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Yousefi, A. M. and Lim, J. B.P. and Uzzaman, A. and Clifton, G. C. and Young, B. (2016) Numerical study of web crippling strength in cold-formed austenitic stainless steel lipped channels with web openings subjected to interior-two-flange loading. In: 11th Pacific Structural Steel Conference, 2016-10-29 - 2016-10-31, Crowne Plaza Shanghai. (In Press) ,

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11th Pacific Structural Steel Conference
Shanghai, China, October 26-28, 2016

NUMERICAL STUDY OF WEB CRIPPLING STRENGTH IN COLD-FORMED AUSTENITIC STAINLESS STEEL LIPPED CHANNELS WITH WEB OPENINGS SUBJECTED TO INTERIOR-TWO-FLANGE LOADING

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Keywords: Cold-formed stainless steel; Lipped channel-section; Web crippling; Finite element analysis; Strength reduction factor.

Abstract.

In cold-formed stainless steel lipped channel-sections, use of web openings for service purposes are becoming increasingly popular. Web openings, however, result in the sections becoming more susceptible to web crippling. This paper presents a finite element investigation into the web crippling strength of cold-formed austenitic stainless steel lipped channel-sections with circular web openings under the interior-two-flange (ITF) loading condition. The cases of web openings located centred and offset to the bearing plates are considered in this study. In order to take into account the influence of the circular web openings, a parametric study involving 740 non-linear elasto-plastic finite element analyses was performed, covering austenitic EN1.4404 stainless steel grade. From the results of the parametric study, the effect of the size of the web opening, length of bearing plate and location of the web opening is investigated. Strength reduction factor equations are then proposed, that can be used to take into account such web openings in design.

1 INTRODUCTION

The use of cold-formed stainless steel sections are growing in popularity for both architectural and structural applications. Not only they are aesthetically pleasing but they also have favourable characteristics in terms of strength, durability and formability (Nethercot *et al.* [1], Theofanous and Gardner [2], Rosi *et al.* [3]). To provide ease of access for services, the use of web openings for such sections is also becoming popular in industry (Lawson *et al.* [4]). Such web openings, however, result in the sections being more susceptible to web crippling, especially under concentrated loads in the vicinity of the openings.

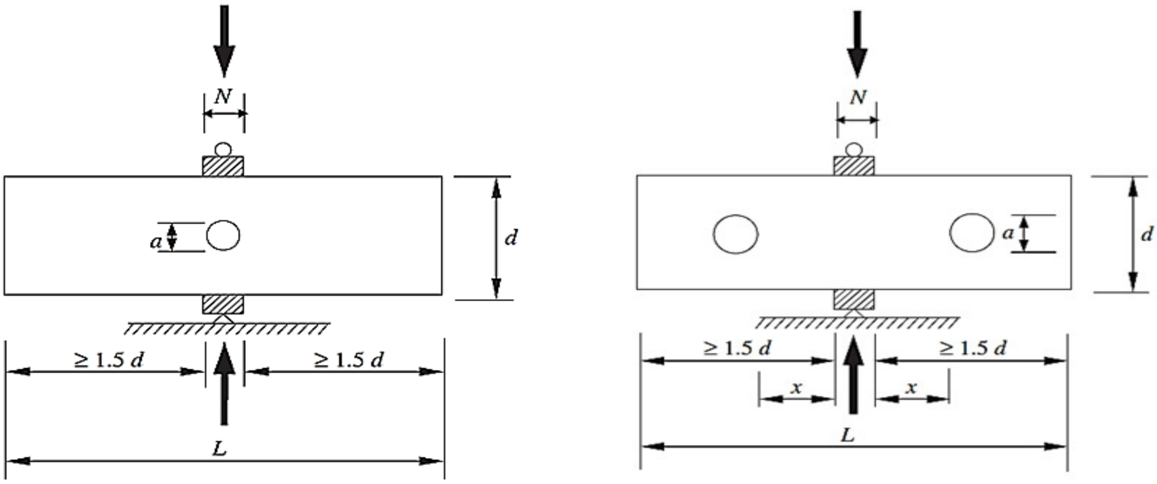
The authors have recently proposed unified strength reduction factor equations for the web crippling strength of cold-formed stainless steel lipped channel-sections with circular web openings under the one-flange loading conditions (Yousefi *et al.* [5-10]**)**. The equations covered three stainless steel grades; duplex grade EN 1.4462; austenitic grade EN 1.4404 and ferritic grade EN 1.4003. Similar equations for cold-formed carbon steel have previously been proposed by Lian *et al.* [11-12], which was a continuation of the work conducted by Uzzaman *et al.* [13-16] who had considered the two-flange loading conditions (see Figure 1). When applied to the stainless steel grades, Yousefi *et al.* [5-10] showed that the equations proposed by Lian *et al.* [10-11] for the end-one-flange (EOF) loading condition were unconservative by up to 7%, and conservative for the interior-one-flange (IOF) loading condition by up to 9%.

