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Buckling Analysis of SSSS Stiffened Rectangular Isotropic Plates using Work Principle Approach

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Abstract:

The objective of this work is to present Elastic Buckling of Stiffened Rectangular Isotropic Plates using Work principle Approach. Stiffened plates possessing different aspect ratios, varying stiffness properties and varying number of stiffeners were analyzed for critical buckling loads using Work Principle approach. The present analysis was carried out only for uniaxially stiffened plate, where longitudinal stiffeners are presented parallel to inplane load of the plate. The governing differential equation for the stiffened plate system was obtained by super position principle. Polynomial functions were used in this study. Effects of the number of stiffeners, aspect ratios, boundary conditions, stiffener parameters upon the buckling coefficients, K of the stiffener for all cases of edge conditions presented. Maximum percentage difference in buckling coefficients of SSSS stiffened plate for the case of one stiffener of present work with Reference works is 0.522%. For the case of two stiffeners, the maximum percentage differences in buckling coefficients recorded is 0.5247%, also for the case of three stiffeners maximum percentage difference is 1.239%. These differences revealed a good agreement with previous research works. In the structure modeling, the plate and the stiffeners were treated as a unit member.

Keywords: Stiffened plate, Buckling, Work principle, Governing differential equation, Shape function.

1. Introduction

Stiffened plates have wide applications in many civil engineering, aerospace and marine structures. They are used in box girders, plate girders, ship hulls and wing structures. Interest in stiffened plate construction has been widespread in recent years due to its economic and structural benefits. The advantage of stiffening a plate lies in achieving an economical, light weight design. While the stiffening elements add negligible weight to the overall structure, their influence on strength and stability is enormous.

The conventional methods of analysis includes, Energy approach, Orthotropic plate approach, and Numerical approach.

Orthotropic plate is somewhat convenient especially when the stiffeners are of equal spaced. In this method, stiffened plate is converted into an equivalent plate with constant thickness by smearing out the stiffeners. The resulting idealized structure is therefore composed of the original plate layer and additional layer Bedair, (1998). This model is however justified if the stiffeners are closely spaced, also further difficulties could appear if the stiffeners are not identical in both directions or not equally spaced, since the resulting thickness becomes non-uniform. In addition, the method does not take into account the discrete nature of the structure (Timoshenko and Gere, 1961 and Hughes et al., 2004).

Timoshenko and Gere, (1961) used energy approach to solve stability problem of stiffened plates with all the four edges simply supported, they assumed the trigonometric shape function in their work. However, in the analysis of stiffened plates by Energy method, it is a common knowledge that only trigonometric shape functions have been used (Bulson, 1970; Cox, 1954; Szilad 2004).

The accuracy of Numerical approaches such as finite element and finite difference methods depends on the number of finite units created (Mukhopadhyay, 1989; Mukhopadhyay, 1990; Shahabian and Shahasavandi, 2008; Liu et al., 2012).

In recent works Ibearugbulem (2012), Ezeh et al. (2013), Njoku et al. (2013) have used Polynomial shape function in the analysis of thin plates of various boundary conditions. Practical situations are more likely to involve the consideration of plates incorporating some form of stiffeners.

2. Governing Differential Equation

Consider a plate of length a, width b and thickness t having two longitudinal stiffeners element as shown in Figure 1. According to Wutzow and De Paiva (2008) Stiffeners are as a rule, linear element, nearly always of negligible thickness. In this study, stiffeners are considered as line continuum.



Figure 1: A Stiffened System under in plane load

From the principles of the theory of elasticity, the governing equation for stiffened rectangular isotropic plates was given by Ibeabuchi (2014) as;

$$\frac{1}{P^4}\frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial R^4} + \frac{2}{P^2} \cdot \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial R^2 \partial Q^2} + \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial Q^4} + \frac{1}{P^4} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_i \left(\frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial R^4}\right)_{Q=ci} + \frac{b^2}{P^2} \cdot \frac{N_x}{D} \cdot \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial R^2} + \frac{b^2}{P^2} \cdot \frac{N_x}{D} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_i \left(\frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial R^2}\right)_{Q=ci} = 0 \quad (1.0)$$

where; Q and R are non dimensional parameter $Q = \frac{y}{b}$ that is y = bQ; $R = \frac{x}{a}$ that is x = aR $y_i = \frac{EI_i}{Db}$ = Ratio of bending stiffness rigidity of stiffeners to the plate $\mathcal{B}_i = \frac{A_i}{bh}$ = Ratio of cross-sectional area of the stiffeners to the plate

