

THE APPLICATION OF BRACED AND UNBRACED FRAMES
IN REINFORCED CONCRETE STRUCTURES

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To my beloved mother.

*To my late father (23 May 2013),
May Allah bless his soul and place it
in the highest heaven.*

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Nur Wahida Bakhtiar

ABSTRACT

Many designers are uncertain whether a building with a certain height should be designed with shear walls. Some believe that the buildings of up to about ten storeys height need to be provided with shear wall. This project was carried out to study the suitability of reinforced concrete structures to be designed as braced or unbraced. The analysis was done on two series of identical model buildings with five, ten and 15 storeys each. Both series were subjected to the same vertical and horizontal loads. The analysis was carried out using Orion 18 software. The performances of the structures were measured in terms of bending moment carried by the members and the quantity of steel reinforcement required from which comparisons between the braced and unbraced buildings were made. The opinion from the practicing structural engineers on the matter was also sought through questionnaires sent to them. The results show that in the low rise buildings the moments in the major structural elements and the quantity of steel reinforcement required in braced and unbraced buildings are about the same. For higher rised buildings the difference becomes significant with larger value found in the unbraced buildings. The results also suggested that the buildings of up to 12 storey height can still be designed as unbraced structures, while those taller than 12 storeys should be designed as braced structures.

ABSTRAK

Ramai perekabentuk tidak pasti samada sesebuah bangunan dengan ketinggian tertentu perlu direkabentuk dengan dinding ricih. Sesetengahnya percaya bahawa bangunan-bangunan dengan ketinggian sehingga 10 tingkat tidak perlu disediakan dinding ricih. Projek ini dijalankan untuk mengkaji kesesuaian struktur konkrit bertetulang direkabentuk sebagai struktur dirembat atau tidak dirembat. Analisis dilakukan ke atas dua siri bangunan yang serupa dengan ketinggian lima, 10 dan 15 tingkat bagi setiap siri. Struktur di dalam kedua-dua siri tersebut dikenakan dengan beban-beban pagak dan ufuk yang sama. Analisis dilakukan menggunakan perisian Orion 18. Prestasi struktur- struktur tersebut diukur dari segi moment lentur didalam element struktur utama, di mana perbandingan di antara bangunan-bangunan dirembat dan tidak dirembat dilakukan dan kuantiti bahan yang diperlukan. Pandangan daripada jurutera luar dalam perkara ini turut dikumpulkan melalui soalselidik yang dihantar kepada mereka. Keputusan kajian menunjukkan bahawa di dalam bangunan-bangunan rendah, moment lentur di dalam anggota-anggota struktur dan kuantiti tetulang keluli yang diperlukan adalah hampir sama bagi struktur dirembat dan tidak dirembat. Bagi bangunan-bangunan yang lebih tinggi, perbezaan diantara keduanya menjadi lebih ketara dengan nilai yang lebih besar diperolehi bagi bangunan tidak dirembat. Keputusan juga mencadangkan bahawa bangunan dengan ketinggian sehingga 12 tingkat masih boleh direkabentuk sebagai struktur tidak dirembat, manakala bangunan-bangunan dengan ketinggian melebihi 12 tingkat perlu direkabentuk sebagai bangunan dirembat.

TABLE OF CONTENT

CHAPTER	TITLE	PAGE
	DECLARATION	ii
	DEDICATION	iii
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iv
	ABSTRACT	v
	ABSTRAK	vi
	TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
	LIST OF TABLES	x
	LIST OF FIGURES	xi
	LIST OF SYMBOLS	xiv
1	INTRODUCTION	1
	1.1 Introduction	1
	1.2 Problem Statement	2
	1.3 Objectives of Study	3
	1.4 Scope of Study	4
	1.5 Significant of Study	5
2	LITERATURE REVIEW	6
	2.1 Introduction	6
	2.2 Types of Frames	7
	2.2.1 Braced frames	7
	2.2.2 Unbraced frames	15
	2.3 Load	17
	2.3.1 Vertical Load	17