In the literature, for cold-formed stainless steel lipped channel-sections, only Krovink *et al.* [17] has considered web crippling strength, but limited to sections without openings. Zhou and Young [18-21] have considered the web crippling strength of cold-formed stainless steel tubular sections, again without openings. Keerthan and Mahendran [22] and Keerthan *et al.* [23] considered the web crippling strength of hollow flange channel beams, again without openings. Research by Lawson *et al.* [4], while concerned with circular web openings, focussed on the bending strength of the sections and not on the web crippling strength under concentrated loads. For cold-formed carbon steel lipped channel-sections, recent work has included Natario *et al.* [24]; Chen *et al.* [25] and Gunalan and Mahendran [26], all without openings.

This paper considers the case of the web crippling strength of cold-formed stainless steel lipped channel-sections with circular web openings under the interior-two-flange (ITF) loading condition (see Figure 2) for the austenitic EN 1.4404 grade, as part of the authors' works on one and two flange loadings (Yousefi *et al.* [5-10]**)**. Using the general purpose finite element program ABAQUS [27], 740 non-linear elasto-plastic finite element analyses are undertaken, with web openings located either centred or offset to the bearing plates. The effect of the size of the web opening, length of bearing plates and location of the web opening is considered. Strength reduction factor equations are proposed, that can be used to take into account such openings in design.

a) Centred circular web opening b) Offset circular web opening

Figure 1: Experimental analysis of cold-formed steel channel sections under ITF loading condition after Uzzaman *et al.* [13-16]



(a) (b)

Figure 2: End-one-flange (EOF) loading condition; (a) With web openings centred above bearing plate, (b) With web openings offset from bearing plate

2 EXPERIMENTAL INVESTIGATION AND FINITE ELEMENT MODELLING

For cold-formed carbon steel, Uzzaman *et al.* [13-16] recently conducted 75 interior-two-flange (ITF) tests, in the laboratory, on lipped channel-sections with circular web openings under web crippling (see Figure 1). Figure 3 shows the definition of the symbols used to describe the dimensions of the cold-formed carbon steel lipped channel-sections considered in the test programme. The laboratory tests were used to validate a non-linear geometry elasto-plastic finite element model in ABAQUS [27], which was then used for a parametric study, from which design recommendations were proposed in the form of strength reduction factor equations, relating the loss of strength due to the web openings to the strength of the web without openings. The size of the circular web openings was varied in order to investigate the effect of the web opening size on the web crippling strength. Full details of both the laboratory tests and finite element models can be found in Uzzaman *et al.* [13-14].

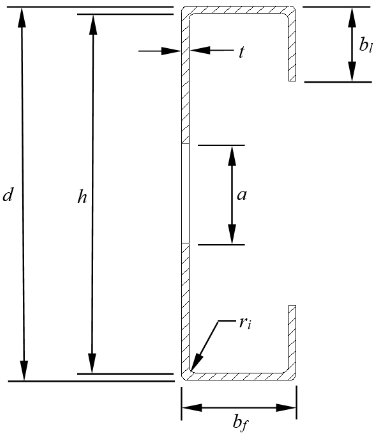
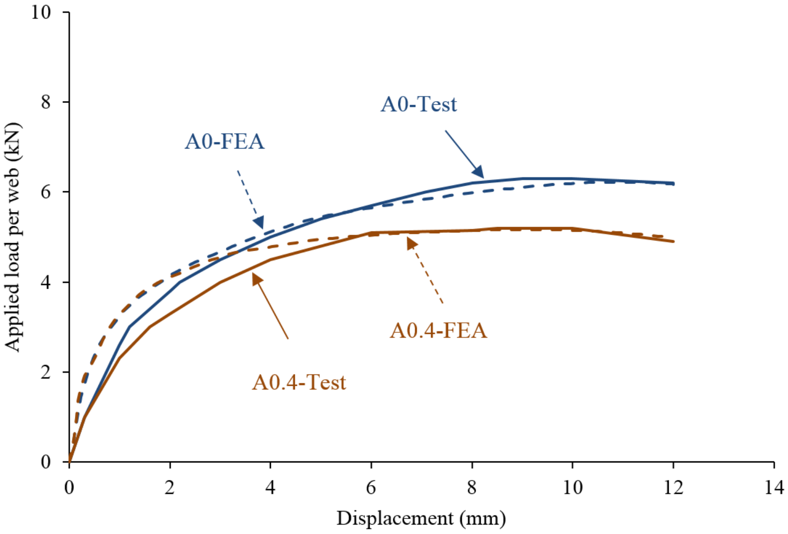


