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THE PAUSCHINGER EFFECT ON COLUMNS

by
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Date 7-53

Introduction

Earthquakes or the passing shock wave of an atomic blast may cause tensile yield in members before collapse in compression. (1) In order to examine the effect of this reversal, the reduction of compressive properties of structural steel are analyzed after a variety of prestrains and these properties are applied to calculate collapse loads. The calculated maximum loads are then compared with test results to determine a practical method whereby they may be predicted.

Material Properties Tests

Three prestrains were chosen to examine the variation of compressive properties from a prestrain just greater than initial yield strain to a prestrain a little less than the strain at which strain hardening commences. The third prestrain was chosen to be a mean of the other prestrains.

The tensile prestrain was applied by putting a 24" long 1/2" square bar in the tension grips of a universal testing machine. A 2" Metzger strain gage was applied to the center of length of the bar. Its maximum strain

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reading in tension was recorded as the prestrain. It is worth noting that since the bars were slightly crooked due to stress relief in annealing that tensile yield usually started at the center of the bar. Since the prestrain criterion, the Metzger gage, was applied to the center of the bar, the prestrain in the end portions of the specimens was usually less than the recorded prestrain. In some cases yield started at the grips causing yielding to be greater in the end portions of the specimen. The effects of this uneven prestraining will be considered later in this paper.

Compressive properties were examined after prestraining by testing the center portion of the bar, using the same strain gage. This center portion (4" long) was cut from the prestrain bar and compressed between surface plates. The compressive properties for each level of prestrain are recorded on Fig. 1 to compare the gradient reduction of these properties.

**Column Tests**

Column specimens were prestrained in the same manner as in the material properties tests. The columns were then cut with the gaged part in the prestrain application comprising the central portion of the column. Cylindrical end fixtures were used to attain a pin end condition as described elsewhere (these fixtures are described in the author's previous works (2,3)).
A variety of lengths was chosen for the column tests so as to cover the usual design L/r values for columns (L/r from 21 to 126 are covered). Results of column tests are shown in Fig. 2 and Fig. 3.

Theory and Comparison with Tests

The Engesser theory and the Karman theory, \(^{(1)}\) the tangent modulus and reduced modulus formulas, respectively, have been discussed in length and are well known as criterions of column strength for materials of variable modulus. \(^{(5)}\) The conclusion of these discussions is that a column begins to deflect upon reaching the tangent modulus load and reaches its ultimate load between the tangent modulus and the reduced modulus loads. No simple theory for determining the exact ultimate load has been devised, though a complex method for finding it has been derived. \(^{(6)}\)

The question of where the ultimate load lies in reference to the double modulus loads becomes of interest on inspecting the Figs. 2 and 3. The ultimate loads recorded in the column tests lie very close to the double modulus values. Where the test data shows scatter, the mean values seem to also indicate this fact. The cause of the scatter has been aforementioned as the result of uneven yielding during prestraining. This would cause scatter to be both positive and negative, thus mean value should be close to the correct criterion. The data therefore exhibits most
closely ultimate loads which correspond to the values of
the reduced modulus theory.

Further Observations

Previous experimenters have tested aluminum columns
in an effort to examine the tangent modulus and reduced
modulus theories. Aluminum exhibits properties which
reduce ultimate loads only for the mid-length columns (L/r
of 40 to 60). The loads are reduced a small amount from
the Euler theory. In the tests performed for this work
the compressive properties showed effects which reduced the
double modulus values to less than half of the Euler loads
(see Fig. 2) for some cases. In all cases these values
were much below those which would be expected on a similar
plot for aluminum. This great reduction in ultimate load
caused the ultimate to be obtained at a relatively large
deflection. This deflection was visible to the eye in
tests of L/r of 60 or greater. Due to these large de-
flections strain reversal obviously took place, so much
so that in many cases the neutral axis was outlined in mill
scale before collapse. This strain reversal indicates that
the assumptions of the double modulus theory are more
nearly satisfied than have been the case in tests on
aluminum columns.

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References

1. Johnston, B.G. - "Earthquake and Blast Effects on Symposium" - University of California, Los Angeles, California - June 1952.


Compressive Properties
Tests with a Given % of Tensile Prestrain

Material: Hot Rolled Structural Steel Annealed at 1600°F (4 hrs.) and Furnace Cooled (34 hrs.).

\[ E = 29.3 \times 10^3 \text{ k.s.l.} \]

[Graph showing stress-strain relationship for different prestains]

- 1.16% Prestain
- 0.73% Prestain
- 0.29% Prestain
- 0.00% Prestain

Show plotted points

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COLUMN CURVES SHOWING 
BAUSCHINGER'S EFFECT OF 
TENSILE PRESTRAIN 

- ELASTIC THEORY 
- DOUBLE MODULUS THEORY 
- TEST RESULTS 
- TANGENT MODULUS THEORY (1.16% ONLY) 

STRESS (KSI) 

0  10  20  30  40  50  60  70  80  90  100  110  120  130  140

1.16 %

0.73 %

0.29 %

0.00 %

% PRESTRAIN