2.3.1.1	Dead Load	18
2.3.1.2	Live Load	18
2.3.2	Horizontal Load	18
2.3.2.1	Wind Load	20
2.3.2.2	Seismic Load	21
2.3.3	Load Combination	22
2.4	Method of Analysis	24
2.4.1	Braced Frames	26
2.4.1.1	One Level Sub-Frame	26
2.4.1.2	Two Free-Joint Sub-Frame	27
2.4.1.3	Continuous Beam plus One Free Joint Sub-Frame	28
2.4.2	Unbraced Frame	29
2.5	Tools Used In Frame Analysis	30
2.6	Analysis Method Applied In Practice	31
2.7	Summary of Review	32
3	METHODOLOGY	33
3.1	Introduction	33
3.2	Design of Project	34
3.3	Building Model	36
3.4	Loading	47
3.4.1	Vertical Load	47
3.4.2	Wind Loading	48
3.5	Analysis of the Structure	48
3.6	Questionnaires	49
4	RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS	50
4.1	Introduction	50
4.2	Results from Analysis	51
4.2.1	Bending Moment	51
4.2.2	Weight of Steel Required	55
4.2.2.1	Columns	55
4.2.2.2	Beams	56

4.2.3	Volume of Concrete	59
4.2.4	Number of Pile Required	60
4.2.5	Formwork	64
4.3	Result and Discussion from questionnaire	65
5	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	70
5.1	Conclusions	70
5.2	Recommendations	71

REFERENCES

APPENDICES

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
3.1	Wind load applied on the buildings	48
4.1	Concrete quantity m ³ for barced and unbraced building	59
4.2	Number of questionnaire sent and respond received	66

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
2.1	Example of the position of shear walls in braced building	9
2.2	Position of shear wall and core wall in building	10
2.3	Shear wall on building	10
2.4	Shear walls as lift cores on building to give lateral stability of the building by independent lateral stabilizing element	11
2.5	Shear and core wall in building	12
2.6	Cross bracing tower water tank at Taman Desa Kuala Lumpur	13
2.7	Braced skeletal frame with stabilizing stairs cores	14
2.8	Cross bracing element	14
2.9	Cross bracing element and shear walls at MJIIT UTM Kuala Lumpur.	15
2.10	Unbraced frame	16
2.11	Unbraced frame under construction	16
2.12	Vertical load effect on building	17
2.13	Horizontal load effect on unbraced frame	19
2.14	Wind Force Effect on Building	20
2.15	Seismic Load Effect on Building	21
2.16	Set 1 Loading Arrangement	23
2.17	Set 2 Loading Arrangement	23
2.18	Frames in building	25

2.19	One level sub-frame	26
2.20	Two free-joint sub-frame	27
2.21	Continuous beam and one free-joint sub-frame	28
3.1	Project Execution Flow Chart	35
3.2	Isometric view of braced 5, 10 and 15 storeys building models	37
3.3:	Isometric view of unbraced 5, 10 and 15 storeys building model	38
3.4	Plan building for braced frame 15 storeys	39
3.5	Plan building for unbraced frame 15 storeys	39
3.6	Column Application Plan for unbraced building	41
3.7	Shear wall and column application plan for braced building	41
3.8	Beam layout for braced building	42
3.9	Beam layout for unbraced building	42
3.10	Slab layout for braced building	43
3.11	Slab layout for unbraced building	43
3.12	Piling layout for braced building (5 storeys)	44
3.13	Pile cap layout for braced frame (10 storeys)	44
3.14	Pile cap layout for braced frame (15 storeys)	45
3.15	Piling layout for unbraced building (5 storeys)	45
3.16	Pile cap layout for unbraced frame (10 storeys)	46
3.17	Pile cap layout for unbraced frame (15 storeys)	46
4.1	Graph of moment at support versus storey height	51
4.2	Graph of mid span moment in beams at various storey heights	52
4.3	Bending Moment in beam for a) five storey, b) 10 storey and c) 15storey of braced building model at beam 4/A-D	53
4.4	Bending Moment in beam for a) five storey, b) 10 storey and c) 15 storey of unbraced building model at axes 4/A-D	54

4.5	Graph of moment in column for braced and unbraced building model	54
4.6	Graph of weight of steel in column for braced and unbraced building	56
4.7	Graph of weight of steel in beam for braced and unbraced buildings	57
4.8	Area of steel required in beam 3/A-D level 1 for a) five storey, b) 10 storey and 15 storey of braced building model	58
4.9	Area of steel required in beam 3/A-D level 1 for a) five storey, b) 10 storey and 15 storey of unbraced building model	58
4.10	Volume of concrete require in braced and unbraced building model.	60
4.11	Piling layout plan for a) five storey, b) 10 storeys and c) 15 storeys braced building model.	62
4.12	Piling layout plan for a) five storey, b) 10 storeys and c) 15 storeys unbraced building model.	63
4.13	Graph of number of pile required versus storey height of braced and unbraced building model.	64
4.14	Graph of quantity of formwork required versus storey height of braced and unbraced building model	65
4.15	Respondent working experience	66
4.16	Respondent largest structure size had been design	67
4.17	Unbraced structure have storey height limit or not	68
4.18	Chart of storey height limit for unbraced structure	69
4.19	Braced building cost more than unbraced building	69