Figure 3: Definition of symbols

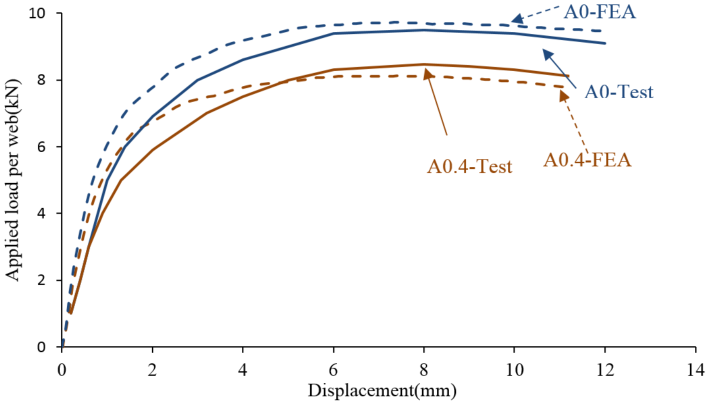
The models have been coded such the nominal dimension of the model and the length of the bearing plate as well as the ratio of the diameter of the circular web openings to the depth of the flat portion of the webs (*a/h*) can be determined from the coding system. As an example, the label "142-N100-A0.2-FR" means the following. The first notation is the nominal depth of the models in millimeters. The notation "*N100*" indicates the length of bearing plate in millimeters (i.e. 100 mm). The notation "*A0.2*" indicates the ratio of the diameter of the openings to the depth of the flat portion of the webs (*a/h*) and are one of 0.2, 0.4, 0.6 and 0.8 (i.e. *A0.2* means *a/h* = 0.2; *A0.4* means *a/h* = 0.4 etc). Plain lipped channel-sections (i.e. without circular web openings) are denoted by "*A0*". The flange unfastened and fastened cases are identified as "*FR*" and "*FX*", respectively. Typical stress-strain curve for the duplex stainless steel material, was taken from Arrayago *et al.* [28]. Comparative hot-rolled steel stress strain curves can be found in Yousefi *et al.* [29] and Rezvani *et al*. [30].

Figure 4 compares the experimental and numerical load-displacement curves for a cold-formed carbon steel lipped channel-section, 142×60×13-t1.3-N100-FR, covering the cases both with and without the circular web openings. As can be seen, there is good agreement between the failure loads of the tested specimens and the finite element results. For cold-formed stainless steel lipped channel-sections, the numerical failure loads with and without circular web openings were then determined for the austenitic grade EN 1.4404.

These results were compared with the failure loads calculated in accordance with ASCE [31], NAS [32] and AS/NZS 4600 [33] (see Table 1). The failure loads predicted from the finite element model are similar to the standard codified failure loads of the sections.



(a) Centred circular web opening for the case of flange unfastened to bearing plate



(b) Offset circular web opening for the case of flange fastened to bearing plate

Figure 4: Comparison of finite element results and experimental test results for 142×60×13-t1.3-N100 (Lian et al. [9-12])

Table 1: Comparison of numerical results with design strength for the case of flange fastened to the bearing plate without circular web opening

Specimen	Web slenderness	Bearing length to thickness ratio	Bearing length to web height ratio	Inside bend radius to thickness ratio	Failure load per web	Web crippling strength per web predicted from current design codes			Comparison		
	h/t	N/t	N/h	r_i/t	P_{FEA} (kN)	P_{ASCE} (kN)	P_{NAS} (kN)	$P_{AS/NZS}$ (kN)	P/P_{ASCE}	P/P_{NAS}	$P/P_{AS/NZS}$
142-N100	109.67	78.74	0.72	3.78	5.77	5.36	5.35	5.36	1.08	1.08	1.08
142-N120	110.00	94.49	0.86	3.78	6.05	5.94	5.63	5.94	1.02	1.07	1.02
142-N150	109.25	117.19	1.07	3.75	6.44	6.89	6.12	6.89	0.93	1.05	0.93
202-N100	144.41	72.46	0.50	3.62	5.61	5.88	6.28	5.88	0.95	0.89	0.95
202-N120	144.38	86.96	0.60	3.62	6.04	6.49	6.61	6.49	0.93	0.91	0.93
202-N150	144.38	108.70	0.75	3.62	7.09	7.40	7.05	7.40	0.96	1.01	0.96
302-N100	157.57	52.63	0.33	2.63	11.19	10.92	12.74	10.92	1.02	0.88	1.02
302-N120	157.51	63.16	0.40	2.63	11.46	11.53	13.35	11.53	0.99	0.86	0.99
302-N150	155.01	77.72	0.50	2.59	19.19	13.00	14.31	13.00	1.48	1.34	1.48
Mean, Pm									1.04	1.01	1.04
Coefficient of variation									0.16	0.15	0.16

3 PARAMETRIC STUDY FOR DUPLEX STAINLESS STEEL GRADE

In this study, in order to investigate the effect of circular web openings on the web crippling strength of cold-formed stainless steel lipped channel-sections, a total of 740 finite element models of lipped channel-sections with various dimensions and thicknesses were considered for the duplex EN1.4462 stainless steel grade. Table 2 shows the web crippling strengths determined from finite element analyses for the austenitic EN 1.4404 stainless steel grade. The web crippling strengths for sections with circular web openings were divided by that for sections without web openings and considered as the strength reduction factor (R). The effects of parameters such as the web opening diameters (a), length of bearing plates (N) and location of web openings in the web (x) on web crippling strength is shown in Figures 5-7 for the C142 specimen. As can be seen, the reduction in strength increases as the parameter a/h increases. The reduction in strength of the flange unfastened case is more than fastened case and the reduction in strength increases as the section becomes thinner. Also, it can be seen that the reduction in strength is more sensitive to the horizontal distance of the web opening to the bearing plate and the reduction in strength is slightly less for the flange fastened case, compared with the flange unfastened case.

