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Comparative Analysis of D-Value and Finite Element Methods for A Multi-Storied Frame Structure

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Abstract
The behavior of lateral forces on multi-storied frame structures is a specific area on which considerable research has been done over the last few decades. Several recent experiences have brought the attention of the engineers to such forces which are often significant enough to govern the design criteria. In Pakistan, the developmental research has gained utmost importance after the catastrophe of Earthquake events in recent years.

This paper attempts to facilitate the designers to verify their analysis by studying the comparison between the analysis of a multi-storied moment resisting frame structure in Karachi, Pakistan using the D-value method and ETABS software. The comparison is based upon the difference between the moments caused on respective joints by the lateral forces only.

The results of D-value method show an average variation of only 20% with that of the results from ETABS. Moreover, it has also been found that the difference between the two results show different trends depending upon the orientation, position of columns within a storey and storey height. Based upon the comparison, D-value method is recommended for scrutiny/verification of analysis by ETABS.

Keywords
D-value method, ETABS, Finite Element Method, Frame structures, Relative stiffness, Tributary Area

1. Introduction

Multi-storied frame structures have always been in the lime-light as far as research and theoretical development is concerned which is why the maturity achieved in the field so far is quiet welcomed. It is indeed a very significant subject of structural engineering which has been focused by the professionals to produce latest building techniques as to satisfy the modern challenges. However, every step forward opens new horizons multiplying the areas of interests of the field. Moreover, the behavior of lateral forces on the structures is a specific area on which considerable research has been done over the last few decades. Several experiences of the last century have brought the attention of the engineers to such forces which, at times, are significant enough to change the design criteria. In Pakistan, considerations for such lateral forces had been made compulsory by the building control authorities across the country, and the same were welcomed, after the catastrophic disaster of October 2005. However, the developmental research in the field is still underway like in rest of the world.

Most of the structural designers in Pakistan depend on Computer Aided Design software for analysis of lateral forces; however, significance of classical methods cannot be over-ruled. A designer often wants to compare the CAD results with that of the classical methods in order to verify that the software has analyzed the same cases as desired. In compliance, the designer have to choose a method which is best compatible with the method followed by the software so as to get reliable comparison results. Today, several methods have been developed for the analysis of lateral forces among which the following are the most reliable;

1. Stiffness method,
2. Factor method,
3. Portal method,
4. D-value method

The above-mentioned methods are extensively used in design offices but every method has some advantage over another in particular cases. It has been proved by previous research efforts that the D-value method shows the least difference between the results of finite element method which is used by most of the software as an analysis method. Also, it can analyze a single storey of interest rather than solving complicated and cumbersome calculations for the whole structure as in the case of other methods which favors its use, especially for the purpose of comparison where a designer may compare the results of a single storey of interest.

In order to compare and verify the two results, a designer must have a firm knowledge about the conventional difference between the two methods. This conventional difference may be worked out by conducting several case-studies and then analyzing the average differences of each case study so as to set a standard employing which one can predict the average difference in his case. There have been a couple of researches on such subject through which the average difference between the finite element method and D-value method is claimed to be around 35%. As these researches have been done mainly on built-up cases rather than on a real life structures, the claim needs to be supported by comparisons done on successful designs of existing structures. One such attempt is made here by studying the comparison between the design results of a multi-storied moment resisting frame structure in Karachi using the D-value method and ETABS software. There are several parameters on which the comparison could be based, but as the designers are mostly concerned about the design moments, the comparison is based upon the difference between the moments caused on respective joints by the lateral forces only.

1.1. Introduction of ETABS and D-Value Method

Most of the computer aided design software use finite element method for the analysis of structures. This method distributes the cross-sections of elements of the structure into several finite parts and analyzes them individually on work-energy principle. This makes the finite element method a powerful tool but requires cumbersome calculations, and is, therefore, only suitable for the software design. ETABS is software which uses finite element method for the analysis of buildings and is believed to produce the most accurate results provided that analysis has been done considering the desired cases. Therefore, such results need to be verified by some manual method so as to confirm that the analysis has been done in the desired manner.

