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2 **APPLICATION OF PLASTIC-DAMAGE MULTIDIRECTIONAL FIXED SMEARED CRACK MODEL IN**
3 **ANALYSIS OF RC STRUCTURES**

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7 A. Edalat-Behbahani*¹, J. A. O. Barros¹, A. Ventura-Gouveia²

8 ¹ISISE, Dep. Civil Eng., School of Engineering, University of Minho, Guimarães, Portugal

9 ²ISISE, Dep. Civil Eng., School of Technology and Management of Viseu, Polytechnic Institute of Viseu, Viseu,
10 Portugal

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12 **ABSTRACT**

13 This paper describes a plasticity-damage multidirectional fixed smeared cracking (PDSC) model to simulate the failure
14 process of concrete and reinforced concrete (RC) structures subjected to different loading paths. The model proposes a
15 unified approach combining a multidirectional fixed smeared crack model to simulate the crack initiation and
16 propagation with a plastic-damage model to account for the inelastic compressive behaviour of concrete between
17 cracks. The smeared crack model considers the possibility of forming several cracks in the same integration point during the
18 cracking process. The plasticity part accounts for the development of irreversible strains and volumetric strain in
19 compression, whereas the strain softening and stiffness degradation of the material under compression are controlled by
20 an isotropic strain base damage model. The theoretical aspects about coupling the fracture, plasticity, and damage
21 components of the model, as well as the model appraisal at both material and structural levels, have been detailed in a
22 former publication. This study briefly summarizes the model formulations, and is mainly dedicated to further explore
23 the potentialities of the proposed constitutive model for the analysis of concrete and RC structures. The model is
24 employed to simulate experimental tests that are governed by nonlinear phenomenon due to simultaneous occurrence of
25 cracking and inelastic deformation in compression. The numerical simulations have predicted with good accuracy the
26 load carrying capacity, ductility, crack pattern, plastic (compressive) zone, and failure modes of all types of structures
27 analysed. The influence of the model parameters that simulate the nonlinear behaviour of concrete under tension and
28 compression is analysed through a parametric study.

29
30 **KEYWORDS:** Finite element analysis, Constitutive model, Compressive nonlinearity, Cracked concrete, RC structures.

* Author to whom correspondence should be send (aliedalatbehbahani@gmail.com)

31 **1. INTRODUCTION**

32 Nonlinear finite element analysis (NFEA) has now been widely adopted as an effective and reliable method to analyze
33 reinforced concrete (RC) structures subjected to various loading scenarios. Amongst many key factors that affect the
34 reliability of a NFEA tool used for analysing RC structures, the selected constitutive model still remains the foremost
35 challenging task due to the complexity of concrete behaviour. Concrete exhibits highly nonlinear behaviour by
36 increasing deformation, with dissymmetric responses in tension and in compression. Experimental tests demonstrate
37 that concrete behaviour in tension is brittle, and after cracking initiation concrete develops a softening behaviour with a
38 decay of tensile capacity with the widening of the cracks. This crack opening process is followed by a decrease of crack
39 shear stress transfer due to the deterioration of aggregate interlock. Concrete in compression also demonstrates a
40 pronounced nonlinear behaviour with an inelastic irreversible deformation. In the pre-peak stage of concrete response in
41 uniaxial compression, a nonlinear stage is observed, whose amplitude depends of the concrete strength class, followed
42 by a softening stage where brittleness is also dependent of the strength class. For a realistic NFEA of RC structures,
43 constitutive models are required to adequately describe these complex behaviours of concrete.

44 This study is mainly dedicated to evaluate the potentialities of a plastic-damage multidirectional smeared crack
45 constitutive model able to represent the complex failure mechanism of concrete in tension and compression. The
46 proposed model simulates the crack opening and shear sliding according to an already existing multidirectional fixed
47 smeared crack model [1–3]. The models based on a smeared crack approach assume that the local displacement
48 discontinuities at cracks are distributed, theoretically, over a certain length used to transform crack width/sliding in a
49 strain concept, also assumed to represent the length zone of the fracture process [4-5]. This length dimension is related
50 to the finite element characteristics in order to assure the results are independent of the adopted finite element mesh
51 refinement, preserving the fracture energy as a material property. However, these models cannot predict the precise
52 localization and propagation of the discrete cracks, since the assumption of continuity of displacement field does not
53 reflect the nature of displacement discontinuities at the cracks. However the smeared cracking approach is very
54 convenient for relatively large concrete structures, mainly those with reinforcement that assure the formation of
55 relatively high number of cracks, since modelling the cracking process is almost resumed to the adoption of a proper
56 constitutive model.

57 The proposed model simulates the inelastic compressive behaviour of the material between cracks by a numerical
58 strategy that combines plasticity and damage theories. The theory of plasticity has been frequently used for modelling
59 compression due to its simple and direct representation of multiaxial stress field. The models based on the theory of
60 plasticity are able to describe the dilatancy, permanent strain and hardening/softening behaviour of the concrete, see for
61 instance [6-9], but the experimentally observed stiffness degradation of concrete is not captured accurately by using
62 exclusively the plasticity theory [10, 11]. On the other hand, the theoretical framework of the continuum damage

63 mechanics (CDM) is based on the gradual reduction of the elastic stiffness. The damage is defined as the loss of
64 strength and stiffness of the material when subjected to a certain loading process. However the CDM alone is not able to
65 reproduce the irreversible (permanent) deformation of the concrete that is pronounced when highly confined [12-14].
66 So, in the proposed model, plasticity and damage theories are being merged in an attempt of constituting reliable
67 approaches capable of simulating the strength and stiffness degradation and occurrence of irreversible deformations of
68 concrete in compression. Combination of the plasticity and damage theories is assured by considering the plastic flow
69 occurs in undamaged (with respect to compression) material, together with the strain based damage approach assuming
70 state of damage equally distributed in all the material directions (isotropic damage).

71 Formulation of the constitutive model, as well as the theoretical consideration for coupling the smeared cracking,
72 plasticity, and damage concepts of the model are detailed in a previous publication [15]. The former studies [15-16]
73 include also the implementation of the proposed constitutive model into FEMIX FEM based computer program [17],
74 and the model appraisal at both material and structural levels. The present paper includes a short resume of the model
75 formulation, and mainly discusses the capabilities of the model for simulating the behaviour of concrete and RC
76 structures whose failure is governed by cracking and inelastic behaviour in compression. In this type of simulations the
77 concrete of a large number of integration points (IP) is submitted to cracking and inelastic compressive deformations.
78 This situation can be considered as a complicated loading scenario, since both smeared cracking and plastic-damage
79 parts of the model are active over a large region of the simulated structure, therefore two types of nonlinearities are
80 occurring simultaneously. A wide range of experimental tests including splitting tensile test, RC deep beams with
81 square openings, and a series of RC shear wall panels submitted to biaxial loading conditions, are simulated to highlight
82 the capability of the model to simulate the behaviour of this type of structures with good accuracy. For all the analysis
83 the results are compared with the experimental observations. The paper ends with a parametric study that aims to
84 highlight the sensitivity of the numerical simulations to the values adopted for the model parameters.

85

86 **2. MODEL DESCRIPTION**

87 **2.1 Introduction**

88 This section describes briefly the formulation of the plastic-damage multidirectional smeared crack (PDSC) constitutive
89 model, since a detailed exposition can be found elsewhere [15].

90

91 **2.2 Plastic-damage multidirectional fixed smeared crack (PDSC) model**

92 Modelling cracked materials using a smeared approach is usually based on the decomposition of the total incremental
93 strain vector, $\Delta \underline{\varepsilon}$, into an incremental crack strain vector, $\Delta \underline{\varepsilon}^{cr}$, and an incremental concrete strain vector, $\Delta \underline{\varepsilon}^{co}$, as

94 proposed by de Borst and Nauta [18], ($\Delta \underline{\varepsilon} = \Delta \underline{\varepsilon}^{co} + \Delta \underline{\varepsilon}^{cr}$). Deformational contribution of the sets of smeared cracks that
 95 can be formed (according to a crack opening criterion) in an integration point (IP) is considered in $\Delta \underline{\varepsilon}^{cr}$. For modelling
 96 a cracked member with material between cracks in nonlinear compression, the term $\Delta \underline{\varepsilon}^{co}$ is further decomposed into its
 97 elastic ($\Delta \underline{\varepsilon}^e$) and plastic parts ($\Delta \underline{\varepsilon}^p$), ($\Delta \underline{\varepsilon}^{co} = \Delta \underline{\varepsilon}^e + \Delta \underline{\varepsilon}^p$). Thereby the incremental constitutive relation of the PDSC
 98 model is obtained as:

$$\Delta \underline{\sigma} = \underline{D}^e (\Delta \underline{\varepsilon} - \Delta \underline{\varepsilon}^p - \Delta \underline{\varepsilon}^{cr}) \quad (1)$$

99 being $\Delta \underline{\sigma} = \{\Delta \bar{\sigma}_1, \Delta \bar{\sigma}_2, \Delta \bar{\tau}_{12}\}$ the incremental stress vector induced in the material due to $\Delta \underline{\varepsilon} = \{\Delta \varepsilon_1, \Delta \varepsilon_2, \Delta \gamma_{12}\}$, and
 100 considering the constitutive matrix of the intact material, \underline{D}^e .

101 The $\Delta \underline{\varepsilon}^{cr}$ is evaluated using a multidirectional fixed smeared crack model [1-3] that considers the possibility of forming
 102 several cracks in the same IP, whose orientations, conditioned by an adopted criterion, are however preserved constant during
 103 the cracking process. The crack initiation is governed by the Rankine failure criterion that assumes a crack occurs when
 104 the maximum principal tensile stress in an IP attains the concrete tensile strength (f_{ct}) under an assumed tolerance.
 105 After crack initiation, the relationship between the normal stress and the normal strain in the crack coordinate system,
 106 i.e. $\sigma_n^{cr} - \varepsilon_n^{cr}$, is simulated via the trilinear diagram represented in Fig. 1 [1]. Normalized strain, ξ_i ($i=1,2$), and stress,
 107 α_i ($i=1,2$), parameters are used to define the transition points between linear segments, being G_f^I the fracture energy
 108 mode I, while l_b is the characteristic length (crack bandwidth) used to assure that the results of a material nonlinear
 109 analysis is not dependent of the refinement of the finite element mesh.

110 The model simulates the shear behaviour of the cracked concrete using an incremental crack shear stress-shear strain
 111 approach based on a shear retention factor. According to this approach, the crack shear stress (τ_t^{cr}) increases with the
 112 crack shear strain (γ_t^{cr}) up to attain a maximum that depends on the crack shear modulus (D_t^{cr}), see Fig. 2 [19]. The
 113 modulus D_t^{cr} is simulated as [1]:

$$D_t^{cr} = \frac{\beta}{1-\beta} G_c \quad (2)$$

114 where G_c is the concrete elastic shear modulus, while the shear retention factor, β , can be a constant value or,
 115 alternatively, a function of current crack normal strain, ε_n^{cr} , and of ultimate crack normal strain, $\varepsilon_{n,u}^{cr}$, such as:

$$\beta = \left(1 - \frac{\varepsilon_n^{cr}}{\varepsilon_{n,u}^{cr}} \right)^{P_1} \quad (3)$$

116 being the exponent P_1 a parameter that defines the decrease rate of β with increasing ε_n^{cr} .

117 The plastic strain vector, $\Delta \underline{\varepsilon}^p$, which appears in Eq. (1), includes the inelastic compressive deformation of the material
 118 between the smeared cracks. The plastic strain vector is evaluated by a stress based plasticity model according to the
 119 following flow rule:

$$\Delta \underline{\varepsilon}^p = \Delta \lambda \frac{\partial f}{\partial \underline{\sigma}} \quad (4)$$

120 where $\Delta \lambda$ is the non-negative plastic multiplier and f is a scalar function, called yield function, that is dependent on
 121 the stress vector $\underline{\sigma}$ applied to the undamaged (with respect to compression) configuration of the material, and the
 122 hardening function $\bar{\sigma}_c$, i.e. $f = f(\underline{\sigma}; \bar{\sigma}_c)$. The yield function, f , was derived from the five-parameter Willam and
 123 Warnke failure criterion [20] (the details of this process are in the [15]). The equation of this yield function is [15]:

$$f(\underline{\sigma}; \bar{\sigma}_c(\tilde{\varepsilon}_c)) = \left[\left(\frac{\bar{I}_1}{\sqrt{3}c} - \frac{\sqrt{2}b}{c} \sqrt{\bar{J}_2} \right) \bar{\sigma}_c(\tilde{\varepsilon}_c) - \frac{2a}{c} \bar{J}_2 \right]^{1/2} - \bar{\sigma}_c(\tilde{\varepsilon}_c) = 0 \quad (5)$$

124 where \bar{I}_1 is the first invariant of the stress tensor, \bar{J}_2 is the second invariant of the deviatoric stress tensor:

$$\bar{I}_1 = \underline{\sigma}_{ii}; \quad \bar{J}_2 = \frac{1}{2} \underline{\bar{S}}_{ij} \underline{\bar{S}}_{ij} \quad (6)$$

125 where $\underline{\sigma}_{ij, (i, j=1, 2, 3)}$ is the stress tensor, $\underline{\bar{S}}_{ij} = \underline{\sigma}_{ij} - \delta_{ij} \bar{I}_1/3$ is the deviatoric stress tensor. The variables a , b and c are the
 126 scalars used to interpolate the current yield meridian between the tensile meridian and compressive meridian, as
 127 described in detail in Edalat-Behbahani et al., [15].

128 Hardening function ($\bar{\sigma}_c$) carries the meaning of uniaxial compressive stress acting on undamaged (with respect to
 129 compression) configuration of the material, and is dependent on the hardening parameter ($\tilde{\varepsilon}_c$). The hardening parameter
 130 is a scalar measure used to characterize the plastic state of the material under compressive stress field. In fact, the
 131 compressive behaviour of the material is governed by the uniaxial hardening law $\bar{\sigma}_c - \tilde{\varepsilon}_c$ represented in Fig. 3a. In this
 132 figure f_c is the compressive strength, and f_{c0} is the uniaxial compression stress at the initiation of the stress-strain
 133 nonlinear behaviour, defined by the α_0 that is a material constant in the range $]0, 1[$ i.e. $f_{c0} = \bar{\sigma}_c(\tilde{\varepsilon}_c = 0) = \alpha_0 f_c$.
 134 Hardening parameter at the compressive strength ($\tilde{\varepsilon}_{c1}$) is obtained from the following equation:

$$\tilde{\varepsilon}_{c1} = \varepsilon_{c1} - f_c/E \quad (7)$$

135 being ε_{c1} the strain at compressive strength, and E is the elasticity modulus of concrete.

