



# **Jännitettyjen betonipalkkien yhdistetyt rasiukset - tutkimuksesta käytäntöön**

**Siltatekniikan päivät 2025**

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Topic of today!

# Background

- The research started in 2017 with preliminary review of Finnish bridge stock
- What happens if tendons in a prestressed bridge are broken and how the situation can be analyzed?
  - There is increasing concern of the state of prestressed structures globally as ruptured strands are becoming more common
- What current methods can be used to predict structural behaviour or are there more refined methods for assessment and are applicable for engineering use?
- Many experimental tests:
  - Re-anchoring and bond of ruptured strands
    - <https://doi.org/10.1002/suco.202000351>
  - Small-scale load tests of prestressed beams under bending and torsion
    - <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.engstruct.2023.115606>
    - <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.engstruct.2024.119053>
  - Large-scale load test of prestressed beams under bending, torsion and shear
    - <https://researchportal.tuni.fi/en/publications/analyzing-structural-behavior-of-prestressed-continuous-beams-wit>

## THE STUDIED FIELDS

Interaction of bending, torsion and shear in prestressed structures

Structural effects of prestressing strand failure

Stress redistribution of continuous structure in ULS

Re-anchoring of grouted tendons

Signs of strand failure under SLS loads

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# Combined actions

- Interaction between bending, torsion and shear is essential in design of bridge structures due to the nature of the loads and large span-to-height ratios
- From a scientific point of view, however, the issue is not fully resolved – at least not for prestressed structures
- Beam experiments with torsion from 1960s to this day were collected to a database
  - Amount of experimental research data on concentrically prestressed beams with combined actions is very small

## DATABASE

1084 beams:

- 149 hollow
- 935 solid

118 prestressed beams:

- Pure torsion: 54
- Bending and torsion: 39
- B + T + Shear: 25

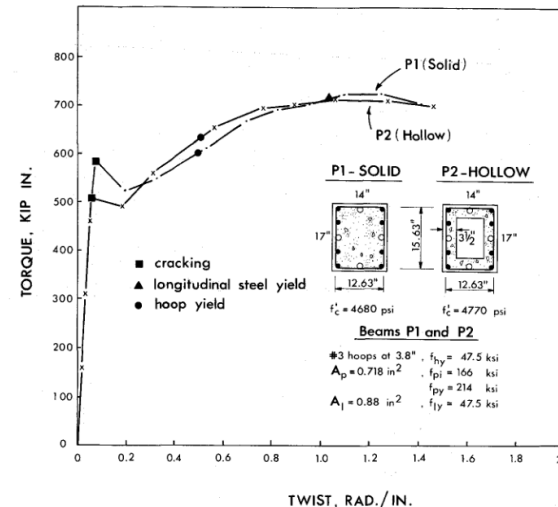
On average from year 1977

Cross-section areas 0.01...0.37 m<sup>2</sup>

Mean:

- concrete strength 34.1 MPa
- longitudinal reinforcement ratio 1.8 %
  - with eccentricity of  $0.78 \pm 0.44$
- transverse reinforcement ratio 1.1 %

Prestressing steel mainly centrally placed



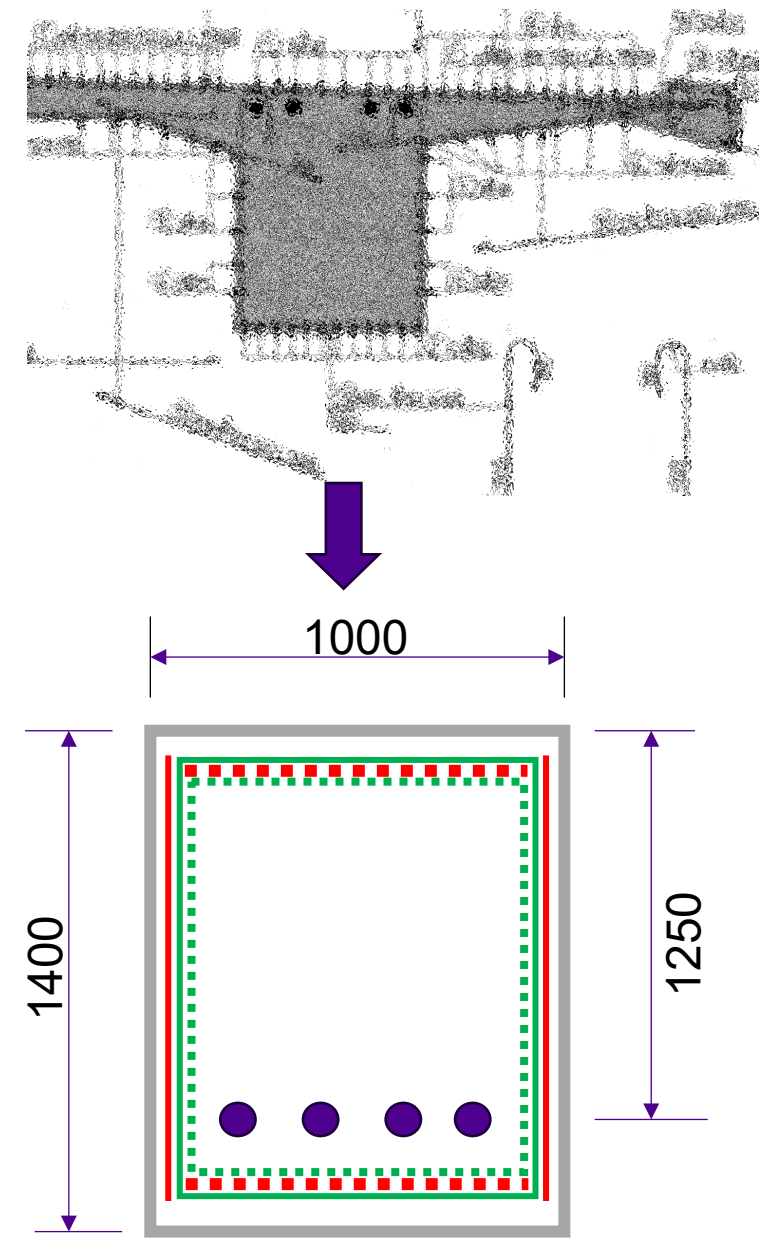
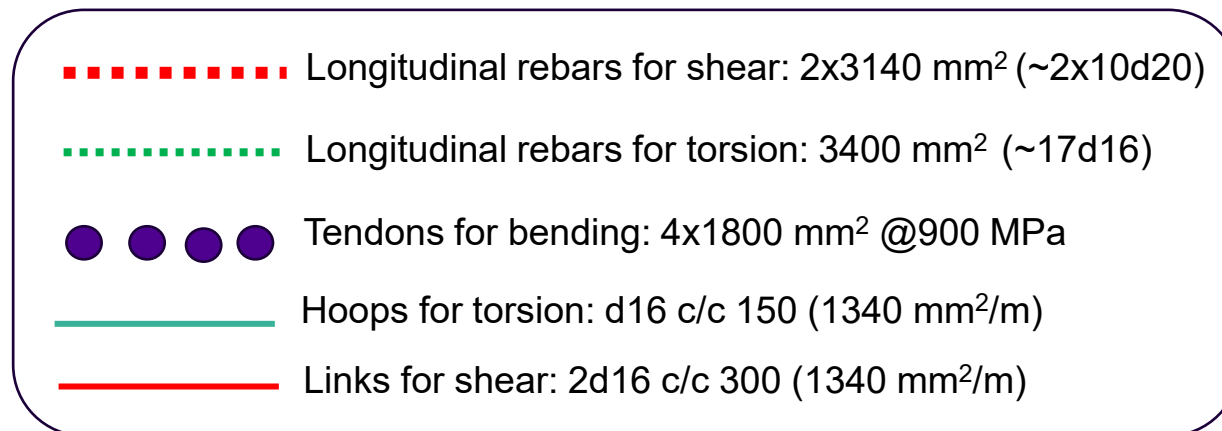
Name	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6
Cross Section						
Web Steel	#3 hoops at 3.8" spacing					
Longitudinal re bars	8#3	8#3	6#3	8#3	—	30#5
Prestressing wires (0.276 in. diam)	12	12	3	12	40	—

Kuvien lähde:

