

## A Review on Nonlinear Finite Element Analysis of Reinforced Concrete Beams Retrofitted with Fiber Reinforced Polymers

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**Abstract -** *Fiber reinforced polymers materials have a wide use in a variety of applications, which are produced with a range of different stiffness and strength characteristics. However, these materials share identical orthotropic properties and ductility. In contrast, the ordinary concrete is*  isotropic and brittle material. This review study provides an efficient and simple three-dimensional *frame finite element that able to estimate accurately the load-carrying capacity and deflection of reinforced concrete (RC) beams strengthened with fiber reinforced polymer (FRP) strips, plates or*  rods. In the context of a force base formulation (FB), which referred as fiber reinforced polymer *force based beam, the proposed finite element considers distributed plasticity with the individual*  layer of the cross sections. Hundred seventy-six different specimen of retrofitted reinforced *concrete beams have been included in the experimental database and numerical simulation in this study. These beams elements can model the collapse due to crush of concrete, reinforcing steel yielding, rod pull out, FRP rupture, diagonal shear, FRP debonding and cover separation. Three and four point bending loading tests were used to predict the load-carrying capacity and the deflection response of reinforced concrete beams. Based on several researches, experimental measurements and numerical simulations are compared according to different collected data. The numerical simulation results have a good agreement with the corresponding experimental results. From the statistical analysis study, it was found that the concrete strength is the most influential factor on the shear strength of the reinforced beams strengthened by FRP in the case of U-jacketing anchorage system. Where, the shear strength increased by 10.5%, 8.6% for tensile rupture and debonding failures, respectively, with increases in concrete strength. As a result, the simplicity, available requirements and computational efficiency of finite element simulation are the main advantages for using this analysis in various applications. Copyright © 2016 Penerbit Akademia Baru - All rights reserved.*

**Keywords:** Nonlinear analysis, Finite element modeling, Reinforced concrete beams, Fiber reinforced polymers.

#### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The history of the concrete began since cement was introduced. It is generally used material in structural engineering everywhere throughout the world. Unreinforced concrete was a brittle material, with a low tensile strength and a low strain capacity. A revolutionary enhancement of concrete characteristics was employing steel bar reinforcement, which



allows for the tensile forces to appear. Reinforced concrete turned into an effective option to other materials that were utilized as a part of bending elements. To increase compressive strength of the concrete, scientists worked intensively by discovering appropriate methods for consolidate the concrete. They have found that to implement economic designs, selfweight of structural elements and their dimensions can reduce. As a consequence of these rigorous studies, employing high-strength concrete elements came to be a common trend in developed constructions. Since Babylonian and Egyptian civilizations, Fibers were used to strengthen brittle materials before cement was known, as discussed by Nawy [1]. Mohammadi et al. observed that in order to increase the strain at peak load, and provide a supplementary energy absorption ability of RC elements and structures, fibers were used. They recently identified that the fibers significantly enhance static flexural strength of concrete as well as its impact strength, tensile strength, ductility and flexural toughness leading to increase the concrete elements ductility [2].

Fiber reinforcement is typically randomly distributed over the whole element. Furthermore, it can be used in a portion of the element's section, for instance, in composite elements such as two-layer beams or in high-strength concrete columns, covered by fiber reinforced concrete. [2-4]. During the past nine decades, several types of fibers have been used on a large scale to improve performance of concrete, such as steel, textile, organic and glass [5].

Heinzle indicated that fibers design is influenced by different parameters such as fiber's content and geometry, bond strength between fiber and binder matrix, strength of the matrix, shrinkage of the concrete orientation of fibers. Therefore, a very methodical vision concerning the tensile carrying behavior of fibered concrete is required [6]. Effectiveness of fibers added to concrete can be achieved practically or numerically. The routine laboratory testing methods are impact test, compressive test, tensile and flexural tests [7].

The influence of fibers on the concrete properties and performance such as strength, toughness, ductility, post cracking load resistance and durability has been taken into account in several studies [8, 9]. Where the effect of the various types of fibers was observed experimentally by authors through using different kinds of concrete [10-12]. To assess the fiber orientation and its effect on the flexural strength, the researchers analyzed the effect of aggregate and fiber-reinforced concrete production cost in addition to its mechanical properties [13, 14].