D-value method is one of the methods used for the analysis of lateral forces in most of the design offices. D-value method, being the most recent, is considered to be the most straightforward, uncomplicated and precise among the classical manual methods to analyze lateral forces. The D-value method solves the distribution of lateral forces to the beams and columns storey-wise depending upon the relative stiffness of the members. Hence, the D-value method considers a single storey at a time and distributes the storey shear within that storey rather than considering the whole frame, as done in most other methods.

2. Pre-defined Parameters

The proposed plan is of a real life structure, a multi-storied building (G + 13) located in north of Karachi. The structure is an ordinary moment resisting frame structure intended for residential use. Some changes have been made to the proposed plan, for example, shear wall has been excluded from the design to ease the calculations for the D-value method at this level. In addition, a stair tower has also been excluded from the plan as it proves to be a non-structural member who does not contribute in resisting lateral forces. However, these changes do not affect the behavior of the structure.

2.1 International Code

The codes used for the design of the structure are:

- ACI – 318 – 2002 (American concrete institute) for general design specifications
- UBC – 97 (Uniform building code) for lateral forces

ACI – 318 – 2002 has been used for the design of all the structural members and all the load conditions and combinations used satisfy the code. UBC – 97 has been used for the analysis of lateral forces including wind and seismic forces. The location of the structure suggests it to be considered in seismic zone 2B. The surrounding of the structure is such that the seismic forces govern over wind forces; however, it has also been verified theoretically.

3. Methodology

To begin with, slabs have been designed to get the appropriate loadings on the beam. One-way slabs, two-way slabs, cantilever slabs and sunk slabs are encountered which have been designed according to the specifications of the code. Live loads of 40 PSF for rooms, 60 PSF for corridors and 100 PSF for staircase have been taken during the design calculations.

Tributary/catchment area has been used for the approximation of loads and excel based spreadsheet (Figure 1) has been developed exclusively for the purpose so as to avoid any mistake dealing calculations. The spreadsheet primarily calculates the axial force applied on the column storey-wise and also suggests its cross-section assuming the area of reinforcement as 1% of the suggested cross-section. This spreadsheet has also been used to calculate the total dead-weight of the structure which is required for the calculation of base shear and storey shear to perform seismic analysis.

The D-value method has been used for the analysis of seismic forces. The method distributes the storey shear to the exterior and interior beams and columns in a way that the extent of storey shear force distributed to each column is directly proportional to the stiffness of the column relative to the beams attaching to it. In this way, all the storeys have been analyzed in both the directions i.e. Alphabetical axis and Numerical axis, keeping one direction locked while working on the other at a time. The columns parallel to the considered direction, mentioned as “major columns” having greater stiffness, bear larger moments than that of the “minor columns” i.e. perpendicular to the considered direction. However, it is to be noted that the column which is considered as “major column” in one direction is a “minor column” when analyzing from the other direction. Similarly, the columns to which two beams are attached bear larger moments than those attaching with a single beam. The analysis produces two values of moments on each column(i.e. top moment of lower and bottom moment of upper storey), the sum of which is distributed to the beams in respective direction according to their relative stiffness. The working is done using excel based spreadsheets, one of which is shown as Figure 2.

CATCHMENT AREA FOR COLUMNS

SLAB THICKNESS =	5	INCHES
LIVE LOAD =	0.04	KSF
FINISHES =	0.036	KSF
WIDTH OF BEAM =	8	INCHES
DEPTH OF BEAM =	36	INCHES
WIDTH OF WALL =	6	INCHES
HIEGHT OF WALL =	7	FT
RENGTH OF CONCRETI	4	KSI
STOREY HIEGHT =	10	FT
ARAPET WALL HIEGHT	4	FT