136 Once the $\Delta \underline{\sigma}$ is calculated from Eq. (1) at a generic $n+1$ loading stage ($\Delta \underline{\sigma}_{n+1}$), the stress vector at this stage is
 137 updated ($\underline{\sigma}_{n+1} = \underline{\sigma}_n + \Delta \underline{\sigma}_{n+1}$). The stress vector $\underline{\sigma}_{n+1}$ does not take into account the strain softening of the material
 138 under compression since the adopted $\bar{\sigma}_c - \tilde{\varepsilon}_c$ law (Fig. 3a) at the post-peak stage ($\tilde{\varepsilon}_c > \tilde{\varepsilon}_{c1}$) does not include a softening

139 branch (slop of the $\bar{\sigma}_c - \tilde{\epsilon}_c$ law for the domain $\tilde{\epsilon}_c > \tilde{\epsilon}_{c1}$ is zero). To simulate the strain softening and stiffness
 140 degradation of the material under compression, an isotropic damage law is included according to the following equation
 141 [15]:

$$\underline{\sigma}_{n+1} = \bar{\sigma}_{n+1}^+ + (1 - d_{c,n+1}) \bar{\sigma}_{n+1}^- \quad (8)$$

142 where $\underline{\sigma}_{n+1}$ is the stress vector in damaged (with respect to compression) configuration of the material, $\bar{\sigma}_{n+1}^+$ and $\bar{\sigma}_{n+1}^-$
 143 are the positive (tensile) and the negative (compressive) parts of the stress vector $\bar{\sigma}_{n+1}$. The variable d_c is a scalar
 144 measure in the range [0,1] that is used to represent the damage level due to compression. Fig. 3(b) represents the
 145 evolution of the variable d_c as a function of a scalar parameter known as damage internal variable, $\tilde{\epsilon}_d$. The variable $\tilde{\epsilon}_d$
 146 can be evaluated as a function of the plasticity hardening variable, $\tilde{\epsilon}_c$, according to the following equation [15]:

$$\tilde{\epsilon}_d = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \tilde{\epsilon}_c \leq \tilde{\epsilon}_{c1} \\ \tilde{\epsilon}_c - \tilde{\epsilon}_{c1} & \text{if } \tilde{\epsilon}_c > \tilde{\epsilon}_{c1} \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

147 Analysis of Fig. 3(b) indicates that at the plastic deformation corresponding to $\tilde{\epsilon}_c \leq \tilde{\epsilon}_{c1}$ ($\tilde{\epsilon}_d = 0$) the material is intact
 148 ($d_c = 0$), and for $\tilde{\epsilon}_c = \tilde{\epsilon}_{cu}$ ($\tilde{\epsilon}_d = \tilde{\epsilon}_{cu} - \tilde{\epsilon}_{c1}$) the material is completely damaged ($d_c = 1$). The variable $\tilde{\epsilon}_{cu}$ is the maximum
 149 equivalent strain in compression that is related to the compressive fracture energy ($G_{f,c}$), the characteristic length for
 150 compression (l_c), the compressive strength (f_c), and $\tilde{\epsilon}_{c1}$ according to the following equation [15] (see Fig. 3(b) and
 151 Fig. 3(c)):

$$\tilde{\epsilon}_{cu} = \frac{3.1 G_{f,c}}{l_c f_c} - \frac{11}{48} \tilde{\epsilon}_{c1} \quad (10)$$

152 The characteristic lengths in tension (l_b) and compression (l_c) are usually considered the same [21], then in the present
 153 approach $l_c = l_b$. The parameters α_0 , f_c , ϵ_{c1} , $G_{f,c}$ can be determined by the stress-strain response (let's designate this
 154 response as $\sigma_c - \epsilon_c$) obtained from compression tests carried out in high stiff rigs, under displacement control, with
 155 specimens of slenderness capable of assuring a central zone considered in uniaxial stress field (for this purpose is
 156 opportune to minimize friction between the specimen extremities and the loading platens of the testing rig), where the
 157 strains are locally measured up to the complete exhaustion of the load carrying capacity of the model. For plain
 158 concrete, CEB-FIP Model Code 2010 [22] has recommendations to derive E , α_0 , ϵ_{c1} , $G_{f,c}$ from f_c (it is assumed the
 159 same E in compression and tension).

160

161 3. PREDICTIVE PERFORMANCE OF THE MODEL

162 3.1 Introduction

163 The PDSC model was implemented in FEMIX 4.0 computer program [17] as a new approach to simulate the nonlinear
164 behaviour of concrete and RC structures. This section is dedicated to assess the model robustness and predictive
165 performance when applied to different types of concrete and RC structures. Several experimental tests from literature
166 including splitting tensile test, RC deep beams with square openings, RC shear walls submitted to biaxial loading
167 conditions are simulated, and comparisons with available experimental data are executed. These structures are of
168 particular interest for the assessment of the reliability of the proposed model, since in these examples the failure
169 mechanism involved simultaneous occurrence of cracking and inelastic deformation in compression. The structures
170 under consideration are also simulated by another constitutive model, available in FEMIX 4.0, which includes the same
171 multidirectional fixed smeared crack approach [1-3] to account for cracking, but considers the linear elastic behaviour
172 for the material under compressive deformations. The later model is herein designated as SC model.

173 For all the analysis performed in this study, the incremental-iterative procedure is used in the form of a modified
174 Newton Raphson method, where the tangential stiffness matrix is only updated in the first iteration of each load
175 increment. The convergence criterion is based on the normalized energy norm assuming an error tolerance of 0.001. A
176 path independent approach was adopted for the stress update strategy in the incremental-iterative procedure. The
177 numerical simulations are executed in displacement control in order to reproduce, as much as possible, the experimental
178 testing conditions. The analysis is interrupted when the crack pattern demonstrates the eminence of structural collapse,
179 which is in general followed by difficulties in assuring convergence due to the formation of failure mechanisms.

180

181 **3.2 Indirect (splitting) tensile test**

182 Splitting tensile tests are frequently executed as the indirect method for determining the tensile strength of cement based
183 materials. In this section the model ability to predict the concrete behaviour under the splitting tensile test is
184 investigated. The model is applied to simulate the test executed in the work of Abrishambaf et al. [23], and the model
185 predictions are compared with the results reported at the experimental program. The specimen is a cylinder with a
186 diameter of 150 mm and length of 60 mm made by a steel fibre reinforced self-compacting concrete, SFRSCC, of 60 kg
187 per m³ steel fibers. To localize the crack plane, the specimen includes two 5 mm notches cut on each opposite face of
188 the specimen. Fig. 4 shows the specimen geometry, loading configuration and experimental crack pattern observed at
189 the failure stage.

190 Only a quarter of the specimen is modelled, due to the double symmetry condition. **Roller supports were imposed at all**
191 **the nodes on the both axes of symmetry to fix the displacements perpendicular to the axes of symmetry (see Fig. 5).** The
192 finite element mesh of 8-noded plane stress finite elements with 3×3 Gauss-Legendre IP scheme was adopted for the
193 specimen and the loading plate, see Fig. 5. Elements of the loading plate are assumed to exhibit linear elastic behaviour

194 with the elastic modulus and Poisson's ratio corresponding to $E = 200$ GPa, and $\nu = 0.3$. Perfect bond was assumed
195 between the elements of the loading plate and the elements of surrounding concrete. The applied load is uniformly
196 distributed over the edges of the elements of the loading plate, under the displacement control by the arc-length method.
197 The properties of concrete are taken from Abrishambaf et al. [23], and the values of the parameters to define the
198 constitutive law for concrete are included in Table 1.

199 Fig. 6 demonstrates the applied load vs. the crack opening mouth displacement ($F - W$) response obtained at the
200 experiment and the responses predicted by both SC and PDSC constitutive models. The good predictive performance of
201 the PDSC model is further demonstrated by providing the numerical crack pattern and the plastic zone i.e. the area
202 indicating those IPs under inelastic compressive deformation, obtained at the final converged loading step of the
203 calculation process (see Fig. 7).

204 The analysis executed by SC model reveals at the load corresponding to ≈ 45 kN the splitting cracks are initiated (see
205 Fig. 6). These cracks have an orientation of $\theta \approx 0^\circ$ and are formed in IPs in the vicinity of the vertical symmetry axis of
206 the cylinder. Once these cracks start to propagate ($W > 0$), the stiffness of $F - W$ response slightly decreases, but the
207 predicted load carrying capacity continuously increases without the occurrence of a failure load, since this model (SC
208 model) assumes an elastic behaviour for the concrete in compression. However according to the PDSC response, after
209 the initiation of the splitting cracks ($W > 0$), the predicted load increases and attains a hardening branch followed by a
210 softening stage that is mainly governed by the nonlinear inelastic behaviour of concrete under compression. From Fig. 6
211 it is evident that there is a close correlation between the experimental $F - W$ response and the one predicted by the
212 PDSC model. Fig. 7(a) demonstrates that the cracks having the orientation of $\theta \approx 0^\circ$ and with highly propagated
213 opening status are spread along the vertical symmetry axis of the specimen, while Fig. 7(b) shows the plastic zone is
214 concentrated at the region under the loading plate. These observations imply the final failure mechanism of this test (see
215 Fig. 4(c)) is a combination of the tensile splitting crack and the compressive failure modes. The information required to
216 interpret status of a generic crack at any stage of its development is indicated in the caption of the Fig. 7.

217 It should be aware that in the approach followed in the current work for modelling the behaviour of SFRSCC, this
218 material is considered to be homogeneous. However SFRSCC can be regarded as a heterogeneous medium, like the
219 approach proposed by Cunha et al. [26]. Within their numerical model, SFRSCC was modeled as a material composed
220 of two phases: matrix and discrete steel fibres. The matrix phase is simulated with a 3D multidirectional fixed smeared
221 crack model, while the stress transfer between crack planes due to the reinforcing mechanisms of fibres bridging active
222 cracks is modeled with 3D embedded elements. This approach is, however, too demanding in terms of computer time
223 consuming when applied to elements of structural scale, which is the type of structures aimed to be analyzed in the
224 present work.

225

226 3.3 RC deep beams

227 Application of the PDSC model for simulating reinforced concrete deep beams with openings, tested by El-Maaddawy
228 and Sherif [27], is considered in this section. A total of six beams (NS-200-B, NS-250-B, NS-200-T, NS-250-T, NS-
229 200-C, NS-250-C) are analysed which have the same shear span over depth ratio, thickness, and reinforcement layout.
230 All the beams include two square openings, one in each shear span, while the differences between these beams are
231 restricted to the location and size of the openings. These beams can be categorized considering the location of the
232 openings within shear span in three groups: *group C* which includes the beams whose openings are installed at the
233 middle points of the shear spans; *group B*, and *group T*, which include the beams that their openings are located,
234 respectively, at bottom of shear spans near loading points, and at top of the shear spans near supports. The opening size
235 for each beam was either 200×200 mm² or 250×250 mm² giving the opening height over the depth (a/h) ratios of 0.4
236 and 0.5 respectively. More details corresponding to the geometry and loading configuration of these beams are provided
237 at Fig. 8, and Table 2.

238 The tensile reinforcement consists of 4 steel bars of 14 mm diameter, with the cross-sectional area of 153.9 mm² for
239 each bar, while two steel bar of 8 mm diameter, with the cross-section area of 50.3 mm² for each bar, are applied as the
240 compressive reinforcement. The web reinforcements are applied with the steel bar of 6 mm diameter, with the cross-
241 section area of 28.3 mm², spaced at 150 mm in both vertical and horizontal directions (see Fig. 8). The web
242 reinforcement intersecting the opening spaces is cut prior to casting the corresponding specimen [27].

243 Due to symmetry of the beams about the vertical axis at the center of the beam, only half beam was modelled.
244 Horizontal displacements of all the nodes on the symmetry axis of the beam are fixed, by applying roller support, to
245 impose the symmetry condition. Eight-noded serendipity plane stress finite elements with 3×3 Gauss–Legendre IP
246 scheme were used for modelling the beams, supports and loading plates. In Fig. 9 is represented, as an example, the
247 finite element mesh used for the simulation of the beam NS-200-C. The steel reinforcement is meshed using 2-noded
248 perfect bonded embedded cables with two IPs. The assumption of the perfect bond for the embedded cable elements
249 implies the translational degrees of freedom of the nodes of these elements are constrained with respect to their host
250 elements (plane stress finite elements used for modelling concrete). For modelling the behaviour of the steel bar
251 elements, the stress-strain relationship represented in Fig. 10 was adopted. The curve (under compressive or tensile
252 loading) is defined by the points PT1 = ($\varepsilon_{sy}, \sigma_{sy}$), PT2 = ($\varepsilon_{sh}, \sigma_{sh}$), and PT3 = ($\varepsilon_{su}, \sigma_{su}$) and a parameter P_2 that
253 defines the shape of the last branch of the curve. Unloading and reloading linear branches with the slope of
254 $E_s = \sigma_{sy} / \varepsilon_{sy}$ are assumed in the present approach [1]. The values of parameters used to define the stress-strain diagram
255 indicated in Fig. 10 are included in Table 3. Support and loading plates are modeled as a linear-elastic material with

256 Poisson's coefficient of 0.3 and elasticity modulus of 200 GPa. Perfect bond was assumed between the elements of
257 supports/loading plates and the elements of surrounding concrete. Properties of concrete are taken from Hawileh et al.
258 [28], and the values of the parameters to define the PDSC model are, accordingly, included in Table 1.

259 Fig. 11 shows the experimental load vs. mid-span deflection ($P-U$ relationship) for the beams in analysis and the
260 respective numerical predictions with the SC and PDSC models. Table 2 gives the failure loads of the beams obtained
261 in the experimental program (P_u^{exp}) and in the numerical simulations (P_u^{num}). Amongst the beams with the opening size
262 of $200 \times 200 \text{ mm}^2$ (NS-200-B, NS-200-T, NS-200-C), i.e. the beams having the a/h ratio of 0.4, the beam NS-200-T has
263 the maximum experimental failure load (see Fig. 11 and Table 2). The failure load of the beam NS-200-T is close to
264 that of the beam NS-200-B (the load corresponding to the beam NS-200-T is 4.4% larger than that of NS-200-B), and is
265 35% higher than that of the beam NS-200-C. The beam NS-200-C has the minimum failure load among these three
266 beams, since its openings, located at the center of the shear spans, significantly interrupts the loading path which is a
267 line connecting loading to the support plates. In case of the beams NS-200-B and NS-200-T whose openings are located
268 at the corners of the shear spans, the loading paths are less interrupted and higher load carrying capacities are obtained
269 at the experimental program. A close inspection of Table 2 also reveals that the PDSC model was able to simulate this
270 experimental observation, since the numerical failure load (P_u^{num}) predicted for the beam NS-200-B is higher than that
271 of NS-200-C and is lower than the value calculated for the beam NS-200-T.

272 By comparing the experimental failure loads of the beams in the same geometry group (*group B*, *group C*, or *group T*)
273 but with the different opening sizes (different a/h ratios of 0.4 or 0.5), e.g. compare the failure load of the beam NS-
274 200-T with that of the beam NS-250-T, it can be concluded as the opening size increases, the loading path of the beam
275 is more interrupted, and the failure load decreases. From Fig. 11 and Table 2, it is evident that PDSC model was able to
276 simulate the reduction of the load carrying capacity as the a/h ratio of the beams increases from 0.4 to 0.5.

277 Fig. 11 also shows that the PDSC model fit with high accuracy the experimental $P-U$ curves at all stages of loading
278 till failure. The failure loads were predicted with the average error of 4.45% (see Table 2). If SC approach is taken into
279 account to simulate these beams, the predicted $P-U$ responses consider the stiffness degradation only due to cracking
280 of concrete and yielding of steel reinforcements. Since the SC model assumes a linear behaviour for the concrete in
281 compression, the stiffness and ultimate load is overestimated for all the beams, and the final failure mode is incorrectly
282 predicted as yielding of reinforcement (see Fig. 11).

283 The experimental cracking patterns of all the beams at the failure stage demonstrated two critical diagonal cracks in the
284 above and below of one of the openings, see Fig. 12. As can be seen in Fig. 13, the crack patterns predicted by PDSC
285 model demonstrate flexural cracks with insignificant opening status in middle of the beams, whereas more propagated
286 diagonal cracks (cracks with the orientation of $\theta \approx 45^\circ$) can be observed along the line connecting the support and

287 loading plates. It seems clear that the PDSC model was able to simulate with high accuracy the experimentally observed
288 crack patterns of the beams in analysis. The simulated plastic zones for these beam, see Fig. 13, evidence formation of
289 the compressive struts connecting the loading points and supports.