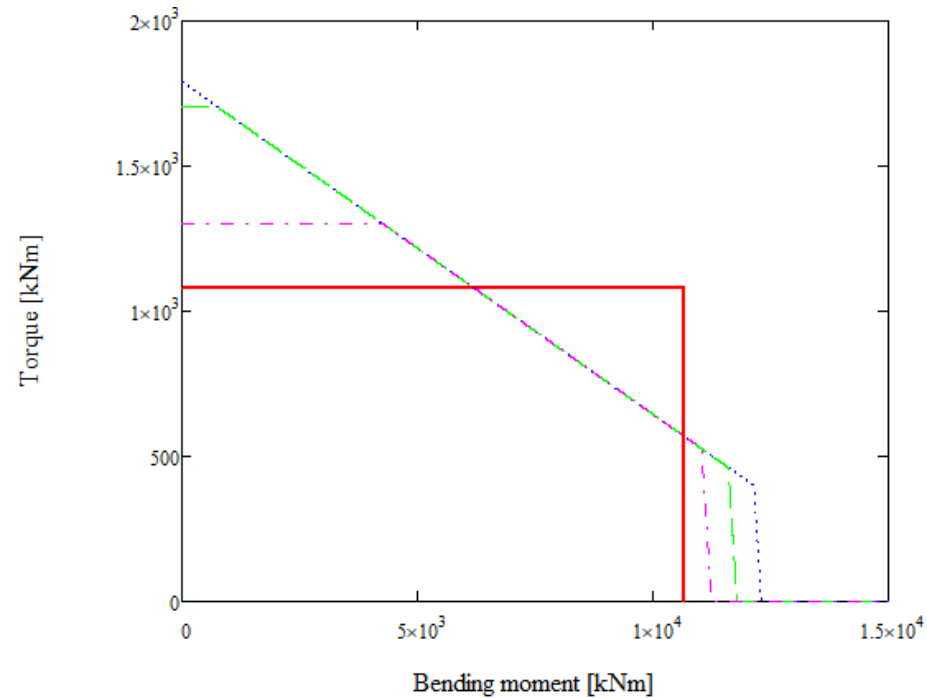
<https://doi.org/10.15554/pcij.05011978.54.73>

# Calculation example

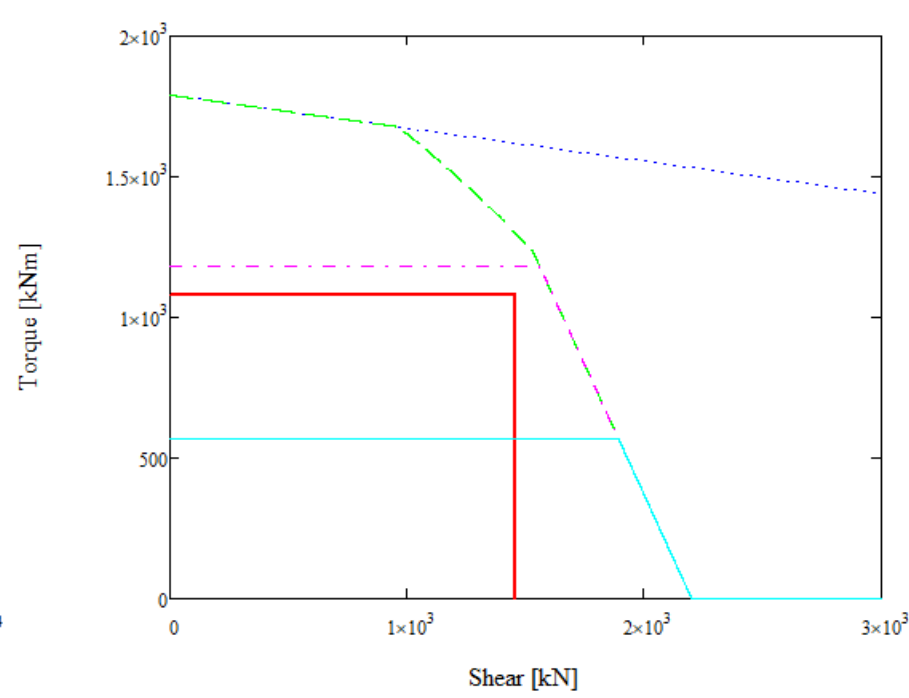
- Simplified rectangular prestressed concrete cross-section close to middle support
- Concrete:  $f_{cd} = 23 \text{ MPa}$
- Tendons:  $f_{pd} = 1454 \text{ MPa}$
- Rebars:  $f_{sd} = 454 \text{ MPa}$  (concrete cover 40 mm)
- Separate and combined strengths in bending, shear and torsion with:
  - NCCI 2
  - CEB-FIP Model Code 1978
  - Eurocode (1st gen, 2005) EN1992-1-1 + EN1992-2



# Bending, Torsion & Shear – NCCI 2



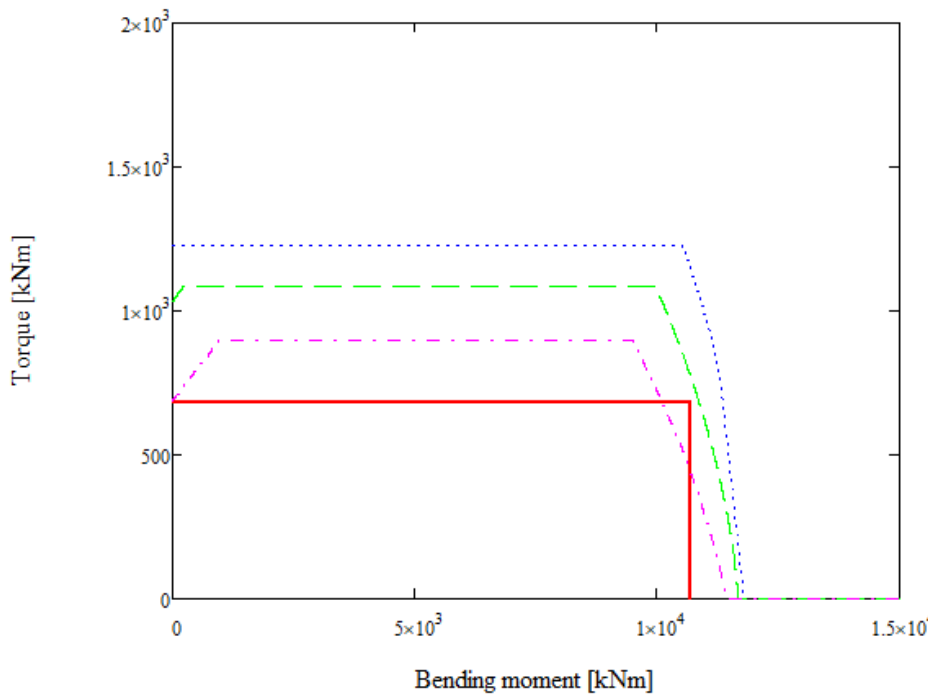
—  $TR_d - VR_d$   
 ····  $TR(M) - \text{no shear}$   
 - - -  $TR(M) + 0,5VR_d$   
 - · -  $TR(M) + VR_d$



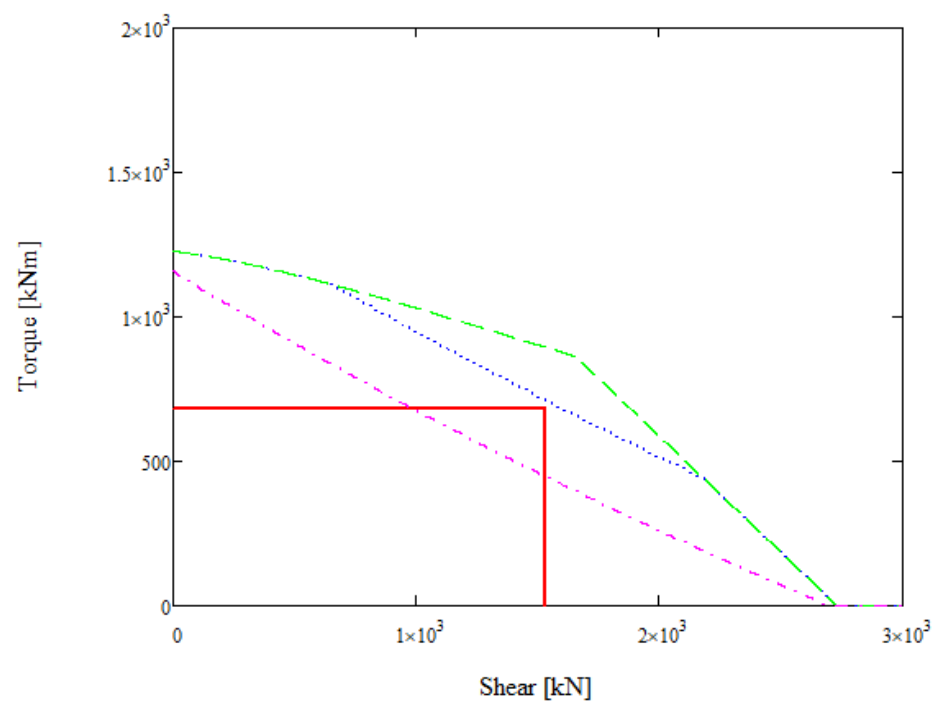
—  $TR_d - VR_d$   
 ····  $T/TR_{dmax} + V/VR_{dmax} = 1$   
 - - -  $TR(V) - \text{no bending}$   
 - · -  $TR(V) + 0,5MR_d$   
 —  $TR(V) + MR_d$