Table 2: Web crippling strengths of austenitic stainless steel sections predicted from finite element analysis
a: *a/h* for centred circular web opening case

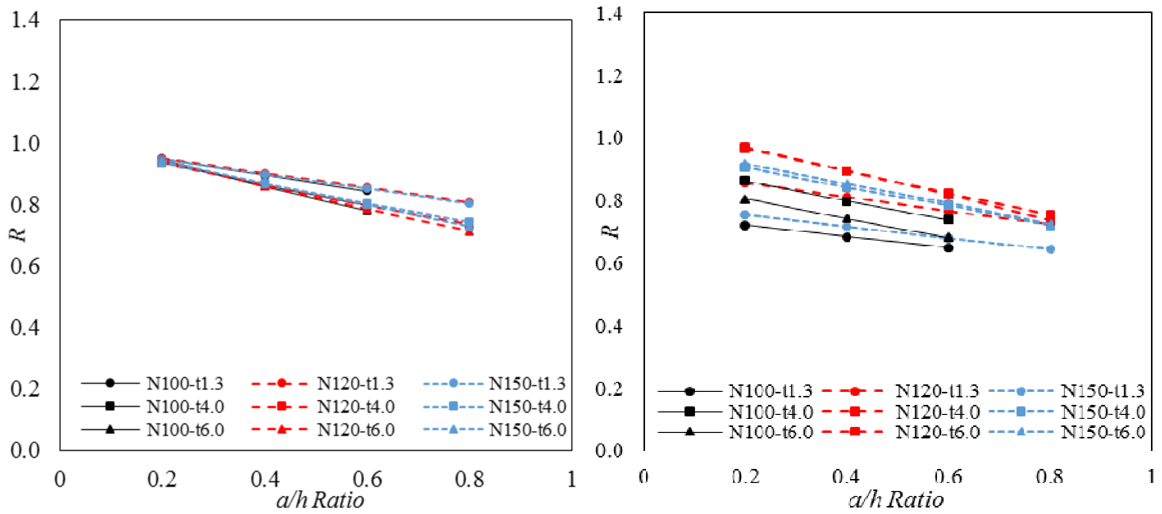
Specimen	Thickness	Unfastened FEA load per web, P_{FEA}					Fastened FEA load per web, P_{FEA}				
	t (*mm*)	*A(0)* (*kN*)	*A(0.2)* (*kN*)	*A(0.4)* (*kN*)	*A(0.6)* (*kN*)	*A(0.8)* (*kN*)	*A(0)* (*kN*)	*A(0.2)* (*kN*)	*A(0.4)* (*kN*)	*A(0.6)* (*kN*)	*A(0.8)* (*kN*)
142-N100	1.27	5.77	5.48	5.16	4.87	-	8.80	6.36	6.02	5.72	-
142-N100	4.00	61.23	57.26	52.80	48.75	-	83.33	71.90	66.49	61.48	-
142-N100	6.00	140.84	132.75	120.98	109.68	-	202.76	163.27	150.41	138.26	-
142-N120	1.27	6.26	5.96	5.65	5.36	5.06	7.81	6.68	6.32	6.00	5.65
142-N120	4.00	66.17	61.85	57.08	52.68	48.56	80.42	77.73	71.82	66.24	60.67
142-N120	6.00	152.62	143.70	131.34	119.77	108.61	183.39	177.81	163.89	150.28	135.23
142-N150	1.28	6.44	6.11	5.79	5.49	5.18	9.78	7.37	7.00	6.65	6.29
142-N150	4.00	70.82	66.21	61.46	56.98	52.62	95.99	87.14	80.95	75.20	69.24
142-N150	6.00	165.72	155.96	143.86	132.18	120.74	217.75	199.94	185.99	172.48	157.67
202-N100	1.39	5.78	5.51	5.13	4.76	-	9.74	6.70	6.29	5.91	-
202-N100	4.00	54.47	50.86	46.35	42.29	-	103.99	68.49	63.26	58.31	-
202-N100	6.00	128.51	121.13	108.95	97.98	-	187.46	158.11	145.94	133.13	-
202-N120	1.39	6.04	5.74	5.35	4.96	-	11.11	7.49	7.02	6.58	-
202-N120	4.00	57.52	53.48	48.74	44.36	-	91.41	73.23	67.41	62.09	-
202-N120	6.00	137.43	128.37	115.65	103.57	-	204.00	171.37	157.44	143.65	-
202-N150	1.39	6.48	6.13	4.94	4.54	-	11.67	8.03	7.53	7.05	-
202-N150	4.00	62.15	57.70	51.74	47.14	-	96.38	80.37	73.82	67.86	-
202-N150	6.00	188.24	139.30	124.60	112.12	-	219.28	189.77	174.20	159.38	-
302-N100	1.98	11.19	10.73	9.87	9.11	-	19.24	13.35	13.81	11.12	-
302-N100	4.00	50.17	47.18	42.95	39.52	-	81.17	68.90	61.61	51.08	-
302-N100	6.00	118.91	112.14	99.83	89.92	-	183.10	143.38	132.13	120.61	-
302-N120	1.98	11.46	10.98	10.10	9.27	-	19.86	14.24	12.84	11.94	-
302-N120	4.00	52.00	48.67	44.18	40.43	-	86.32	63.50	58.11	52.77	-
302-N120	6.00	124.50	116.63	103.98	92.74	-	194.15	151.74	138.54	125.67	-
302-N150	1.99	20.04	13.33	11.76	10.05	-	20.88	15.60	13.81	12.57	-
302-N150	4.00	87.94	57.03	46.94	42.13	-	92.51	67.77	61.61	55.70	-
302-N150	6.00	169.51	127.17	113.28	100.89	-	207.86	163.29	148.07	133.82	-