During the last decades, the use of fiber reinforced concrete has constantly increased in civil engineering applications due to the high particular stiffness and specific strength. It is currently applied in fields such as highway and airport pavements, earthquake-resistant structures, bridges, tunnels and hydraulic structures [15-17]. The main purpose of using the fibers is to strengthen the reinforced concrete constructions [18]. Consequently, studies have been conducted on the FRP or polymer strengthened reinforced concrete (RC) beams, columns and slabs, as well as masonry and concrete walls [19].

Civil engineering structures have been strengthened by using fiber-reinforced polymer (FRP) widely [20-24]. Hawileh et al. gave a comprehensive review on Externally Bonded Reinforcement technique (EBR), which is one of the most common applications to strength the reinforced concrete (RC) members by bonding externally FRP laminates or sheets with epoxy [25]. Recently, the alternative technique has been getting high attention named Near



Surface Mounted (NSM) technique. This technique involving an inserted FRP material into slits pre-cut in the concrete cover [26, 27]. The higher bonding area and the confinement which offered by NSM technique in a better anchoring capacity provide more efficiency than EBR technique [28-30].

As shown in Figure 1, there are four main types of failure mode for reinforced concrete beams retrofitted with FRP layers. They can be identified as follows: (1) flexure failure, (2) FRP rupture failure mode, (3) debonding failure mode (divided into four modes, end debonding, intermediate debonding caused by flexural cracks, debonding caused by diagonal cracks, debonding caused by irregularities and roughness of concrete surface, see Figure 2), and (4) shear failure. In addition, there are five possible failure modes for single or double shear tests, which are: concrete crushing, plate tensile failure including FRP rupture or steel yielding, adhesive failure, concrete-to-adhesive interfacial failure and plate-to-adhesive interfacial failure. For more detail on failure modes see [31-34].

This article presents an exhaustive review of nonlinear finite element studies for FRP retrofitted reinforced concrete beams and suggests a direction for future developments. In addition, this review interested in four main points, (1) study the different types of analytical models, considering the achievement of accuracy for practical applications, (2) explore the most factor effect on the shear strength of reinforced concrete beams retrofitted with FRP, (3) examine the common failure mode that appears in the retrofitted RC beams and describes their performance, and (4) reduce the computational cost and complexity of finite element analysis method.



**Figure 1:** Failure modes of RC beams strengthened with FRP [35]





**Figure 2:** Debonding failure modes of RC beams strengthened with FRP [4]

### **2.0 FINITE ELEMENT ANALYSIS**

The behavior of reinforced concrete beams is investigated by experimental studies extensively. The beams theoretical calculations of deflections and internal stress/strain distributions are compared with the experimental results. In order to provide a valuable supplement to the laboratory tests especially in parametric studies, finite element analysis (FEA) can be used to model the behavior of beams numerically. It appears from the aforementioned researches that finite element analysis which utilized in structural engineering, estimates the overall behavior of a structure through dividing it into a number of simple elements, each one of them has well-defined mechanical and physical characteristics.

Nilson et al. mentioned that the biggest challenge in the finite element analysis of civil engineering structures is modeling the complex behavior of reinforced concrete whether non homogeneous or anisotropic properties. The effects of cracking based on a predetermined crack patterns are adopted in more recent finite element models of reinforced concrete [36-39]. Furthermore, the topology adjustments of the models were needed such as the incremental load; consequently, the ease and speed of the analysis were limited [40].

In representation of the cracked concrete as an orthotropic material, a smeared cracking methodology was introduced using isoperimetric formulations as Rashid et al. suggestions [41]. When the principal tensile stress exceeds the ultimate tensile strength, cracking of the concrete occurs. In contrast, in the direction parallel to the principal tensile stress direction, the elastic modulus of the material is assumed to be zero [42-53].

Recently using the finite element method, the researchers tried to simulate the behavior of reinforced concrete strengthened with FRP composites. The smeared cracking approach was used to model the behavior and failure mechanisms of those experimental beams which were tested in the laboratory [46, 54-67].