- Concrete contribution is large in shear
  - $\cot(\theta) = 1$
- In torsion  $1/3 < \cot(\theta) < 3$ 
  - Is superposition of reinforcement areas applicable?
- $A_{ef}$  is calculated from the centerline of longitudinal reinforcement
- No rules accounting for prestressing steel as longitudinal reinforcement in shear or torsion
- Compression from bending is not allowed to relieve longitudinal tensile stresses from torsion
- Longitudinal reinforcement for shear not tied to  $\cot(\theta)$
- Large cut-off with
  - $T/T_{Rdmax} + M/M_{pRdmax} = 1$
  - $T/T_{Rdmax} + V/V_{umax} = 1$

# Bending, Torsion & Shear – Model Code 1978



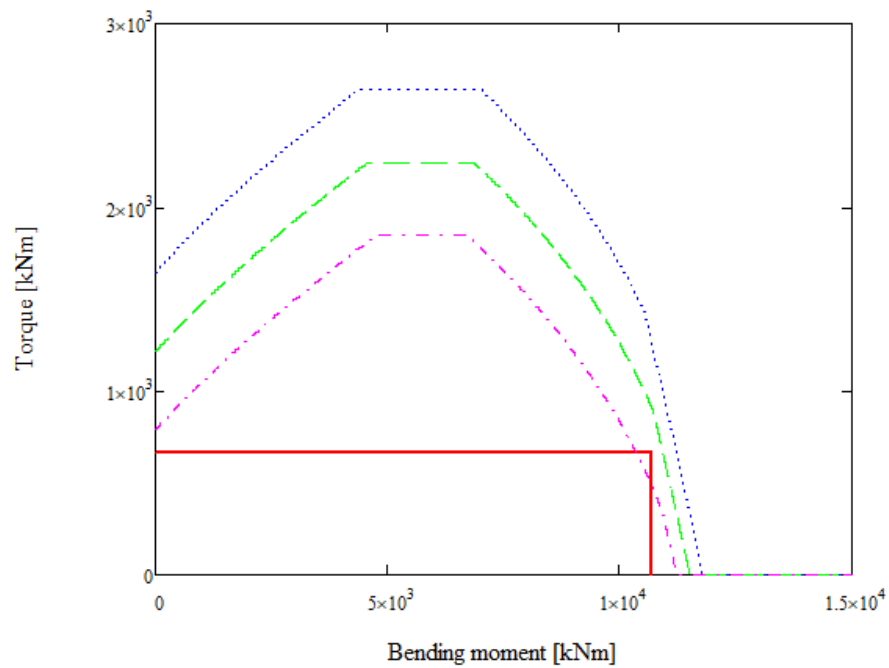
- TRd - MRd
- TR(M) - no shear
- - - TR(M) + 0,5VRd
- · - TR(M) + VRd



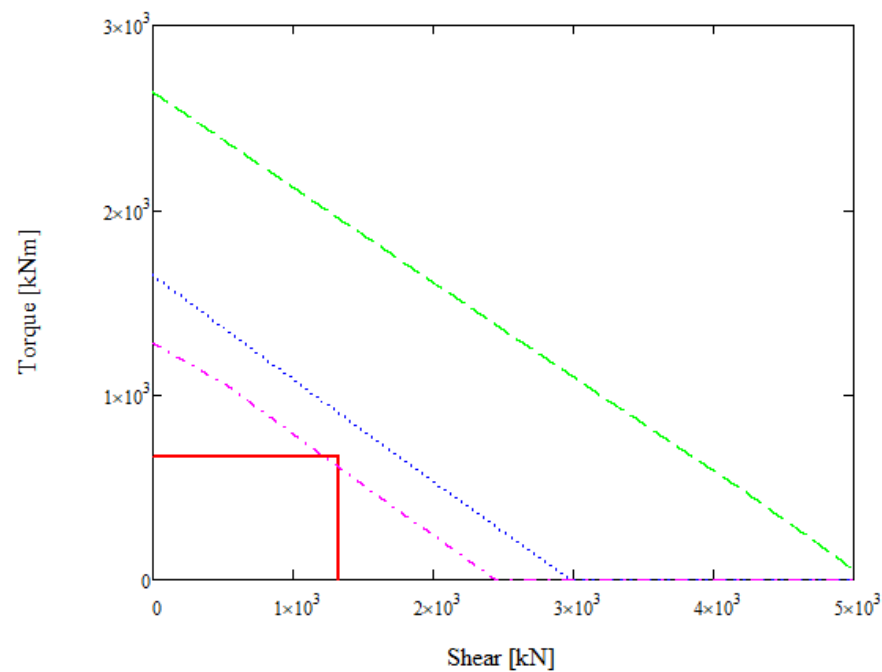
- TRd - VRd
- TR(V) - no bending
- - - TR(V) + 0,5MRd
- · - TR(V) + MRd

- $3/5 < \cot(\theta) < 5/3$
- $A_{ef}$  calculation:
- Prestressing steel can be accounted for as longitudinal reinforcement in torsion
- Concrete contributes in torsion and shear resistances – but not in the interaction calculations
- Longitudinal reinforcement for shear not tied to  $\cot(\theta)$
- Longitudinal reinforcement for torsion can be reduced in the flexural compression zone
- No cut-off from maximum values bending moment and torsion
  - Warning of too high principal compressive stresses in compression zone

