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# Considerarea riglele de cuplare la pereții din zidărie

Regarding the coupling beams in the calculation of the masonry walls

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#### Rezumat.

Pereții de zidărie funcționează în mod normal legați fie prin plăci, prin grinzi de cuplare din zidărie, beton armat sau prin secțiuni compozite (zidărie și beton armat etc.). Comportamentul grinzilor de cuplare, inclusiv în codurile de proiectare actuale, este insuficient abordat, cunoscut și tratat. Din acest motiv, efectul indirect al pereților adus de grinzile de cuplare este insuficient cunoscut - majoritatea proiectanților (din lipsă de informații) preferă să nu-i ia în considerare în calculul general. După testele efectuate pe mese seismice pe modele 3D, dar și după cutremurele majore, reale, se poate observa cu ușurință influența deosebită a grinzilor de cuplare asupra comportării de ansamblu a pereților structurali de zidărie (de tip montanți sau spalete). Toate acestea atât pentru pereți structurali sau despărțitori, cât și pentru pereți normali sau de calcan. Deoarece aceste date nu sunt suficient de bine cunoscute în practica de proiectare, acest studiu încearcă să arate cum prin utilizarea programului ETABS, fie pentru energia disipată, fie pentru energia de distorsiune, putem obține indicații suficient de sugestive despre comportarea riglelor de cuplare, precum și a pereților de zidărie.

Cuvinte cheie: structuri, zidărie, rigla de cuplare, energie disipata

#### Abstract.

Masonry walls normally work connected either by floor slabs, by coupling beams made from masonry, reinforced concrete or by composite sections (masonry and reinforced concrete, etc.). The behavior of the coupling beams, including in the current design codes, is insufficiently approached, known and treated. For this reason, the indirect effect of the walls from the coupling beams is insufficiently known - most designers (due to lack of information) prefer not to consider them in the overall calculation. After the tests performed on seismic masses on 3D models, but also after the major, real earthquakes, one can easily see the special influence of the coupling beams on the overall behavior of the structural masonry walls (cantilevers or piers type). All bout these both for structural or partition or for normal and blind walls. Because these data are insufficiently well known in design practice, this study attempts to show how by using the ETABS program, for either dissipated energy or distortion energy, we can get sufficiently suggestive indications about the behavior of coupling beams as well as masonry walls.

Key words: structures, masonry, coupling beam, dissipated energy

# 1. Introduction

Considering the current state on a national and international level, regarding the behavior of the masonry coupled walls (and for masonry there is the behavior of the pier type and cantilever type, different from the similar elements of reinforced concrete) was considered as it is necessary to carry out a complex study, for a similar number of cases, so that the conclusions we will obtain can become general and thus help the designers.

## 2. Study on the identification of the behavior of hollow masonry walls

In this large study two types of walls (solid walls and hollow walls) and also two heights rise where considered (2 and 4 levels).

For all cases it is considered a 2.80m level height  $(h_1)$  in correlation with the seismic zone with ag = 0.30g (table 1 and figure 1).

For hollow walls we keep the level and vary:

- h<sub>p</sub> (parapet height) 0-150cm (every 30 cm);
- h<sub>h</sub> (hollow height) 60-210 cm (every 30 cm);
- h<sub>cb</sub> (coupling beam height) from 70 cm to which 220 cm (made from masonry and 25 cm reinforced concrete belt);

We keep the total length  $l_w$  and vary:

- $l_{w1}$  and  $l_{w2}$  (from 80 cm to 200 cm);
- h<sub>p</sub> (parapet height) 0-150cm (every 30 cm);
- h<sub>cb</sub> (coupling beam height) from 70 cm to which 220 cm (made from masonry and 25 cm reinforced concrete belt);
- We want to identify several aspects: the correlated dimensions  $h_{cb}$ ,  $h_l$ , respectively  $l_{w1}$ ,  $l_{cb}$  and  $l_{w2}$  for which we have cantilever behavior and pier behavior.
- Initially we try to have left / right walls with equal lengths  $(l_{w1}=l_{w2})$ . Later we try to have  $l_{w1}\neq l_{w2}$ , so that we obtain different types of walls behavior.

Masonry walls with equal spans												
$\mathbf{l}_{\mathbf{w}}$	l <sub>w1</sub>	l <sub>w2</sub>	lcb	hcb	h <sub>cb</sub> /l <sub>cb</sub>	ρ=hı*h <sub>cb</sub> /l <sub>cb</sub>	1/ρ	Wall type				
2	0.80	0.80	0.60	0.70	1.17	3.27	0.31	Pier				
	0.80	0.80	0.60	1.00	1.67	4.67	0.21	Pier				
	0.80	0.80	0.60	1.30	2.17	6.07	0.16	Pier				
	0.80	0.80	0.60	1.60	2.67	7.47	0.13	Pier				
	0.80	0.80	0.60	1.90	3.17	8.87	0.11	Pier				
	0.80	0.80	0.60	2.20	3.67	10.27	0.10	Pier				
3	1.20	1.20	1.00	0.70	0.70	1.96	0.51	Cantilever				
	1.20	1.20	1.00	1.00	1.00	2.80	0.36	Pier				
	1.20	1.20	1.00	1.30	1.30	3.64	0.27	Pier				