However, there have been no controlled studies, which compare differences in using nonlinear finite element analysis programs. Each program has its own designation, analysis procedures and different elements that need to be used correctly. On the other hand, to keep up with new technologies, the designer / analyst must be completely acquainted with the finite element tools [68]. This research has been covered the studies which conducted using the ANSYS program, where element's modeling and properties described in the following sections.



### **2.1 Elements Type and Characteristics for FE Models**

#### **2.1.1 Concrete Modeling**

As reported by ANSYS user's guide, Solid65 an eight-node solid element was utilized to model the concrete. The element is capable of plastic deformation, cracking in three orthogonal directions, and crushing. The solid element has eight nodes with three degrees of freedom at each node translations in the nodal x, y, and z directions [68]. The geometry for this element type is illustrated in Figure 3.



**Figure 3:** Solid65 – 3D reinforced concrete solid [68]

Shah et al. noted that the concrete has different behavior in compression and tension. This is due to being quasi-brittle material, which has tensile strength between 8-15% of the compressive strength. Therefore, the development of a model for the behavior of concrete is a difficult task [69]. Figure 4 clarifies a typical stress-strain curve for concrete.



**Figure 4:** Typical stress-strain curve for concrete [45]

As mentioned by Barbosa et al. "In compression, the stress-strain curve for concrete is linearly elastic up to about 30 percent of the maximum compressive strength. Above this



point, the stress increases gradually up to the maximum compressive strength. After it reaches the maximum compressive strength  $\sigma_{cu}$ , the curve descends into a softening region, and eventually crushing failure occurs at an ultimate strain *εcu*" [70, 71]. Georgin et al. identified that "The stress-strain curve for concrete is approximately linearly elastic up to the maximum tensile strength in tension. After this point, the concrete cracks and the strength decreases gradually to zero" [45, 72-74].

ANSYS requires input data for concrete are:

- Modulus of elasticity (*Ec*).
- Ultimate uniaxial compressive strength  $(f_c)$ .
- Ultimate uniaxial tensile strength (*ft*).
- Poisson's ratio (*ν*).
- Shear transfer coefficient (*βt*).
- Compressive uniaxial stress-strain relationship for concrete.

To estimate the actual elastic modulus of the beams, an effort was made using the ultrasonic pulse velocity method [75-77]. The ultimate concrete compressive and tensile strengths for each beam model were calculated by Equations 1 and 2, respectively [78].

$$
f_c = \left(\frac{E_c}{57000}\right)^2\tag{1}
$$

$$
f_t = 7.5\sqrt{f_c} \tag{2}
$$

Where:  $E_c$ ,  $f_c$  and  $f_t$  are in psi.

The shear transfer coefficient, *βt*, represents conditions of the crack face. The value of *βt*  ranges from 0.0 to 1.0, with 0.0 representing a smooth crack (complete loss of shear transfer) and 1.0 representing a rough crack (no loss of shear transfer) [68, 79]. The value of *βt* used in many studies of reinforced concrete structures varied between 0.05 and 0.25 [35, 45, 46].

In order to create uniaxial compressive stress-strain curve for concrete, Equations 3, 4 and 5 are used as follows [80, 81]:

$$
f = \frac{E_c \varepsilon}{1 + \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{\varepsilon_o}\right)^2}
$$
 (3)

$$
\varepsilon_o = \frac{2f_c}{E_c} \tag{4}
$$

$$
E_c = \frac{f}{\varepsilon} \tag{5}
$$



Where:

*f* = stress at any strain *ε*

*ε* = strain at stress *f* 

 $\varepsilon$ <sub>*o*</sub> = strain at the ultimate compressive strength  $f_c$ 

Figure 5 shows the simplified compressive uniaxial stress-strain relationship.