# Bending, Torsion & Shear – 1992-1-1 + 1992-2 (2005)



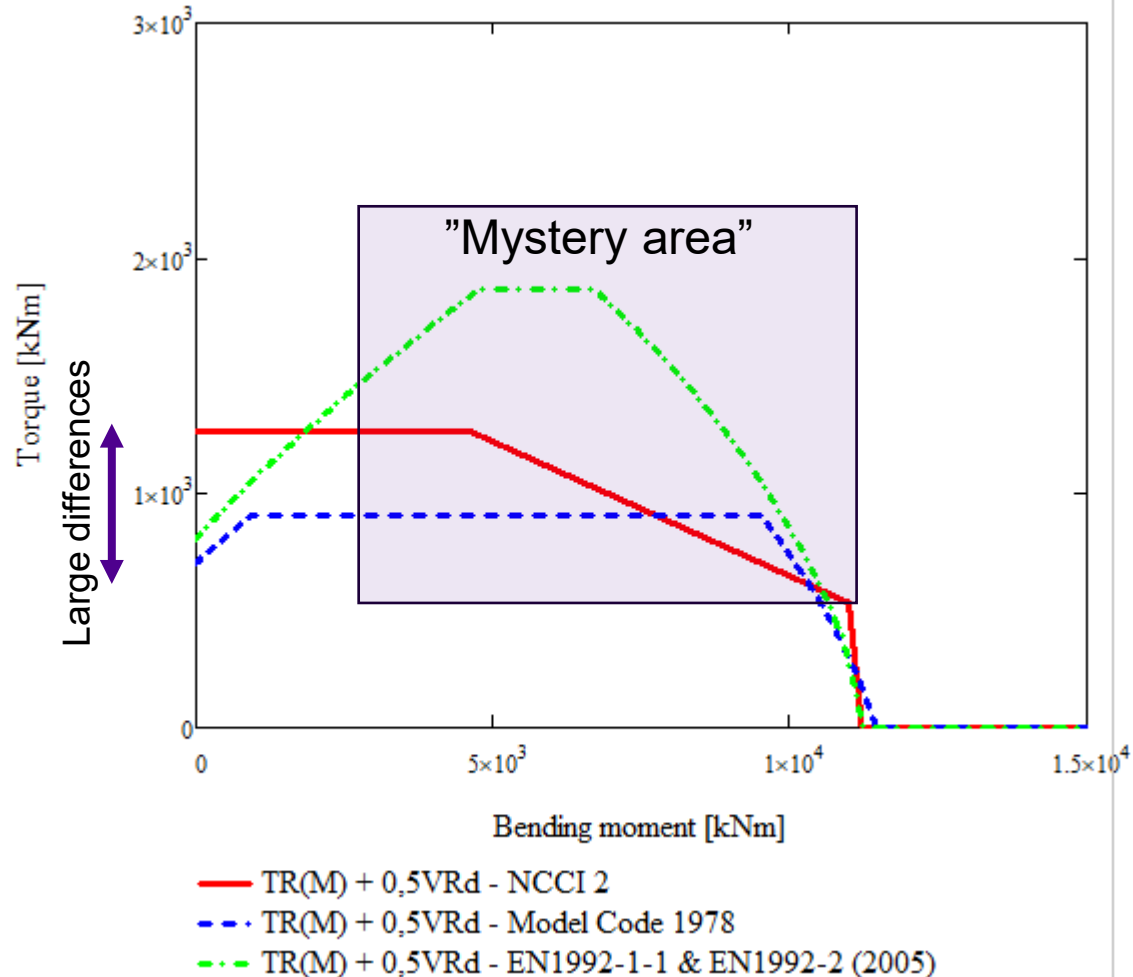
- TRd - MRd
- TR(M) - no shear
- - - TR(M) + 0,5VRd
- · - TR(M) + VRd



- TRd - VRd
- TR(V) - no bending
- - - TR(V) + 0,5MRd
- · - TR(V) + MRd

- $1 < \cot(\theta) < 2,5$
- $A_{ef} = A/u$
- No contribution from concrete
- All longitudinal and transverse reinforcement tied to  $\cot(\theta)$
- Prestressing steel can be accounted for as longitudinal reinforcement in torsion
- Longitudinal reinforcement for torsion can be reduced in the flexural compression zone
- No cut-off from maximum values bending moment and torsion
  - Only shear and torsion

# Calculation example - conclusion

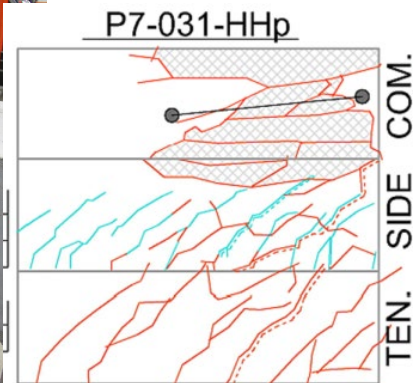
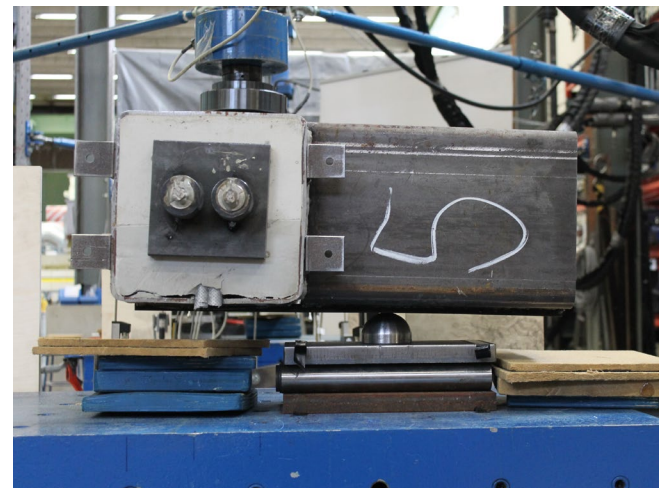
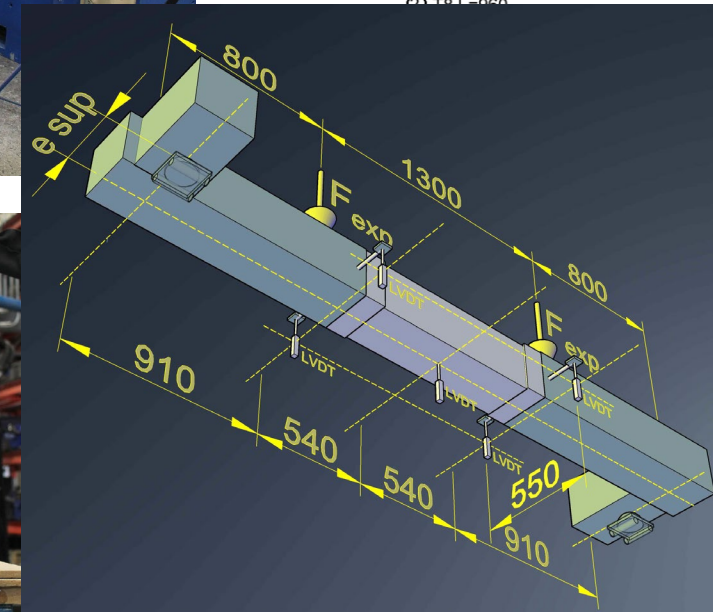
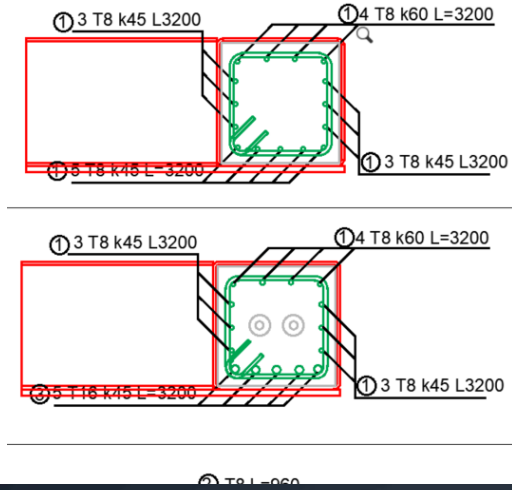
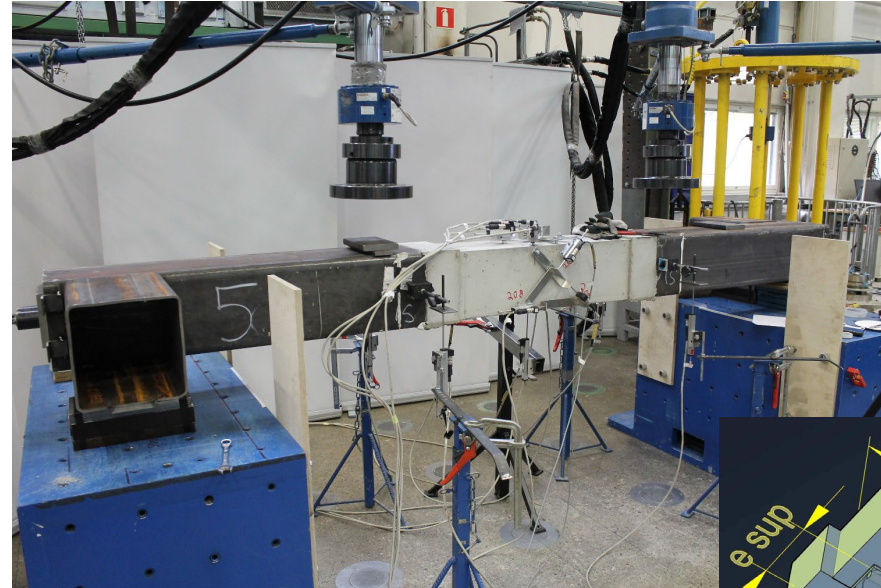


