. G. and G. C. Frantz (1984). Shear tests of high-and low-strength concrete
429 beams without stirrups. ACI Journal Proceedings, ACI.

430 Niwa, J., K. Maekawa and H. Okamura (1981). "Non-linear Finite Element Analysis of Deep
431 Beams." *Advanced Mechanics of Reinforced Concrete*, IABSE Colloquium Delft Netherlands:
432 13.

433 Oh, J.-K. and S.-W. Shin (2001). "Shear strength of reinforced high-strength concrete deep
434 beams." *ACI Structural Journal* **98**(2).

435 Park, J.-w. and D. Kuchma (2007). "Strut-and-tie model analysis for strength prediction of
436 deep beams." *ACI Structural Journal* **104**(6).

437 Pendyala, R. S. and P. Mendis (2000). "Experimental study on shear strength of high-strength
438 concrete beams." *ACI Structural Journal* **97**(4).

439 Ramakrishnan, V. and Y. Ananthanarayana (1968). *Ultimate strength of deep beams in shear.*
440 *ACI Journal Proceedings*, ACI.

441 Ritter, W. (1899). "Die Bauweise Hennebique (Hennebiques Construction Method)."
442 *Schweizerische Bauzeitung* **17**: 41-43.

443 Rodriguez, J. J., A. C. Bianchini, I. M. Viest and C. E. Kesler (1959). *Shear Strength of Two-*
444 *Span Continuous Reinforced Concrete Beams.* *ACI Journal Proceedings*, ACI.

445 Rogowsky, D. M., J. G. MacGregor and S. Y. Ong (1986). *Tests of reinforced concrete deep*
446 *beams.* *ACI Journal Proceedings*, ACI.

447 Sagaseta, J. and R. Vollum (2010). "Shear design of short-span beams." *Magazine of*
448 *Concrete Research* **62**(4): 267-282.

449 Seliem, H., A. Hosny, H. Dwairi and S. Rizkalla (2006). "Shear behavior of concrete beams
450 reinforced with MFX steel without web reinforcement." *NC State University Final Report*,
451 *Project No. IS-06-08.*

452 Shin, S.-W., K.-S. Lee, J.-I. Moon and S. Ghosh (1999). "Shear strength of reinforced high-
453 strength concrete beams with shear span-to-depth ratios between 1.5 and 2.5." *ACI Structural*
454 *Journal* **96**(4).

455 Smith, K. and A. Vantsiotis (1982). Shear strength of deep beams. ACI Journal Proceedings,
456 ACI.

457 Subedi, N., A. E. Vardy and N. Kubotat (1986). "Reinforced concrete deep beams some test
458 results." Magazine of Concrete Research **38**(137): 206-219.

459 Tan, K.-H., G.-H. Cheng and N. Zhang (2008). "Experiment to mitigate size effect on deep
460 beams." Magazine of Concrete Research **60**(10): 709-723.

461 Tan, K.-H., F.-K. Kong, S. Teng and L. Guan (1995). "High-strength concrete deep beams
462 with effective span and shear span variations." ACI Structural Journal **92**(4).

463 Tan, K.-H., F.-K. Kong, S. Teng and L.-W. Weng (1997). "Effect of web reinforcement on
464 high-strength concrete deep beams." ACI Structural Journal **94**(5): 572-581.

465 Tan, K., G. Cheng and H. Cheong (2005). "Size effect in shear strength of large beams—
466 behaviour and finite element modelling." Magazine of Concrete Research **57**(8): 497-509.

467 Tan, K. and H. Lu (1999). "Shear behavior of large reinforced concrete deep beams and code
468 comparisons." ACI Structural Journal **96**(5): 836-845.

469 Tuchscherer, R. G., D. B. Birrcher and O. Bayrak (2011). "Strut-and-tie model design
470 provisions." PCI journal **56**(1): 155-170.