STOREY #	COLUMN	BEAM LENGTH (FT)	WALL LENGTH (FT)	SLAB AREA (FT^2)	SELF WT. OF COLUMN (KIPS)	TOTAL (KIPS)				MISCELLINEOUS (KIPS)	P_U (KIPS)	A_g ($INCH^2$)
						SERVICE LOAD		ULTIMATE LOAD				
						LIVE LOAD	DEAD LOAD	LIVE LOAD	DEAD LOAD			
PARAPET WALL	C/16	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.88	0.00	3.46		**3.46**	**1.82**
ROOF	C/16	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.01	0.00	3.89	0.00	4.67	181.00	**185.67**	**97.51**
12	C/16	33.00	27.50	180.00	1.54	7.20	226.91	11.52	272.30		**283.82**	**149.06**
11	C/16	33.00	27.50	180.00	1.88	14.40	268.74	23.04	322.49		**345.53**	**181.47**
10	C/16	33.00	27.50	180.00	2.21	21.60	310.56	34.56	372.68		**407.24**	**213.88**
9	C/16	33.00	27.50	180.00	2.55	28.80	352.39	46.08	422.87		**468.95**	**246.30**
8	C/16	33.00	27.50	180.00	2.88	36.00	394.21	57.60	473.06		**530.66**	**278.71**
7	C/16	33.00	27.50	180.00	3.22	43.20	436.04	69.12	523.25		**592.37**	**311.12**
6	C/16	33.00	27.50	180.00	3.56	50.40	477.87	80.64	573.44		**654.08**	**343.53**
5	C/16	33.00	27.50	180.00	3.89	57.60	519.69	92.16	623.63		**715.79**	**375.94**
4	C/16	33.00	27.50	180.00	4.23	64.80	561.52	103.68	673.82		**777.50**	**408.35**
3	C/16	33.00	27.50	180.00	4.56	72.00	603.34	115.20	724.01		**839.21**	**440.76**
2	C/16	33.00	27.50	180.00	4.90	79.20	645.17	126.72	774.20		**900.92**	**473.17**
1	C/16	33.00	27.50	180.00	5.23	86.40	686.99	138.24	824.39		**962.63**	**505.58**
0	C/16	33.00	27.50	180.00	5.57	93.60	728.82	149.76	874.58		**1024.34**	**537.99**
-1	C/16	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.57	93.60	728.82	149.76	874.58		**1024.34**	**537.99**

DEAD WIEGHT THROUGH THE COLUMN = 728.82 **KIPS**

Figure 1: Tributary method calculation for approximation of loads

The modeling of the structure on ETABS has been done in accordance with that designed previously for D-value method. All the material properties of concrete and steel have also been defined as used previously. The slabs and the walls are assigned as area objects and the beams are assigned as line objects. Similar load combinations and design codes have been used here as used in the manual design. The analysis is then run on static load cases including seismic effects which give detailed results of the analysis.

The moments calculated from the manual design are then compared with that from ETABS at similar joints and the difference have been worked out. The differences between the two results of other joints are then averaged and standard deviation of all the differences is then calculated.

SEISMIC ANALYSIS

UPPER 2ND TO 3RD FLOOR | Q= 3205 | SUM D= 10010 | HEIGHT OF FLOOR = 10 ft

ALPHABETICAL DIRECTION

COLUMN	NO. OF COLUMNS	BEAM STIFFNESS												COLUMN STIFFNESS		K_C	K	a	D	Q_x	y	COL MOM	
		BOTTOM						TOP														TOP	BOTT
		B1	D1	K1	B2	D2	K2	B3	D3	K3	B4	D4	K4	BC	DC							KIP FT.	
C1MJ1	14	8	36	259.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	36	259.2	18	36	583.2	0.4	0.2	1484.5	475.3	0.5	169.8	169.8
C1MJ2	10	8	36	259.2	8	36	259.2	8	36	259.2	8	36	259.2	18	36	583.2	0.9	0.3	1794.5	574.6	0.5	287.3	287.3
C1MN1	16	8	36	259.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	36	259.2	36	18	145.8	1.8	0.5	1097.8	351.5	0.5	109.8	109.8
C1MN2	32	8	36	259.2	8	36	259.2	8	36	259.2	8	36	259.2	36	18	145.8	3.6	0.6	2986.0	956.1	0.5	149.4	149.4
C2MJ1	4	8	36	259.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	36	259.2	15	30	281.3	0.9	0.3	354.9	113.6	0.5	142.0	142.0
C2MN1	2	8	36	259.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	36	259.2	30	15	70.3	3.7	0.6	91.2	29.2	0.5	73.0	73.0
C2MN2	6	8	36	259.2	8	36	259.2	8	36	259.2	8	36	259.2	30	15	70.3	7.4	0.8	331.9	106.3	0.5	88.5	88.5
C3MJ1	4	8	36	259.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	36	259.2	18	30	337.5	0.8	0.3	374.6	119.9	0.5	149.9	149.9
C3MN1	8	8	36	259.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	36	259.2	30	18	121.5	2.1	0.5	501.7	160.6	0.5	100.4	100.4
C3MN2	12	8	36	259.2	8	36	259.2	8	36	259.2	8	36	259.2	30	18	121.5	4.3	0.7	992.7	317.9	0.5	132.4	132.4
∑	108																		10010	3205			