290

291 3.4 Shear RC walls

292 To highlight the efficiency of the proposed constitutive model, the shear wall panels, tested by Maier and Thürlimann
293 [29], were simulated. The analysed specimens are registered at the experiment as S1, S2, S3, S4, S9, and S10. The
294 experimental loading procedure introduces an initial vertical compressive force, F_v , and then a horizontal force, F_h ,
295 that was increased up to the failure of the wall. These shear walls had a relatively thick beam at their bottom and top
296 edges for fixing the walls to the foundation, and for applying F_h and F_v , respectively, as depicted in Fig. 14. The
297 analysed shear walls differ in geometry, reinforcement ratio, and initial vertical load (F_v). These walls can be
298 categorized considering geometry of the walls in two groups: *group A*, which includes walls with vertical flanges at
299 their lateral edges; *group B*, which contains the walls with uniform rectangular cross section (without vertical flanges).
300 All the walls are reinforced in both vertical and horizontal directions with the reinforcement ratios designated as ρ_x and
301 ρ_y . For the walls at the *group A* (specimens with vertical flanges), ρ_x indicates the reinforcement ratio of the vertical
302 flanges. Table 4 includes the details corresponding to geometry, reinforcement ratios, and initial vertical force for each
303 shear wall analysed at this study.

304 FEM modelling of the walls and top beams were performed using 8-noded serendipity plane stress finite elements with
305 3×3 Gauss-Legendre IP scheme. Fig. 15(a) presents, as an example, the finite element mesh used for analysis of the
306 wall S3. Instead of modelling the foundation, the bottom nodes of the panels are fixed in vertical and horizontal
307 directions. The vertical and horizontal loads are uniformly distributed over the edges of the top beam, as schematically
308 represented in Fig. 15(a). Elements of the top beam are assumed to exhibit linear elastic behaviour during the analysis,
309 since no damage is reported for these elements in the original papers. For modelling the behaviour of the steel bars, the
310 stress-strain relationship represented in Fig. 10 was adopted. The reinforcement is meshed using 2-noded perfect
311 bonded embedded cables with two IPs. The values of parameters used to define the constitutive models of concrete and
312 steel are included in Table 1 and Table 5, respectively. The effect of tension-stiffening was indirectly simulated using
313 the trilinear tension-softening diagram.

314 The experimental relationship between the applied horizontal force and the horizontal displacement of the top beam, F_h -
315 U_h , for the wall S3 is represented in Fig. 15(b). This figure also includes the predicted F_h - U_h response obtained by both
316 PDSC and SC models. According to the experimental observations the wall S3 attains the load carrying capacity at peak
317 stage corresponding to 977 kN, which is maximum amongst all the panels, and after attaining the peak the panel failed

318 in brittle manner mainly due to crushing of concrete at the bottom left side of the panel. At the failure stage, this panel is
 319 densely cracked as can be seen in the experimental crack pattern (see fig. 15(e)). Predictions of the PDSC model are
 320 obtained for three levels of compressive fracture energy ($G_{f,c} = 20, 30, 40 \text{ N/mm}$) to demonstrate the effect of this
 321 model parameter on behaviour of the simulated wall. At $U_h \approx 5 \text{ mm}$ the IP closest to the left bottom side of the wall
 322 enters in the compressive softening phase ($d_c > 0$). After $U_h \approx 10 \text{ mm}$ the load carrying capacity and ductility of the
 323 simulated F_h-U_h responses are significantly affected by changing the compressive fracture energy; the load carrying
 324 capacity and ductility increase with $G_{f,c}$. Ductility of the wall is underestimated for the simulation with
 325 $G_{f,c} = 20 \text{ N/mm}$, and overestimated when using $G_{f,c} = 40 \text{ N/mm}$. A proper fit of the experimentally observed load
 326 carrying capacity and ductility of F_h-U_h response was obtained for the simulation using $G_{f,c} = 30 \text{ N/mm}$. This value is
 327 close to the upper limit of the interval values obtained by Vonk [30]. Fig. 15(c) and (d) present, respectively, the
 328 numerical crack pattern and the plastic zone for the simulation using $G_{f,c} = 30 \text{ N/mm}$, at the deformation
 329 corresponding to $U_h \approx 16.5 \text{ mm}$ (final converged step). Fig. 15(c) demonstrates that the cracks with fully opened status
 330 are spread over a large area of the panel. The cracks at the right side of the panel (mainly at the right vertical flange of
 331 the panel) are mostly oriented with an inclination of about $\theta \approx 90^\circ$, while the cracks at the middle region of the panel
 332 have the orientation of $\theta \approx 45^\circ$. This numerical prediction correlates well with the experimental crack pattern (see Fig.
 333 15(e)). The simulated plastic zone evidences the formation of a compressive strut connecting the right top side of the
 334 panel to the bottom left side.

335 Results of the analysis for the other shear walls are represented in Fig. 16 in terms of F_h-U_h relationship and crack
 336 pattern. As can be seen in this figure the PDSC model assuming $G_{f,c} = 30 \text{ N/mm}$ was able to accurately predict the
 337 overall experimental F_h-U_h behaviour and the experimental crack patterns of these walls. For all the 6 shear walls the
 338 numerical peak load, $F_{h,u}^{num}$, predicted by the PDSC model are compared with the experimental ones, $F_{h,u}^{exp}$, at Table 4.

339 The information provided at Table 4 verifies the peak loads of all the shear walls are precisely simulated with the
 340 average error of 4.85%. Comparing the F_h-U_h responses obtained by both PDSC and SC models reveals the major
 341 influence of simulating compressive nonlinearity on the predicted deformational behaviour and failure mechanism of
 342 these shear walls. If nonlinear compressive behaviour is neglected in these analyses, as the approach adopted in SC
 343 model, the ductility and load carrying capacity are significantly overestimated.

344

345 3.5 Parametric study for the model parameters, and mesh sensitivity analysis

346 A parametric study is executed to assess the influence of the values of the model parameters on the simulated behaviour
 347 of the structures analyzed in the previous sections. The parameters under consideration are the compressive strength

348 (f_c), strain at compressive strength (ε_{c1}), compressive fracture energy ($G_{f,c}$), tensile strength (f_{ct}), and fracture
 349 energy mode I (G_f^I), that they all have the most significant impact on the predictive performance of the model. To
 350 assess the influence of the parameters f_c , ε_{c1} , $G_{f,c}$, f_{ct} , G_f^I on the responses predicted by the PDSC model, the
 351 values of these parameters are modified from those used in the previous sections (the values of all the remaining
 352 parameters were maintained the same as those of Table 1). A mesh analysis is also performed to investigate the the
 353 sensitivity of the structural response of the PDSC model to the applied mesh schemes. The RC shear wall S4 was
 354 selected for the parametric study and the mesh analysis, but the conclusions to be extracted can be generalized to other
 355 structural members simulated in the present work.

356

357 3.5.1 Influence of f_c

358 Fig. 17(a) demonstrates the influence of the concrete compressive strength on the force-deflection (F_h-U_h) relationship
 359 when simulating the S4 shear wall (details are provided in Section 3.4). Three different values for f_c were adopted, 20,
 360 30 and 40 N/mm², the first one is lower than the value considered in the analysis of Section 3.4 ($f_c=30$ N/mm²), while
 361 the third is higher. As expected, by increasing f_c the stiffness and the load carrying capacity also increase, but the
 362 displacement at peak load is almost the same for the three considered values. As also expected, the F_h-U_h response
 363 obtaining using the SC model can be considered an upper limit, since in this model the effect of the nonlinear
 364 compressive deformation of concrete is neglected.

365 The stages where the effect of inelastic compressive deformation becomes relevant on the F_h-U_h responses of the panel
 366 in analysis are indicated in Fig. 17(a) using markers. It is verified that these markers are localized in the force-deflection
 367 response of the wall when predictions with the PDSC model start diverging from that of SC model. The higher is the
 368 concrete compressive strength the larger is the load carrying capacity of the beam corresponding to the marker, which is
 369 justified by the adoption of a constant value for the α_0 parameter, which defines the initiation of the inelastic
 370 deformation of concrete in compression ($f_{c0} = \alpha_0 f_c$).

371

372 3.5.2 Influence of ε_{c1}

373 The parameter ε_{c1} influences both plasticity and damage parts of the PDSC model. Within the plasticity part, the value
 374 of the hardening parameter at compressive strength, $\tilde{\varepsilon}_{c1}$, is calculated according to Eq. (7) by attributing a certain value
 375 to ε_{c1} . According to this equation $\tilde{\varepsilon}_{c1}$ decreases with ε_{c1} , resulting a stiffer pre-peak branch (hardening phase) of the
 376 $\bar{\sigma}_c - \tilde{\varepsilon}_{c1}$ diagram, as shown in Fig. 3(a).

377 According to the approach adopted in PDSC model, the damage threshold is assumed to be related to $\tilde{\epsilon}_c$: when $\tilde{\epsilon}_c \leq \tilde{\epsilon}_{c1}$,
378 $d_c = 0$, while for $\tilde{\epsilon}_c > \tilde{\epsilon}_{c1}$ the scalar damage parameter is $d_c > 0$. Therefore by increasing ϵ_{c1} the $\tilde{\epsilon}_{c1}$ also increases, and
379 the occurrence of damage (i.e. $d_c > 0$), which characterize the entrance of concrete in its compressive strain softening
380 stage, initiates at higher compressive deformation. To assess the influence of the parameter ϵ_{c1} on the response of the
381 wall in analysis, three values were considered, 0.0018, 0.0035 and 0.0055, the first one is lower than the value
382 considered in the analysis executed in Section 3.4 ($\epsilon_{c1} = 0.0035$), while the third value is higher. Fig. 17(b) shows that
383 by increasing the ϵ_{c1} the stiffness of the load vs. deflection response decreases, but the peak load, and mainly its
384 deflection increase, with benefits in terms of the ductility response and load capacity of the beam. In fact by increasing
385 ϵ_{c1} , in spite of the less stiffer pre-peak branch of the $\bar{\sigma}_c - \tilde{\epsilon}_c$ diagram, the entrance in the concrete compressive strain
386 softening phase (damage activation) is postponed resulting higher deformability and load capacity for the concrete
387 element.

388

389 3.5.3 Influence of $G_{f,c}$

390 The parameter of compressive fracture energy ($G_{f,c}$) controls the rate of strain softening, i.e. the level of stress decrease
391 with the increase of strain, in post-peak stage of the concrete behaviour in compression (see Fig. 3(c)). As larger is $G_{f,c}$
392 as smaller is this stress decay, which is a characteristic of very ductile materials like fibre reinforced concrete [31].
393 Fig. 17(c) compares the F_h-U_h responses obtained for three different values of the $G_{f,c}$, 20, 30 and 40 N/mm, the first
394 one is lower than the value considered in the analysis of Section 3.4 ($G_{f,c} = 30$ N/mm), while the third is higher. As
395 can be seen at Fig. 17(c) the parameter $G_{f,c}$ influences the F_h-U_h response of the wall only after the deflection of 7 mm
396 corresponding to the stage that the effect of post-peak strain softening behaviour of concrete under compression
397 becomes relevant. For the deformations larger than 7 mm, the load carrying capacity and ductility of the simulated F_h-
398 U_h curves increase with $G_{f,c}$.

399

400 3.5.4 Influence f_{ct}

401 Fig. 18(a) represents the influence concrete tensile strength (f_{ct}) on the force-deflection (F_h-U_h) relationship of the wall
402 S4. Three different values for f_{ct} were chosen, 1.2, 2.2 and 4.2 N/mm², the first one is lower and the last one is higher
403 than the value considered in the analysis of Section 3.4 ($f_{ct}=2.2$ N/mm²). Fig. 18(a) shows the influence of f_{ct} is
404 mainly resumed to the first stage of the cracking process, by anticipating this process as lower is f_{ct} , with the

405 consequent decrease of stiffness of the structural response. When the cracking process is stabilized, the influence of f_{ct}
406 was not totally null because the other fracture parameters were considered the same in these analysis, therefore as larger
407 is f_{ct} as smaller is the ultimate normal crack strain, as shown in Fig. 18(b).

408

409 3.5.5 Influence of G_f^I

410 Fig. 19(a) compares the force-deflection (F_h-U_h) relationships obtained for three different values of fracture energy
411 mode I (G_f^I), 0.08, 0.14 and 0.4 N/mm, the first one is lower and the last one is higher than the value considered in the
412 analysis of Section 3.4 ($G_f^I = 0.14$ N/mm). As can be seen in this figure, after crack initiation the load carrying
413 capacity increases with G_f^I , but the stiffness of the response of the structure in its crack propagation stage was not
414 significantly affected. The response of the analysis with G_f^I of 0.08 and 0.14 N/mm become almost coincident after the
415 yield initiation of the reinforcement because at this stage the cracks in the governing failure zone are completely open
416 (the fracture energy was completely exhausted). In the analysis with $G_f^I = 0.4$ N/mm, the load carrying capacity at post-
417 yielding phase was higher than in the other two simulations (G_f^I of 0.08 and 0.14 N/mm) due to the post-cracking
418 residual tensile capacity provided by the cracks at this stage (see Fig. 19(b)).

419

420 3.5.6 Influence of mesh size

421 Size of the finite element mesh used in the section 3.4 for the analysis of the wall S4 is refined with a factor of four in
422 order to show the structural response predicted by the PDSC model is not dependent of the adopted mesh refinement.
423 Fig. 20(a) shows the refined mesh adopted for this analysis. Eight-noded serendipity plane stress finite elements with
424 3×3 Gauss-Legendre IP scheme are adopted. The F_h-U_h relationship predicted by the analysis with the refined mesh is
425 compared in Fig. 20(b) with that of the analysis with the coarse mesh (the one already obtained in section 3.4). From
426 this figure it is verified that sensitivity of the structural response of the PDSC model to the applied mesh schemes is
427 negligible. Both meshes show similar cracking patterns (see Fig. 16 and Fig. 20(c)).

428

429 4. CONCLUSION

430 This study describes a constitutive approach based on combination of a multidirectional fixed smeared crack model to
431 simulate crack initiation and propagation, and a plastic-damage model to account for nonlinear compressive behaviour
432 of material between the cracks. The crack opening process is initiated based on the Rankine tensile criterion, whereas a
433 trilinear softening diagram is used to simulate the crack propagation. The plasticity part of the model accounts for the

434 development of irreversible strains and volumetric strain in compression, whereas the strain softening and stiffness
435 degradation of the material under compression are controlled by an isotropic strain base damage model.
436 The constitutive model was implemented in the finite element computer code FEMIX, and its performance was assessed
437 by simulating concrete and RC structures whose failure mechanisms are governed by, simultaneously, cracking and
438 inelastic compressive deformations. The analysis includes splitting tensile test, RC deep beams, and RC shear wall
439 panels submitted to biaxial loading configuration. The model succeeds to predict with high accuracy the deformational
440 and cracking behaviour as well as the experimentally observed failure modes of the simulated structural members. The
441 results of these analysis indicates the robustness and accuracy of the proposed model for simulating concrete and RC
442 structures subjected to multi-axial loading configurations. A parametric study was also performed to assess the
443 sensitivity of the simulations to the values of the model parameters.