471 Tuchscherer, R. G., D. B. Birrcher and O. Bayrak (2014). "Experimental Examination of ACI
472 318 Strut and Tie Modeling Provisions." ACI Special Publication **296**.

473 Vecchio, F. J. and M. P. Collins (1986). "The modified compression-field theory for
474 reinforced concrete elements subjected to shear." ACI Journal Proceedings **83**(2).

475 Vecchio, F. J. and M. P. Collins (1993). "Compression response of cracked reinforced
476 concrete." Journal of Structural Engineering **119**(12): 3590-3610.

477 Walraven, J. and N. Lehwalter (1994). "Size effects in short beams loaded in shear." ACI
478 Structural Journal **91**(5): 585-593.

479 Warwick, W. and S. J. Foster (1993). Investigation into the efficiency factor used in non-
480 flexural reinforced concrete member design, University of New South Wales.

481 Watstein, D. and R. G. Mathey (1958). Strains in beams having diagonal cracks. ACI Journal
482 Proceedings, ACI.

483 Xie, Y., S. H. Ahmad, T. Yu, S. Hino and W. Chung (1994). "Shear ductility of reinforced
484 concrete beams of normal and high-strength concrete." ACI Structural Journal **91**(2).

485 Yang, K.-H., H.-S. Chung, E.-T. Lee and H.-C. Eun (2003). "Shear characteristics of high-
486 strength concrete deep beams without shear reinforcements." Engineering structures **25**(10):
487 1343-1352.

488 Zhang, N. and K.-H. Tan (2007). "Size effect in RC deep beams: Experimental investigation
489 and STM verification." Engineering structures **29**(12): 3241-3254.

490
491
492
493
494
495

496 **Table 1 Summary of the RC deep beams in the database**

	RC deep beams without shear reinforcement	RC deep beams with shear reinforcement
Number of the beams	295	224
Concrete strength (MPa)	11 to 87	14 to 90
Shear span to depth ratio	0.25 to 2.0	0.27 to 2.0
Effective depth (mm)	151 to 1750	160 to 1750
Main reinforcement ratio (%)	0.26 to 6.64	0.16 to 4.25
Vertical shear reinforcement ratio (%)	----	0 to 2.45
Horizontal shear reinforcement ratio (%)	----	0 to 3.17

497 **Table 2-Percent of safe shear strength prediction by STM after application of safety**
 498 **factors**

	Beams without shear reinforcement (295 beams)			Beams with shear reinforcement (224 beams)		
	Safe prediction (%)	Mean of safe results	Mean of unsafe results	Safe prediction (%)	Mean of safe results	Mean of unsafe results
Marti 1985	88.3	1.93	0.86	99.6	2.28	0.87
Collins and Mitchell 1986	96.0	2.34	0.90	98.7	1.96	0.92
Vecchio and Collins 1993	100	3.32	---	99.6	2.97	0.87
Warwick and Foster 1993	91.0	1.91	0.88	99.6	2.68	0.87
Modified Collins and Mitchell 1996	97.1	2.53	0.95	99.6	3.21	0.87
EC2	90.9	1.92	0.91	99.6	2.59	0.75
ACI 318-14	79.3	1.76	0.85	93.3	1.95	0.84
Model Code 2010	88.7	1.99	0.88	99.6	2.69	0.79
Proposed	100	1.63	---	100	1.59	---

499 **Table 3 Summary of finite element analysis of RC deep beams with shear reinforcement**