- The "mystery area" has been researched with:
  - Small scale bending-torsion experiments
  - Development of *Plasticity based space truss model with variable compression panel thickness* (PB-TM)
  - Collecting 92 experiment results from literature for model calibration
  - Development of *Strain based space truss model* (SB-TM)
  - Large scale experiments continuous prestressed beams with bending-torsion-shear interaction



# Small scale experiments

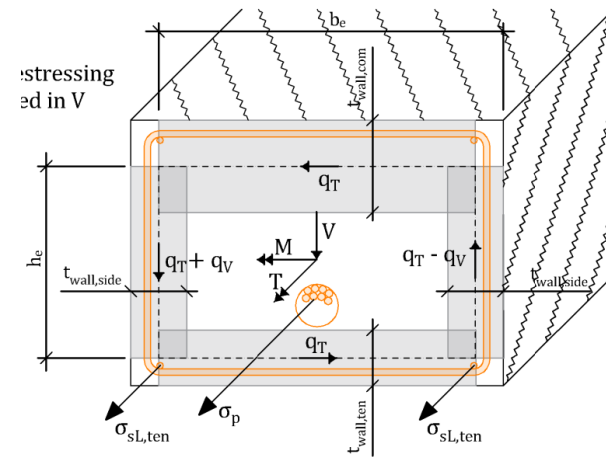
- 8 beams with different reinforcement setups
  - Lightly and heavily reinforced, prestressed
- Sudden fracture of concrete on compressive side was evident in heavily reinforced beams, while the beams were not overreinforced for bending



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Joonas Tulonen, Siltatekniikan päivät, 4.-5.2.2025

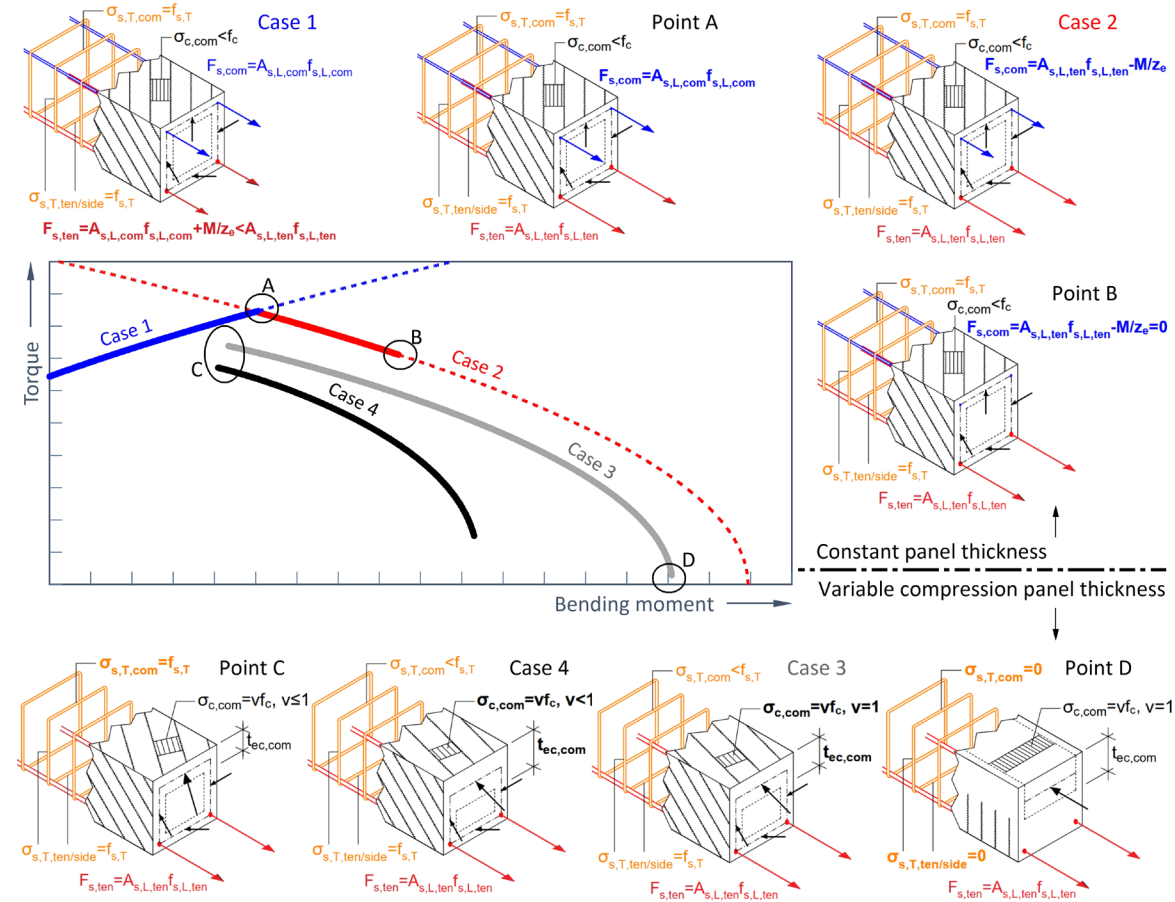
# Plasticity-based space truss model (PB-TM)

- Combining the aspects from plasticity based bending model and space truss model for torsion
- The transverse strain of the top panel is derived from force equilibrium of the panel forces
- Created from the results of load tests on 8 beams with heavy reinforcement and prestressing



-  $t_{wall,side/ten} = k_{wall} * (A_c / u_c)$ , where  $k_{wall}$  is variable taking account the T/M -ratio and longitudinal mechanical reinforcing ratio, and  $A_c$  and  $u_c$  are the area and perimeter of the concrete cross-section