444

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NOTATIONS

a	height of the openings at the deep beam tests
d_c	scalar describing the amount compressive damage
\underline{D}^e	linear elastic constitutive matrix
D_n^{cr}	the stiffness modulus correspondent to the fracture mode I
D_t^{cr}	the stiffness modulus correspondent to the fracture mode II
E	elasticity modulus of concrete
E_s	unloading-reloading slop for the steel constitutive law
f_c	compressive strength of concrete
f_{ct}	tensile strength of concrete
$f(\bar{\sigma}, \bar{\sigma}_c)$	yield function of the plasticity model
f_{c0}	uniaxial compressive stress at plastic threshold
F	applied load (total load) at the splitting tensile test
F_v	initial vertical load applied to the shear wall panel
F_h	horizontal load applied to the shear wall panel
$F_{h,u}^{exp}$	experimental horizontal load at peak stage of F_h-U_h diagram
$F_{h,u}^{num}$	numerical horizontal load at peak stage of F_h-U_h diagram (predicted by PDSC model)
h	dept of the beam at the deep beam tests
IP	integration point
G_c	elastic shear modulus
G_f^I	mode I fracture energy
$G_{f,c}$	compressive fracture energy
l_b	crack bandwidth
l_c	compressive characteristic length which was assumed identical to the crack bandwidth
n	a generic loading stage of analysis
P	applied load at the deep beam test
P_1	parameter that defines the amount of the decrease of β upon increasing ε_n^{cr}

P_2	parameter that defines the shape of the last branch of the steel stress-strain curve
P_u^{exp}	failure loads of the deep beams at the experimental program
P_u^{num}	failure loads of the deep beams obtained by PDSC model
U	mid-span deflection at the deep beam test
U_h	horizontal deformation of the panel
W	crack opening mouth displacement at the splitting tensile test
$\bar{\sigma}$	stress vector at global coordinate system providing no compressive damage is included
$\underline{\sigma}$	stress vector at global coordinate system which include compressive damage softening
$\bar{\sigma}^+$	positive part, tensile, of stress vector $\bar{\sigma}$
$\bar{\sigma}^-$	negative part, compressive, of stress vector $\bar{\sigma}$
$\underline{\varepsilon}^{\text{cr}}$	crack strain vector
$\underline{\varepsilon}^{\text{co}}$	concrete strain vector
$\underline{\varepsilon}$	total strain vector
$\underline{\varepsilon}^{\text{p}}$	plastic strain vector
$\underline{\varepsilon}^{\text{e}}$	elastic strain vector
σ_n^{cr}	normal components of the local crack stress vector
τ_t^{cr}	shear components of the local crack stress vector
$\varepsilon_n^{\text{cr}}$	normal components of the local crack strain vector
γ_t^{cr}	shear components of the local crack strain vector
ν	Poisson's coefficient
α_i	normalized stress parameters ($i=1, 2$) in the trilinear diagram
β	shear retention factor
ξ_i	normalized strain parameter ($i = 1, 2$) in the trilinear diagram
$\varepsilon_{n,u}^{\text{cr}}$	ultimate crack normal strain
$\bar{\sigma}_c$	hardening function of the plasticity model
ε_{c1}	strain at compression peak stress

$\tilde{\epsilon}_c$	compressive hardening variable
$\Delta\lambda$	plastic multiplier
$\tilde{\epsilon}_{c1}$	hardening parameter at uniaxial compressive peak stress
$\tilde{\epsilon}_{cu}$	maximum equivalent strain in compression
α_0	material constant to define the beginning of the nonlinear behaviour in uniaxial compressive stress-strain test
$\tilde{\epsilon}_d$	internal damage variable for compression
θ	crack orientation (angle between the x_1 axis and the vector orthogonal to the plane of the crack)
ρ_x	horizontal reinforcement ratio of web of the shear wall panel
ρ_y	vertical reinforcement ratio of web of the shear wall panel
ρ_F	vertical reinforcement ratio corresponding to the vertical flange of the shear wall panel
$\epsilon_{sy}, \epsilon_{sh}, \epsilon_{su}$	three strain points at the steel constitutive law
$\sigma_{sy}, \sigma_{sh}, \sigma_{su}$	three stress points at the steel constitutive law

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Table captions	
Table 1	Values of the parameters of the concrete constitutive model.
Table 2	Details for the deep beam tests.
Table 3	Values of the parameters of the steel constitutive model for deep beams tests.
Table 4	Details for the shear wall panels.
Table 5	Values of the parameters of the steel constitutive model for shear walls tests.

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Figure captions	
Fig. 1	Diagram for modelling the fracture mode I at the crack coordinate system [1].
Fig. 2	Relation between crack shear stress and crack shear strain for the incremental approach based on a shear retention factor [19].
Fig. 3	Diagrams for modelling compression: (a) the $\bar{\sigma}_c - \tilde{\epsilon}_c$ relation used in the plasticity model; (b) the $(1 - d_c) - \tilde{\epsilon}_d$ relation adopted in the isotropic damage model; (c) the $\sigma_c - \tilde{\epsilon}_c$ diagram for compression with indication of the compressive fracture energy, $G_{f,c}$.
Fig. 4	Details of the splitting tensile test: (a) setup of the test [23]; (b) geometry of the specimen, dimensions are in mm; (c) experimental crack pattern at the failure stage [24].
Fig. 5	Finite element mesh, load and support conditions used for analysis of the splitting tensile test.
Fig. 6	Experimental load vs. crack mouth opening displacement relationship [22] in comparison with the predictions of the PDSC and SC models.
Fig. 7	Predictions of PDSC model for the splitting tensile test: (a) numerical crack pattern; (b) numerical plastic zone (results of (a) and (b) correspond to $W \approx 1.9$ mm, the final converged loading step). Note: In pink color: crack completely open; in red color: crack in the opening process; in cyan color: crack in the reopening process; in green color: crack in the closing process; in blue color: closed crack; in red circle: the plastic zone.
Fig. 8	Deep beams with openings tested by Maaddawy and Sherif [26]: (a) details of the reinforcement system, common for all the beams in the experimental program; (b) geometry of the beams at <i>group B</i> , NS-200-B and NS-250-B; (c) geometry of the beams at <i>group T</i> , NS-200-T and NS-250-T; (d) geometry of the beams at <i>group C</i> , NS-200-C and NS-250-C.
Fig. 9	Finite element mesh, load and support conditions used for analysis of the beam NS-200-C.
Fig. 10	Uniaxial constitutive model (for both tension and compression) for the steel bars [1].
Fig. 11	Experimental load vs. mid-span deflection [26] in compare with the predictions of the PDSC and SC models for the beams: (a) NS-200-B; (b) NS-200-T; (c) NS-200-C; (d) NS-250-B; (e) NS-250-T; (f) NS-250-C.
Fig. 12	Experimental crack patterns [26] for the beams: (a) NS-200-B; (b) NS-200-T; (c) NS-250-B; (d) NS-250-T; (e) NS-250-C.
Fig. 13	Numerical crack patterns (left) and plastic zones (right) predicted by PDSC model for the beams in analysis (the results correspond to the final converged step).

	Note: the crack pattern and plastic zone are represented over the finite element mesh adopted for the concrete.
Fig. 14	Geometry and loading configurations of the shear walls tested by Maier and Thürlimann [28] (dimensions in mm): (a) the walls in <i>group A</i> (with vertical flange); (b) the walls in <i>group B</i> (without vertical flange).
Fig. 15	Simulation of the S3 shear wall tested by Maier and Thürlimann [28]: (a) finite element mesh used for the analysis; (b) horizontal load vs. horizontal displacement relationship, F_h-U_h ; (c) numerical crack pattern predicted by PDSC model and (d) plastic zone predicted by PDSC model (results of (c) and (d) correspond to $U_h \approx 16.5\text{mm}$, the final converged step); (e) experimentally observed crack pattern [28]. Note: the crack pattern and plastic zone are represented over the finite element mesh adopted for the concrete.
Fig. 16	Simulation of the shear walls S1, S2, S4, S9, S10 tested by Maier and Thürlimann [28]: (a) horizontal load versus horizontal displacement relationship, F_h-U_h ; (b) numerical crack pattern predicted by PDSC model and corresponding to the final converged step; (c) experimentally observed crack pattern [28]. Note: the crack pattern is represented over the finite element mesh adopted for the concrete.
Fig. 17	Sensitivity of the analysis of the panel S4 respect to the values of the parameters: (a) f_c ; (b) ε_{c1} ; (c) $G_{f,c}$.
Fig. 18	Sensitivity of the analysis of the panel S4 respect to the value of the parameter f_{ct} : (a) F_h-U_h relationship; (b) crack normal stress-crack normal strain diagram ($\sigma_n^{cr} - \varepsilon_n^{cr}$) for the f_{ct} equal to 1.2, 2.2, and 4.2 MPa.
Fig. 19	Sensitivity of the analysis of the panel S4 respect to the value of the parameter fracture energy mode I (G_f^I): (a) F_h-U_h relationship; (b) crack normal stress-crack normal strain diagram ($\sigma_n^{cr} - \varepsilon_n^{cr}$) for the G_f^I equal to 0.08, 0.14, and 0.4 MPa.
Fig. 20	Sensitivity of the analysis of the panel S4 respect to the size of finite element mesh: (a) refined finite element mesh used for analysis; (b) F_h-U_h relationship; (c) Numerical crack pattern obtained at final converged step of the analysis. Note: the crack pattern is represented over the finite element mesh adopted for the concrete.

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Table 1 – Values of the parameters of the concrete constitutive model.

Property	Value
Poisson's ratio	$\nu = 0.2$
Young's modulus	for the splitting tensile test $E = 36000 \text{ N/mm}^2$; for the deep beam tests $E = 20000 \text{ N/mm}^2$; for the shear wall tests $E = 26000 \text{ N/mm}^2$;
Parameters defining the plastic-damage part of the model	for the splitting tensile test $f_c = 48.0 \text{ N/mm}^2$; $G_{f,c} = 35.0 \text{ N/mm}$; $\varepsilon_{c1} = 0.0035$; for the deep beam tests $f_c = 20.0 \text{ N/mm}^2$; $G_{f,c} = 8.0 \text{ N/mm}$; $\varepsilon_{c1} = 0.0035$; for the shear wall tests $f_c = 30.0 \text{ N/mm}^2$; $G_{f,c} = 30.0 \text{ N/mm}$; $\varepsilon_{c1} = 0.0035$;
Parameter to define elastic limit state	for all the simulations $\alpha_0 = 0.4$
Parameter defining the Trilinear tension-softening diagram	for the splitting tensile test $f_{ct} = 3.5 \text{ N/mm}^2$; $G_f^1 = 3.0 \text{ N/mm}$; $\xi_1 = 0.007$; $\alpha_1 = 0.5$; $\xi_2 = 0.15$; $\alpha_2 = 0.55$; for the deep beam tests $f_{ct} = 1.1 \text{ N/mm}^2$; $G_f^1 = 0.04 \text{ N/mm}$; $\xi_1 = 0.0022$; $\alpha_1 = 0.3$; $\xi_2 = 0.1$; $\alpha_2 = 0.15$; for the shear wall tests $f_{ct} = 2.2 \text{ N/mm}^2$; $G_f^1 = 0.14 \text{ N/mm}$; $\xi_1 = 0.15$; $\alpha_1 = 0.3$; $\xi_2 = 0.575$; $\alpha_2 = 0.15$;
Parameter defining the mode I fracture energy available to the new crack [1]	for all the simulations 2
Type of shear retention factor law	for all the simulations $P_I = 2$
Crack bandwidth	for all the simulations this parameter was set as square root of the area of Gauss integration point
Threshold angle [1]	for all the simulations 30 degree
Maximum number of cracks per integration point [1]	for all the simulations 2

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Table 2 – Details for the deep beam tests.

specimen ID	geometry	opening size (mm ²)	$a/h^{(4)}$ ratio	P_u^{exp} (kN)	P_u^{num} (kN)	$ P_u^{\text{exp}} - P_u^{\text{num}} / P_u^{\text{exp}}$ (%)
NS-200-B	group B ⁽¹⁾	200×200	0.4	210.7	212	0.61
NS-250-B	group B	250×250	0.5	137.9	143.15	3.8
NS-200-C	group C ⁽²⁾	200×200	0.4	163	183	12.2
NS-250-C	group C	250×250	0.5	106.6	108.9	2.1
NS-200-T	group T ⁽³⁾	200×200	0.4	220	236	7.2
NS-250-T	group T	250×250	0.5	127.6	128.6	0.78
					average	4.45

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(1) Opening is located at bottom of shear span near loading point.

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(2) Opening is located at middle of the shear span.

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(3) Opening is located at top of shear span near support.

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(4) a : height of openings; h : dept of the beam.

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Table 3 – Values of the parameters of the steel constitutive model for deep beams tests.

	ε_{sy} (%)	σ_{sy} (N/mm ²)	ε_{sh} (%)	σ_{sh} (N/mm ²)	ε_{su} (%)	σ_{su} (N/mm ²)	Third branch exponent
$\phi 14$	0.21	420	1.4	430	4.4	540	1
$\phi 8$	0.21	420	1.4	430	4.4	540	1
$\phi 6$	0.15	300	1.4	330	4.4	440	1

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Table 4 – Details for the shear wall panels.

Specimen ID	geometry	ρ_x (%)	ρ_y (%)	ρ_F (%)	F_v (kN)	$F_{h,u}^{\text{exp}}$ (kN)	$F_{h,u}^{\text{num}}$ (kN)	$\left F_{h,u}^{\text{exp}} - F_{h,u}^{\text{num}}\right / F_{h,u}^{\text{exp}}$ (%)
S1	group A	1.03	1.16	1.16	433	680	721	6.0
S2	group A	1.03	1.16	1.16	1653	928	958	3.3
S3	group A	1.03	2.46	2.46	424	977	991	1.4
S4	group B	1.03	1.05	1.05	262	392	364	7.1
S9	group B	0.0	0.99	0.99	260	342	310	9.3
S10	group B	0.98	1.0	5.71	262	670	656	2
							average	4.85

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Table 5 – Values of the parameters of the steel constitutive model for shear walls tests.

	ε_{sy} (%)	σ_{sy} (N/mm ²)	ε_{sh} (%)	σ_{sh} (N/mm ²)	ε_{su} (%)	σ_{su} (N/mm ²)	Third branch exponent
$\phi 8$	0.287	574	0.287	574	2.46	764	1

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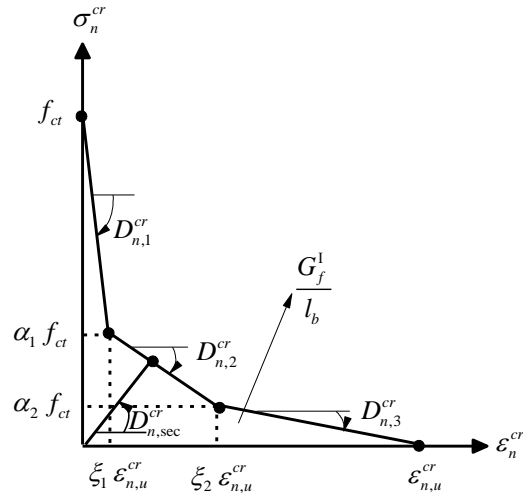


Fig. 1 – Diagram for modelling the fracture mode I at the crack coordinate system [1].

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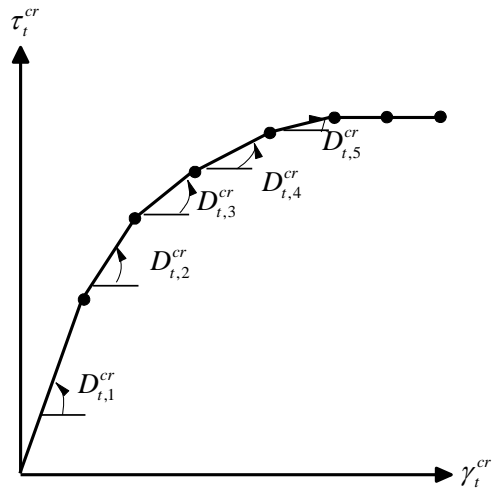


Fig. 2 – Relation between crack shear stress and crack shear strain for the incremental approach based on a shear retention factor [19].