Specimen	f_c (MPa)	b (mm)	d (mm)	ρ (%)	a/d	Bearing Plate width (mm)	Principal concrete strength (MPa)	α	
Experimental (Ismail et al. 2016b)	A2	85.7	100	330	3.655	1.67	100	28	435
	A3	85.1	100	330	3.655	1.67	100	29	451
	B2	86.6	100	330	3.655	1.29	100	32	462
	B3	88.1	100	330	3.655	1.29	100	34	489
	D2	59.7	100	330	3.655	1.67	100	24	410
	D3	58.1	100	330	3.655	1.67	100	25	430
	E2	59.1	100	330	3.655	1.29	100	26	416
	E3	59.2	100	330	3.655	1.29	100	29	463
	F2	60.6	100	330	3.655	0.91	100	34	488
	F3	59.5	100	330	3.655	0.91	100	34	490
	G1	30.9	100	330	3.655	1.67	100	23	467
	G2	30.5	100	330	3.655	1.29	100	24	457
G3	31.3	100	330	3.655	0.91	100	25	429	
dy (Is)	BH-S-30	30	200	710	1.300	0.75	150	25	396

Average = 452

BH-S-55	55	200	710	1.300	0.75	150	36	476	
BH-S-80	80	200	710	1.300	0.75	150	39	466	
BH-M-30	30	200	710	1.300	1.3	150	23	449	
BH-M-55	55	200	710	1.300	1.3	150	28	451	
BH-M-80	80	200	710	1.300	1.3	150	32	471	
BH-B-30	30	200	710	1.300	2	150	19	407	
BH-B-55	55	200	710	1.300	2	150	25	472	
BH-B-80	80	200	710	1.300	2	150	27	458	

500

501 **Table 4 Summary of finite element analysis of RC deep beams without shear**
502 **reinforcement**

Specimen	f_c (MPa)	b(mm)	d (mm)	ρ (%)	a/d	Bearing Plate Width (mm)	Principal concrete strength (MPa)	α	
Experimental (Ismail et al. 2016b)	A1	85.2	100	330	3.655	1.67	100	27	420
	B1	86.9	100	330	3.655	1.29	100	31	447
	C1	85.7	100	330	3.655	0.91	100	34	444
	D1	58.8	100	330	3.655	1.67	100	21	360
	E1	58.2	100	330	3.655	1.29	100	24	385
	F1	60.5	100	330	3.655	0.91	100	28	402
	H1	35.8	150	449	1.399	1.67	80	21	356
	H2	35.8	150	328	1.378	1.65	80	18	307
	H3	35.8	150	219	1.376	1.64	80	17	290
Parametric study (Ismail et al. 2016a)	BN-S-30	30	200	710	1.300	0.75	150	23	365
	BN-S-55	55	200	710	1.300	0.75	150	32	431
	BN-S-80	80	200	710	1.300	0.75	150	38	451
	BN-M-30	30	200	710	1.300	1.3	150	22	421
	BN-M-55	55	200	710	1.300	1.3	150	25	413

Average = 398

BN-M-80	80	200	710	1.300	1.3	150	30	434
BN-B-30	30	200	710	1.300	2	150	18	385
BN-B-55	55	200	710	1.300	2	150	23	423
BN-B-80	80	200	710	1.300	2	150	26	436

503

504

505

506

507

508

509

510

511

512

513

514

515 **List of Tables**

516 Table 1 Summary of the RC deep beams in the database

517 Table 2-Percent of safe shear strength prediction by STM after application of safety factors

518 Table 3 Summary of finite element analysis of RC deep beams with shear reinforcement

519 Table 4 Summary of finite element analysis of RC deep beams without shear reinforcement

520 **List of Figures**

521 Figure 1-Load transfer mechanism in RC deep beams, a) strut-and-tie model b) truss model and c)
522 height of the bottom node

523 Figure 2- Shear strength prediction by STM and TM without using concrete effectiveness factor

524 Figure 3-Effect of concrete effectiveness factor on shear strength prediction of RC deep beams with
525 shear reinforcement by STM

526 Figure 4-Effect of concrete effectiveness factor on shear strength prediction of RC deep beams
527 without shear reinforcement by STM

528 Figure 5-Statistical analysis of shear strength prediction of RC deep beams with shear reinforcement
529 by STM

530 Figure 6-Statistical analysis of shear strength prediction of RC deep beams without shear
531 reinforcement by STM

532 Figure 7- Effect of a) concrete strength, b) shear span to depth ratio and c) effective depth on the
533 lateral tensile strain