Figure 2: Seismic Analysis using D-value method

4. Results

As ETABS is believed to produce the most accurate results as compared to the other methods including D-value method, it has been used as a benchmark for working out the comparison. In compliance, the moments on similar joints are compared according to the respective axis considering each condition individually. For instance, the results achieved from ETABS considering the X-axis to be the major axis (i.e. lateral force is considered to be applied parallel to X-axis) are compared with the results obtained in alphabetical direction from the D-value method. Similarly, Numerical direction is compared with the results of Y-axis being the major axis. Keeping the criteria, top and bottom moments of all the columns of 1st, 4th and 8th storey of the structure have been compared which gave the following results;

- The overall average difference between the moments obtained from ETABS and from D-value method is 20%.
- The cumulative percentage difference between the moments obtained from ETABS and from D-value method on the 1st storey is 17%. Further, moving upwards close to the middle of the building, the difference increases up to 24% on 4th storey. However, getting ahead of the mid-height of the structure, the percentage difference starts to decrease again and is found to be 23% on 8th storey.
- The difference is mainly governed by the directional cases, orientation and position of the columns.
- Interior columns have greater difference as compared to the exterior columns,
- D-value produces greater value of moments as compared to ETABS in case of the columns which are parallel to the major axis,
- ETABS produces greater value of moments as compared to D-value method in case of the columns which are perpendicular to the major axis

5. Conclusions

In view of the results mentioned from the practice, following conclusions may be drawn;

D-value method may be considered to be the nearest compatible method to the finite element method (ETABS), for the analysis of lateral forces on super-structures, as its results shows a variation of only 20% with that of the results from ETABS. Also, D-value method is the easiest and straightforward method among the others which does not require cumbersome calculations like others. Further, only a single story of interest may be analyzed and verified with the help of D-value method avoiding the analysis of the whole structure. For such reasons, D-value method should be preferred upon other method of analysis when it comes to the scrutiny or verification of moments from the CAD software.

The varying trend in the percentage difference of moments of different storey shows that the difference is minimum at the 1st and the last storey and is maximum at the mid-height of the structure.

It should be noted that the interior columns show greater percentage difference than that of the exterior columns. This is due to the fact that the D-value method does not consider the position of the columns with the same conditions and distributes the same moments even if it is an exterior or interior column, whereas, ETABS considers the difference between an exterior and interior column even in the same condition. This may be verified by referring to the work/volume diagram in ETABS that the exterior columns have greater energy and therefore take greater moments than that of the interior columns with the same conditions.

However, the difference between the comparative results may vary for type of structures other than the moment resisting frame structures.

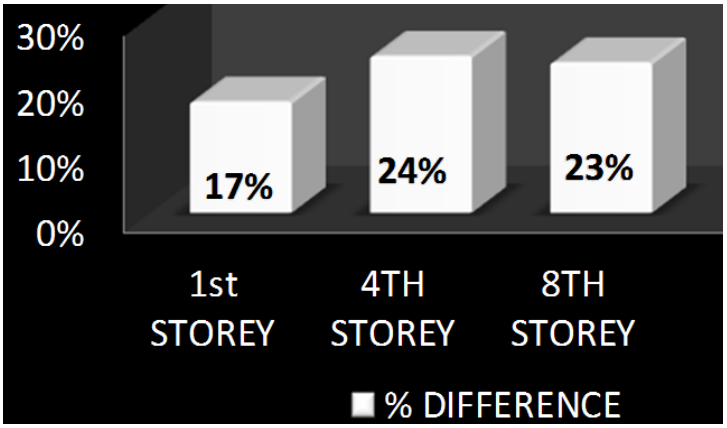

Figure 3: Cumulative percentage difference (story-wise)

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