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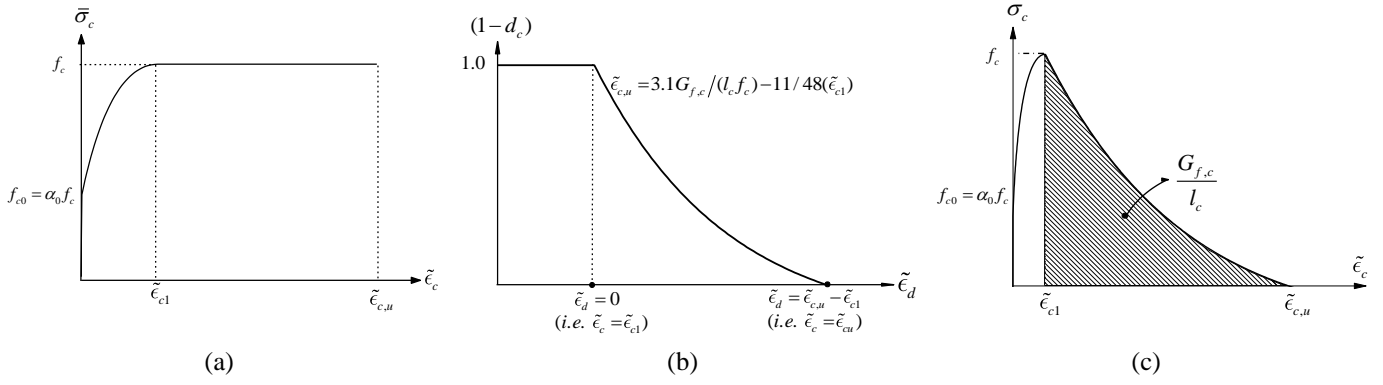


Fig. 3 – Diagrams for modelling compression: (a) the $\bar{\sigma}_c - \tilde{\epsilon}_c$ relation used in the plasticity model; (b) the $(1-d_c) - \tilde{\epsilon}_d$ relation adopted in the isotropic damage model; (c) the $\sigma_c - \tilde{\epsilon}_c$ diagram for compression with indication of the compressive fracture energy, $G_{f,c}$.

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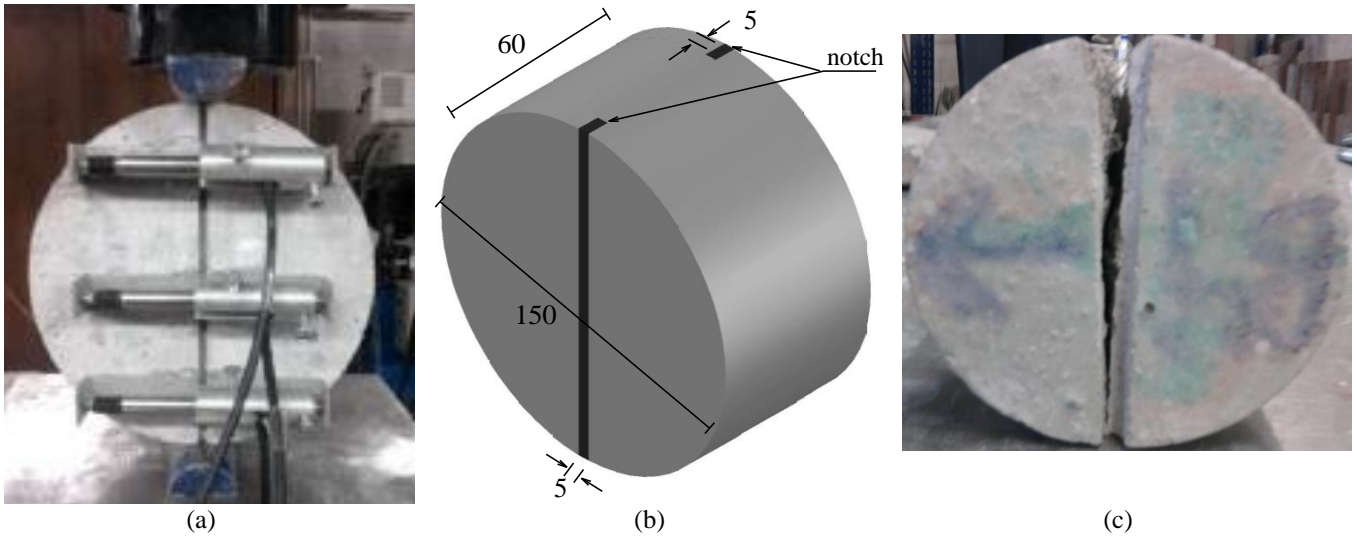


Fig. 4 – Details of the splitting tensile test: (a) setup of the test [24]; (b) geometry of the specimen, dimensions are in mm; (c) experimental crack pattern at the failure stage [25].

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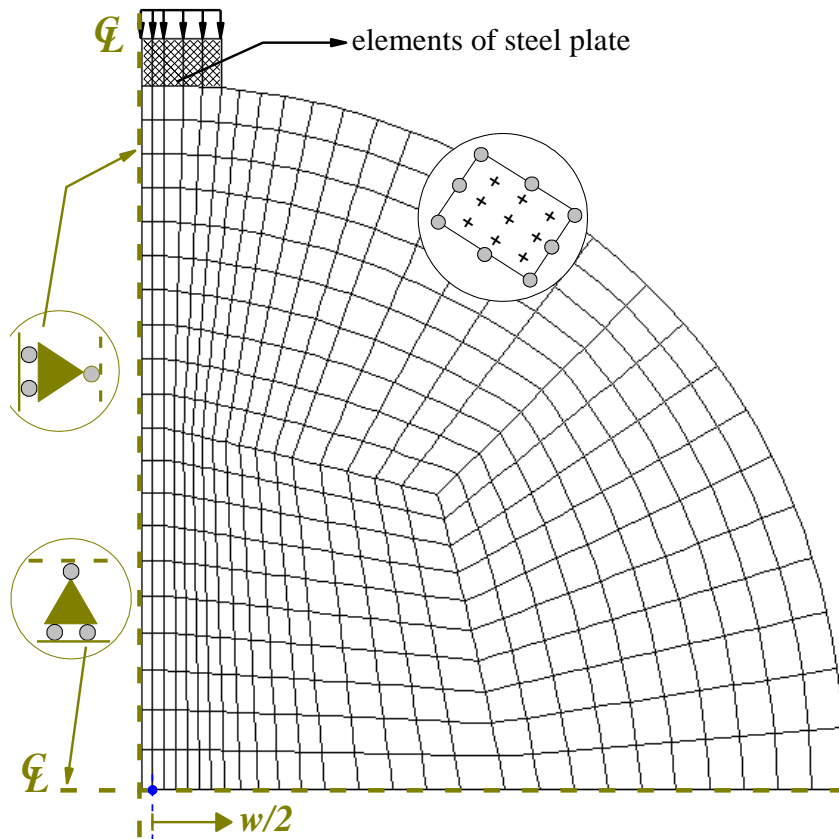


Fig. 5 – Finite element mesh, load and support conditions used for analysis of the splitting tensile test.

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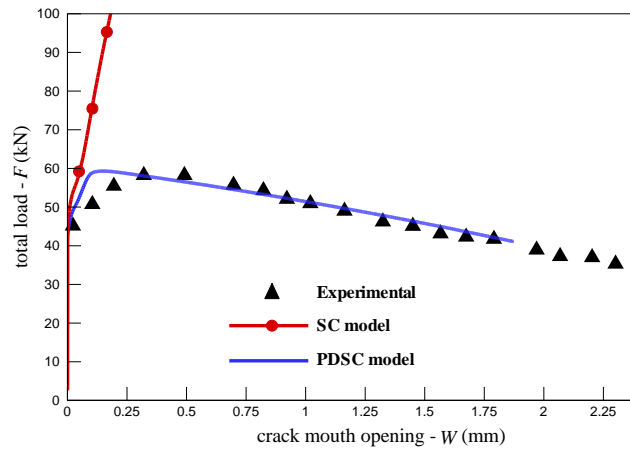


Fig. 6 – Experimental load vs. crack mouth opening displacement relationship [22] in comparison with the predictions of the PDSC and SC models.

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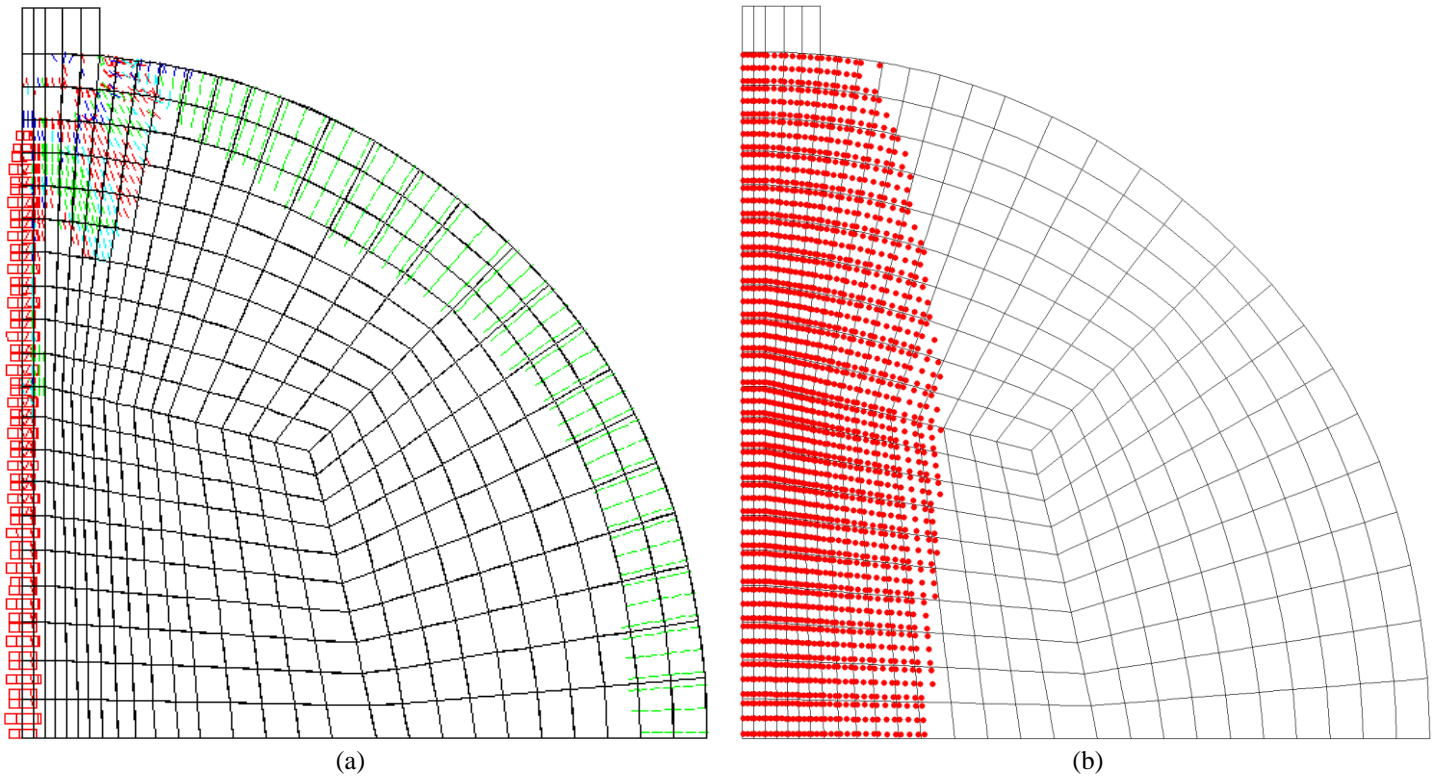


Fig. 7 – Predictions of PDSC model for the splitting tensile test: (a) numerical crack pattern; (b) numerical plastic zone (results of (a) and (b) correspond to $W \approx 1.9$ mm, the final converged loading step).

Note: In pink color: crack completely open; in red color: crack in the opening process; in cyan color: crack in the reopening process; in green color: crack in the closing process; in blue color: closed crack; in red circle: the plastic zone.

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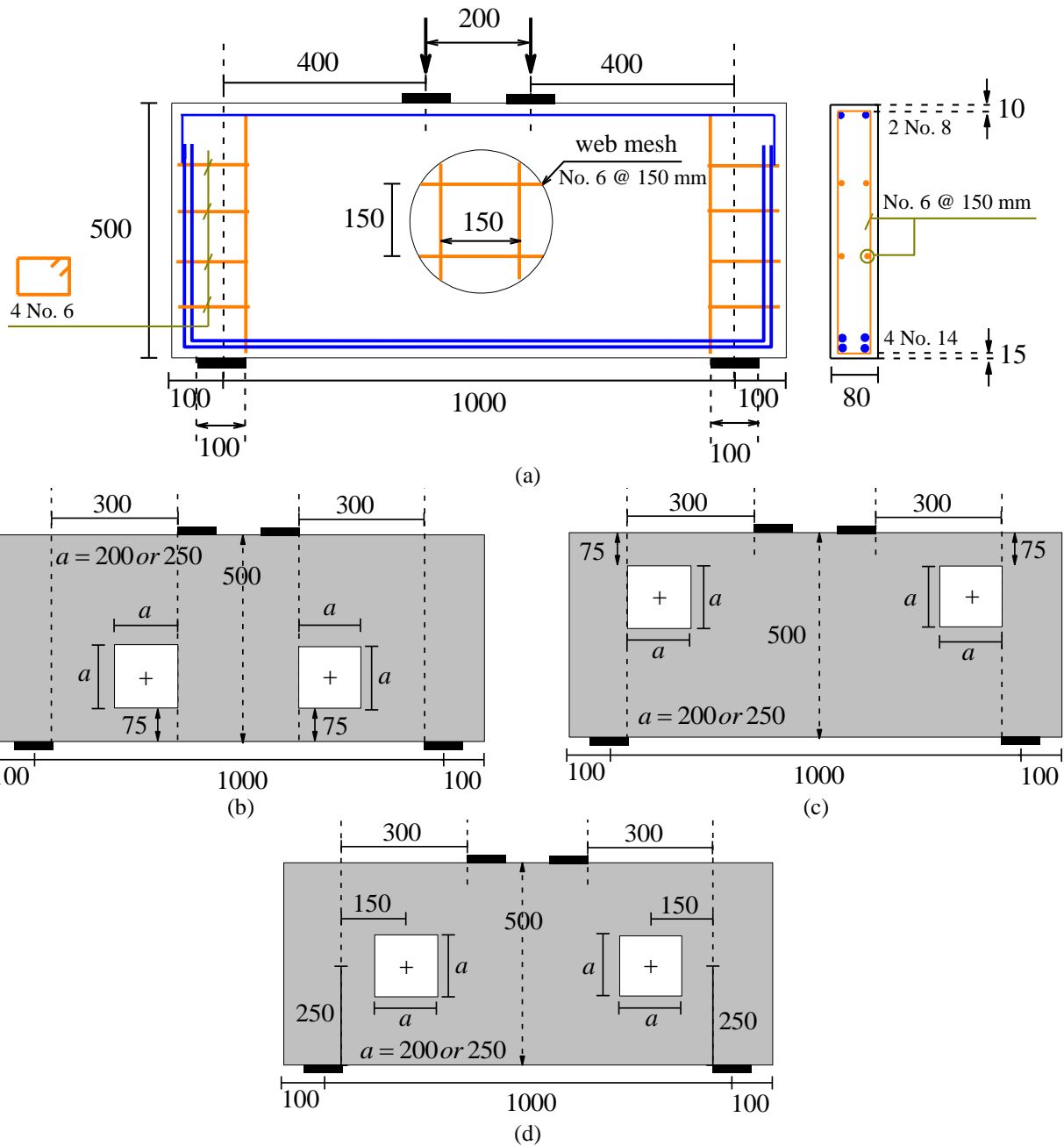


Fig. 8 – Deep beams with openings tested by El-Maaddawy and Sherif [27]: (a) details of the reinforcement system, common for all the beams in the experimental program; (b) geometry of the beams at *group B*, NS-200-B and NS-250-B; (c) geometry of the beams at *group T*, NS-200-T and NS-250-T; (d) geometry of the beams at *group C*, NS-200-C and NS-250-C.