534 Figure 8- Estimating the lateral tensile strain by Eq. 15

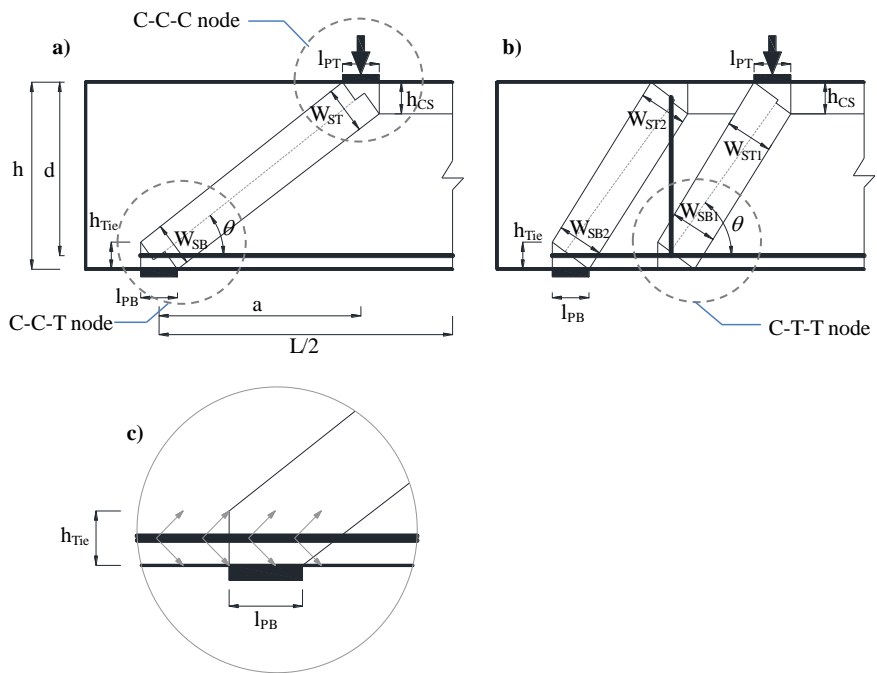
535 Figure 9-Shear strength prediction by STM with using the proposed concrete effectiveness factor

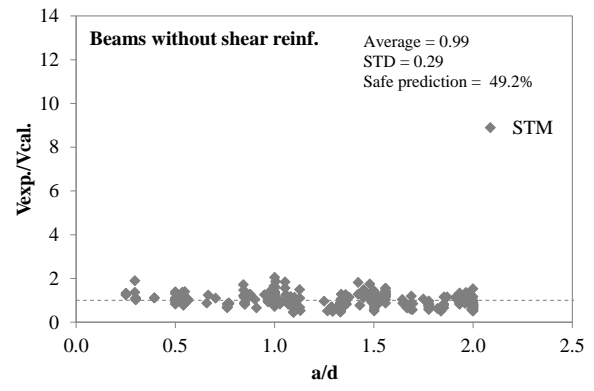
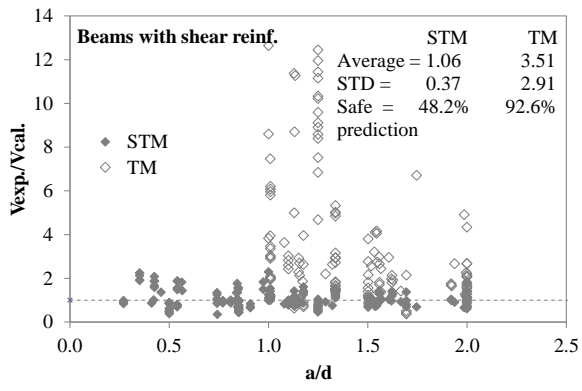
536 Figure 10-Accuracy of the proposed model for different case scenarios (Beams with shear
537 reinforcement)