B. *a/h* for offset circular web opening case

Specimen	Thickness	Unfastened FEA load per web, P_{FEA}				Fastened FEA load per web, P_{FEA}			
	t *(mm)*	*A(0)* *(kN)*	*A(0.2)* *(kN)*	*A(0.4)* *(kN)*	*A(0.6)* *(kN)*	*A(0)* *(kN)*	*A(0.2)* *(kN)*	*A(0.4)* *(kN)*	*A(0.6)* *(kN)*
142-N100	1.27	5.77	5.52	5.13	4.65	8.97	8.69	8.23	7.80
142-N100	4.00	61.23	59.76	57.06	54.29	83.02	82.45	81.47	80.50
142-N100	6.00	140.84	138.58	134.27	128.34	185.83	185.23	183.71	181.96
142-N120	1.27	6.05	5.80	5.42	4.98	9.37	8.95	8.47	8.09
142-N120	4.00	65.46	63.76	60.97	58.46	88.01	87.40	86.27	85.13
142-N120	6.00	151.74	149.41	144.33	138.34	198.83	198.04	196.29	194.33
142-N150	1.28	6.44	6.19	5.84	5.46	9.47	9.11	8.72	8.37
142-N150	4.00	70.82	69.03	66.53	64.06	95.20	94.63	93.64	92.54
142-N150	6.00	165.72	162.92	157.51	151.73	217.31	216.41	214.32	211.70
202-N100	1.39	5.61	5.43	5.02	4.58	10.55	10.29	9.94	9.51
202-N100	4.00	54.47	59.32	50.48	48.36	104.13	85.70	84.48	83.35
202-N100	6.00	128.51	136.08	124.66	117.28	227.47	224.99	208.10	193.09
202-N120	1.39	6.04	6.01	5.43	4.98	10.47	10.20	9.70	9.26
202-N120	4.00	57.52	56.00	53.63	51.58	104.53	98.26	91.97	87.51
202-N120	6.00	137.43	135.13	130.45	125.37	204.21	203.50	202.13	200.40
202-N150	1.39	7.09	6.22	5.84	5.44	11.67	11.25	10.75	10.27
202-N150	4.00	62.14	60.64	58.59	56.58	96.48	95.60	95.35	92.96
202-N150	6.00	149.47	147.11	142.49	137.47	219.73	218.82	217.00	214.92
302-N100	1.98	11.19	10.89	10.61	10.55	19.24	18.96	18.66	18.31
302-N100	2.00	50.21	48.75	46.29	43.91	81.18	80.48	79.13	77.72
302-N100	4.00	119.02	116.56	112.28	108.10	183.17	182.54	181.15	179.39
302-N120	1.98	11.46	11.32	11.29	11.25	19.86	19.67	19.36	18.89
302-N120	2.00	52.00	50.61	48.34	46.10	86.34	85.38	83.40	81.42
302-N120	4.00	124.50	122.20	118.14	114.05	230.49	212.29	194.60	188.83
302-N150	1.99	19.19	18.47	17.22	14.92	28.56	28.53	28.38	27.19
302-N150	2.00	76.61	73.19	68.27	60.71	120.82	120.80	120.74	120.02
302-N150	4.00	169.51	163.48	155.50	143.70	208.35	246.05	241.93	227.42