LIST OF SYMBOLS

G_k	Dead load
Q_k	Live load
W_k	Wind load
f_{ck}	Characteristic of concrete
f_{yk}	Characteristic of Steel
L	Length of building
B	Width of building
H	Height of building

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX	TITLE
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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

A frame is a structure used to resist vertical forces from gravity loading and lateral forces from wind load and earthquake. They are used to resist rotations in the structures. In the frame of multi-storey, multi-bay building, the effect of the wind may be small compared to other loads and in this case it is sufficiently accurate to divide the horizontal shearing force between the columns on the basis that an end column resists half the amount on an internal column. They are braced and unbraced frame in building structural design.

Braced frame are frames in buildings constructed with bracing elements. Bracing elements are designed to carry the horizontal forces on the whole building. Consequently the horizontal forces are not carried by the frames, or in other words the frames carry only the vertical loads from the dead and live loads. Shear wall is the most common type of bracing element used in reinforced concrete structures.

1.2 Problem Statement

Before a building is designed, one has to decide whether the building will be a braced or an unbraced structure. The frames (beams and column) in a braced structure carry vertical loads only because the horizontal load is carried by shear walls or other types bracing elements. On the other hand, the frames in an unbraced structure carry both vertical and horizontal loads because no shear wall or other bracing members is provided in the building. Some designers assume that low and medium rise buildings need not be provided with shear walls because the effect from the wind load is small. Consequently the horizontal forces are ignored in the analysis and the calculation is done by considering the vertical loads only using the method used for braced structures.

The structural members in a braced frame might require smaller sizes and hence reduces the cost, but the addition of shear wall requires extra materials and costs, while the frames in an unbraced structure require larger element sizes because they carry larger loads and thus the cost might also be high. Furthermore medium and tall buildings require lift. The lift need specific well, and so does the staircase. The walls that enclose the lift and stairs can therefore be designed as shear walls. This should be provided irrespective of whether the building is designed as braced or unbraced. So the supposedly extra cost due to the presence of these walls of cannot to be avoided, because this is one of the main requirements of the building and not an alternative.

The height of the building is significant factor; the taller the buildings the larger is the horizontal loads caused by the wind, consequently the preference of brace or unbraced structures has to be decided in the design, that is whether the building is to be designed as braced or unbraced structures. Some designers believe that low and medium rise building need not to be braced. Many assume that such a limit is about 10 storeys which means that the building taller than about 10 storeys should be design as braced while those with height less than 10 storeys, while be

design as unbraced. A thorough look at this issue would be able to ascertain whether such perception is correct or otherwise. A study in this respect is therefore worthwhile. The results of the study will serve as a guide particularly to new structural engineers. It will also enable designers to choose a more economical and safe design for a particular size of building.

1.3 Objective of Study

In general, this project is carried out to evaluate the resulting forces and effect of braced and unbraced structures of various heights. In more specific terms the objectives of the project are as follows:

- a) To analyse and compare the forces in the corresponding part of the structures in the braced and unbraced buildings of similar height.
- b) To determine the more economical type of structure in terms of the weight of steel reinforcement required (in braced and unbraced buildings).
- c) To determine the maximum height of the building that can be built as unbraced structure.

1.4 Scope of Study

The study was carried out within the following scope of limitation.

- a) The study was carried out on two identical modeled buildings having identical sizes of corresponding structural elements.
- b) One of the buildings was provided with shear walls, while the other was without shear walls.
- c) Both types of buildings were subjected to the same vertical and horizontal loadings.
- d) The basic wind speed considered was 40m/sec.
- e) The height of the building considered in each series of braced and unbraced structures were 5, 10 and 15 storeys with the storey height of 3.5meters.
- f) The analysis and design of the structural members was in accordance with Eurocode 2: MS EN 1992-1-1: 2000.
- g) The analysis of wind loading was in accordance with MS 1553: 2002.
- h) Orion software was used as the tools for analysis and design
- i) The evaluation of the advantages or disadvantages of the structural system were based on forces carried by the structural members and the total amount of reinforcement required.

1.5 Significant Of Study

The result of the study could be used as guidance for structural engineers in adopting a suitable type of frame building of a particular height. The study could also show the importance of providing the bracing in medium and tall building.

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