2.1. Work Principle

Work is defined mathematically as the product of average force and distance travelled by the force. Hence, for the combined action of work done by the compressive and resistive force on the stiffened system through a distance w, equation (1.0) becomes;

$$\frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{A^2}{P^4} \cdot H \frac{\partial^4 H}{\partial R^4} + \frac{2A^2}{P^2} \cdot H \frac{\partial^4 H}{\partial R^2 \partial Q^2} + A^2 \frac{H}{\partial Q^4} + \frac{A^2}{P^4} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_i \left(\frac{H}{\partial R^4} \right)_{Q=ci} + \frac{b^2}{P^2} \cdot \frac{N_x A^2}{D} \cdot H \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial R^2} + \frac{b^2}{P^2} \cdot \frac{N_x A^2}{D} \cdot A^2 \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_i \left(\frac{H}{\partial R^2} \right)_{Q=ci} \right] = ei$$

$$(2.0)$$

Where; Deflection function, W = AH; A = coefficient; H is the shape function: ei is the introduced error, "i" is the number of points on the continuum.

Integrating equation (3.100) twice with respect to R and Q gave;

$$\Pi = \frac{A^2}{2} \int_{0}^{1} \int_{0}^{1} \left[\frac{H}{P^4} \cdot \frac{\partial^4 H}{\partial R^4} + \frac{2H}{P^2} \cdot \frac{\partial^4 H}{\partial R^2 \partial Q^2} + \frac{H \cdot \partial^4 H}{\partial Q^4} + \frac{1}{P^4} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \gamma_i \left(\frac{H \cdot \partial^4 H}{\partial R^4} \right)_{Q=ci} \right] \partial R \partial Q + \frac{A^2 b^2}{2P^2} \cdot \frac{N_x}{D} \int_{0}^{1} \int_{0}^{1} \left[\frac{H \cdot \partial^2 H}{\partial R^2} + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \delta_i \left(\frac{H \cdot \partial^2 H}{\partial R^2} \right)_{Q=ci} \right] \partial R \partial Q$$
(3.0)

 \prod is the Total Work error Functional. Minimizing and making N_{∞} the subject of equation (3.0) gave;

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$$N_{x(cri)} = \frac{D \int_{0}^{1} \int_{0}^{1} \left[\frac{H}{P^{2}} \cdot \frac{\partial^{4}H}{\partial R^{4}} + 2H \cdot \frac{\partial^{4}H}{\partial R^{2} \partial Q^{2}} + P^{2} \frac{H \cdot \partial^{4}H}{\partial Q^{4}} + \frac{1}{P^{2}} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^{n} \gamma_{i} \left(\frac{H \cdot \partial^{4}H}{\partial R^{4}} \right)_{Q=ci} \right] \partial R \partial Q}{-b^{2} \int_{0}^{1} \int_{0}^{1} \left[\frac{H \cdot \partial^{2}H}{\partial R^{2}} + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \delta_{i} \left(\frac{H \cdot \partial^{2}H}{\partial R^{2}} \right)_{Q=ci} \right] \partial R \partial Q}$$
(4.0)

Equation (4.0) is the Buckling equation for rectangular plate stiffened longitudinally under in-plane loading.

2.2. Boundary Conditions for SSSS Stiffened Plates

A Stiffened plate with simply supported edges and dimensionless R-Q axes is shown in Figure 2. The boundary conditions in dimensionless coordinate system are given below as;



Figure 2: Longitudinally stiffened rectangular plate with edge numbers

$$w(R = 0) = \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial R^2} (R = 0) = 0 ; w(R = 1) = \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial R^2} (R = 1) = 0 \\ w(Q = 0) = \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial Q^2} (Q = 0) = 0 ; w(Q = 1) = \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial^2 Q} (Q = 1) = 0$$

2.3. Polynomial Shape Function

Ibearugbulem in 2012 formulated the general shape function for rectangular plates from Taylor-McLaurin's series as;

$$w = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_m b_n R^m Q^n$$
For $M = N = 4$

$$(7.0)$$

For M = N = 4

Substituting w(R = 0) = 0 and $\frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial^2 R}(R = 0) = 0$ into equation (7.0) gave; $a_0 = 0; a_2 = 0$

$$a_0 = 0; a_2 = 0$$
 (8.0)