**Figure 5:** Simplified compressive uniaxial stress-strain curve for concrete [45]

Both cracking and crushing failure modes are accounted for concrete materials [82]. To define a failure surface for the concrete, ultimate tensile and compressive strengths are needed [83, 84]. Figure 6 illustrates the three-dimensional failure surface for concrete. Dahmani et al. explained that "The most significant nonzero principal stresses are in the *x* and *y* directions, represented by  $\sigma_{xp}$  and  $\sigma_{yp}$ , respectively. Three failure surfaces are shown as projections on the  $\sigma_{xp}$ - $\sigma_{yp}$  plane. The mode of failure is a function of the sign of  $\sigma_{zp}$ (principal stress in the z direction)" [85-87].



**Figure 6:** 3D failure surface for concrete [68]



Researchers found that when the principal tensile stress in any direction lies outside the failure surface, cracking occurs in a concrete element. In the direction parallel to the principal tensile stress direction, the elastic modulus of the concrete element is set to zero after cracking [36, 88, 89]. When all principal stresses are compressive and lie outside the failure surface, crushing occurs. Thereafter, the elastic modulus is set to zero in all directions and the element effectively disappears. [68, 90].

According to Mindess et al., crack's formation and thus concrete failure attributed to the weakness of concrete in tension. Where the specimen is subject to a uniaxial compressive load in compression test. Secondary tensile strains caused by the impact of Poisson occur perpendicular to the load [69, 91, 92].

## **2.1.2 Steel Reinforcement Modeling**

To model the steel reinforcement a Link8 element was used as described by ANSYS user's guide. The element is capable of plastic deformation, where two nodes are required for this element. Each node has three degrees of freedom translations in the nodal *x*, *y*, and *z* directions [93]. The geometry for this element type is illustrated in Figure 7.



**Figure 7:** Link8 – 3D spar [68]

For the finite element models, the reinforced steel was identical in tension and compression and assumed to be an elastic-perfectly plastic material [94, 95]. ANSYS input data requirements for reinforced steel are:

- Modulus of elasticity (*Es*).
- Yield stress  $(f_v)$
- Poisson's ratio (*ν*)

Figure 8 shows the stress-strain relationship for the steel reinforcement.

However, it was later shown by several studies that to provide the perfect bond between the concrete and steel reinforcement, the two materials should share the same nodes by using link element connecting between nodes of each adjacent concrete solid element.





**Figure 8:** Stress-strain curve for steel reinforcement [68]

## **2.1.3 Steel Plates Modeling**

Solid45 was used for the steel plate's modeling in the beam at the supports and loading location as proposed by Mostofinejad et al. The element is identified with eight nodes having three degrees of freedom at each node translation in the nodal *x*, *y*, and *z* directions [96]. The geometry for this element type is clarified in Figure 9.



Figure 9: Solid45 – 3D solid [68]

In the finite element models to provide a more even stress distribution over the support areas, steel plates were added at support and loading locations as in the actual beams. ANSYS input data requirements for steel plate are:

- Elastic modulus (*Es*)
- Poisson's ratio (*ν*)

### **2.1.4 FRP Composites Modeling**

According to ANSYS user's guide, Solid46 a layered solid element was utilized to model the FRP composites. The element has three degrees of freedom at each node and translations in the nodal *x*, *y*, and *z* directions. Furthermore, the element allows for up to 100 different material layers with different orientations and orthotropic material properties in each layer [68]. The geometry for the solid46 is illustrated in Figure 10.





**Figure 10:** Solid46 – 3D layered structural solid [68]

FRP composites can be defined as materials that consist of two constituents. One constituent is the reinforcement, and the second constituent is a continuous polymer called the matrix. These constituents are combined at a macroscopic level and are not soluble in each other [97]. The FRP composites are anisotropic materials which their properties are different in all directions. Carbon and glass represent the reinforcing material in the form of fibers. The reinforcing materials are usually stiffer and stronger than the matrix. Figure 11 shows a schematic of FRP composites.



**Figure 11:** Schematic of FRP composites [97, 98]

The unidirectional layer has three mutually orthogonal planes of material characteristics (xy, xz, and yz planes) as displayed in Figure 11. The xyz coordinate axes represent the principal material coordinates [98, 99].

ANSYS input data requirements for the FRP composites are as follows:

- Number of layers.
- Thickness of each layer.
- Orientation of the fiber direction for each layer.
- Elastic modulus of the FRP composite in three directions  $(E_x, E_y \text{ and } E_z)$ .