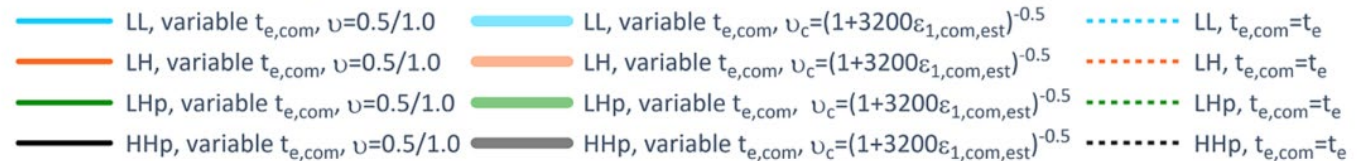
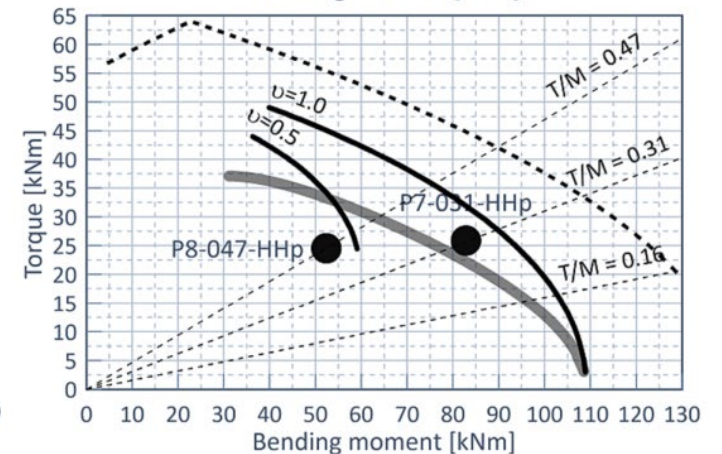
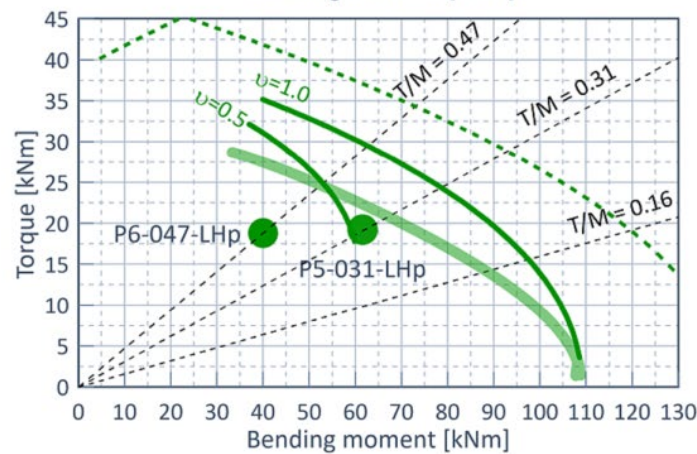
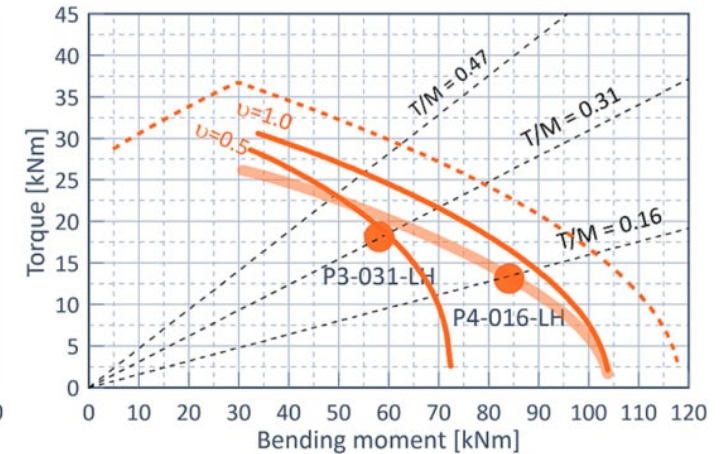
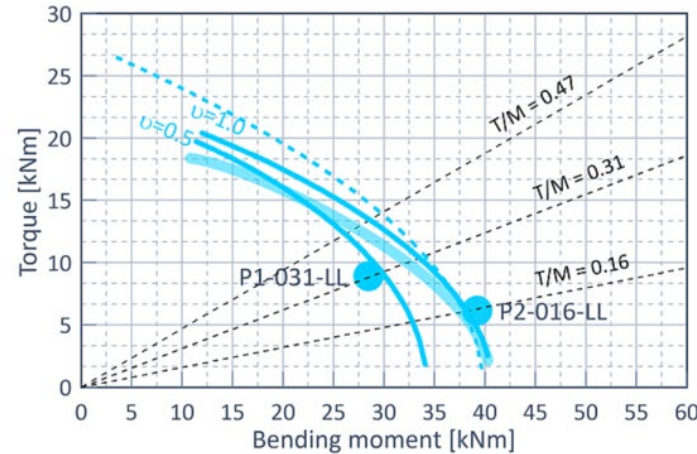
- $\sigma_{sT,ten/side} = \sigma_{sL,ten/side} = f_{sy}$ ,  $\sigma_{sT,com} < f_{sy}$ ,  $\sigma_{sL,com} = 0$
- $\sigma_p = \min(\sigma_{p0} + f_{sy}; f_{p0,02})$
- $\sigma_{c,side/ten}$  and  $\theta_{side/ten}$  are determined from equilibrium with  $\sigma_{sT}$  and  $q$
- $\theta_{com} = \text{atan}(q_T * b_e / N_L)$ , where  $N_L = M / z_e$  and  $z_e$  is the internal lever arm for bending
- $\sigma_{c,com} = \nu_c (\epsilon_{1,com}) * f_c$ , where  $\epsilon_{1,com}$  is determined with transverse equilibrium in ultimate state and Mohr's circle assuming  $\epsilon_{2,com} = \epsilon_{cu}$
- $t_{wall,com}$  determined so that cross-section is in equilibrium





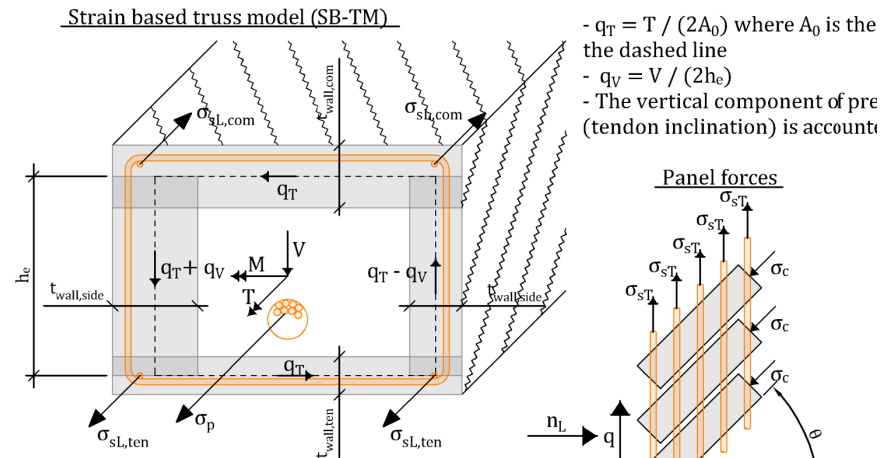
# Plasticity-based space truss model (PB-TM)

- The test results of small scale experiments were over-estimated with model without concrete softening or variable compression zone thickness
- Concrete softening factor was adjusted with test results

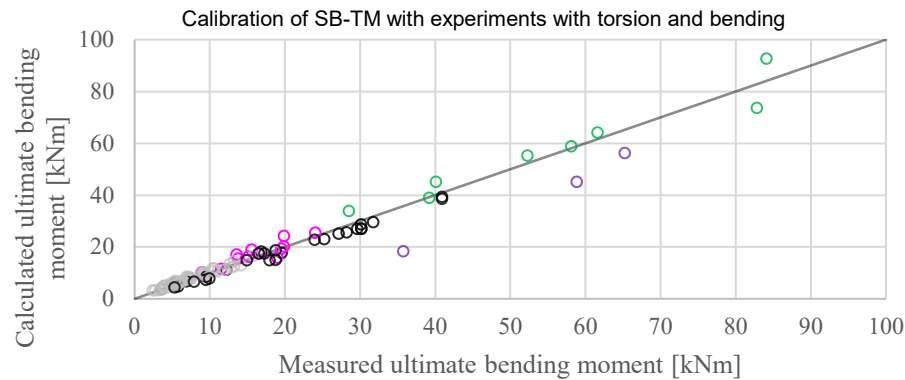


# Strain-based space truss model (SB-TM)

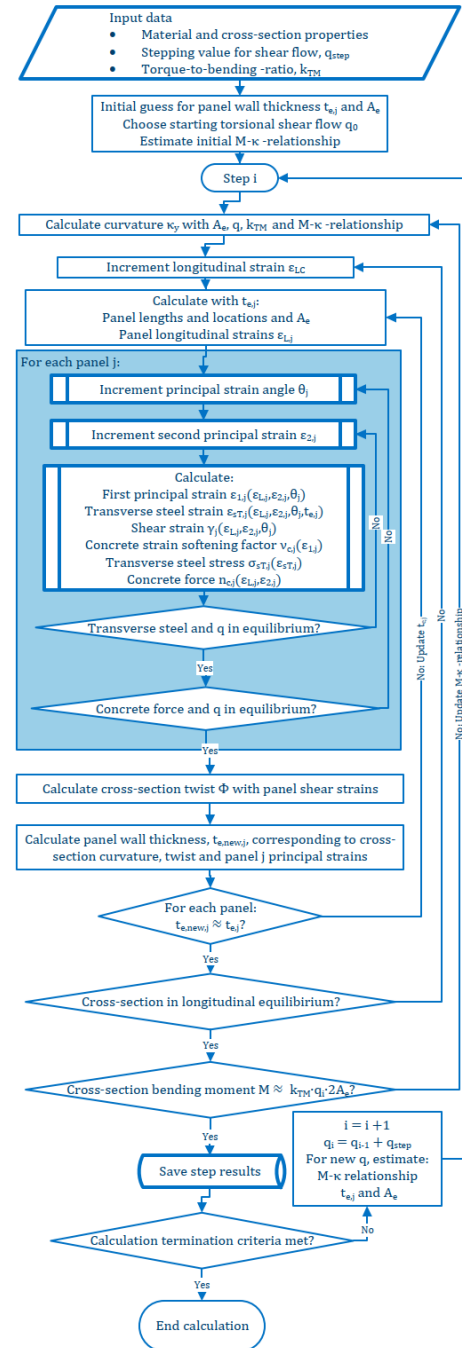
- Based on solving the strain state of given combinations of torsional shear flow  $q$  and cross-section bending curvature  $\kappa$
- Non-linear material properties and non-linear nested iterative solving of the panel forces
- Full load-deformation response calculation is possible
- The model was used to adjust the PB-TM parameters to achieve better match with experimental results from the data base