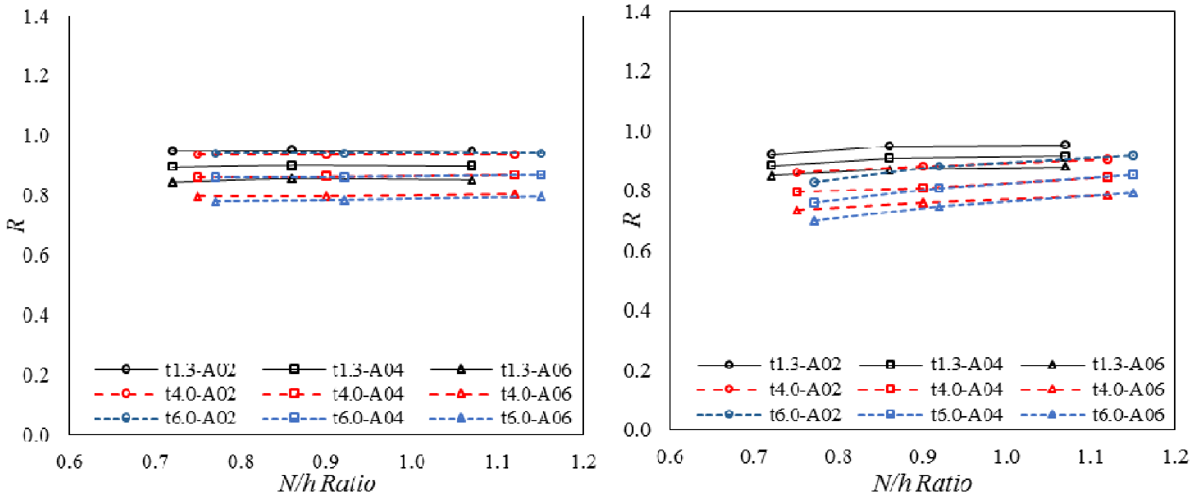
C. *x/h* for offset circular web opening case

Specimen	Thickness	Unfastened FEA load per web, $P_{(FEA)}$				Fastened FEA load per web, P_{FEA}			
	t	*X(0)*	*X(0.2)*	*X(0.4)*	*X(0.6)*	*X(0)*	*X(0.2)*	*X(0.4)*	*X(0.6)*
	(mm)	*(kN)*	*(kN)*	*(kN)*	*(kN)*	*(kN)*	*(kN)*	*(kN)*	*(kN)*
142-N100-A0	1.27	5.67	5.67	5.67	5.67	8.80	8.80	8.80	8.80
142-N100-A0.2	1.27	5.28	5.28	5.35	5.43	8.47	8.48	8.51	8.80
142-N100-A0.4	1.27	4.81	4.81	4.91	5.05	7.63	7.87	8.05	8.21
142-N100-A0.6	1.27	4.23	4.30	4.40	4.60	6.65	7.08	7.42	7.71
142-N100-A0.8	1.27	3.44	3.73	4.72	4.98	5.58	6.54	6.81	7.07
142-N120-A0	1.27	5.96	5.96	5.96	5.96	9.31	9.31	9.31	9.31
142-N120-A0.2	1.27	5.51	5.57	5.64	5.72	8.76	8.80	8.85	8.94
142-N120-A0.4	1.27	5.01	5.10	5.21	5.35	7.81	8.04	8.27	8.46
142-N120-A0.6	1.27	4.53	4.60	4.74	4.92	6.93	7.36	7.70	8.02
142-N120-A0.8	1.27	3.79	4.13	4.40	4.66	5.89	6.56	7.13	7.66
142-N150-A0	1.28	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	9.47	9.47	9.47	9.47
142-N150-A0.2	1.28	5.90	5.97	6.06	6.14	8.85	8.89	8.96	9.05
142-N150-A0.4	1.28	5.38	5.50	5.64	5.78	8.06	8.27	8.27	8.46
142-N150-A0.6	1.28	4.88	5.07	5.24	5.42	7.24	7.65	8.00	8.32
142-N150-A0.8	1.28	4.39	4.69	4.94	5.19	6.27	6.93	7.49	8.00
202-N100-A0	1.39	5.73	5.73	5.73	5.73	12.48	12.48	12.48	12.48
202-N100-A0.2	1.39	5.27	5.43	5.49	5.53	9.73	9.75	9.78	9.85
202-N100-A0.4	1.39	4.68	4.90	5.03	5.16	8.72	9.01	9.28	9.52
202-N100-A0.6	1.39	4.06	4.29	4.53	4.77	7.51	8.09	8.65	9.06
202-N120-A0	1.39	5.97	5.97	5.97	5.97	10.65	10.65	10.65	10.65
202-N120-A0.2	1.39	5.53	5.66	5.73	5.78	10.22	10.23	10.31	10.40
202-N120-A0.4	1.39	4.95	5.14	5.27	5.41	9.01	9.29	9.60	9.85
202-N120-A0.6	1.39	4.30	4.54	5.27	5.58	7.78	8.38	8.96	9.43
202-N150-A0	1.45	7.81	7.81	7.81	7.81	12.28	12.28	12.28	12.28
202-N150-A0.2	1.45	6.51	6.64	6.71	6.76	11.52	11.56	11.67	11.81
202-N150-A0.4	1.45	5.82	6.05	6.21	6.36	10.25	10.59	10.96	11.27
202-N150-A0.6	1.45	5.13	5.42	5.66	5.93	8.95	9.62	10.25	10.77
302-N100-A0	1.98	11.21	11.21	11.21	11.21	18.81	18.81	18.81	18.81
302-N100-A0.2	1.98	10.38	10.58	10.77	10.92	18.41	18.45	18.53	23.78
302-N120-A0	1.96	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	19.50	19.50	19.50	19.50
302-N120-A0.2	1.96	10.71	10.95	11.06	11.81	19.13	19.13	19.25	19.35
302-N120-A0.4	1.96	9.83	10.64	10.98	11.07	17.50	18.10	18.68	19.04
302-N120-A0.6	1.96	9.05	10.51	10.92	11.03	14.56	16.23	17.74	18.67
302-N150-A0	1.99	20.08	20.08	20.08	20.08	23.37	23.37	23.37	23.37
302-N150-A0.2	1.99	17.84	18.60	18.74	18.90	20.04	20.10	20.28	20.42
302-N150-A0.4	1.99	14.87	15.84	16.49	17.25	17.72	18.51	19.31	19.89
302-N150-A0.6	1.99	11.96	13.88	15.42	16.62	14.68	16.69	17.96	19.14