Similarly, substituting w(Q = 0) = 0 and $\frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial^2 Q}(Q = 0) = 0$ into equation (7.0) respectively

$$b_0 = 0; \ b_2 = 0$$
 (9.0)

Substituting w(R = 1) = 0 and $\frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial R^2}(R = 1) = 0$ into equation (7.0) respectively gave; $a_1 + a_3 + a_4 = 0$ and $6a_3 + 12a_4 = 0$ (10.0)

Solving the two equations simultaneously gave; $a_1 = a_{43}, a_3 = -2a_4$ (11.0)

Similarly, substituting
$$w(Q = 1) = 0$$
 and $\frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial Q^2}(Q = 1) = 0$ into equation (7.0) gave;

$$b_1 = b_4; \ b_3 = -2b_4 \tag{12.0}$$

Substituting the values of a_0 , a_1 , a_2 , a_3 , a_4 , b_0 , b_1 , b_2 , b_3 and b_4 into (7.0) gave; $w = (R - 2R^3 + R^4)(Q - 2Q^3 + Q^4)a_4b_4$ $w = A(R - 2R^3 + R^4)(Q - 2Q^3 + Q^4)$ (13.0)
where $A = a_4b_4$

3. Formulation of Stability Equation for SSSS Stiffened Plates

gave;

Three cases of SSSS stiffened plates are considered as shown in figure 3.



Figure 3: Stiffeners Arrangement for SSSS Stiffened Plates

3.1. Case of One Stiffener

Consider figure 3.0(a), the stiffener divides the plate into two equal widths. From equation (13.0) deflection function, H is given as; $H = (R - 2R^3 + R^4)(Q - 2Q^3 + Q^4)$ FOR THE STIFFENER /RIB For $1 \leq Q \leq 1$, we have; $(H)_{Q=c1} = (H)_{Q=1/2} = (R - 2R^3 + R^4) \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{2}{8} + \frac{1}{16}\right)$ $= 0.3125 (R - 2R^3 + R^4)$ (14.0) $\left(H, \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial R^2}\right)$ = -0.047433 (15.0) $\left(H,\frac{\partial^4 H}{\partial R^4}\right)_{Q=1/2}$ = 0.46875 (16.0)FOR THE PLATE ELEMENT $H.\frac{\partial^{-}H}{\partial R^{+}}\partial R\partial Q = 0.23619$ (17.0) $H.\frac{\partial^{-H}}{\partial O^{4}}\partial R\partial Q = 0.23619$ (18.0)ļ $H \cdot \frac{\partial^* H}{\partial R^2 \partial Q^2} \partial R \partial Q = 0.23592$ (19.0)

$\int_{0}^{1} \int_{0}^{1} H \cdot \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial R^2} \partial R \partial Q = -0.023900$	(20.0)
Applying equations (15.0), (16.0), (17.0), (18.0), (19.0), (20.0) into (5.0), gave;	
$\therefore N_{x} = \frac{D\left[\frac{0.23619}{P^{2}} + 2(0.23592) + P^{2}(0.23619) + \frac{(0.46875)}{P^{2}}\gamma\right]}{-b^{2}[-0.02390 - 0.0474336]}$	
$N_x = \frac{\pi^2 D}{b^2 P^2} \frac{\left[(1+P^2)^2 + 1.987\gamma\right]}{\left[1+1.9858\right]}$	(21.0)
Where,	
$K = \frac{\left[(1+P^2)^2 + 1.987\gamma\right]}{P^2[1+1.9858]}$	(22.0)

4. Stiffeners Case of Two

Consider figure 3.0(b), the stiffeners divides the plates into three equal parts.

$$C_1 = \frac{1}{3}, \quad C_2 = \frac{2}{3}$$

Where C_1 and C_2 are the distances of the stiffeners from the edge y = 0. Assuming stiffeners are symmetrical, hence;

$$\delta_1 = \delta_2$$
 and $\gamma_1 = \gamma_2$

Following the same procedure in the case of one stiffener, we obtain the equations as follows;

$$\int_{0}^{1} \int_{0}^{1} \left(H \cdot \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial R^2} \right)_{Q=C1} \partial R \partial Q = \int_{0}^{1} \int_{0}^{1} \left(H \cdot \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial R^2} \right)_{Q=C2} \partial R \partial Q = -0.0358308$$
(23.0)

$$\int_{0}^{1} \int_{0}^{1} \left(H \cdot \frac{\partial^{4} H}{\partial R^{4}} \right)_{Q=C1} \partial R \partial Q = \int_{0}^{1} \int_{0}^{1} \left(H \cdot \frac{\partial^{4} H}{\partial R^{4}} \right)_{Q=C2} \partial R \partial Q = 0.3540923$$
(24.0)