- Longitudinal strain  $\epsilon_L(z) = \kappa * z + \epsilon_{L0}$
- $\sigma_{sL,ten/com}$  and  $\sigma_p$  are determined from material models with  $\epsilon_L(z)$
- $t_{wall}$  for each panel is determined from  $\epsilon_2$  and panel curvature  $\psi$ , which is a function of cross-section twist  $\Phi$  and curvature  $\kappa$
- Cross-section twist is calculated from shear deformation of panels
- $\epsilon_2$  and  $\theta$  are determined for each panel so that force equilibrium and strain compatibility is fulfilled
- $\sigma_c = \nu_c(\epsilon_1) * \sigma_c(\epsilon_2)$  for each panel
- $\epsilon_{L0}$  is iterated so that cross-section is in equilibrium



○ Collins                      ○ Elfgren                      ○ Gesund et al.  
○ Jackson & Estanero      ○ McMullen & Warwaruk      ○ Tulonen & Laaksonen





# Large scale experiments

- Four 20 meter long two span post-tensioned concrete beams were loaded to failure with 9-point loading
- The structure represented a typical highway overpass
- In some of the beams, half of the prestressing strands were cut at the support to simulate tendon breakage
- Tests were conducted in 2021 at Tampere University Structural Engineering Laboratory

Four beams:  
 Continuous with two 9.7 m spans

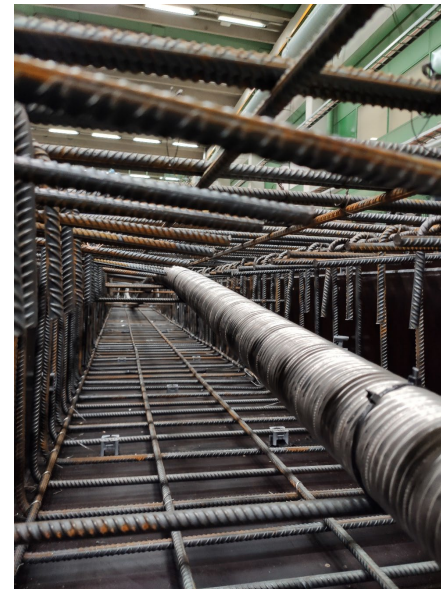
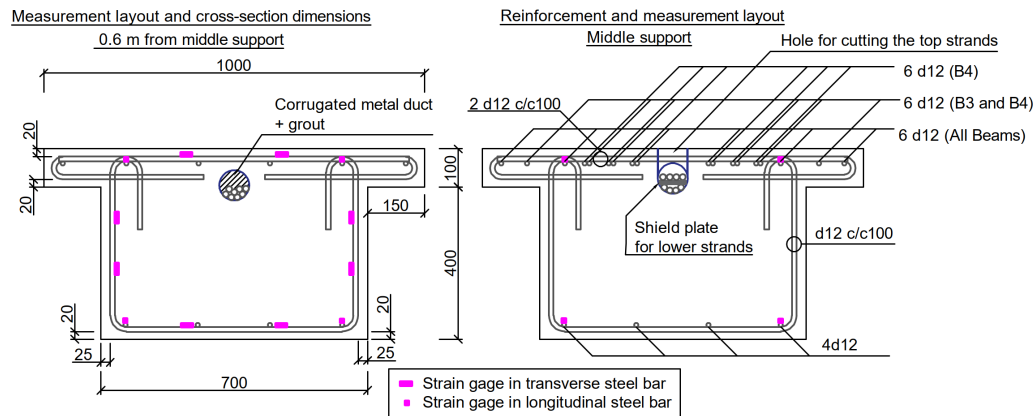
Cross-section:  
 0.7x0.5 m rectangle with small overhangs

Concrete:  
 mean cylinder strength 34...38 MPa

Tendons:  
 parabolic profile with 8 x 150 mm<sup>2</sup> strands @ 900 MPa inside a grouted corrugated steel duct,  $f_{p0.01} = 1600$  MPa

Reinforcement:  
 bottom 4 x d12, top 6 x d12.  
 hoops d12 c/c 100

Top soffit at the middle support,  
 B1&B2 6 x d12 mm, B3: 12 x d12, B4: 18 x d12 mm,  $f_{yk} = 519$  MPa



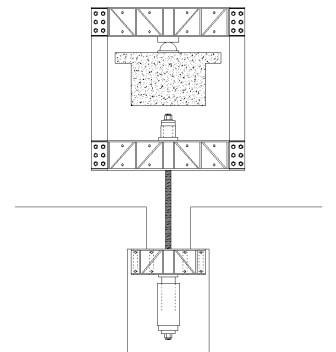
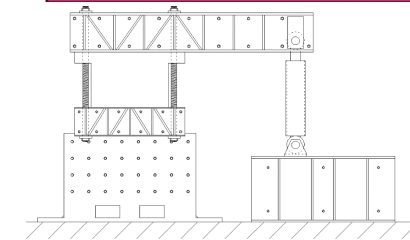
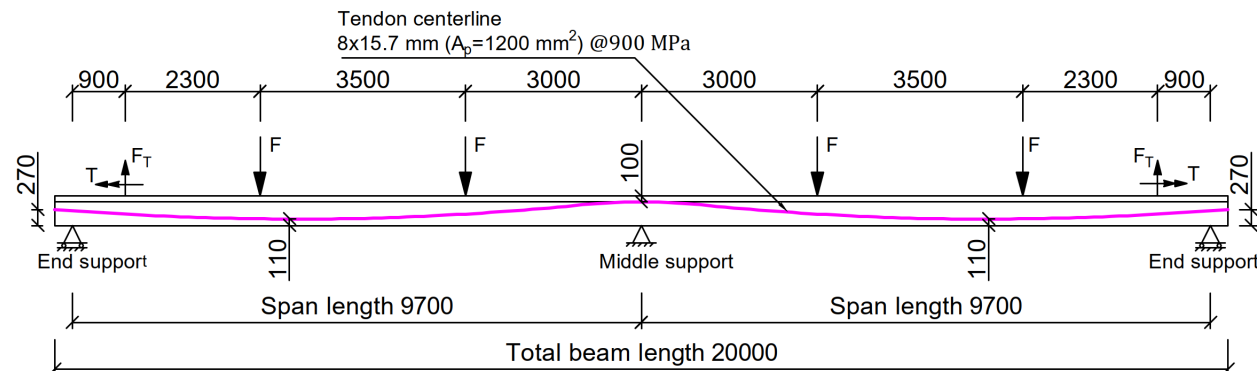
# Test setup and instrumentation

- Each beam was heavily instrumented
- Beams were loaded with four vertical loads at the span and two torsion loads at the beam ends
- Some measurements were started when the beams were lifted to the supports and continued through the prestressing to the failure load



## Instrumentation per beam:

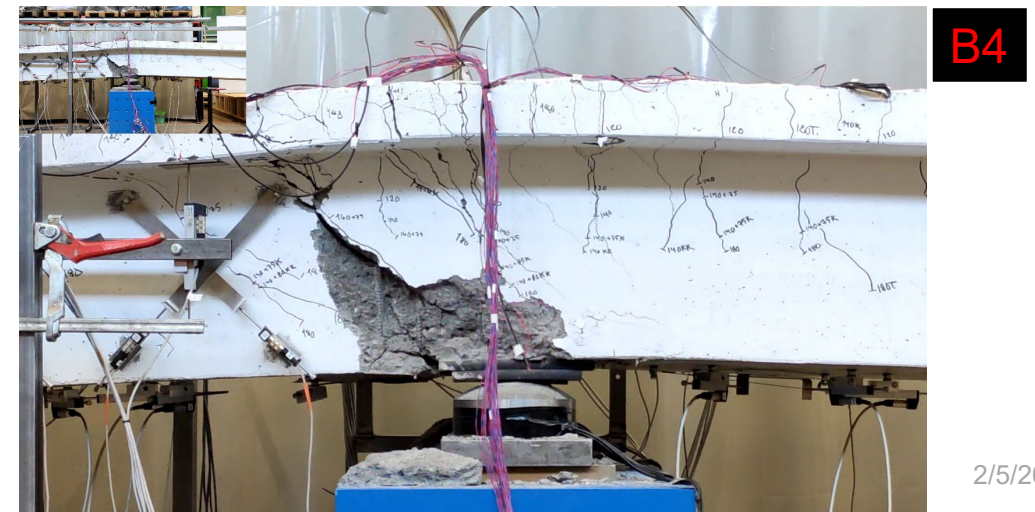
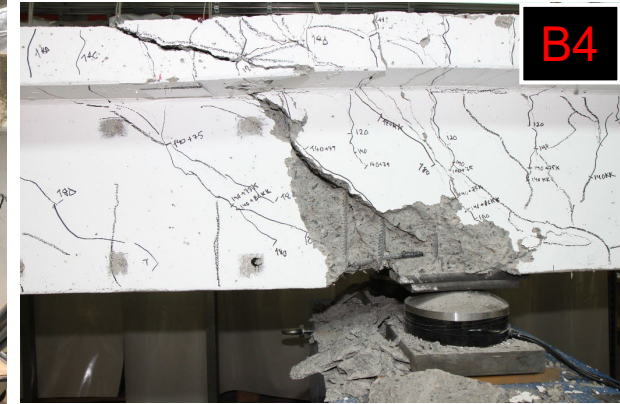
- 80 rebar strain gauges
- 41 concrete surface strain measurements with LVDT
- 18 LVDTs to measure deflections and rotations
- 4 bearings with support reaction measurement
- 4 force transducers for vertical load measurement
- 2 instrumented hydraulic jacks for torsion load measurements