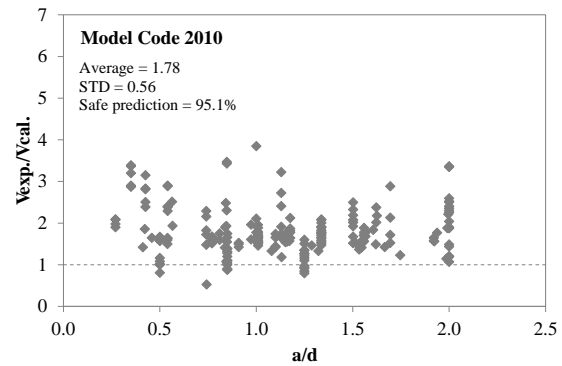
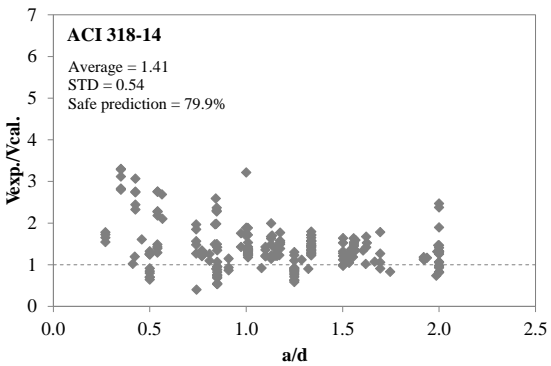
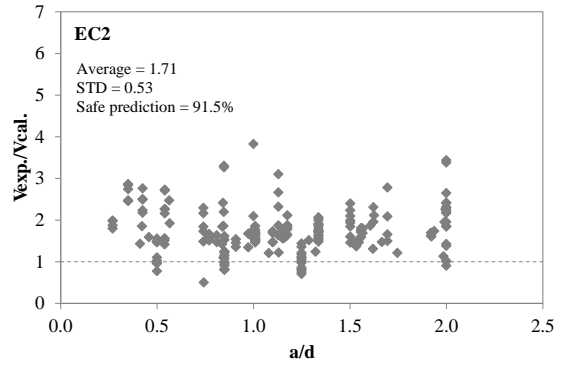
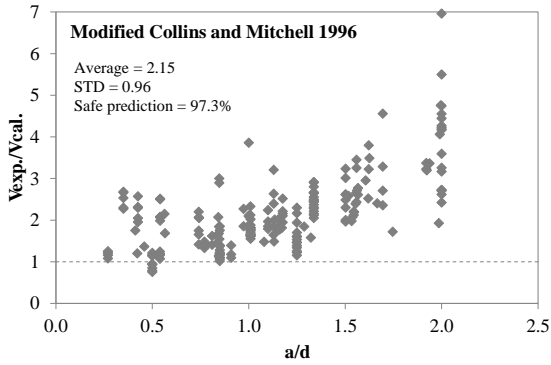
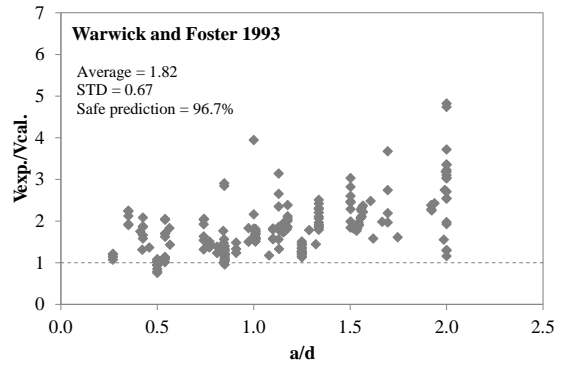
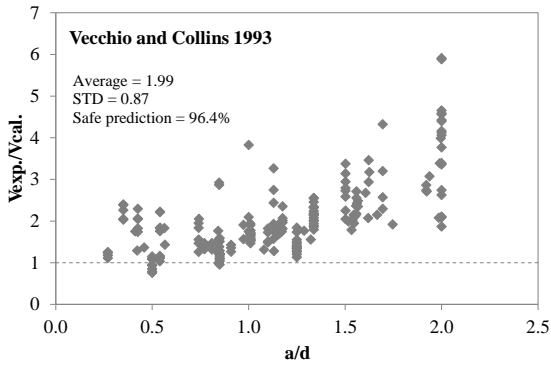
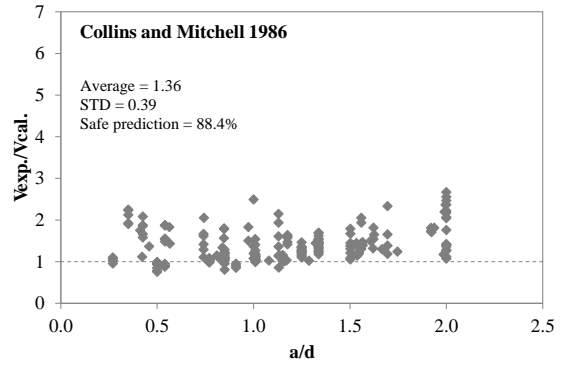
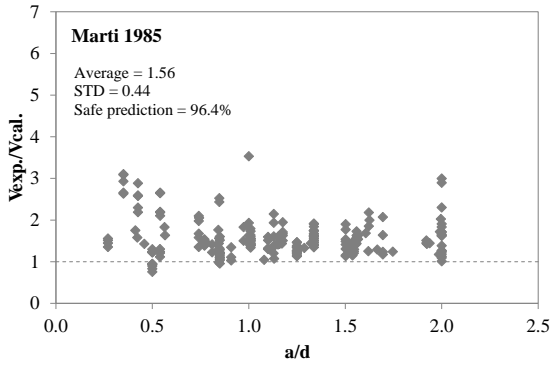
538 Figure 11-Accuracy of the proposed model for different case scenarios (Beams without shear
539 reinforcement)