- Shear modulus of the FRP composite for three planes  $(G_{xy}, G_{yz}$  and  $G_{xz}$ ).
- Major Poisson's ratio for three planes (*νxy, νyz* and *νxz*).

The properties of isotropic materials are identical in all directions such as elastic modulus and Poisson's ratio. Nevertheless, this is not the case with orthotropic materials.  $E_x$  is the modulus of elasticity in the fiber direction.  $E_y$  is the modulus of elasticity in the y direction perpendicular to the fiber direction. That's mean  $E_x \neq E_y$  and  $v_{xy} \neq v_{yx}$  [100, 101]. For the ANSYS program the orthotropic material data are provided in the *νxy* or major Poisson's ratio format. The major Poisson's ratio is the ratio of strain in the y direction to strain in the perpendicular x direction when the applied stress is in the x direction. The quantity  $v_{yx}$  is called a minor Poisson's ratio and is smaller than  $v_{xy}$ , while  $E_x$  is larger than *E*<sub>*y*</sub>. Equation 6 clarifies the relationship between  $v_{xy}$  and  $v_{yx}$  [102].

$$
V_{yx} = \frac{E_y}{E_x} V_{xy} \tag{6}
$$

Where:

- *νyx* : Minor Poisson's ratio
- $E_x$ : Modulus of elasticity in the *x* direction (fiber direction)
- *E<sup>y</sup>* : Modulus of elasticity in the *y* direction
- *νxy* : Major Poisson's ratio

### **2.2 Finite Element Discretization, Loading and Boundary Condition**

The mesh terms refer to a division of the model into small elements. In this case, after applied loads, stress and strain are computed at intersection nodes of these small elements [103]. When an appropriate number of elements utilized in the model, a convergence of results will be obtained. Therefore, selection of the mesh density is an important step in finite element modeling [104]. The researchers suggested that the number of concrete elements for the whole reinforced beam should be at least 6000 elements [105]. In accordance with most studies, rectangular mesh is recommended for Solid65 (concrete) element. The individual elements are created in the modeling of steel reinforcing through the concrete nodes; that means no mesh is required for the reinforcement bar [106].

### **2.3 Nonlinear Solution**

The total load applied to a finite element model is divided into a series of load increasing progressively called steps of load. Newton- Raphson equilibrium iteration was one of the options for ANSYS program, which uses this approach for updating the model stiffness [107, 108]. Figure 12 illustrates the use of the Newton-Raphson approach.





**Figure 12:** Newton-Raphson iterative solution [68]

Newton-Raphson approach assesses the difference between the loads corresponding to the element stresses and the applied loads. After that, the program implements a linear solution and checks for convergence. When convergence criteria are not satisfied, stiffness matrix is updated and a new solution is obtained. This iterative procedure continues until the problem converges [68, 109, 110].

The researchers suggested that to provide convergence at the end of each load increment, tolerance limits may range from 0.05 to 0.2 [111]. Automatic time stepping within ANSYS program controls load step sizes for the nonlinear analysis. The maximum and minimum load step sizes are required for the automatic time stepping.

## **3. Correlation between Numerical Simulation and Experimental Results**

Correlation study was conducted in large-scale between experimental results and numerical simulations in accordance with the collected data in this paper. Hundred seventy six different specimen of reinforced concrete beams have been included in the experimental database and numerical simulation. These specimens divided into two groups: reference reinforced concrete beams without FRP laminates and reinforced concrete beams retrofitted with bonded FRP (strips, plates or rods). Twenty six different study [112 –137] and its available data have been gathered and analyzed statistically in this research. Interestingly, this correlation is related to the ultimate load-carrying capacity and deflection of simply supported reinforced concrete beams retrofitted with FRP. In addition, these beams are subjected to a 4-point bending test and 3-point bending test.