Substituting equations (17.0), (18.0), (19.0), (20.0), (23.0), and (24.0) into (5.0), gave;

$$N_{x} = \frac{D\left[\frac{0.23619}{P^{2}} + 2(0.23592) + P^{2}(0.23619) + (2 * 0.3540923)^{\gamma}/_{P^{2}}\right]}{-b^{2}[-0.0239 - 0.3540923 * 2\delta]}$$

$$N_{x} = \frac{\pi^{2}D}{b^{2}P^{2}} \frac{\left[(1+P^{2})^{2} + 3\gamma\right]}{\left[1+2.9630\delta\right]}$$

$$K = \frac{\left[(1+P^{2})^{2} + 3\gamma\right]}{P^{2}[1+2.9630]}$$
(25.0)
(26.0)

5. Case of Three Stiffeners

Consider figure 3.0(c), the stiffeners divides the plate into four equal parts, thus; 1 1 3

$$C_{1} = \frac{1}{4}, \quad C_{2} = \frac{1}{2}, \\ C_{3} = \frac{1$$

$$\int_{0}^{\infty} \int_{0}^{\infty} \left(H. \frac{\partial^{4} H}{\partial R^{4}} \right)_{Q=C1} \partial R \partial Q = \int_{0}^{\infty} \int_{0}^{\infty} \left(H. \frac{\partial^{4} H}{\partial R^{4}} \right)_{Q=C3} \partial R \partial Q = 0.237964$$
(28.0)

$$\int_{0}^{2} \int_{0}^{2} \left(H. \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial R^2} \right)_{Q=C1} \partial R \partial Q = -0.047433$$
(29.0)

1 1

$$\int_{0}^{1} \int_{0}^{1} \left(H \cdot \frac{\partial^{4} H}{\partial R^{4}} \right)_{Q=C3} \partial R \partial Q = 0.46875$$
(30.0)

$$\sum_{i=1}^{3} \int_{0}^{1} \int_{0}^{1} \delta_{i} \left(\frac{H \cdot \partial^{2} H}{\partial R^{2}} \right)_{Q=ci}^{\partial R \partial Q} 2(-0.022225) \delta + (-0.047433) \delta = -0.091883\delta$$
(31.0)

$$\sum_{i=1}^{3} \int_{0}^{1} \int_{0}^{1} \gamma_{i} \left(\frac{H \cdot \partial^{4} H}{\partial R^{4}} \right)_{Q=qi}^{\partial R \partial Q} 2(-0.237964) \gamma + (0.046875) \gamma = -0.944678 \gamma$$
(32.0)

Substituting equations (17.0), (18.0), (19.0), (20.0), (31.0), and (32.0) into (5.0), gave;

$$N_{x} = \frac{D\left[\frac{0.23619}{P^{2}} + 2(0.23592) + P^{2}(0.23619) + (0.944678)\gamma\right]}{-b^{2}[-0.02390 - 0.091883\delta]}$$

$$= \frac{\pi^{2}D}{b^{2}P^{2}} \cdot \frac{\left[(1 + P^{2})^{2} + 4.0048\gamma\right]}{\left[1 + 3.8445\delta\right]}$$

$$K = \frac{\left[(1 + P^{2})^{2} + 4.0048\gamma\right]}{P^{2}[1 + 3.8445\delta]}$$
(33.0)
(34.0)

6. Results and Discussion

The buckling coefficient, K for SSSS stiffened plate for the three cases considered is presented, as well as comparism with other published works.

Szilad (2004) used single fourier series to obtain buckling coefficient for a plate with one central longitudinal stiffener as;

$$\lambda = \frac{(1+\beta^2)^2 + 2\gamma}{\beta^2(1+2\delta)}$$
(35.0)

Where; λ = buckling coefficient

Timoshenko and Gere (1961) applied Energy Principle in Ritz method to obtain buckling coefficients for the three cases considered as follows;

For the cases of one, two and three longitudinal stiffeners, K was given as;

$$K = \frac{(1+\beta^2)^2 + 2\gamma}{\beta^2(1+2\delta)}; \quad K = \frac{(1+\beta^2)^2 + 3\gamma}{\beta^2(1+3\delta)}; \quad K = \frac{(1+\beta^2)^2 + 4\gamma}{\beta^2(1+4\delta)}$$
(36.0)

Where; β represents aspect ratio, γ represents the ratio of flexural rigidity of stiffener to that of plate, δ represents the cross-sectional area of stiffener to that of plate.