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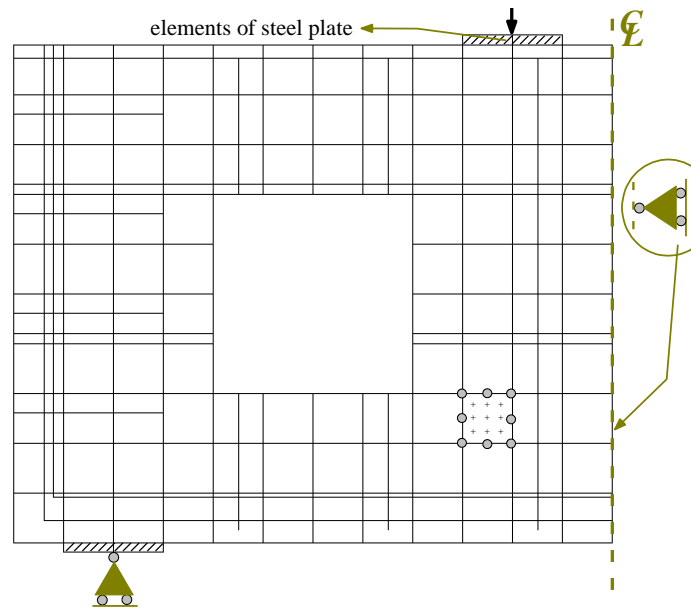


Fig. 9 – Finite element mesh, load and support conditions used for analysis of the beam NS-200-C.

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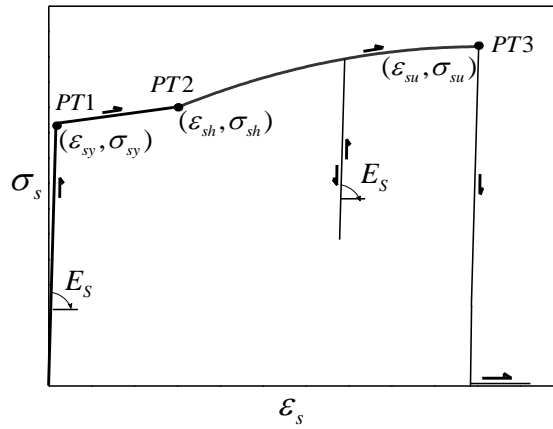


Fig. 10 – Uniaxial constitutive model (for both tension and compression) for the steel bars [1].

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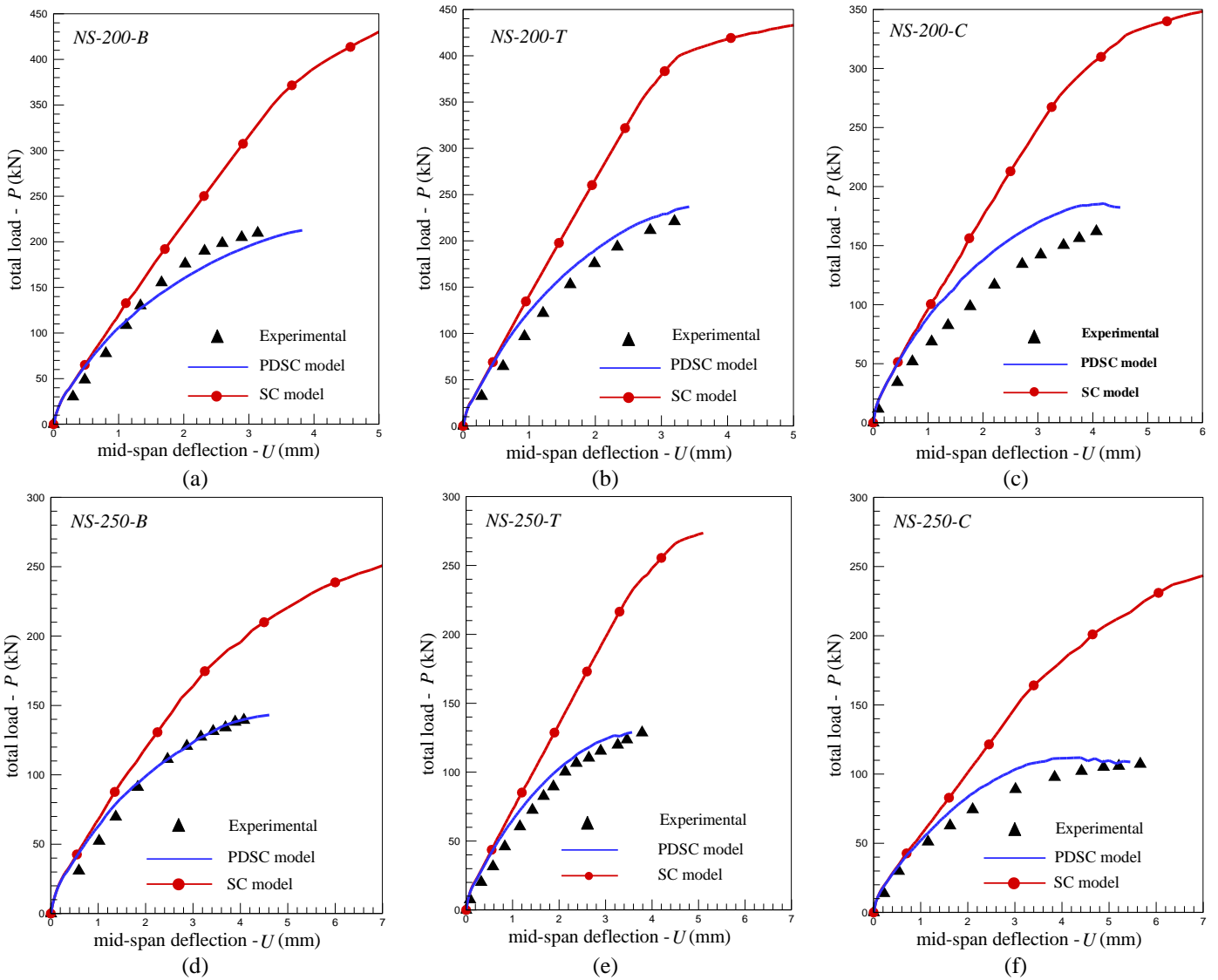


Fig. 11 – Experimental load vs. mid-span deflection [27] in compare with the predictions of the PDSC and SC models for the beams: (a) NS-200-B; (b) NS-200-T; (c) NS-200-C; (d) NS-250-B; (e) NS-250-T; (f) NS-250-C.

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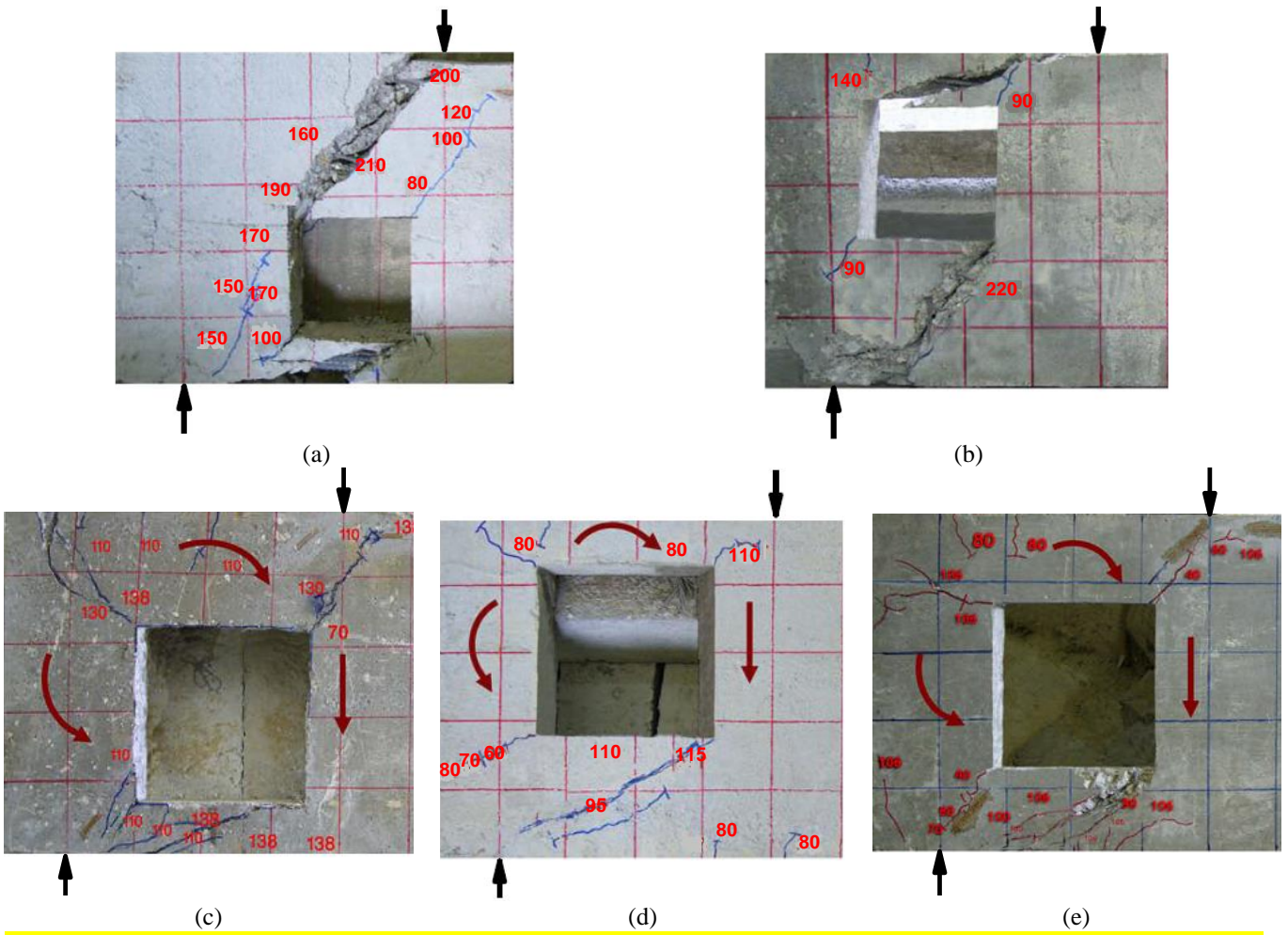
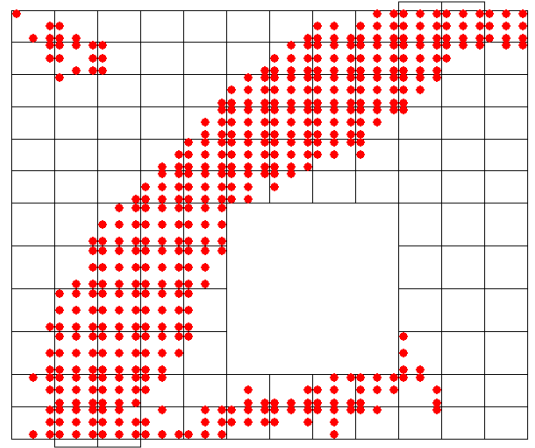
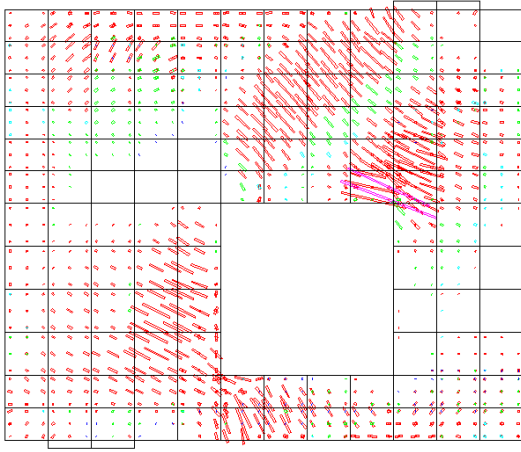


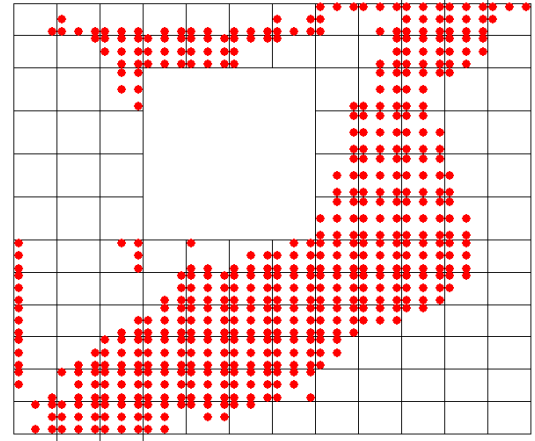
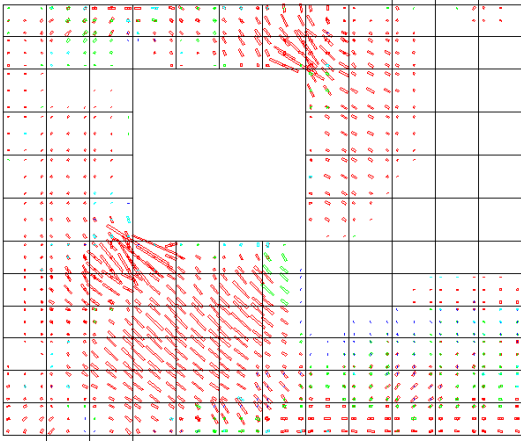
Fig. 12 – Experimental crack patterns [27] for the beams: (a) NS-200-B; (b) NS-200-T; (c) NS-250-B; (d) NS-250-T; (e) NS-250-C.

