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UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA
SRI LANKA

DYNAMIC BEHAVIOUR OF CONCRETE
FRAMED HIGH RISE BUILDINGS SUBJECTED
TO LATERAL LOADS

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MORATUWA

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ABSTRACT

In the recent past, high-rise buildings have become very popular in Sri Lanka. It is pertinent to mention that 25 years back, our tallest building would not have more than 14 storeys. Today the Colombo skyline is covered with many high rise building ranging from 5 to 35 stories. In city centres, the tendency to have a liking for high-rise buildings are due to many reasons, such as non-availability and shortage of land, convenience in operational activities by having most of the commercial activities located in one building, aesthetics, prestige etc. In par with this, there had been many developments in the construction industry and it is worth mentioning that the development that has been taken place in the concrete technology have made buildings much more slender and lighter than the buildings constructed 25 years back.

In the design of high-rise buildings, it is extremely important to control the wind-induced acceleration in buildings to an extent so that it is within the acceptable limits. If this condition could be achieved, majority of occupants would not feel discomfort due to the wind induced movements of the building. It is necessary for the structural designer to evaluate the dynamic behaviour of the building at the early stage of the design, by adopting appropriate wind speeds. This means, that the design engineer has to optimize the lateral load resisting system by having an efficient and pertinent structural arrangements.

In tall flexible buildings, it is important to control the drift of the structure which is generally expressed as a drift index. If excessive drift occurs, occupants may find it disturbing and at the same time it would affect the stability of partitions and finishes. It is interesting to note that the excessive drift can be controlled by changing the geometric configuration of the structure, increasing the bending stiffness of horizontal members and adding additional stiffness using core members, coupling the shear walls and providing the outriggers.

This study was carried out to determine the optimum use of outriggers for controlling the wind-induced behaviour on tall buildings. A detailed case study was carried out for thirty and forty storey buildings for various loading conditions by providing outriggers at different levels. The results of this study can be used as guidance for controlling deflection and acceleration due to wind effect in tall buildings.

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Finally, I am grateful to the lecturers who conducted an extremely valuable lecture series for the structural engineering post-graduate students and supplying voluminous set of notes which contained valuable source of information to a practicing structural engineer. I reiterate the fact that in spite of an extremely busy schedule having to conduct a full time course for undergraduates, preparation, dedication and commitment of all the academic staff are commendable.

Due to the enormous challenges in the industry I strongly believe that every practicing structural engineer should enhance his knowledge by attending to a similar course so that they will be fully aware of the developments in the industry and equipped to confront any situation.

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CONTENTS

	Page No.
Abstract	I
Acknowledgements	II
Contents	III
Tables and Figures	VI
Chapter One	
Introduction	1
1.1 General	1
1.2 Objectives of the Study	2
1.3 Methodology	2
1.4 Main Findings of the Study	3
1.5 An Overview of Chapters	3
Chapter Two	
Literature Review	4
2.1 General	4
2.2 Tall Buildings	5
2.2.1 Why Tall Buildings	5
2.2.2 Definition	5
2.2.3 Development of Tall Buildings	6
2.3 Structural Forms for Tall Buildings	6
2.3.1 Rigid Frame Structures	7
2.3.2 Shear Wall Structures	7
2.3.3 Wall Frame Structure	9
2.3.4 Core Structures	9
2.3.5 Outrigger – Braced Structures	10
2.4 Behaviour of Tall Buildings	11
2.5 Lateral Forces on Tall Buildings	15
2.5.1 Wind Load	16
2.5.2 Earthquake Load	17