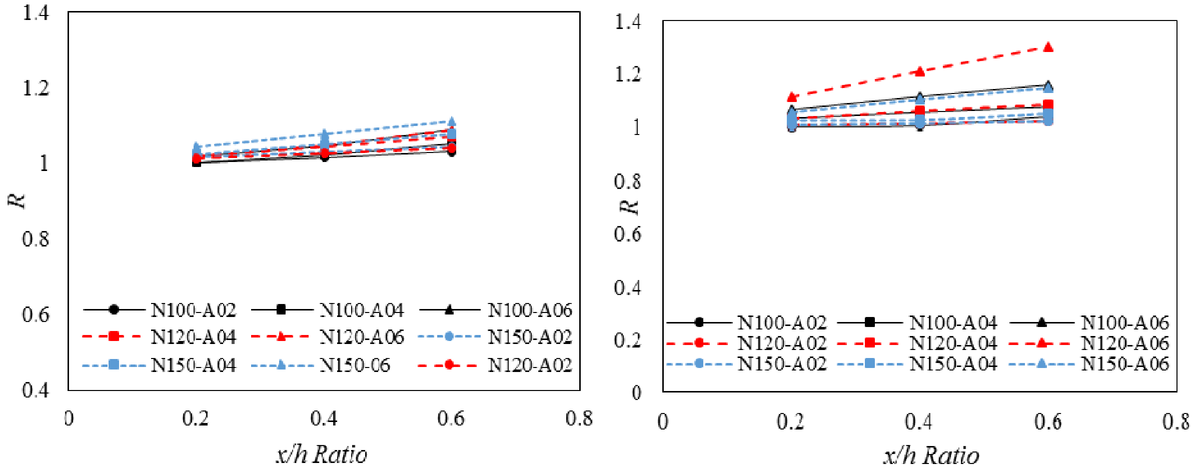
(a) Flange unfastened case (b) Flange fastened case

Figure 5: Variation in reduction factors with *a/h* ratio for C142 section with centered web opening



(a) Flange unfastened case (b) Flange fastened case

Figure 6: Variation in reduction factors with *N/h* for C142 section with centred web opening



(a) Flange unfastened case (b) Flange fastened case

Figure 7: Variation in reduction factors with *x/h* for C142 section with offset web opening

4 PROPOSED STRENGTH REDUCTION FACTORS

Table 2 shows the dimensions considered and web crippling strengths of the duplex grade stainless steel sections predicted from the finite element analysis. Using bivariate linear regression analysis, four new strength reduction factor equations (R_p) for austenitic stainless steel EN 1.4404 grade with web openings are proposed. The equations are as follows:

For centred web opening:
For the case where the flange is unfastened to the bearing plate,

$$R_p = 0.91 - 0.35(\frac{a}{h}) + 0.08(\frac{N}{h}) \leq 1 \quad (1)$$

For the case where the flange is fastened to the bearing plate,

$$R_p = 0.97 - 0.33(\frac{a}{h}) + 0.22(\frac{N}{h}) \leq 1 \quad (2)$$

For offset web opening:
For the case where the flange is unfastened to the bearing plate,

$$R_p = 0.88 + 0.26(\frac{a}{h}) + 0.20(\frac{x}{h}) \leq 1 \quad (3)$$

For the case where the flange is fastened to the bearing plate,

$$R_p = 0.88 + 0.30(\frac{a}{h}) + 0.21(\frac{x}{h}) \leq 1 \quad (4)$$

The limits for the reduction factor equations (1), (2), (3) and (4) are $h/t \leq 157.8$, $N/t = 120.97$, $N/h \leq 1.15$, $a/h \leq 0.8$, and $\theta = 90$°.