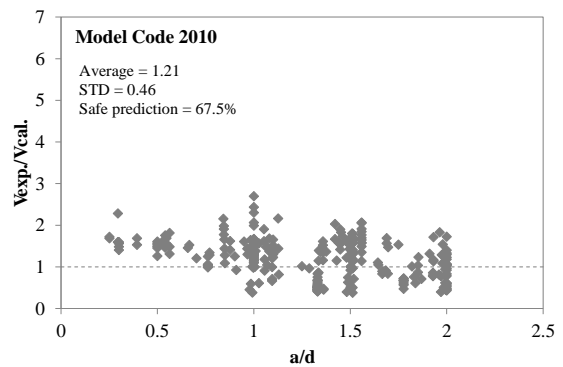
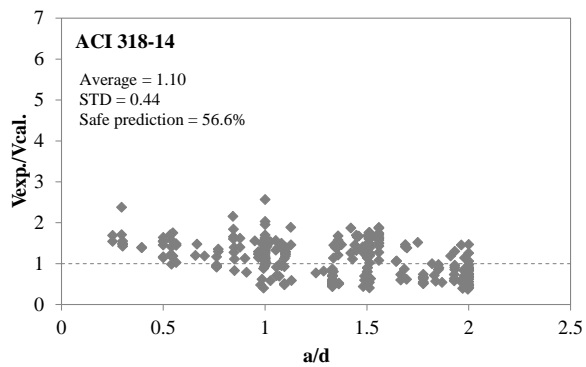
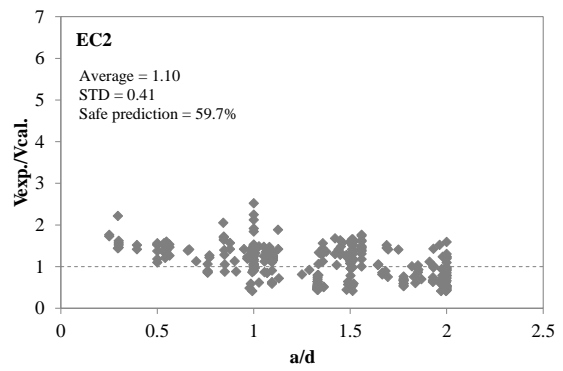
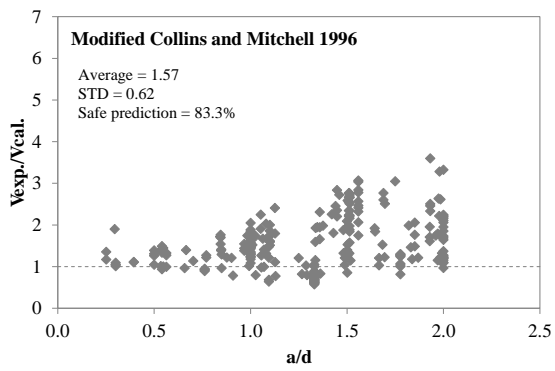
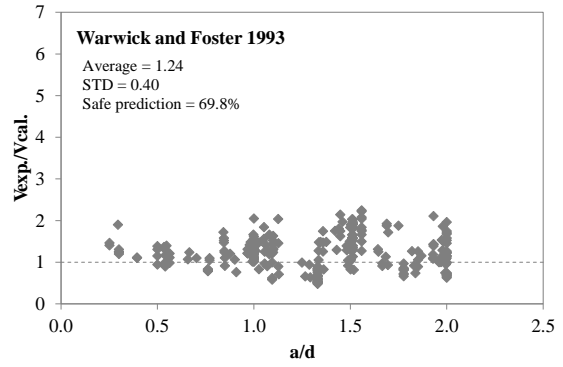
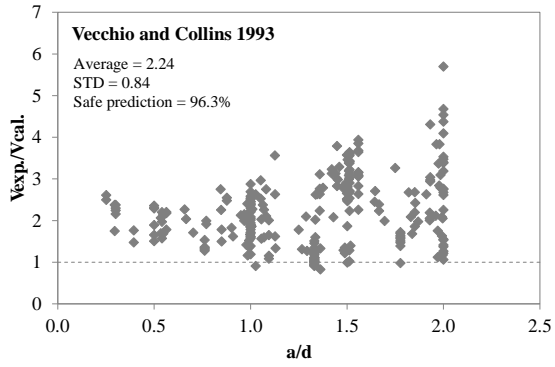
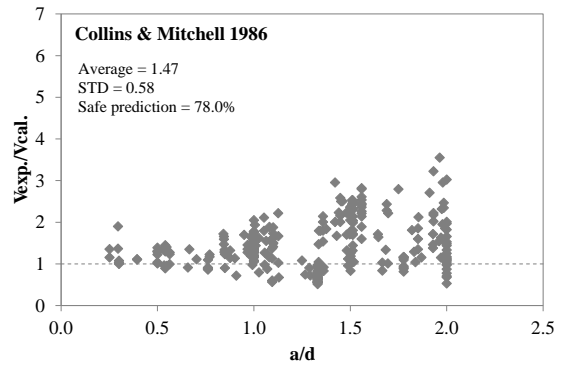
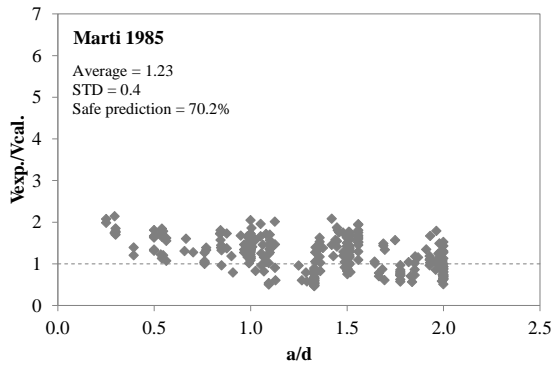
540 Figure 12- Effect of a) shear span to depth ratio (Oh and Shin 2001) b) concrete strength (Oh and Shin
541 2001) and c) depth on the performance of different effectiveness factor (Walraven and Lehwalter
542 1994) (with shear reinforcement)