Among the plausible explanations for these findings is that assess the performance of finite element analysis and follow-up with new developments in the use of soft wares to achieve better results. Where, these results are confirmed by the comparison between the practically measurement and numerically prediction for load-carrying capacity and deflection for the beams. Table 1 presents both reference and retrofitted beams geometric properties, the used materials' mechanical properties and the corresponding anchorage systems. It is apparent from the collected studies that the test data and available information mostly obtained through steel coupon and FRP tensile tests or concrete compression tests. This table is quite revealing in several ways such as showing results with a wide range of lengths (from 1000



mm to 6096 mm), cross-section widths (from 100 mm to 375 mm), cross-section heights (from 100 mm to 768.4 mm), concrete peak strength (from 13.02 MPa to 80 MPa), concrete modulus of elasticity (from 17.08 GPa to 41.3 GPa), steel reinforcement areas (from 51 mm<sup>2</sup> to 981.7 mm<sup>2</sup> in the tension side and from 0 mm<sup>2</sup> to 339 mm<sup>2</sup> in the compression side) and steel modulus of elasticity (from 183.6 GPa to 215GPa). A wide variation of FRP reinforcement configurations, with four materials (CFRP, GFRP, AFRP and SFRP) included in this study. Furthermore, four different anchorage systems were studied; (a) linear anchorage, which provided by the bonding between FRP and concrete through the adhesive layer, (b) U-wrap, which an FRP sheet is bonded at each plate end from one side to the other of the beam cross-section, (c) Bolts + U-wrap, which bolts are positioned at each FRP plate end in addition to the U-shaped FRP sheet, and (d) U-shape, which the FRP plate/sheet is bonded also on the sides of the reinforced concrete beam cross-section along the entire length of the FRP reinforcement.

Table 2 highlights the load-carrying capacities and deflection experimental measurement and numerical simulation values of retrofitted reinforced concrete beams. Besides that, it offers the ratio (*PFE/PEXP, δFE/δEXP*) and failure mode of beams. For the reference reinforced concrete beams the values of Mean and coefficient of variation (COV) were equal to 1.02, 0.07 for loads and 1.02, 0.11 for deflections, respectively. The statistical study shows that the simulation capabilities of the retrofitted beams elements are highly satisfactory in which, Mean =  $0.99$  and COV =  $0.14$  for loads and Mean =  $1.06$ , COV =  $0.25$  for deflections. The maximum and minimum values of the ratios are 1.44 and 0.62 for loads, 2.51 and 0.53 for deflections, respectively.

The use of numerical simulation software showed that the failure modes were identical to the failure that displayed by each model when tested experimentally. That is an important development to study the types of failures that exposed structures theoretically and identify it by applying the finite element methods. In accordance with the reference beams it can be seen that the flexure failure is prevalent in which values of Mean and COV were 0.98, 0.03 for loads and for deflections the values were 1.14, 0.11, respectively. The single most striking observation to emerge from the data comparison was that the common failure mode for retrofitted beams is the cover separation failure (45 cases) with Mean and COV of 0.95, 0.19 for loads and 0.72, 0.31 for deflections, respectively.

Further clarification, the data in Table 2 which involve the loads and deflections for reference beams (without FRP) has been illustrated graphically as shown in Figures 13, 14. Where, the dashed line on the main diagonal has been plotted to refer to the perfect agreement between the experimental results and numerical simulations. On the other hand, it can be seen that most tests handled beams with load carrying capacity lower than 500 kN and deflection lower than 80 mm. The results of Table 2 have presented graphically regarding to the loads and deflections for FRP beams in Figures 15, 16. To represent the perfect agreement between the experimental results and numerical simulations, dashed line on the main diagonal has been placed. It can be observed that most tests handled beams with load carrying capacity lower than 600 kN and deflection lower than 95 mm.





**Figure 13:** Comparison between experimental measurement and FE simulation of the ultimate load-carrying capacity for reference reinforced concrete beams



**Figure 14:** Comparison between experimental measurement and FE simulation of the deflection response for reference reinforced concrete beams

Consistent with findings, the data seem to show that the experimental measurement and finite element simulation of deflections are slightly less accurate than the results of the maximum applied force (ultimate load carrying capacity).