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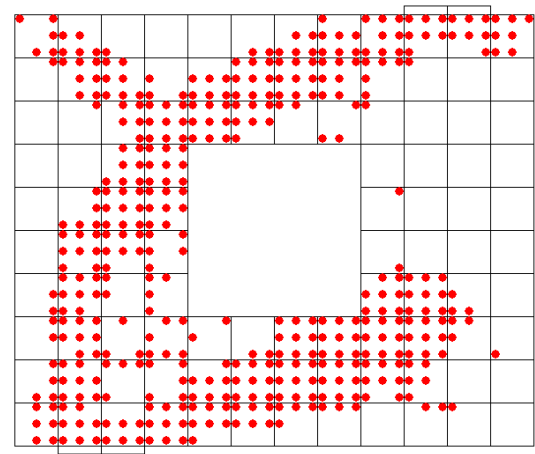
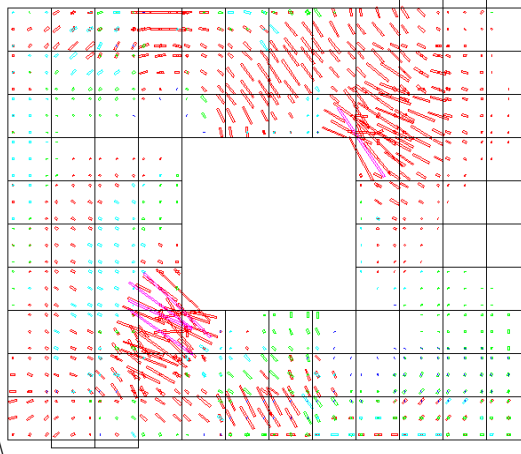
NS-200-B



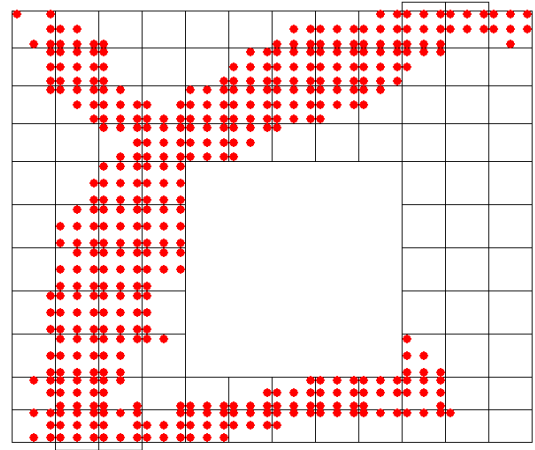
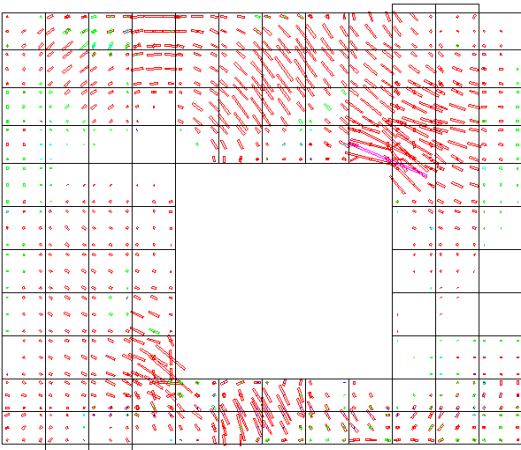
NS-200-T



NS-200-C



NS-250-B



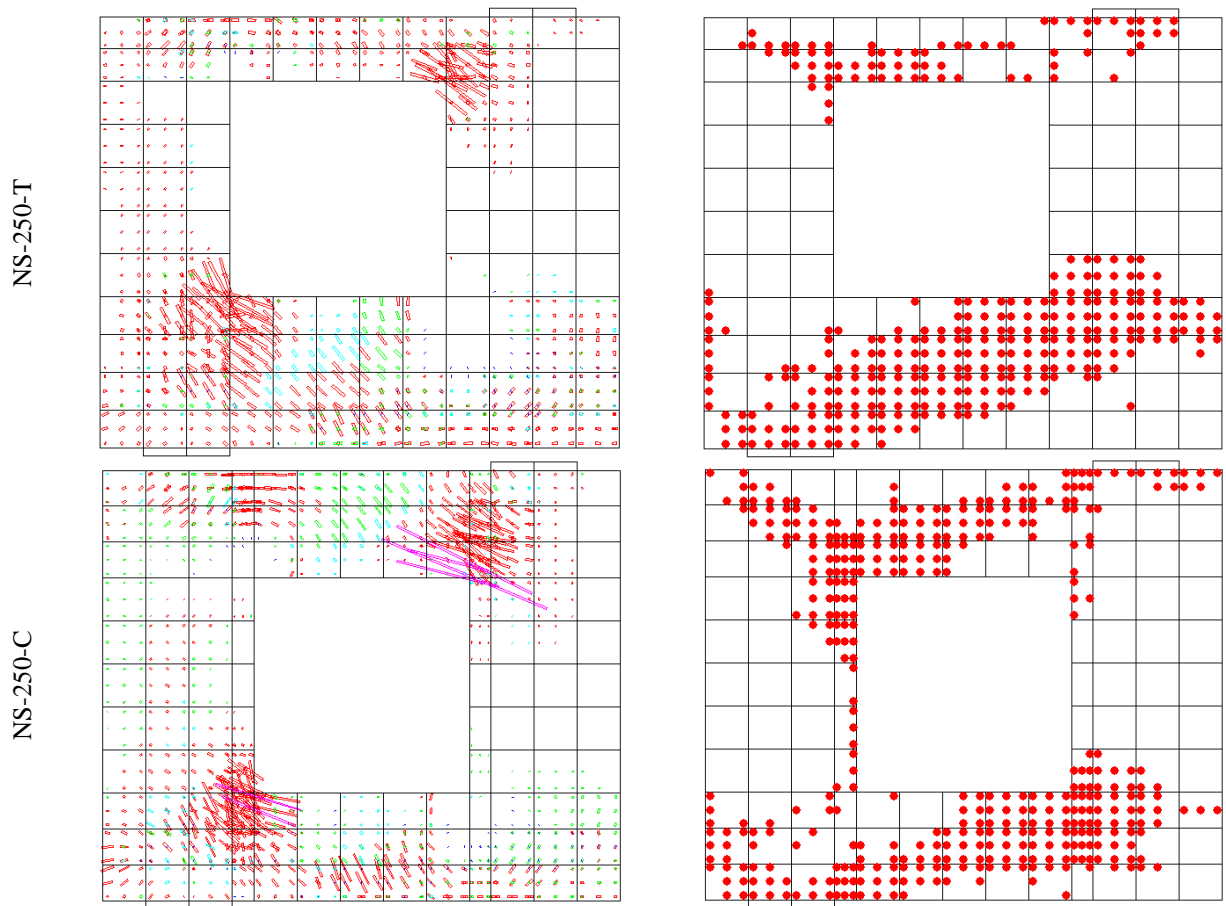


Fig. 13 – Numerical crack patterns (left) and plastic zones (right) predicted by PDSC model for the beams in analysis (the results correspond to the final converged step).
 Note: the crack pattern and plastic zone are represented over the finite element mesh adopted for the concrete.

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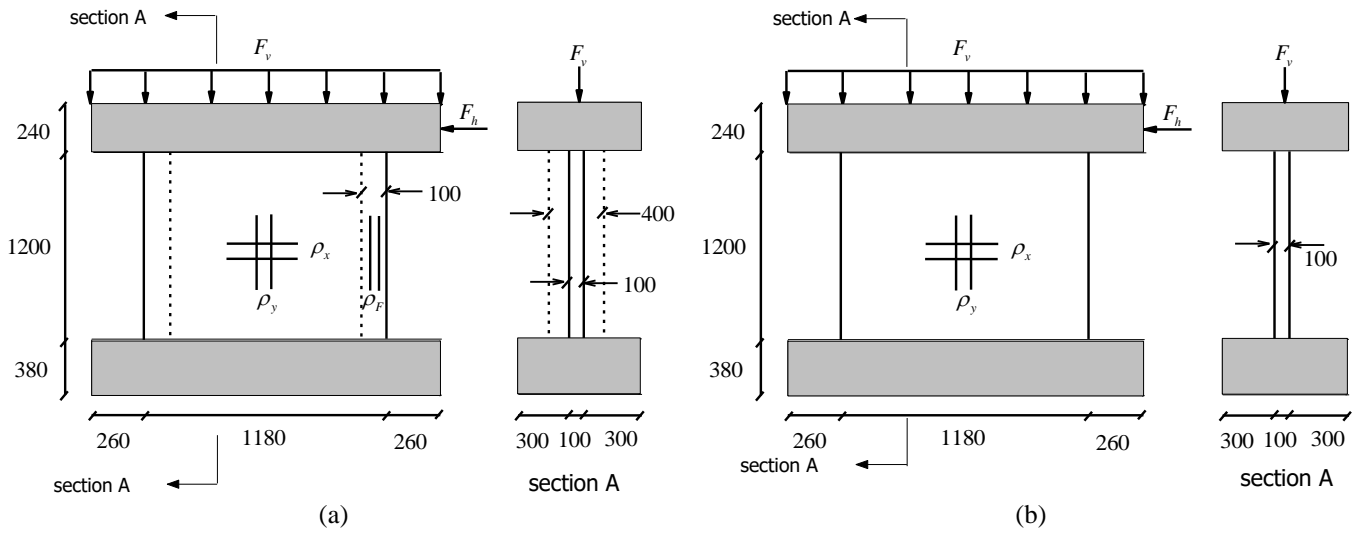


Fig. 14 – Geometry and loading configurations of the shear walls tested by Maier and Thürlimann [29] (dimensions in mm): (a) the walls in *group A* (with vertical flange); (b) the walls in *group B* (without vertical flange).

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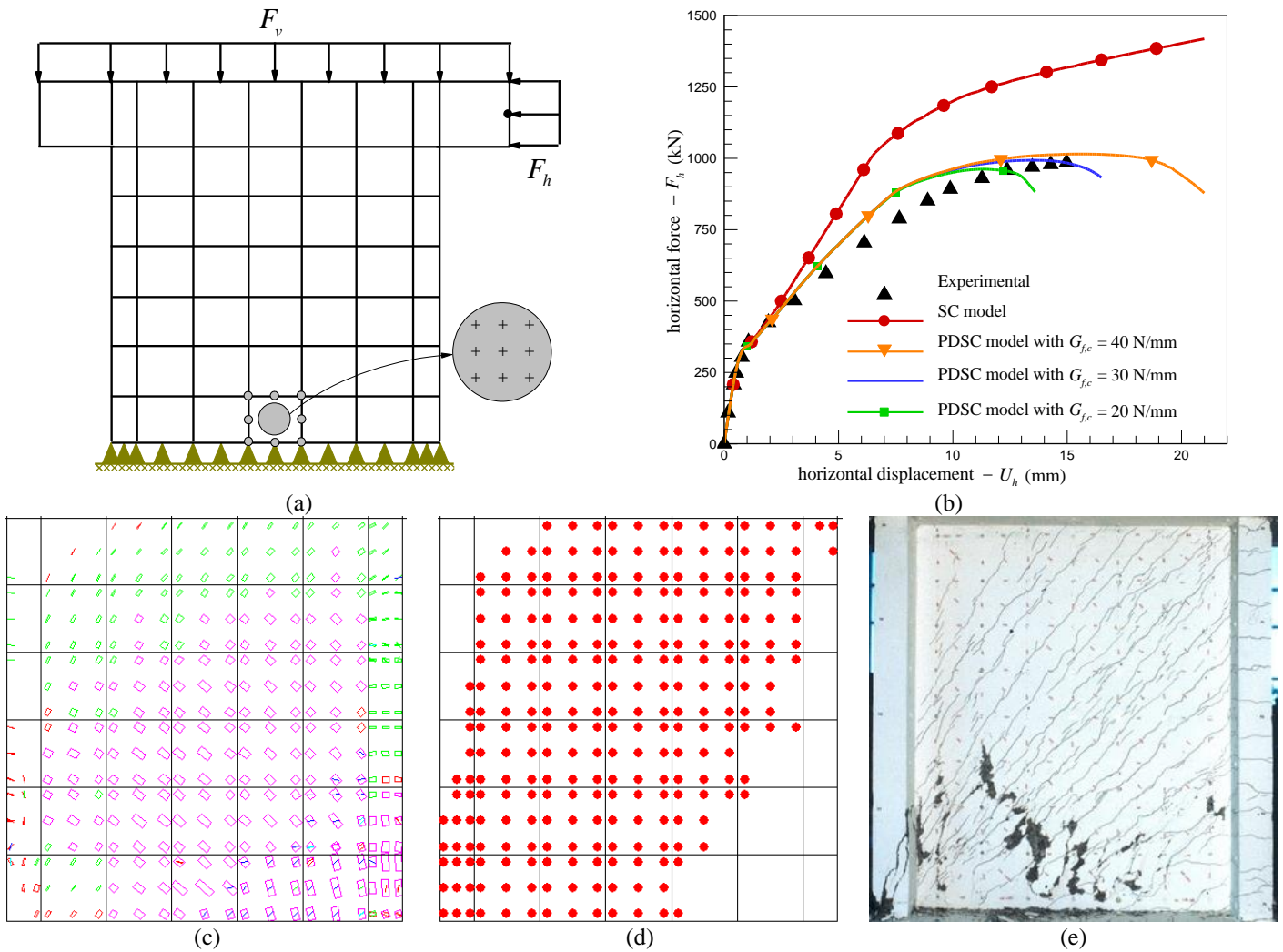


Fig. 15 – Simulation of the S3 shear wall tested by Maier and Thürlimann [29]: (a) finite element mesh used for the analysis; (b) horizontal load vs. horizontal displacement relationship, F_h-U_h ; (c) numerical crack pattern predicted by PDSC model and (d) plastic zone predicted by PDSC model (results of (c) and (d) correspond to $U_h \approx 16.5\text{mm}$, the final converged step); (e) experimentally observed crack pattern [29].

Note: the crack pattern and plastic zone are represented over the finite element mesh adopted for the concrete.