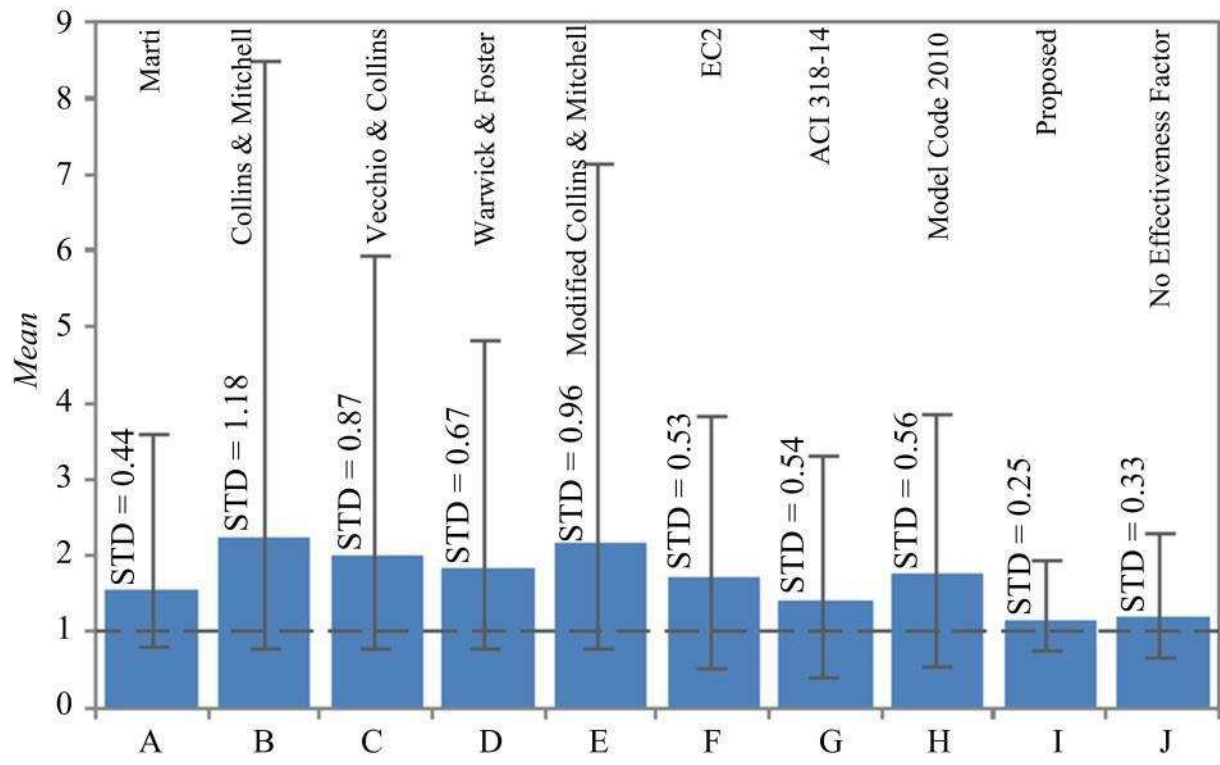
543 Figure 13- Effect of a) shear span to depth ratio (Oh and Shin 2001) b) concrete strength (Mphonde
544 and Frantz 1984) and c) depth on the performance of different effectiveness factor (Walraven and
545 Lehwalter 1994) (No shear reinforcement)











Marti

Collins & Mitchell

Vecchio & Collins

Warwick & Foster

Modified Collins & Mitchell

EC2

ACI 318-14

Model Code 2010

Proposed

No Effectiveness Factor