2.6	Analyses and Design of Tall Structures	18
2.6.1.	Design for Wind Loads	19
2.6.1.1.	Gust Factor Method	19
2.6.2.	Design for Earthquake Loads	19
2.6.2.1.	Australian Standard (AS1170: Part 4 – 1993)	20
2.6.2.2.	Uniform Building Code (UBC, 1985)	20
2.7	Computer Models of Tall Buildings and Outriggers for Analysis	21
2.7.1.	Computer Software Used	22
2.8	Summary	23
Chapter Three	Outriggers in Tall Building	25
3.1	General	25
3.2	Analysis of Tall Buildings with Outrigger System	26
3.2.1	Assumptions for analysis	27
3.3	Ways of Applying Lateral Loads	27
3.3.1	Appling of Wind Load	27
3.3.2	Appling of Earthquake load	27
3.4	Vertical Distribution of Lateral Loads	27
3.4.1	Vertical Distribution of the wind force	27
3.4.2	Vertical distribution of the earthquake forces	28
3.5	Summary	29
Chapter Four	The Computer Analysis and Results	30
4.1	General	30
4.2	The Layouts Selected	30
4.3	The SAP2000 Models	33
4.3.1	SAP2000 Model for thirty storey building	33
4.3.2	SAP2000 Model for forty storey building	34
4.4	Results of Thirty Storey Building	35
4.4.1	Displacement VS. Outrigger Levels	35
4.4.2	Acceleration VS. Outrigger Levels	36
4.5	Results of Forty Storey Building	37
4.5.1	Displacement VS. Outrigger Levels	37
4.5.2	Acceleration VS. Outrigger Levels	38
4.6	Discussion on Results	39

4.7	Summary	40
Chapter Five	Conclusions and Future Work	41
5.1	Conclusion	41
5.2	Future works	41
References		42
Appendices A – Design of Services and Wind Load Calculations (30 Storeys)		
Appendices B – Design of Services and Wind Load Calculations (40 Storeys)		

TABLES AND FIGURES

	Page No.	
2.1	Figure on Rigid Frame	8
2.2	Figure on Shear Wall Structure	8
2.3	Figure on Wall Frame Structure	9
2.4	Figure on Core Structures	9
2.5(a)	Figure on Outrigger Braced Structure	10
2.5(b)	Figure on Outrigger Braced Structure under Loads	10
2.6	Figure on Drift Index	12
2.7(a)	Figure on Forces and Deformation Caused by External Shear	13
2.7(b)	Figure on Forces and Deformations Caused by External Moments	13
2.8	Figure on Behaviour of Laterally Loaded Coupled Shear Wall	13
2.9(a)	Figure on Wall Subjected to Uniformly Distributed Horizontal Loading	14
2.9(b)	Figure on Frame Subjected to Uniformly Distributed Horizontal Loading	14
2.9(c)	Figure on Wall-Frame structure Subjected to Horizontal Loading	14
2.10(a)	Figure on Typical Deflection Diagrams of Laterally Loaded wall-frame structure	15
2.10(b)	Figure on Typical Moment Diagrams for Components of wall-frame structure	15
2.10(c)	Figure on Typical Shear Diagrams for Components of wall-frame structure	15
2.1	Table on Human Perception Levels	17
2.2	Table on Seismic Probability Zone Factors	21
3.1(a)	Figure on Outrigger structure with central core	26
3.1(b)	Figure on Outrigger system with offset core	26

4.1	Figure on Lifts arrangement layout Ground floor to 15 th floor in 40 storey building	30
4.2	Figure on Lifts arrangement layout 16 th floor to 30 th floor in 40 storey building	31
4.3	Figure on Lifts arrangement layout 31 st floor to 40 th floor in 40 storey building	31
4.4	Figure on Lifts arrangement layout Ground floor to 14 th floor in 30 storey building	32
4.5	Figure on Lifts arrangement layout 15 th to 29 th floor in 30 storey building	32
4.6(a)	Figure on The 3D model of the 30 storey building in SAP2000	33
4.6(b)	Figure on The 3D model of the lifts arrangement in SAP2000	33
4.7(a)	Figure on The 3D model of the 40 storey building in SAP2000	34
4.7(b)	Figure on The 3D model of the lifts arrangement in SAP2000	34
4.1	Table on Maximum Displacement due to Wind Load of 30 Storey Building	35
4.1	Chart on Maximum Displacement Vs. Outrigger Level (30 Storey building)	35
4.2	Table on Along and Across Wind Acceleration of (30 Storey Building)	36
4.2	Chart on Along Wind Acceleration Vs. Outrigger Level (30 Storey Building)	36
4.3	Chart on Across Wind Acceleration Vs. Outrigger Level (30 Storey Building)	37
4.3	Table on Maximum Displacement due to Wind Load of 40 Storey Building	37
4.4	Chart on Maximum Displacement Vs. Outrigger Level (40 Storey Building)	38
4.4	Table on Along and Across Wind Acceleration of (40 Storey Building)	38
4.5	Chart on Along Wind Acceleration Vs. Outrigger Level (40 Storey Building)	39
4.6	Chart on Across Wind Acceleration Vs. Outrigger Level (40 Storey Building)	39