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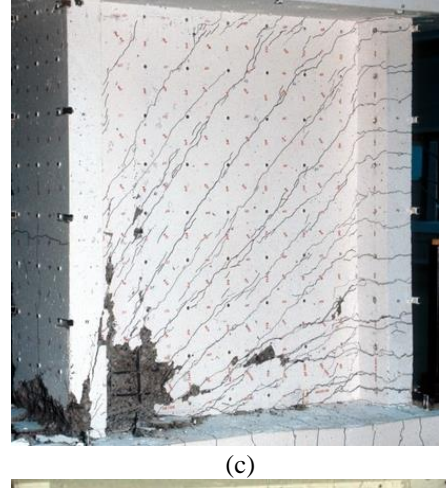
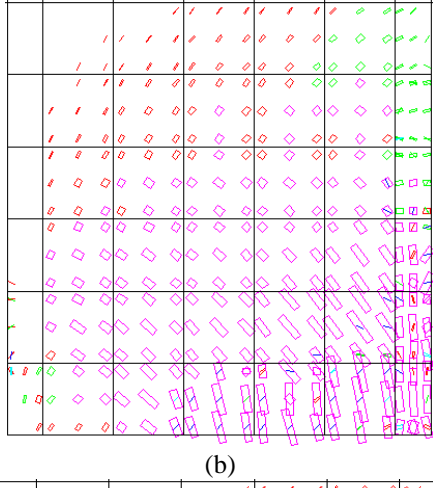
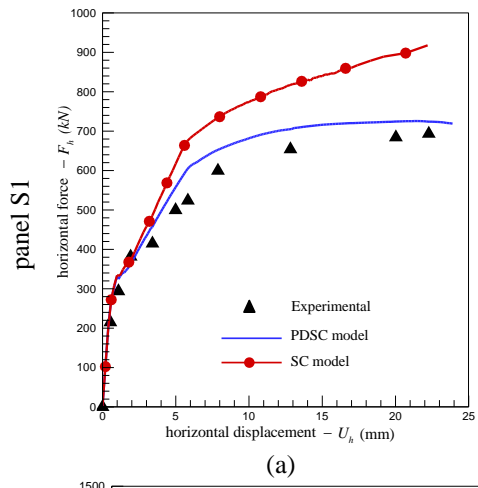
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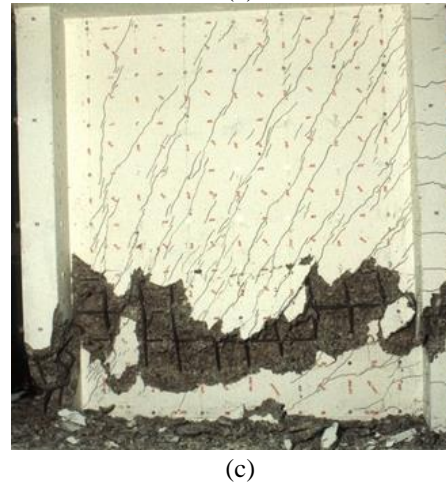
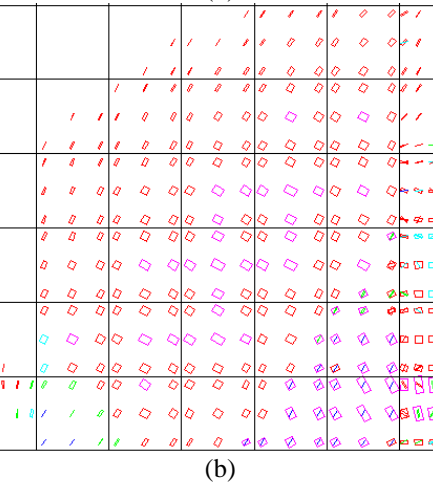
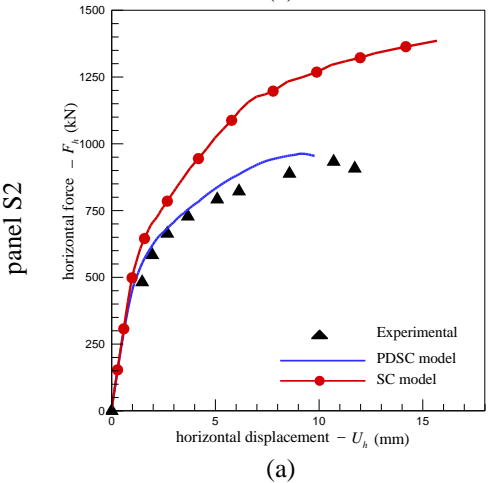
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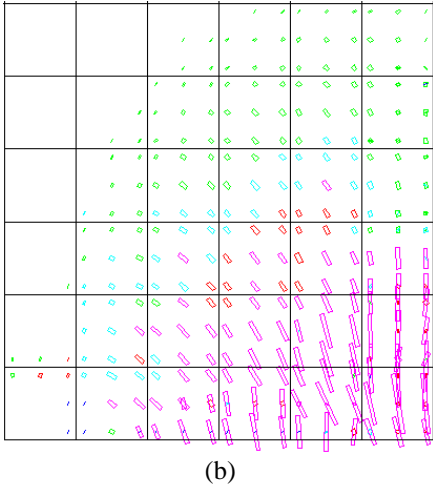
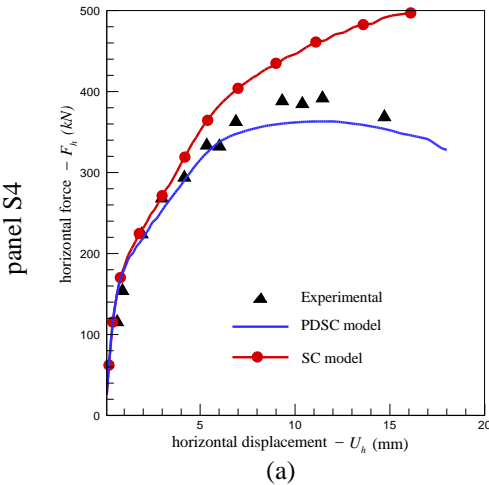
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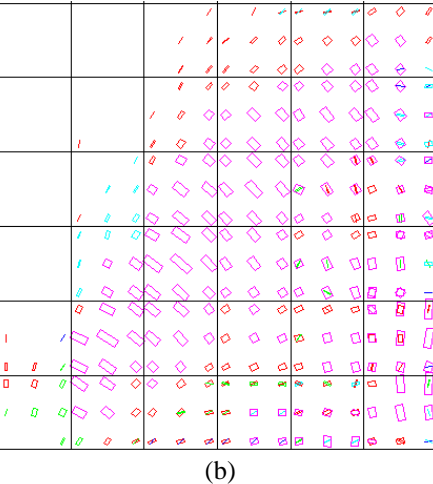
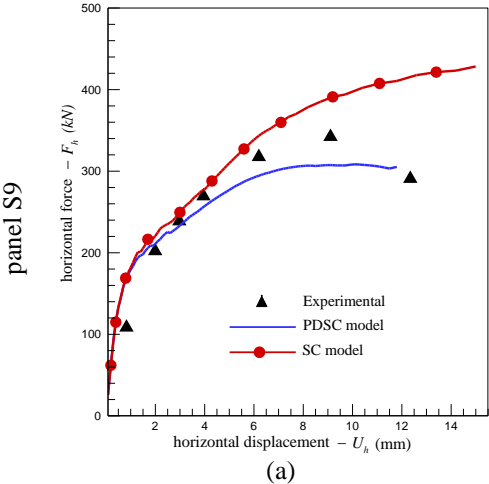
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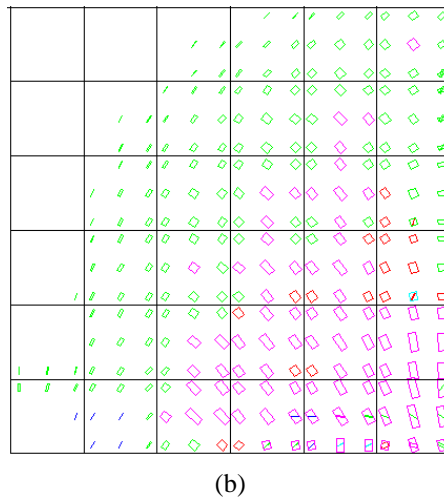
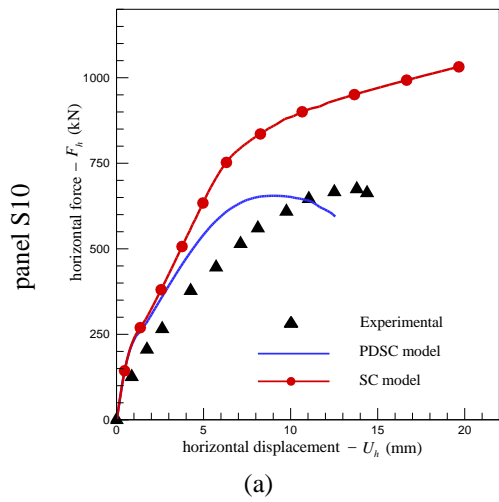


Fig. 16 – Simulation of the shear walls S1, S2, S4, S9, S10 tested by Maier and Thürlimann [29]: (a) horizontal load versus horizontal displacement relationship, F_h-U_h ; (b) numerical crack pattern predicted by PDSC model and corresponding to the final converged step; (c) experimentally observed crack pattern [29].

Note: the crack pattern is represented over the finite element mesh adopted for the concrete.

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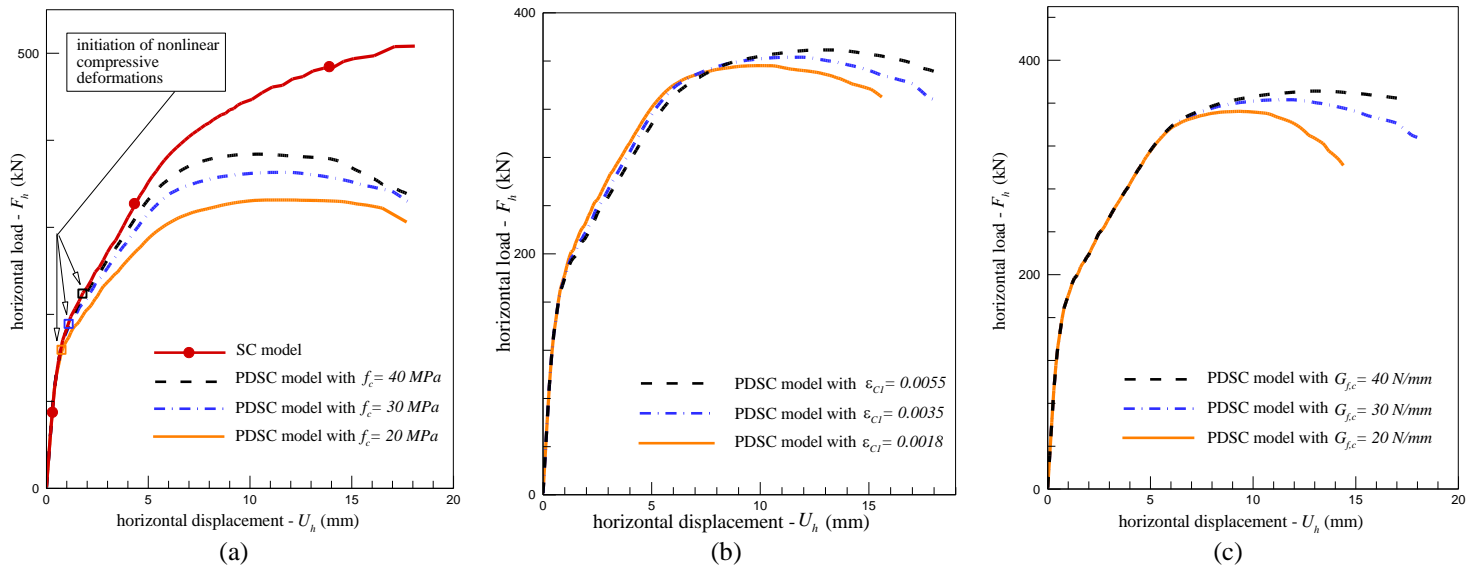


Fig. 17 – Sensitivity of the analysis of the panel S4 respect to the values of the parameters: (a) f_c ; (b) ϵ_{c1} ; (c) $G_{f,c}$.

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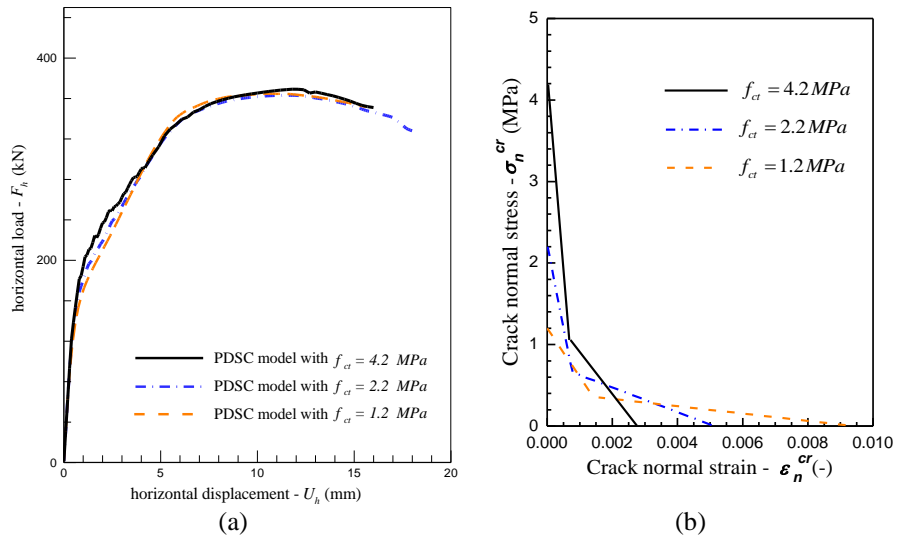


Fig. 18 – Sensitivity of the analysis of the panel S4 respect to the value of the parameter f_{ct} : (a) F_h-U_h relationship; (b) crack normal stress-crack normal strain diagram ($\sigma_n^{cr} - \epsilon_n^{cr}$) for the f_{ct} equal to 1.2, 2.2, and 4.2 MPa.

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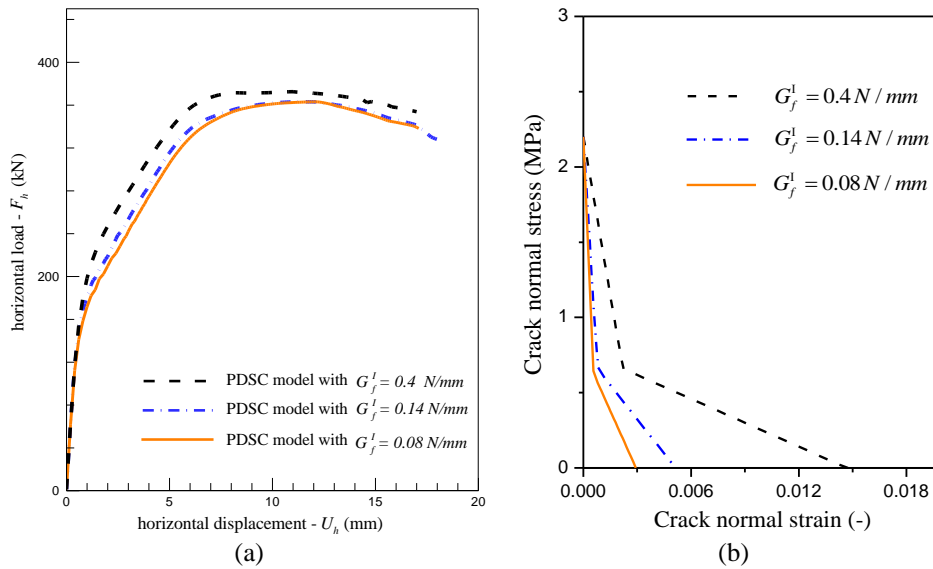


Fig. 19 – Sensitivity of the analysis of the panel S4 respect to the value of the parameter fracture energy mode I (G_f^I): (a) F_h-U_h relationship; (b) crack normal stress-crack normal strain diagram ($\sigma_n^{cr} - \varepsilon_n^{cr}$) for the G_f^I equal to 0.08, 0.14, and 0.4 MPa.

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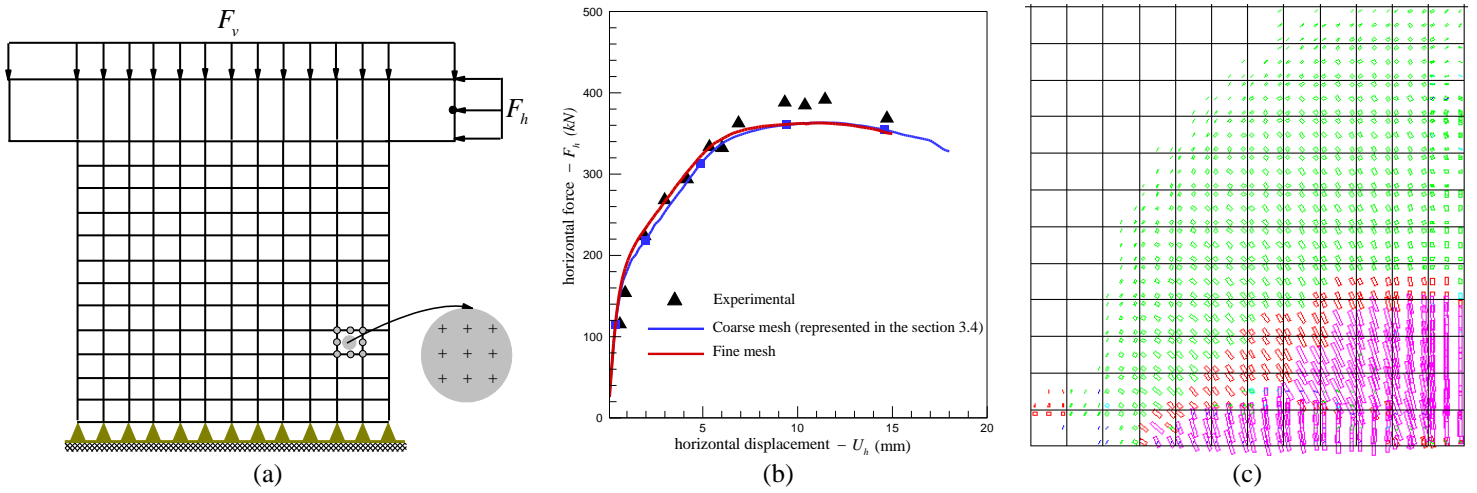


Fig. 20 – Sensitivity of the analysis of the panel S4 respect to the size of finite element mesh: (a) refined finite element mesh used for analysis; (b) F_h-U_h relationship; (c) Numerical crack pattern obtained at final converged step of the analysis.

Note: the crack pattern is represented over the finite element mesh adopted for the concrete.

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