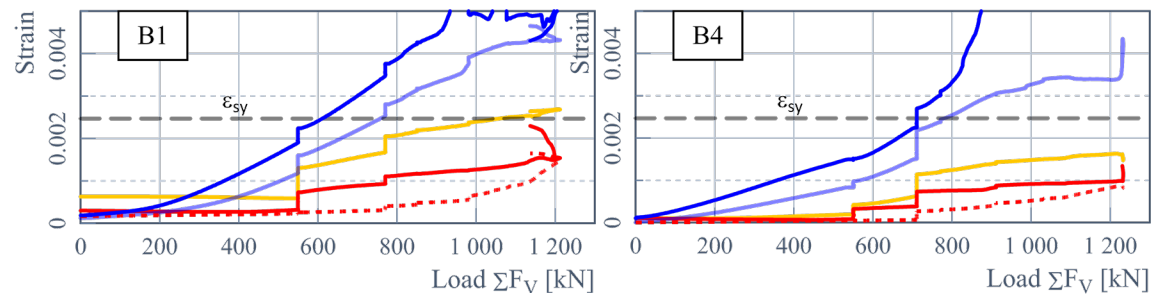
# Beam experiments: Failure modes

- All of the beams showed heavy cracking at the middle support
- The failure of all beams was combination of bending, torsion and shear
- The beams with the heaviest reinforcement, B1 and B4, failed in brittle manner
  - Cracking and spalling was observed in the compressive soffit near the middle support
  - Soon after large diagonal crack appeared onto the side and concrete spalled off
- The failure modes of beams B2 and B3 were more ductile
  - No concrete spalling of the side face, but spalling and diagonal cracking at the compressive soffit



# Comparison with the calculated results

- Accuracy of both models is very good
- SB-TM estimates that the failure occurred in a section somewhere between the middle support and 0,6 m from middle support
  - This is an area where the cut strands have not yet fully re-anchored
  - Supported by hoop strain measurements (no yielding at 0,6 m) and visual observation of the failures
- PB-TM estimates failure location bit further from the support – slightly underestimates the ultimate strength



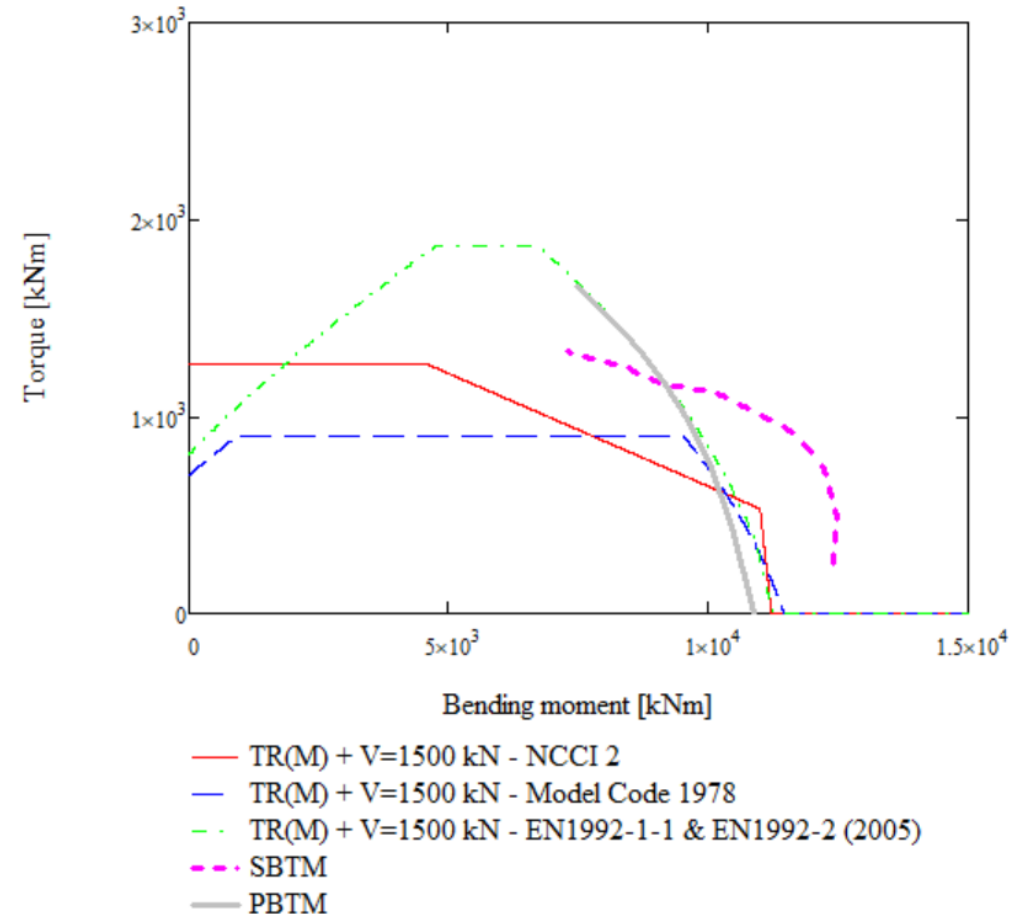
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Results from middle support – torsion and peak moment only	SB-TM $M_{exp}/M_{Rcalc}$	PB-TM $M_{exp}/M_{Rcalc}$
B1 (8/8 strands + 6 rebars)	1.09	1.19
B2 (4/8 strands + 6 rebars)	1.15	1.30
B3 (4/8 strands + 12 rebars)	1.19	1.29
B4 (4/8 strands + 18 rebars)	1.09	1.17
Results 0,6 meters from middle support – torsion, shear and bending moment	SB-TM $M_{exp}/M_{Rcalc}$	PB-TM $M_{exp}/M_{Rcalc}$
B1 (8/8 strands + 6 rebars)	0.90	0.99
B2 (4/8 strands + 6 rebars)	0.95	1.04
B3 (4/8 strands + 12 rebars)	0.98	1.08
B4 (4/8 strands + 18 rebars)	0.93	1.00



# Calculation example revisited

- PBTM follows eurocode approach quite closely – failure dominated by yielding of longitudinal and transverse reinforcement
  - No significant strain softening of the concrete
- SBTM gives larger bending capacities – mainly due to non-linear and strain hardening material properties
  - Resistances with higher torque are lower as yielding of the transverse steel dominates the failure
- Conclusions (in this case):
  - Failure is not governed by crushing of concrete as estimated with NCCI2
  - Assumption of full yielding of all the longitudinal and transverse reinforcement may give too high resistances



# Conclusions

- The presence of torsion can lead to more brittle failure than expected due to greater concrete stresses and lower concrete strength caused by shear strains
- The current design methods for torsion and shear are not intuitive to use for combined actions and lack a coherent connection to the physical behavior of real structures – especially if the structure is heavily reinforced
- The presented analysis methods provided accurate results but are computationally demanding – more design-oriented tools are required
- On-going research is concentrating on applying the models developed for different design cases and to extend the capabilities of models

# Thank you for your attention!

Questions?

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