	1.20	1.20	1.00	1.60	1.60	4.48	0.22	Pier		
	1.20	1.20	1.00	1.90	1.90	5.32	0.19	Pier		
	1.20	1.20	1.00	2.20	2.20	6.16	0.16	Pier		
5	1.60	1.60	1.40	0.70	0.50	1.40	0.71	Cantilever		
	1.60	1.60	1.40	1.00	0.71	2.00	0.50	Cantilever		
	1.60	1.60	1.40	1.30	0.93	2.60	0.38	Pier		
	1.60	1.60	1.40	1.60	1.14	3.20	0.31	Pier		
	1.60	1.60	1.40	1.90	1.36	3.80	0.26	Pier		
	1.60	1.60	1.40	2.20	1.57	4.40	0.23	Pier		
6	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.70	0.35	0.98	1.02	Cantilever		
	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.00	0.50	1.40	0.71	Cantilever		
	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.30	0.65	1.82	0.55	Cantilever		
	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.60	0.80	2.24	0.45	Pier		
	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.90	0.95	2.66	0.38	Pier		
	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.20	1.10	3.08	0.32	Pier		
Masonry walls with different spans										
lw	l <sub>w1</sub>	l <sub>w2</sub>	lcb	hcb	h <sub>cb</sub> /l <sub>cb</sub>	ρ=hı*h <sub>cb</sub> /l <sub>cb</sub>	1/ρ	Wall type		
5	1.50	1.20	1.80	0.70	0.39	1.09	0.92	Cantilever		
	1.70	2.00	0.80	1.60	2.00	5.60	0.18	Pier		
	2.00	1.00	1.50	0.70	0.47	1.31	0.77	<b>Cantilever+Pier</b>		
5	1.60	2.00	1.40	0.70	0.50	1.40	0.71	Cantilever		
	1.60	2.00	1.40	1.60	1.14	3.20	0.31	Pier		
	2.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	0.50	1.40	0.71	<b>Cantilever+Pier</b>		

Aspects on the structural masonry walls computation



Figure 1 Coupling masonry walls models and notations

# 3. Dissipated and distortion energies

In the following figures, for each study case (72 in total) the dissipated and distortion energy are presented:





h<sub>p</sub>=0.30 m



 $h_p$ =without hollows Figures 16-29  $l_w$ =1.20 m;  $l_{cb}$ =1.00 m – 2 levels building



h<sub>p</sub>=1.20 m







Aspects on the structural masonry walls computation

Figures 58-59  $l_{w1}=1.50 \text{ m}; l_{w2}=1.20 \text{ m}; l_{cb}=1.50 \text{ m}; h_p=0.00 \text{ m} - 2$  levels building



Figures 68-69  $l_{w1}$ =1.60 m;  $l_{w2}$ =2.00 m;  $l_{cb}$ =1.40 m;  $h_p$ =0.90 m - 2 levels



h<sub>p</sub>=0.60 m



h<sub>p</sub>=0.00 m





h<sub>p</sub>=1.50 m



h<sub>p</sub>=0.90 m



h<sub>p</sub>=0.30 m



 $h_p$ =without hollows Figures 116-129 l<sub>w</sub>=2.00 m; l<sub>cb</sub>=2.00 m – 4 levels building



Figures 138-139  $l_{w1}$ =1.60 m;  $l_{w2}$ =2.00 m;  $l_{cb}$ =1.40 m;  $h_p$ =0.00 m - 4 levels building



Figures 143-144  $l_w$ =5.00 m – 4 levels building

## 5. Conclusion

Conclusions about the case studies comparisons:

- One can easily observe, from the 72 case studies carried out (half for two-level models and the other half for 4-level buildings) a close correlation between dissipated and distortion energies highlighted in the ETABS program, for the corresponding seismic action.
- The models were planar (for simplicity and eloquence in interpreting structural responses) but the same is true for 3D models.
- Figures 2-144 show all these diagrams, which intuitively suggest how the component structural elements (coupling rulers / walls) will degrade. In principle, from previous personal studies, if step-by-step models are made in which finite elements are removed (preferably as fine as possible) with energy dissipation over 66% at each of the steps, the degradation mode clearly corresponds tests performed in laboratories, on real models, or post-earthquake observations.
- Figures 145-146 suggestively collected some of the data presented above.
- Following all the case studies carried out, the following can be stated with certainty:

- A wall has a pier behavior when:  $l_w < h_l \frac{h_{cb}}{l_{cb}}$
- A wall has a cantilever behavior when:  $l_w \ge h_l \frac{h_{cb}}{l_{cb}}$
- The method can be used easily, including modeling buildings with linear elements (columns, beams) and not only surface elements such as walls. This modeling (regardless of the type of element) must be done with surface elements. Also, for different material types.



Figure 145 ETABS - dissipated energy in coupling walls  $(l_{w1}=l_{w2})$  - parallel comparisons



Figure 146 ETABS dissipated energy in coupling walls (lw1≠lw2)- parallel comparisons

## 6. References

- CR6-2013 DESIGN CODE FOR MASONRY STRUCTURES (COD DE PROIECTARE PENTRU STRUCTURI DIN ZIDĂRIE CR6-2013)
- P100/1-2013 SEISMIC DESIGN CODE PART I DESIGN PROVISIONS FOR BUILDINGS (COD DE PROIECTARE SEISMICĂ – PARTEA I – PREVEDERI DE PROIECTARE PENTRU CLĂDIRI)
- ETABS program user guide
- MS Excel