5 COMPARISON OF NUMERICAL RESULTS WITH PROPOSED REDUCTION FACTORS

For the austenitic stainless steel grade, the values of the strength reduction factor (R) obtained from the numerical results are compared with the values of the proposed strength reduction factor (R_p) calculated using Eqs. (1)-(4). The results for C142 are shown in Figure 8. In order to evaluate the accuracy of proposed equations, extensive statistical reliability analyses are performed. The results are summarized in Table 3.

It should be noted, in calculating the reliability index, the resistance factor of ϕ=0.85 was used, corresponding to the reliability index β from the NAS specification. According to the NAS specification, design rules are reliable if the reliability index are more than 2.5. As can be seen in Table 3, the proposed reduction factors are a good match with the numerical results for the both cases of flanges unfastened and flanges fastened to the bearing plates.

For example, for the centred circular web opening, the mean value of the web crippling reduction factor ratios are 1.00 and 1.00 for the cases of flange unfastened and flange fastened to the bearing plate, respectively. The corresponding values of COV are 0.11 and 0.08, respectively. Similarly, the reliability index values (β) are 2.57 and 2.69, respectively. For the offset circular web opening, the mean value of the web crippling reduction factor ratios are 1.00 and 1.00 for the cases of flange unfastened and flange fastened to the bearing plate, respectively. The corresponding values of COV are 0.06 and 0.05, respectively. Similarly, the reliability index values (β) are 2.76 and 2.78, respectively.

Table 3: Statistical analysis of strength reduction factor for duplex stainless steel grade

Statistical parameters	Centred circular web opening $R_{(FEA)} / R_p$		Offset circular web opening $R_{(FEA)} / R_p$	
	Unfastened to bearing plate	Fastened to bearing plate	Unfastened to bearing plate	Fastened to bearing plate
Number of data	87	87	78	81
Mean, P_m	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Coefficient of variation, V_p	0.11	0.08	0.06	0.05
Reliability index, β	2.57	2.69	2.76	2.78
Resistance factor, ϕ	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85

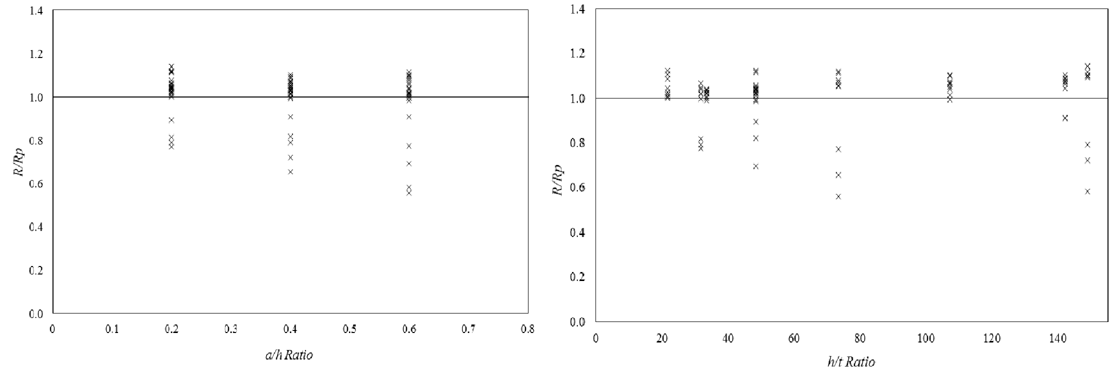


Figure 8: Comparison of strength reduction factor for centred web opening where flange unfastened to bearing plate

Therefore, the proposed strength reduction factor equations are able to reliably predict the influence of the circular web openings on the web crippling strengths of cold-formed stainless steel lipped channel-sections under the interior-two-flange (ITF) loading condition.

6 CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, the effect of web openings on the interior-two-flange (ITF) loading condition of cold-formed stainless steel lipped channel-sections was investigated for austenitic grade EN 1.4404. 740 non-linear elasto-plastic finite element analyses were conducted with different sizes of channel-section and opening. From the results of the finite element parametric study, four new web crippling strength reduction factor equations were proposed for the cases of both flange unfastened and flange fastened to the bearing plates. In order to evaluate the reliability of the proposed reduction factor equations, a reliability analysis was undertaken. It was demonstrated that the proposed strength reduction factors are generally conservative and agree well with the finite element results. It was shown that the proposed strength reduction factors provide a reliable design criteria when calibrated with a resistance factor of 0.85 ($\varphi = 0.85$) .

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