• Comparison of K values obtained using work principle approach and those from Timoshenko and Gere (1961) for the case of one longitudinal stiffener at $\gamma = 5$.

D	δ = 0.05		Donoontogo diffononco	δ = 0.10		Doncontago diffononco	
r	Present	Reference	rercentage unterence	Present	Reference	Percentage unierence	
0.1	996.60	1001.83	0.522	914.07	918.34	0.46	
0.2	250.55	251.85	0.516	229.80	230.87	0.46	
0.3	112.43	113.01	0.513	103.12	103.60	0.45	
0.4	64.14	64.46	0.496	58.83	59.09	0.44	
0.5	41.84	42.05	0.499	38.37	38.54	0.44	
0.6	29.78	29.92	0.467	27.31	27.43	0.44	
0.7	22.57	22.67	0.411	20.70	20.78	0.38	
0.8	17.94	18.03	0.499	16.46	16.52	0.36	
0.9	14.84	14.90	0.403	13.61	13.66	0.37	
1.0	12.68	12.73	0.393	11.63	11.67	0.34	



• Comparison of Buckling Coefficient, K for SSSS stiffened plates obtained in equation (26.0) with Szilad (2004), a case of one central longitudinal stiffener dividing the plate into two equal parts having, $\gamma = 5$.

Р	$\boldsymbol{\delta}=0.05$		Porcontago	δ = 0.1	0	
	Present Work	Szilad (2004)	difference	Present Work	Szilad (2004)	Percentage difference
0.1	996.598	1001.827	0.5247	914.068	918.342	0.4676
0.2	250.548	251.855	0.5214	229.800	230.867	0.4642
0.3	112.431	113.011	0.5158	103.121	103.593	0.4586
0.4	64.138	64.464	0.5076	58.827	59.092	0.4505
0.5	41.838	42.045	0.4968	38.373	38.542	0.4396
0.6	29.779	29.923	0.4830	27.313	27.430	0.4259
0.7	22.567	22.672	0.4662	20.698	20.782	0.4091
0.8	17.945	18.025	0.4463	16.459	16.523	0.3892
0.9	14.837	14.900	0.4235	13.609	13.659	0.3664
1.0	12.677	12.727	0.3980	11.627	11.667	0.3409
Table 2						

• Comparison of Buckling Coefficient, K for SSSS stiffened plates obtained in equation (34.0) with Timoshenko and Gere (1961), a case of three longitudinal stiffeners dividing the plate into four equal parts having, $\gamma = 5$.

Р	δ = 0.05		Domoontogo		Doncontogo			
	Present	Timoshenko and Gere (1961)	difference	Present	Timoshenko and Gere (1961)	difference		
0.1	1765.111	1751.675	0.7671	1520.033	1501.436	1.239		
0.2	442.568	439.200	0.767	381.119	376.457	1.238		
0.3	197.689	196.186	0.766	170.241	168.160	1.238		
0.4	112.026	111.175	0.765	96.472	95.293	1.237		
0.5	72.424	71.875	0.764	62.368	61.607	1.236		
0.6	50.964	50.578	0.763	43.887	43.352	1.234		
0.7	38.077	37.789	0.761	32.790	32.392	1.232		
0.8	29.768	29.544	0.759	25.635	25.323	1.230		
0.9	24.128	23.947	0.756	20.536	20.778	1.227		
1.0	20.151	20.000	0.753	17.353	17.143	1.224		
	T 11 2							

Table 3

For the case of one central longitudinal stiffener, Table 1.0 shows a comparison between present study and reference. At constant value of $\gamma = 5$, and $\delta = 0.05$, 0.10, it is observed that maximum and minimum percentage difference values are 0.5247 and 0.393 which occurs at P = 0.1 and 1.0.

Table 2.0 shows a comparison between present study and Szilad (2004). The values obtained shows good agreement. Percentage difference is between 0.5247 to 0.3980 which shows good agreement.

Similarly, for the case of three longitudinal stiffeners dividing the plates into four equal parts, Table 3.0 shows the comparison between present study and reference. For $\gamma = 5$ and $\delta = 0.10$, the percentage difference is between 1.239 to 1.224. Hence, there is a good agreement.

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