

Zeitschrift: IABSE congress report = Rapport du congrès AIPC = IVBH
Kongressbericht

Band: 14 (1992)

Artikel: Investigation of frame with semi-rigid joint

Autor: Parsanejad, Siamak / Saleh, Ali / Samali, Bijan

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-13827>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 15.01.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>



Investigation of Frame with Semi-Rigid Joint

Essais de cadres à joints semi-rigides

Untersuchung von Rahmen mit halbsteifen Knoten

Siamak PARSANEJAD

Senior Lecturer
Univ. of Technology
Broadway, NSW, Australia

Ali SALEH

Lecturer
Univ. of Technology
Broadway, NSW, Australia

Bijan SAMALI

Senior Lecturer
Univ. of Technology
Broadway, NSW, Australia

SUMMARY

The effect of joint flexibility on the static and dynamic behaviour of moment resisting frames is being studied analytically and experimentally. A thirty three storey steel frame is analysed to demonstrate the effect of the joint flexibility on the horizontal deflections and the natural frequencies of vibration of the frame. Two near full scale frames are being tested. The behaviour of the joints and the frame are monitored concurrently. The analytical results and the testing program are briefly explained here and together with the experimental results are being illustrated on the poster in more detail.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK

Flexibility of joints has a significant effect on the behaviour of structural frameworks especially in high rise construction. It magnifies the lateral deflections which directly affect the serviceability of buildings and influence the stability of structures through the second order effects. Flexibility of joints also alters the dynamic characteristics of structures in terms of their natural frequencies, mode shapes and damping characteristics.

The results of a comparison made on a thirty three storey moment resisting frame made of steel is given in Table 1 and Figure 1. The frame consists of typical 3 x 8 m span x 3.6 m high storeys and has a contributory breadth of 5 m perpendicular to the wind direction. The beams and columns are selected from rolled Universal Beams and Universal Columns respectively. The standard end plated connection with eight high strength bolts is used typically [1]. The frame was designed for a sway limit of 0.002 of the height when full rigidity was assumed for all connections.

The wind loading is determined based on the gust factor method of the Australian loading code [2] for a wind velocity of 41 m/s in a suburban terrain. The frame is loaded and analysed for three different conditions:

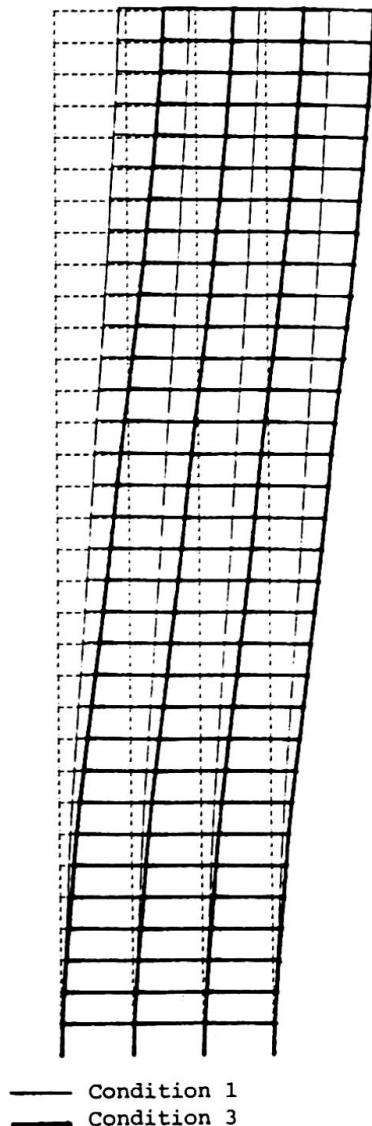
1. All joints are fully rigid.
2. All internal joints are rigid and all external joints are semi-rigid.
3. All joints are semi-rigid.

A small deflection elastic analysis is used. The semi-rigid joints are modelled as linear torsional springs at the beam ends. The springs stiffnesses were calculated as the secant stiffnesses of the joints using Yee and Melchers analytical model [3].

	Condition 1	Condition 2	Condition 3
First Natural Frequency (Hz)	0.185	0.173	0.141
Second Natural Frequency (Hz)	0.511	0.472	0.379
Percent of Critical Damping	2	3.5	5
Gust Factor, G	2.61	2.55	2.55
Wind Pressure at top of the Building (KPa)	1.44	1.40	1.40
Total Lateral Load (KN)	622	608	608
Top Floor Displacement (mm)	240	266	400

Table 1 Comparison of the analytical results

As shown in Table 1, the natural frequencies of the frame are marginally reduced by the flexibility of the exterior joints (less than 6% for Condition 2). The flexibility of the internal joints, however, has reduced the frequencies markedly (more than 18% for Condition 3). The effect of the joint flexibility on the gust factor, and consequently on the loading, is seen to be negligible. The horizontal displacements are affected in the same manner as the natural periods of vibration and is magnified by 67% at the top floor when the flexibilities of all connections are considered. The deflected shapes for Condition 1 and Condition 3 are shown in Figure 1. The damping for frames with Conditions 1 and 3 is assumed respectively as 2% and 5% of the critical damping as normally used in literature. For Condition 2, an intermediate value of 3.5% is assumed.



To verify the above analytical procedures an experimental investigation of the frames containing semi-rigid joints is being conducted. Two near full scale single span pin based frames with standard end plated connections are tested. The geometric imperfections of the frames are fully surveyed. Non-destructive free vibration tests are performed for two different levels of amplitude and three different periods of vibration. The frames are then tested to failure statically. During these tests, the behaviour of the connections as well as the frames is monitored. The extent and spread of plastification is followed to near failure load during the static testing.

The frames are made of 150 UC 37.2 columns and 200 UB 25.4 beams. They are pin based frames with a span of 2.15 m and a height of 2.1 m approximately. The beams are fitted with 28 mm end plates, each being connected to the column with 8 M20 - 8.8 high strength bolts. Strain gauges are used to monitor the plastic zones. Four LVDT's (two on each side of the column) are employed to register the moment-rotation relationship of each joint. The joint rotation is defined as the change of the angle between the end plate of the beam and a horizontal line on the column at the level of the beam bottom flange. A LVDT and an accelerometer are used to register the horizontal response of the frame when subject to free vibration or to horizontal static loading. The experimental findings and their comparison with analytical results are illustrated on the poster.

Fig. 1 Deflected Shape

REFERENCES

1. Aust. I.S.C., Standardised Structural Connections. 3rd Ed., 1985.
2. Standard Association of Australia, Australian Standard 1170.2, SAA Loading Code, Part 2 - Wind Loads, 1989.
3. YEE, Y.L. and MELCHERS, R.E., Moment-Rotation Curves for Bolted Connections, J. of Struct. Engr., ASCE, Vol. 112, No. 3, March 1986.