**Figure 15:** Comparison between experimental measurement and FE simulation of the ultimate load-carrying capacity for FRP reinforced concrete beams



**Figure 16:** Comparison between experimental measurement and FE simulation of the deflection response for FRP reinforced concrete beams

It appears from the aforementioned investigations that numerous studies have been conducted the effects of strength the reinforced concrete beams by FRP in terms of different factors. The first important factor mentioned throughout this study is the beam width, in which beams with large width have a lower proportion of exposure to failure. That's meant that the failure transferred from the reinforced beam to the FRP layer. The shear strength of reinforced beams strengthened by side bonding of an FRP laminates increases by 3.6% and 2.2% for tensile rupture and debonding failures, respectively, with



increasing in beam width, whilst in the case of U-jacketing, the shear strength increases by 4.1% and 3.2% for tensile rupture and debonding failures, respectively.

Second main factor is FRP thickness. With an increases in the thickness of FRP, the effective strain will be decrease, and the shear strength of the reinforced concrete beam will be increase. However, the same effect was observed on the failure modes for different anchorage system where the increase of shear strength was 8%.

The third important factor is strength of concrete. In accordance with the results provided in Table 2, the shear strength of reinforced beams strengthened by side bonding of an FRP layers increases by 7.1% and 5.8% for tensile rupture and debonding failures, respectively, with increasing in concrete strength, whilst in the case of U-jacketing, the shear strength increases by 10.5% and 8.6% for tensile rupture and debonding failures, respectively. It is noted that the effect of concrete strength on the probability of tensile rupture failure is greater than its effect on probability of debonding failure.

There are quite few research studies on the effect of FRP type, FRP height, the number of FRP layers and FRP modulus of elasticity on the concrete strength and durability. However, studies on these factors are rare to find in literature. Moreover, no attempt was done to explore the potential of using FRP composites for construction in severe environments. Additionally, far too little attention has been paid to study the anchorage system, and its huge complexity in modeling. Important issues relating to the new generations of FRP materials and the use of suitable numerical analysis modeling to verify their performance have to be studied more consistently in the future.





**Table 1:** Geometry and material properties of reinforced concrete beams retrofitted with FRP



















**Table 2:** Comparison between experimental results and numerical simulation of loadcarrying capacity and deflection response of reinforced concrete beams retrofitted with FRP















\* The specimen did not fail.



## **4.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH**

External bonding of fiber reinforced plastic FRP (strips, plates or rods) can significantly improve the ultimate strength and ductility of strengthened reinforced concrete beams. The ultimate load - carrying capacity has been studied for both reference and FRP reinforced concrete beams as well as deflection responses of the specimens. Experimental measurements and numerical simulations are compared based on numerous tests available in the collected data which adopted in the current study. Furthermore, the finite element results which obtained by the researchers have been achieved using very fine meshes built employing the ANSYS software elements package.

Based on the gathered data, the effects of individual parameters for the flexure, debonding, FRP rupture, concrete crushing, rod pull out, diagonal shear, cover separation and tensile rupture failure cases were carried out, and the following conclusions observed:

- The research showed that after the rehabilitation of reinforced concrete beam strengthened with different type of fibers, the deflection of its mid-span reduced, the bearing capacity of reinforced concrete beam was increased with the numbers of fiber sheets increased. The deflection of FRP beams significantly decreased compared to the reference reinforced concrete beams while the ultimate loads were increased.
- There were several parameters that effect on the retrofitted beams by increasing beams strength and stiffness of FRP strengthened beam. These parameters involved beam width, FRP thickness, concrete strength, height of FRP sheet and FRP modulus of elasticity.
- It was demonstrated that the experimental test and analytical modeling were quite similar in trend of the behavior of load, displacement and stress levels for most of the models studied in this research. In addition, the specific and accurate information has been provided on the status of the failure experienced by the real structural system.

More information on FRP modeling would help to establish a greater degree of accuracy on this matter. If the debate is to be moved forward, a better understanding of using FRP composites in structural member needs to be developed. It is recommended that further research be undertaken of utilizing nonlinear analysis modeling in the following areas:

- The material type of contact layer between FRP material and RC section.
- Fire resistance.
- Thermal resistance.
- The type of FRP used in the construction of structures in seismic zones.
- Statistical study on the cost, construction speed and reduce environmental impacts of structures.



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